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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Friday, 10 June 2016

Notice of meeting:

Joint Select Committee

**Monday, 20th June, 2016 at 2.00 pm,
The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Election of Chair.	
2.	Appointment of Vice-Chair.	
3.	Apologies for absence.	
4.	Declarations of interest.	
5.	Social Services Annual Report (to follow).	1 - 62
6.	Safeguarding:	
6.1.	Annual Performance 2015/16.	63 - 80
6.2.	Safeguarding Strategy.	81 - 112

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

R. Chapman
P. Clarke
R. Edwards
P. Farley
M Fowler (Parent Governor Representative)
L. Guppy
R. Harris
M. Hickman
D Hill
S. Howarth
D Hudson
D. Jones
P. Jones
P. Jordan
K Plow (Association of School Governors)
M. Powell
V. Smith
P. Watts
A. Wintle

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Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2016



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. INTRODUCTION

In Children's Service our primary aim is to work together with others to ensure that Monmouthshire's children and young people reach their full potential and live free from the harmful effects of abuse and neglect. We have established a set of operating principles to guide us as we work to achieve this.

The purpose of this report is to give an end of year appraisal of Children's Services, including information about the teams. The report considers our journey over the last year and outlines the priorities for service development. It should be read in conjunction with the Chief Officer's annual report.

Over the last year, Monmouthshire Children's Services has continued to deliver services in an increasingly challenging and complex context. The work plan for the service from April 2015 - March 2016 was extensive and required the whole service to pull together in developing systems and processes; improving practice and building partnerships. Some of our achievements are described in section 3.

However, there remains much to be done and in some areas we are not as far along our path to improvement as others. In some aspects the service has continued to display signs of fragility evidenced by inconsistencies in practice, instability within the workforce, and considerable financial overspend. Some of the particular challenges that we have experienced are discussed in section 4.

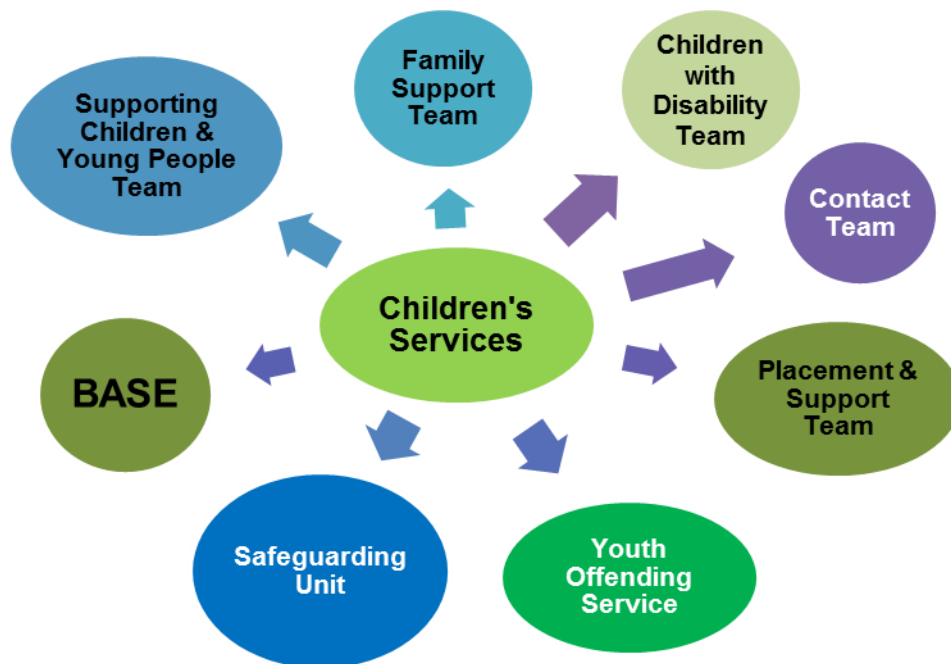
The report has drawn on a number of information sources including statistical and performance information; feedback from service users, staff and partners; internal reviews and case audits; and recommendations from our external regulators. Towards the end of the year, we worked in partnership with the Institute of Public Care (IPC) to undertake an in-depth review of our service in the context of the research and evidence base regarding achieving excellence within social care. This was motivated by the recognition that in some areas the service remained vulnerable and not as prepared as we needed to be in order to meet the challenges and opportunities presented within the Social Services and Well-being Act. The resulting IPC report, has helped us arrive at a balanced view of our progress and provided clear directions for our future plans. Our key priority areas for improvement are set out in section 5.

2. SERVICE CONTEXT

Children's Services provides a range of services to children, young people and families in Monmouthshire. There are around 19,000 children who live in Monmouthshire. The service works with approximately 700 children at any one time.

Over the last year there were 3,924 contacts received into the service from a variety of different sources and agencies. This resulted in 465 referrals going forward as new pieces of work. At the year-end there were 722 cases open across the service. This included 131 children with a disability, 129 Looked After Children, 33 children on the Child Protection Register and 31 young people eligible for services as care leavers.

The current teams within children's services are:



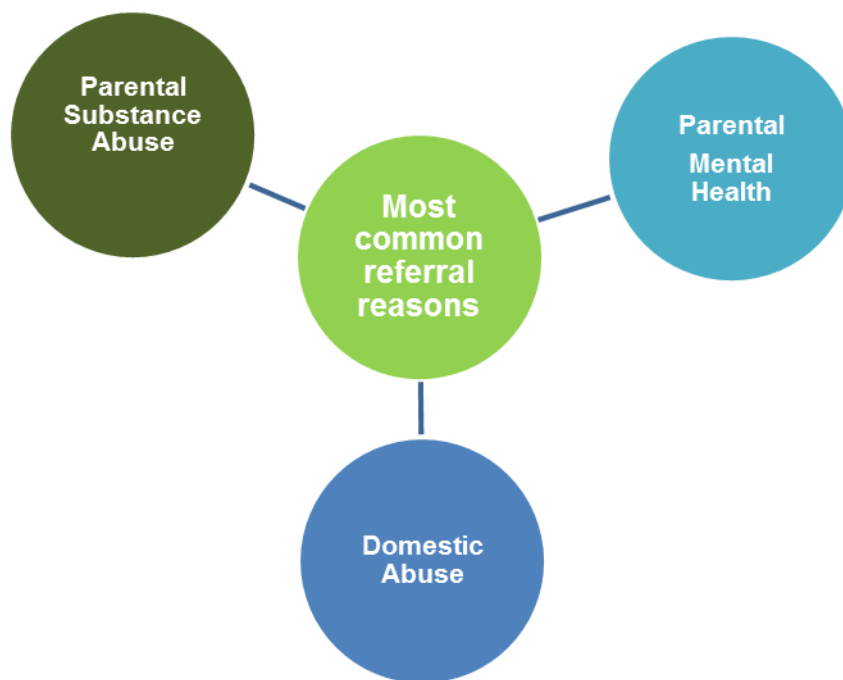
The county covers a large geographical area and is predominantly rural with four comprehensive schools in Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth and one Special School for boys with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties. There are 31 primary schools and a number of pre-school venues for children. The service works closely with Health, Education, Adult Services, Police, Housing, 3rd Sector organisations and other Local Authority areas.

