

SUBJECT: Covid 19 Whole Authority Safeguarding Position Statement.

REPORT: Cabinet

DATE: 27th May 2020

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** This report is to provide cabinet with an update on how safeguarding will be delivered through the Covid 19 period, and how Whole Authority Safeguarding work is continuing.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That Cabinet approves the safeguarding update report including:
- The safeguarding position statement (Appendix1)
 - The risk matrix (Appendix 2)

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Safeguarding remains an essential part of our delivery supporting adults and children in Monmouthshire. COVID-19 has put families under increased strain and increases risks to vulnerable individuals at the same time as decreasing the visibility of children and adults at risk.

3.2 Safeguarding remains very much business as usual. Numbers and volume of work has not abated but the type and source of referrals has changed.

3.3 We are particularly alert to the pressure on families experiencing the impact of 'lock down' where there will be additional worries around finances, the loss of employment and economic uncertainty, poor housing or over-crowding, not having access to support and basic amenities alongside the risks and concerns around the virus itself.

3.4 Effectiveness has not diminished; however, different solutions have been needed to deal with situations during COVID19 times. To some extent, a wider network of people working communities e.g. volunteers, neighbourhoods supporting each other has enhanced the range of people with 'eyes on'. Continuing to extend safeguarding awareness and access to online /virtual training through these networks will provide some extra support in these times and potentially into the future.

3.5 The Whole Authority Safeguarding position statement in **Appendix 1** sets out how the cornerstones of safeguarding will continue to be implemented during this period until the crisis is over. **Appendix 2** summarises current risks and will be monitored through the Whole Authority Safeguarding group.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Consideration of key issues in relation to discharging safeguarding responsibilities during current Covid / lockdown time have been undertaken in reaching the position statement at **Appendix 1**.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 In reaching the position statement at **Appendix 1**, and the risk register at **Appendix 2** an analysis of current and potential risks that the Covid crisis poses have been considered. Monitoring and ongoing evaluation in order to ensure that each directorate can uphold the safeguarding responsibilities required through the Safeguarding Policy and the Covid Position statement will continue.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Not Applicable

7. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 7.1 There are no identified implications.

8. CONSULTEES

Cabinet Members
Strategic Leadership Team
Democratic Services

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