Monmouthshire Children's Services are well represented within a number of local and regional partnerships allowing us to take a strong role in shaping collaborative and partnership working. Some of our main partnerships include:

- South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board
- Children and Families Partnership Board
- Integrated Youth Offer
- Regional Board Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- Regional South East Wales Adoption Service

Within Monmouthshire the arrangements for co-ordinated Early Intervention are led by the 'Team Around the Family'(TAF) project currently sitting within the partnerships directorate of the council. The TAF operates through multi-agency meetings within the four comprehensive school and for early years through the Acorn Centre (Integrated Family Centre). Lead workers come from within partner agencies and from within the TAF project itself. The TAF was recognised by IPC as working effectively with children and families requiring early preventative services through a multi-agency approach.

Children's Services work with families when there is a requirement for a social-care led plan of intervention. Often this can be when the difficulties faced by parents have become entrenched with many barriers to overcome to enable the necessary changes to be made. At other times a statutory intervention into family life can be seen as the only way to manage the level of risk in order to ensure a child's safety and well-being. The main reasons for why children need support from statutory children's services remain as illustrated below:

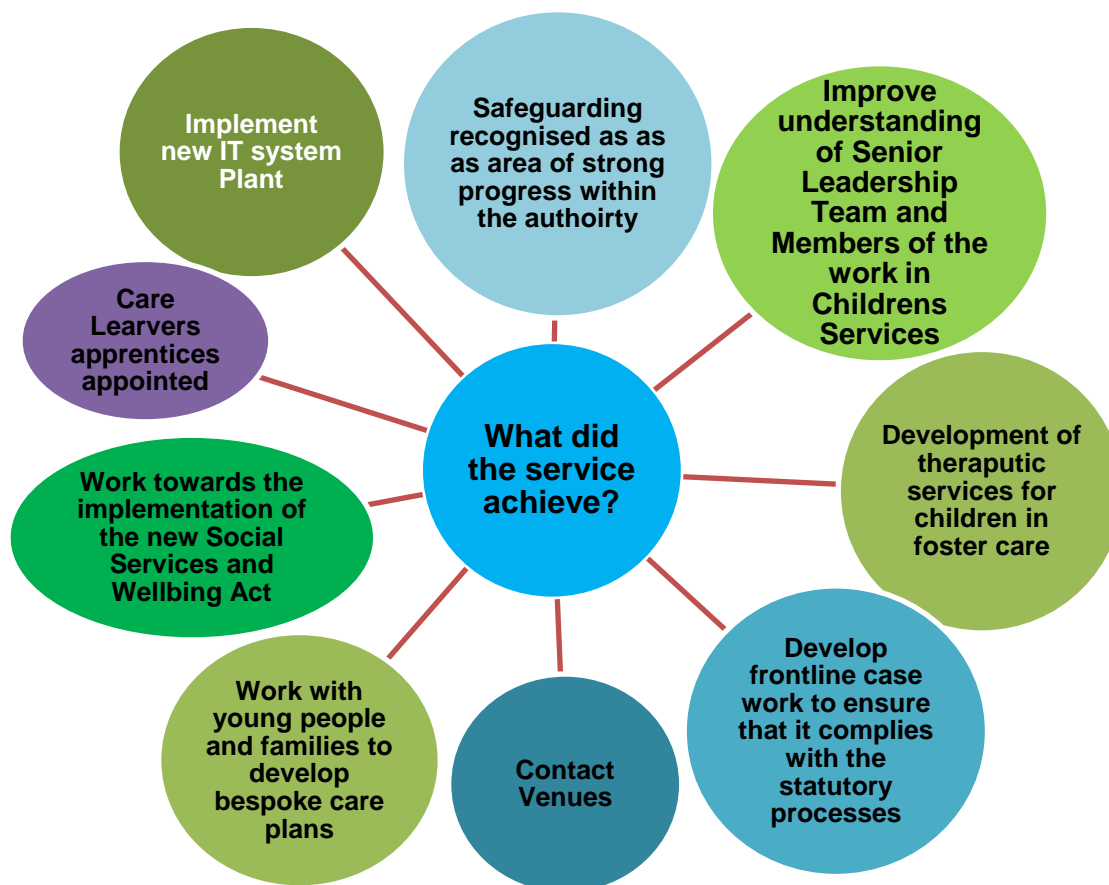


All of these reasons for referral can have a significant impact on children reaching their full-potential due to living in these adverse situations.

Recognising that TAF and Children's services need to form a continuum of intervention with an underpinning model for preventative family support is a key area for development. Operationally there needs to be strong links between the two service areas underpinned by a shared understanding of step-up and step-down arrangements.

3. What did Children's Services Achieve in 2015?

The work plan for the service from April 2015 - March 2016 set out some of the areas that we wanted to focus on over the year. Against this some of our achievements are represented below:



During the year 2 contact venues in Monmouth and Caldicot were established delivering child focused contact to families, where children are not living with their birth parents. A further venue in Abergavenny is currently being planned.

PLANT, the new IT system for Children's Services, was implemented in November 2015. This system continues to be developed to support the practice of our front-facing workers. This has included a pilot scheme for schools and Education Welfare Officers having direct access to the system to facilitate information sharing and timely decision making. We need to continue to develop PLANT as an effective tool for us in for producing performance information and the statistical data which is required for Welsh Government. There are plans in place to further develop this system over the next year.

Alongside colleagues in the Children and Young People Directorate and within the wider Council, significant work continued regarding safeguarding in the county. This was driven by the Children's Services Safeguarding Unit which was recognised by Estyn to be a 'very useful corporate resource'. In their monitoring visit in November 2015 Estyn found that the Council had 'responded well' to recommendations and that strong progress had been made in respect of safeguarding. During the last year work has been undertaken to continue to deliver the required training across the Council; to continue to provide support and guidance to schools and partners and to implement our SAFE quality assurance framework for safeguarding.

In November 2015 we launched our BASE project as a therapeutic support for foster carers. This project helps to support our looked after children through ensuring that their carers and the wider professional network have the skills to understand and respond to their needs at an emotional and psychological level. We see BASE as the cornerstone to strengthening our in-house foster service provision - helping us to keep some of our most vulnerable children closer to their families and communities.

The Corporate Parenting Group has continued to develop over the year and is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services. During the past year the service has taken on two apprentices to develop the Children in Care Group. Our apprentices also attend as members of the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure they provide a conduit for the views of children and young people in care and take back views and tasks from the Corporate Parenting Panel. From the outset of their time in this role our apprentices have been an asset to the service and Monmouthshire County Council.

As a service we have continued to maintain our focus on the children and families that we work with on both a case by basis and as a wider service. Two good examples of this include:

- the summer events hosted by the children with disabilities team to consult and obtain the views of families and young people in respect of the service we provide and what they feel they need in the future;
- the young people's consultation event and safeguarding survey undertaken in partnership with Monmouthshire Youth Service helping us understand the concerns of young people and how we might shape our services in response.

Improvements to ensure the Senior Leadership Team and members had a better understanding of the work of the service, were implemented over the past year. The Head of Children's Services attended the Senior Leadership Meeting monthly, to update on progress, barriers and relevant issues in Children's Services. In addition Select Committee run by elected Members scrutinised the work of the service regularly throughout the year on a range of subjects and topics. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services met monthly with the Head of Children's Services to discuss current issues for Children's Services. The Lead member also spent time

during the year, meeting and talking to frontline Social Workers and Youth Offending staff at a number of meetings and events.

A Members Briefing took place to advise Members on the changes necessary due to the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, from April 2016. This took place in January 2016. Children's Services have been attending training on the Act and have been involved in a number of groups in relation to the implementation of the new Act.

4. What were the key challenges for Children's Services in 2015?

Performance Reporting

Children's services are required to provide services that are compliant with our statutory obligation to meet the different needs of children and young people. Some of this is measured through key performance data. Our end of year profile for the service is illustrated through the following data:

Children's Services										
Ref	Description	2012/ 13 Actual	2013/ 14 Actual	2014/ 15 Actual	2015/ 16 Actual	2014/ 15 Wales Av	2015/ 16 Target	Directi on of travel	Targ et Met	Est. Quarti le in Wales
SCC/004 (NSI)	The percentage of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year	2.7% 2	10.7% 11	1.9% 2	8.5% 11	9%	6%	↓	*	Top
SCC/011(b) (NSI)	The percentage of initial assessments where the child has been seen alone by the Social Worker.	22.38 %	33.21 %	57.4%	52.7%	44.8%	60%	↓	*	Upper Middle
SCC/025 (PAM)	The percentage of statutory visits to	66.9%	66.3%	84.5%	84.2%	87.7%	90%	↓	*	Bottom

	looked after children due in the year that took place in accordance with regulations.									
SCC/033(d) (NSI)	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact at the age of 19.	88.9%	92.3%	88.9%	62.5%	93.3%	100%	↓	*	Bottom
SCC/041(a) (NSI)	The percentage of eligible, relevant and former relevant children that have pathway plans as required	68.4%	73.3%	98%	100%	91.2%	98%	↑	✓	Top
SCC/045 (PAM)	The percentage of reviews of looked after children, children on the Child Protection Register and children in need carried out in line with the	59.5%	86.1%	93.9%	92.4%	88.9%	95%	↓	*	Lower Middle

	statutory timetable									
SCC/010	The percentage of referrals that are re-referrals within 12 months	16.2% 69/425	13.3% 55/415	13.5% 65/482	17.8% 83/465	N/A	12-30%	↓	✓	N/A
SCC/014	The percentage of initial child protection conferences due in the year which were held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion	84.8% 56/66	93.4% 57/61	75% 57/76	87.7% 64/73	N/A	93.2%	↑	*	N/A
SCC/015	The percentage of initial core group meetings due in the year which were held within 10 working days of the initial child protection conference	34.0% 16/47	96.2% 51/53	87.1% 54/62	88.7% 55/62	N/A	91.5%	↑	*	N/A
SCC/016	The percentage of reviews of child in need plans carried out in	19.5% 89/456	57.5% 104/181	85.2% 190/223	84.4% 239/282	N/A	86%	↓	*	N/A

	accordance with the statutory timetable									
SCC/021	The percentage of looked after children reviews carried out within statutory timescales during the year	100% 296/296	99.6% 284/285	100% 281/281	98.5% 336/341	N/A	100%	↓	*	N/A
SCC/024	The percentage of children looked after during the year with a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school in the year ending 31 March	81.8% 18/22	67.5% 27/40	87.1% 27/31	65.0% 26/40	N/A	91.7%	↓	*	N/A
SCC/030a	The percentage of young carers known to Social Services who were assessed	100%	54.5%	100%	100%	N/A	100%	-	✓	N/A
SCC/034	The percentage of child protection reviews carried	90.5% 181/200	93.9% 155/165	95.5% 126/132	93.1% 134/144	N/A	100%	↓	*	N/A

	out within statutory timescales during the year									
SCC/039	The percentage of health assessments for looked after children due in the year that have been undertaken	83.6% 133/159	87.8% 137/156	87.7% 114/130	88.9% 169/188	N/A	87.7%	↑	✓	N/A
SCC/042(a)	The percentage of initial assessments completed within 7 working days	76.5% 277/362	76.4% 214/280	76.8% 285/371	70.5% 210/298	N/A	82.2%	↓	✘	N/A
SCC/043(a)	The percentage of required core assessments completed within 35 working days	81.3% 74/91	86.7% 78/90	84.7% 138/163	80.0% 72/90	N/A	86.7%	↓	✘	N/A

Source: End of Year Performance Report June 2016

Performance data is important as it provides some quantitative indicators about our operational activity set against our statutory requirements. In 2014-2015 there was a focussed effort on driving up some of these key performance indicators. This saw a significant improvement around areas of activity such as timescales for undertaking review and visits to our looked after children. Whilst the general trend over recent years continues to be one of improvement, our performance over the last year has seen some slippage. Some of this was impacted by our focus on the implementation of PLANT, however, we are now in a position one again where we must ensure that the use of performance information becomes part of our internal management processes. We must continue to develop PLANT so that we have the right

information to inform us locally about our activities as well as contributing to the wider national development of measuring well-being outcomes for our service users.

Financial Performance

During the year the service continued to experience significant pressure on its budgets with a £1.4 million overspend despite significant investment of £1.321m permanent funding. The main reasons for this financial pressure include:- continued demand and high cost placements particularly in relation to a small cohort of children with complex needs; difficulties in recruitment resulting in over-reliance on expensive agency and interim cover; increase in legal costs and social work capacity associated with the complexity of case-work; increase in costs incurred through increased numbers of looked after children.

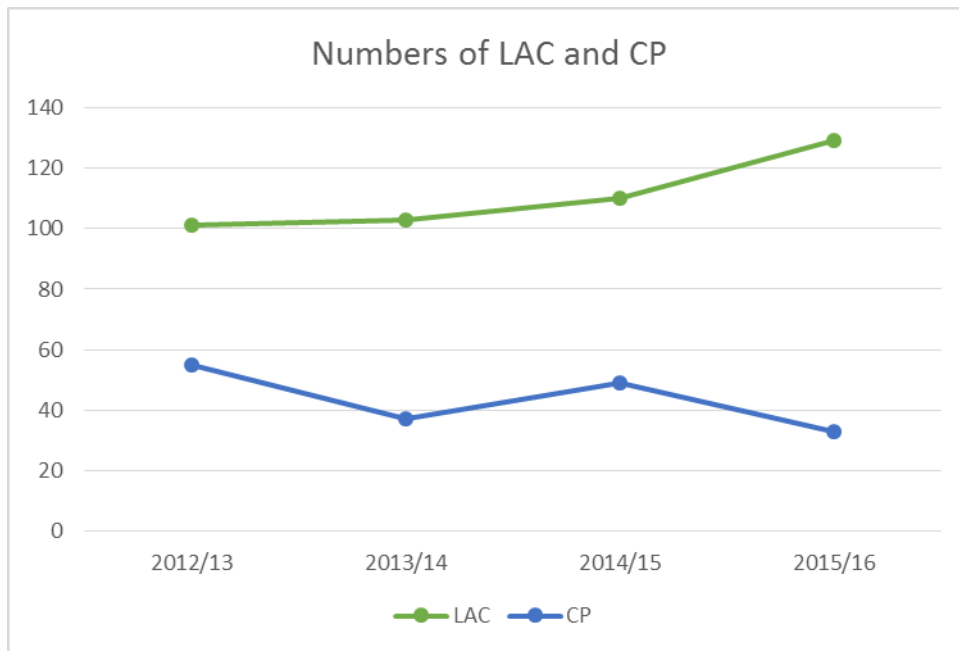
The service has seen investment from the council in developing some invest to save business cases to strengthen our in-house foster care services and our support for children on Special Guardianship Orders. As we move into the second year of these, reviewing our performance against these business cases from a financial perspective is now critical.

A service and financial plan was approved by Cabinet at the beginning of January. This contained within it a model for achieving financial balance in children's services over a 3 year period. This plan secured an additional £1million investment for the service for 2016/17.

Children's Services must now continue to closely monitor its expenditure, underpinned by the wider programmes of workforce development; practice development and improving our service offer with a particular emphasis on prevention at all levels.

Increased LAC population

At the year-end Monmouthshire's Looked After Children population was **129** an increase of **21** children based on year-end figures. There has been an upward trend in the number of looked after children over a number of years. This is set against a downward trend in the number of children whose names are included on the Child Protection Register (insert graph) – from **49** at year-end 2015 to **33** at current year end.



Some of the factors which have influenced this trend include:

- Increased level of risk and complexity of cases
- The increased use of court / legal processes to manage risk rather than through a multi-agency child protection plan
- A lack of a consistent preventative LAC strategy including a coherent, multi-agency family support strategy and services to support families who experience difficulties
- The impact of staff turnover, together with a 'built-in' transfer point at the first looked after child review can undermine the timely implementation of alternative risk management processes or care plans for rehabilitation
- The increase use by the courts of children being placed at home with their parent(s) whilst retaining their Looked After Status (Placement with Parent Regulations). The year-end figure for this was 21 children 12% of the LAC population.

The challenge for our service this year is to develop our preventative approaches at all tiers of the service to ensure that children become looked after only when this is absolutely in their best interests and that as soon as it is safe and appropriate for them to return home this is achieved.

Achieving a stable and confident workforce

The last year has continued to pose challenges for us about our ability to permanently recruit to the service. At the year-end our workforce comprised 12 agencies workers which is approximately 22% of the workforce. Reflecting back, some of this relates to out-dated recruitment methods, and the absence of a consistent strategy for planning around the training, development and support needs of the existing work-force. We did, however, develop 'select the best' interview

models and these certainly helped us make some very positive recruitment decisions for the service. We can now build on this as we move forward around our work-force planning and development over the next year.

5. What are Children's Services working on in 2016-17?

Taking a step back to consider our current position, it is clear that as a service we have a significant improvement agenda ahead of us. Our full service plan is set out within our Service Improvement Plan which can be found on the council's hub at: [INSERT LINK](#)



The start of our service planning has been to ask ourselves some searching questions and being relentless in drilling down to some of the root causes of the presenting difficulties and challenges. This provides a good foundation for change and a clear sense of the scope of the changes that are required. Our work with IPC has been fundamental to this: We are at the point where we have a good sense of the diagnostic and a clear sense of direction and drive towards some solutions.

The critical areas of improvement to highlight are:

- The need for a really well articulated model of social work practice, so that 'what good looks like' in children's social services is understood by everyone working in, and with, children's social services;
- A need to develop the model of intensive family support which works up to the level of statutory intervention by children's services, edge of care and rehabilitation from care;
- Clarity where the current Team Around the Family (TAF) fits within this of family support model, recognising there may be a need to remodel the current offer;
- A new operating model for management of contacts and referrals underpinned by pathways and protocols for all agencies on how Monmouthshire categorises and responds to contacts and referrals and a supportive way of working with referrers to manage risk;
- Development of our services for children in long-term foster care and supporting their pathway to independence as care leavers;
- A review of the role and function of business support as critical to the functioning of the service;
- Having developed the model of family support, clarity with regard the role of the social worker in delivery of intensive interventions support for families in need;
- Practice and protocols for applying eligibility to families in need consistent with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act;
- Practice and protocols for undertaking parenting assessments;
- A review of the range and capacity of parenting and attachment support for families;
- Clarify the roles and case responsibilities of senior practitioners, team managers and service managers and support managers to operate management arrangements effectively;
- Ensure quality assurance system is actively driving a cycle of continuous improvement across the service.

Addressing these challenges will require a programme approach which captures the inter-relatedness of many of the areas for development. The key themes for our work going forward is captured within diagram 1 below and will be delivered through three programme-streams in the context of our transformational agenda as we continue to implement the Social Services and Well-Being Act (diagram 2).

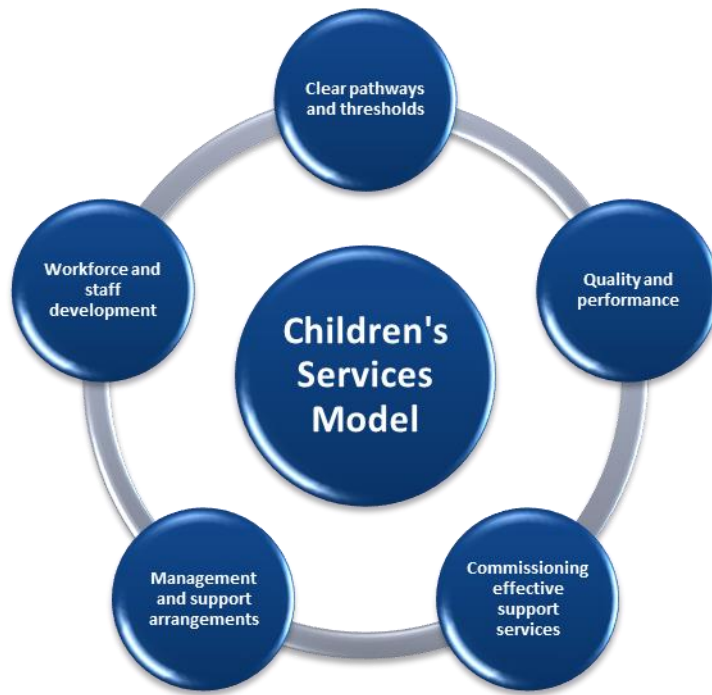


Diagram 1 Source: IPC Delivering Excellent Practice in Children's Services (Monmouthshire June 2016)

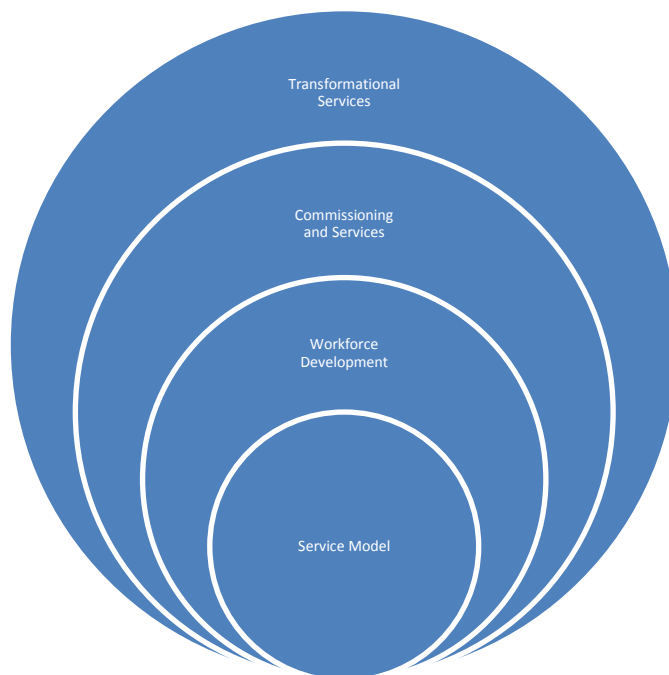


Diagram 2: our work-streams

A summary of key tasks within these work streams are as follows:

We will deliver a specific targeted Programme for Improvement to deliver excellence in our Children's Social Services
1. Service Model
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will develop a common shared evidence-based vision and model for the delivery of children's services• We will put in place new procedures and policies in each of the identified areas which support the vision and model of service and include clear key pathways and business processes
2. Workforce Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will implement a recruitment strategy to reduce our reliance on agency workers• We will clarify the roles and case responsibilities of senior practitioners, team managers and service managers and support managers to operate management arrangements effectively• We will review our business support to ensure business support arrangements are effective in supporting best social work practice• We will design and deliver a programme of training for social work teams to support skills development within the new vision and procedures, and the SSWB Act
3. Commissioning and Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will ensure that there are coherent models of early intervention and prevention, with a focus on supporting families• We will develop a model of intensive family support which works up to the level of statutory intervention by children's services, edge of care and rehabilitation from care• Develop and implement a commissioning strategy and secure services to support families with complex needs• Ensure that there is clarity where the current Team Around the Family (TAF) fits within this of family support model, recognising there may be a need to remodel the current offer

Jane Rodgers

Head of Children's Services

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Changing Practice, Changing Lives – Sustainable Social Care & Health

Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services in Monmouthshire

Overview

This is my first annual report as Statutory Director of Social Services with Monmouthshire County Council. Having taken up my position in November 2015, it is both a privilege, and a considerable responsibility, to start to understand, lead and shape the improvement of outcomes for the most vulnerable people within this County. Like many other local authorities in Wales, Monmouthshire is faced with the twin challenges of declining budgets and an ageing population. Against this backdrop doing more of the same is not an option; nor is doing the same things differently. We are building an evidence base in Monmouthshire that doing different things, better and for the right reasons is also more cost effective and really by far the best way forward if we are to manage up to another £25 million reduction in the Council's budget.

At the heart of the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014) is improved outcomes for people. Of course, much that is specific to the way that we work with children or adults with care and support needs, but there is also much that is common to the way we need to work in a strengths based way with all people, families and communities. The model of social care and health I want to lead in Monmouthshire is an integrated approach for the people of our County. The ambition and drive for excellence felt across all social care and health, and much work is needed to level up everything we do, to the leading edge excellence that is clearly evident in parts of social care. My leadership challenge is, therefore, to create one social care and health department with a clear vision and purpose, with the right people, practice model and range of service offers. This will mean we are well placed to support achievement of the best possible outcomes for all of Monmouthshire's citizens. My approach to leadership is also strengths based, in a nutshell, to ensure we build on what works in the different parts of Social Care and Health, recognising we are stronger when we work in partnership, through a coherent purpose and governance for our workforce, practice and commissioning.

One of the key features I became aware of very quickly when I joined the Council was a difference between the culture, capacity to change, and clarity of service model, between different parts of social care and health in Monmouthshire. The implementation of new ways of working in adult social care is well-recognised as leading the way in Wales and beyond. Conversely, parts of our children's service particularly, were displaying signs of fragility – evidenced by variations in practice, high numbers of agency social workers, an absence of commissioning priorities and a considerable financial overspend. Our numbers of looked after children were increasing exponentially, rising from 108 at the start of the year to 129 at year end. An in-depth analysis of our current strengths, and areas for improvement, undertaken in partnership with the Institute for Public Care (IPC), tells us there is an urgent need to improve social work practice, management capacity and the services we have access to. These improvements need to be underpinned by a confident, permanent workforce, skilled at working with families and partners in the most challenging of situations to prevent the need

for children to become looked after in order to be safe, unless there really is no alternative option. Understanding where we are was the first task. The first phase of the improvement programme in children's services is focussing on getting the basics right, establishing a permanent workforce who are confident and safe in their practice. This is the highest possible priority for the Council, which is giving extensive support to a programme for improvement in Children's Services led by the Senior Leadership Team, supported by an External Reference Group of recognised experts, who will oversee this programme over the next year and beyond if necessary.

In adult services, the last 4 years has seen practice led focus on outcomes, development of a coherent model of well-being and prevention, and a modernised set of both provided and commissioned services, delivered, by a committed and value driven workforce. This has enabled more adults with care and support needs to live the lives they want to live, without the need for traditional services. Outcomes for people have improved. Costs have reduced despite the challenges of an ageing population. Services, where they are needed are based on 'what matters' to the individual person, strong relationships and high standards. Integrated services for older people are very well established and there are positive relationships with primary care and third sector partners. There is still much to do, and risks to manage, particularly, in the provider market, but the improvement journey is well-established, well led and sustainable. There can be a high level of confidence the improvement programme is sustainable and most importantly is actively transforming lives.

There are considerable strengths within Social Care and Health in Monmouthshire, in both adult and children's services which can be built on and developed further. Most importantly, the vast majority of the workforce are hugely committed to the work they do. The Council leadership has invested resources and leadership in supporting the transformation of Social Care and Health. All our workforce needs the same direction, development and aligned systems to do the job they strive to do. We have the building blocks, with collaborative leadership across Social Care and Health, to deliver whole service excellence we aspire to for all our citizens. This next year is about making that a reality.

Claire Marchant

Chief Officer, Social Care, Safeguarding & Health

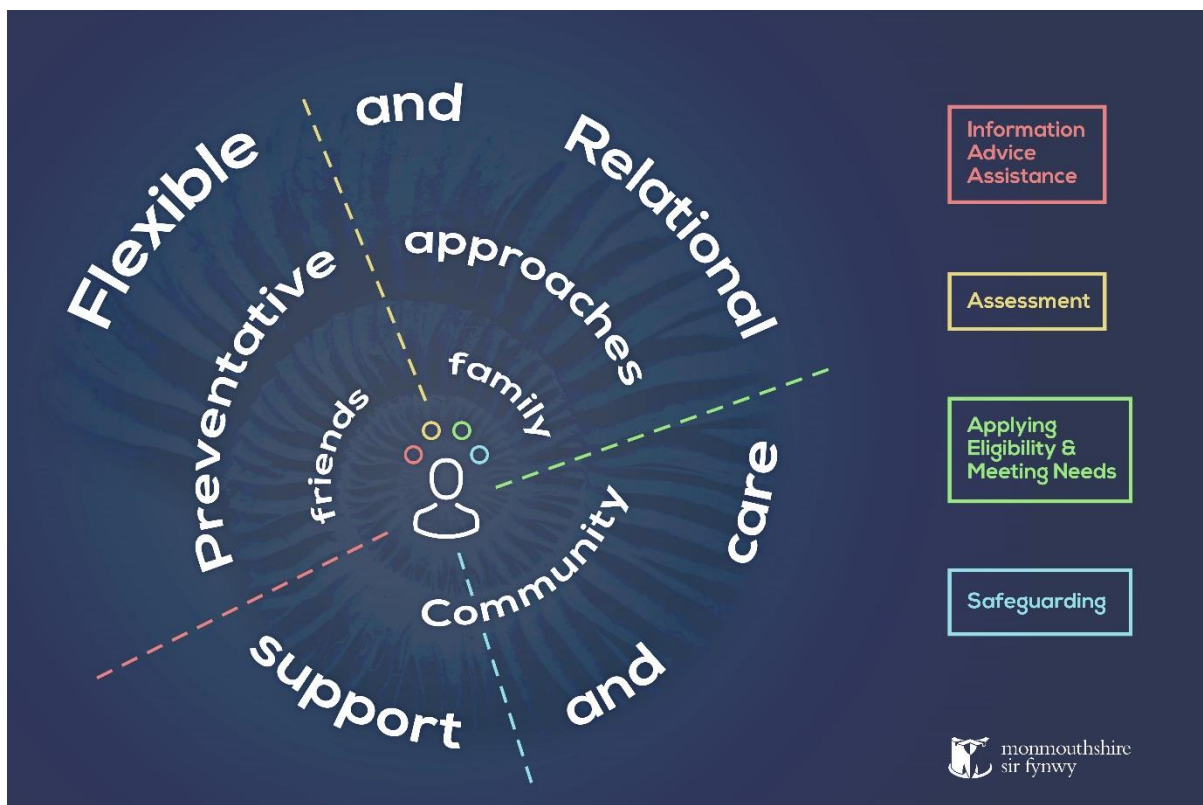
(Statutory Director of Social Services)

Vision

The vision for Social Care and Health in Monmouthshire, is clear; *to maximise opportunity for all people to live the lives they want to live and the positive outcomes they identify.* This informs the priorities and actions for the sustainable Social Care and Health in Monmouthshire in 2016/17 and beyond.

In practice, this means we aim to work with people on the basis of what matters to them, recognising their strengths, capabilities and the resources available to them personally, within their network of family, friends and community. Our model of well-being, care and support is based on what people can do, not their deficits. We are committed to the highest standards of safeguarding. We will work alongside people and with them, not 'do to them.' We work with partners, inside and outwith the Council, to intervene early and prevent the need for more intensive interventions, or statutory solutions, unless they are absolutely necessary.

We work with people in the closest circle of support to them, support a person's, or a families', intrinsic motivation to achieve their own wellbeing outcome or change. This ensures the creation of more natural and sustainable care and support arrangements specific to the each person. The image below, depicts pictorially this cycle of care and support radiating outwards from the person themselves through family, friends and community via preventative approaches to managed care and support.



Information, advice and assistance, assessment, applying eligibility and meeting needs and safeguarding vulnerable people are illustrated as cross cutting themes as we undertake these proportionately throughout the cycle of care and support.

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014)

The Act in Action

This strength based model of well-being, care and support underpins our Monmouthshire approach to implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. Our social care and health offer will align at every level, and embed operationally, the principles of the Act:

- People's voice
- Partnership
- Early intervention
- Well-being
- Empowerment

The Council is taking a co-ordinated corporate approach to ensure full implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act. Delivery of the Act is increasingly becoming business as usual. In common with other authorities there are some important areas where 2016/17 is the year when we will be developing fully our approach to implementation as new guidance emerges and we work with regional and local partners, not to 'tick the box', but really embed the Act in practice. We are working in accordance with the vision of *Sustainable Social Services* – that through an increased level of effective earlier intervention / preventative services, including better access to information and advice for everyone, and well-being support, people will be able to be supported without need for managed intensive care and support. The critical areas for the Act implementation are set out in my priorities for improvement later on in this report.

What we do really well

This section of the report is a flavour of the areas of strengths within Social Care & Health in Monmouthshire. More detail on these, and other achievements, is included in the Heads of Service Annual Reports appended to this Director's Annual Report. There is much to be proud of, and importantly, that people who experience our services, tell us we are doing well.

Safeguarding is everyone's business - Safeguarding is an important area of strength for Monmouthshire. It is highly assuring to have joined an Authority in which safeguarding children and adults is such a high priority for the Council. As Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health, I have responsibility for the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit which has played a key leadership role in supporting the strong progress made by the Council in safeguarding children. This was recognised by Estyn in their monitoring visit in November 2015 which found that the Council has '*responded well*' to recommendations in this area. They also noted that '*the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit (the unit) is a very useful corporate resource*'. Building on success to date, the Whole Authority Safeguarding Co-ordinating Group (WASCG) is now providing leadership on adults as well as children's safeguarding. The safeguarding strategy, work programme and report card will from hereon in cover adults as well as children's safeguarding issues. I am confident that safe recruitment practices are embedded across the Council. This includes the considerable volunteer workforce we benefit from in Monmouthshire. There is a well-developed (SAFE) audit process which means we have a really good understanding of how schools and provider agencies address their safeguarding responsibilities, and there are supporting action plans which are actively monitored to address any issues. We actively work through the regional safeguarding boards for children and adults, which are now on a statutory footing. Important reviews (Wales Audit Office, Independent Review of Safeguarding in Monmouthshire by Ellis Williams and the Internal Audit Review) have been undertaken to assess the current safeguarding framework and the learning gleaned has contributed to a stock take of the current position and assess what is needed going forward. Reflection on these reviews by the WASCG has led us to have a focus on mainstreaming safeguarding into service planning across the Authority whilst setting direction, prioritising and managing risk and linking with strategic regional partnerships and monitoring through the WASCG.

Talking about what matters - In a number of areas, Monmouthshire social services was in an advanced position prior to the statutory changes in April 2016; particularly, through the *Changing Practice, Changing Lives* programme in adult services. This has delivered a significant change in culture and practice within social work. The 'what matters', strength based approach to assessment and case management is established. Integrated assessment is in place, and is now being rolled out across the rest of the Greater Gwent area. Adult teams in Monmouthshire were part of the National Outcomes pilot. The Collaborative Communications training has proved truly transformational to the adult social care workforce in the way they work with people to achieve their well-being outcomes.

Integrating Health, Social Care & Well-being - There is a long history of integrated working in Monmouthshire – health and social care community services for older people work in integrated teams, from community hubs under single management arrangements. Following the implementation of the new IT system, NHS employed community nursing and therapy

workforce are using a single system. The health and social care workforce have been trained together on the new Act. There are positive relationships with primary care, and the flow from the acute services, through an in-reach model to support hospital discharge, with effective use of community hospital beds, is well-established. There is always more to do, and a priority for this year is to ensure that the place based approach and integrated working is reflected in all teams – learning disabilities, mental health and within children’s services; as well the current integrated teams. We also intend integrating direct service provision within the 3 community hubs – Monnow Vale in Monmouth, Chepstow Hospital and Mardy Park in Abergavenny. There are real opportunities to further integrate primary care and well-being through the Neighbourhood Care Network place based approach. An external academic partner will work with us in 2016 to formally evaluate the success factors in working together in this way over a long period of time. Learning from the pilot is supporting place based prevention and well-being approaches being implemented in the community hubs across Monmouthshire. This is a partnership approach which builds very much on the strengths within each community.

Remodelling our service offer – Models of support have been remodelled to ensure that they are truly person centred and start with the person and their aspiration for a good life. I will give just three examples in this section of the report of those services which have changed to reflect what matters to people and have a strong evidence base of what works:

1. The in-house homecare service now provides a very individual offer of care and support. The development of workforce through a really detailed programme of how to work with people with dementia has supported the very successful roll out of this model. This very different approach to relationship based care at home service was piloted in Raglan and is being rolled out across the County. The pilot has shown that flexible approaches can meet emotional and social needs of people as well as their physical needs. This way of working has also improved wellbeing for staff and awareness and connections with local communities.
2. The second example, is the way we support people with disabilities to live their own lives. The ‘My Day My Life’ approach has broadened opportunities and access to community activities for people. Support staff have taken on a support broker role, working with people one by one, enabling them to overcome barriers to achieve their aspirations and dreams, rather than fitting into a service led solution.
3. The third example, is the further development of the BASE service to provide integrated health and social care support to families (including foster carers and special guardians) working to support children with complex needs. This is a small, psychology led, therapeutic team which is providing direct service interventions and extensive training to the wider workforce and carers, working to an evidence based model of attachment and support. The service aims to sustain non-residential placements which are under pressure and support a model of therapeutic foster carers for children and young people who need additional support.

Connecting People and Communities - The Council has invested in new approaches to tackling loneliness and social isolation through development of an ‘anatomy of resilience’ at both an

individual and community level. This is a place based approach to wellbeing and prevention. The community co-ordination and small local enterprise learning pilot has been evaluated. There have been really inspiring successes in the areas of volunteering; people who would previously have been recipients of service are actively contributing, which supports their own well-being as well as those of others. A key message is that people need people, and with some community development and initial support communities can sustain their own solutions. The Rogiet Community Café, which is run by the community for the community, is a fantastic example of a sustainable approach to the Social Services and Well-being Act in Action. The next steps include an emphasis on creating wider multi agency response at a local level, and ensuring this is an inclusive approach for children, young people and families – reflecting the focus on ‘people’.

2015/16 Performance

2014/15 was a year of considerable improvement against key performance measures. As figure 2 below shows, this was sustained and improved on in some areas, but in other areas performance levels were not sustained.

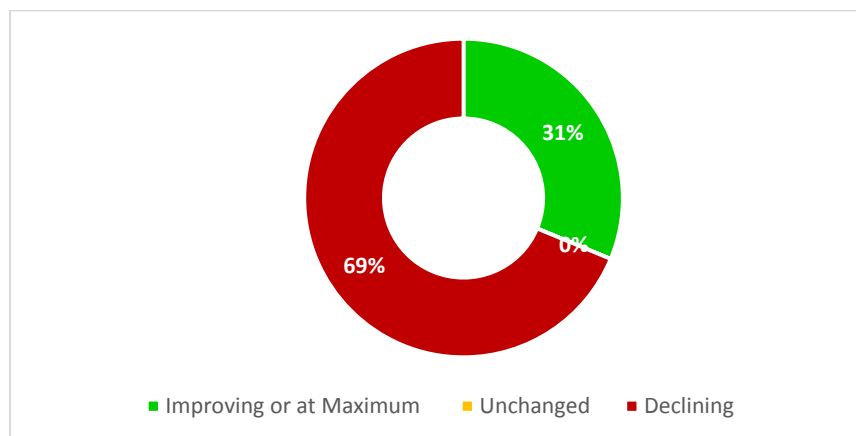


Figure 2

Performance indicators can only ever tell part of the story in any service area. The areas where performance has improved does reflect the intelligence from others, more quality assurance and talking to people who experience our service, that the service area is well-placed. For example, the increase in the number of reviews of adults with care plans and the ongoing reduction in the rate of older people who live in care homes accords with the practice improvement in adult social work teams. It is important to note that whilst the performance indicators are not at the level of the previous year in children's services; most still show a significant improvement from the 2013/14 position.

There has been a frustration with performance in the area of Delayed Transfers of Care (DToCs) in the last year. The timely discharge of people from hospitals in Monmouthshire has always been a strength. The integrated teams follow people when they become inpatients and 'reach in' to hospitals to facilitate timely discharge with the right care and support. This has continued to be the case for the last year, but unfortunately, changes in the way that DToCs have been recorded and validated have made it appear as if performance in this very important area of work has deteriorated.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16*
The number of children looked after at 31 March	103	108	129
The number of children on the child protection register on 31 March	37	49	33
The number (and rate per 1000 population) of older people supported to live at home	56.59 (1134)	52.77 (1091)	53.98 (1148)
The number (and rate per 1000 population) of older people supported in residential settings	11.33 (227)	11.08 (229)	10.96 (233)

The percentage of adult clients who were reviewed during the year	82.1%	84.1%	91.3%
The percentage of carers of adults who were offered their own assessment or review	97.3%	99.7%	98.8%
The percentage of people who were fully independent following reablement	54.6%	52.9%	52.5%
The percentage of surveyed adult service users who were satisfied with the services they received	90%	93%	93%
The percentage of children re-referred to children's services within a year	13.3%	13.5%	17.8%
The percentage of initial assessments completed within 7 working days	79.1%	76.8%	70.5%
The percentage of Core Assessments completed within 35 working days	86.7%	84.7%	80.0%
The percentage of children looked after or on the child protection register with a social worker	100%	100%	100%
The percentage of reviews of looked after children carried out on time	99.6%	100%	98.5%
The percentage of reviews of children on the child protection register carried out on time	93.9%	95.5%	93.1%
The average education qualification points score of 16 year olds who have been looked after	222	308	241

*Data for 2015/16 is provisional. For many of these measures comparable data for other areas will be available at infobasecymru.net



How are we doing?

Social Care and Health in 2015-16



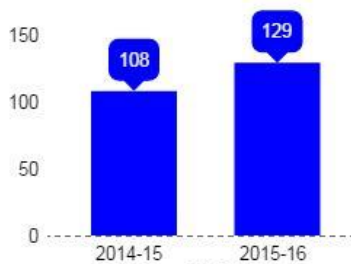
of adults are satisfied with the service they get



budget for Social Services



adult care plans reviewed in 2015-16



more children looked after



statutory visits to looked after children done on time



of children looked after have a named social worker



of people independent after reablement



delayed transfers of care from hospital



older people in residential care - lowest in Wales



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Financial Performance

This year has seen a challenge on the finance front for Social Care and Health. We had available budget to us of circa £38 million and at year end delivered an overspend of £1.2 million, which included achievement of mandated savings of repayment towards the new IT system.

Within the overall financial position, adult services delivered an underspend of £205,000, against a budget of £29.5million, a fantastic achievement given the budget had reduced by £1.4 million. Particular success has been obtained from practice change within learning disabilities as a strategic area for practice change and budget savings. Another particular area of success has been within the integrated community equipment services, through negotiation of a new cost apportionment methodology as part of a new section 31 agreement. This resulted in a reduction in spend of £90,000 per annum. Investment to facilitate change has been important in adult services – the community co-ordination pilot was supported through reserve investment; Intermediate Care Fund funded a range of initiatives including dementia training for care workforce.

The second half of the financial position is within Children's Services. Following significant investment of £1.321m permanent funding and £153K reserve funding, the outturn was a £1.4million overspend. This is largely due to the increased number of Looked After Children. Numbers rose from 108 to 129. A service and financial plan was approved by Cabinet at the beginning of January, which contained a financial model for achieving financial balance in children's services over a 3 year period. This plan secured an additional £1million investment for the service for 2016/17.

We are currently constructing a commissioning strategy to deal with the increasing Looked After Children numbers and how effectively they can be supported within our financial envelope. All our contracts are being reviewed to determine value for money and statutory funding responsibilities. At the heart of the commissioning strategy is the need to achieve investment in really good family support services which are able to support children and families prior to any statutory intervention by social services, and when they are at the 'edge' of becoming looked after within the care system.

Workforce Development and Training

Practice Learning (Social Work Students) in Monmouthshire - Monmouthshire County Council has well-established partnership agreements with Cardiff University Social Work MA programme and the University of South Wales Newport (USW Newport) Social Work undergraduate degree programme. We arrange up to 30 Practice Learning Opportunities (PLOs) each year. These placements are funded by the Practice Learning Opportunity Funding Scheme this is managed and administered by the Care Council for Wales. We have continued to benefit from strong partnerships with social work and direct care teams within our organisation. Alongside this we have been able to place students in a wide range of third sector organisations. These have provided students with an insight into the varied work undertaken by the third sector.

The Practice Learning Development Officer (PLDO) and Staff Development Officer (SDO) work together to arrange PLOs in statutory agencies and third sector organisations. We provide support for third sector organisations that do not employ social workers and need off-site practice assessment for the students placed with them. Each year the training team provide support for social workers wanting to become practice assessors and to undertake the appropriate post qualifying training. During 2015/16, two social workers completed the Enabling Practice PQ and were mentored by the training team.

We recruited 3 students into various teams across the authority from last year's placement intake, and are looking to strengthen our links with the HEIs with a view to recruiting more efficiently in future years.

Post-Qualifying Information – A summary of post-qualifying social work activity is set out below:

- During 2015/6 nine social workers studied for the Consolidation Programme. Two social workers studied for Practice Assessor programmes and became first-time practice assessors
- One senior practitioner completed a module of the CPEL Senior Practitioner Programme, and one social worker completed the first year of the Experienced Practitioner Programme
- Two team managers studied for the Team Manager Development Programme
- One social worker studied for the AMHP programme

Ensuring our workforce has the knowledge and skills to do their jobs - there has been a considerable effort to ensure that the workforce has the necessary knowledge to practice in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. There has been a regional and local training programme to social services staff and health staff, third sector and independent providers and those most affected in corporate roles. Incorporating the culture shift into practice is being taken forward internally using in-house expertise with the

support of the Transformation Team. We have reframed our training strategy to ensure all training provided is aligned with the aspirations, principles and practice enshrined in the Act. Awareness raising has started for other legislation including the Regulation and Inspection Act and the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. In addition, there has been a focus on the skills to meet people's outcomes, recognising the needs of Monmouthshire's population:

- Dementia Care Matters – continuation of last year's training programme across adult social care workforce. This will be rolled out to the workforce of commissioned services from the the Autumn of 2016
- Court Skills and Achieving Best Evidence – there will be a regional training programme from September onwards
- Vocational qualifications - in partnership with local FE colleges and independent providers, we have enable staff and foster carers to access QCF qualifications in Health and Social Care L2, L3 and L5 and in the L3 Diploma for Occupational Therapy Support. We are developing our own staff to become QCF assessors.
- Supporting social care providers across the sector to ensure staff delivering services are suitable skilled and qualified to meet the needs of our service users – core training and more specialist content.
- We are part of a Gwent wide programme to develop and deliver an induction programme for informal carers new to the role.
- In partnership with Coleg Gwent, a Welsh for Carers training programme has been developed in recognition of the requirements of Mwy na Geiriau/More than Words.
- Collaborative Communications training has proved transformational for practice in adult social work teams and will be rolled part of a training programme in children's services in the autumn.

Where do we need to do better – Our Priorities for Improvement in 2016/17

2015/16 has been a transitional year for social services in Monmouthshire. In addition to changes in statutory leadership, there is also a new Head of Children's Services appointed in March 2016, following the departure of the former Head of Service in February 2016. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act has come into force as the legislative basis for social services in Wales. A new IT system has been implemented which has been designed with local practitioners, to reflect the way that they work in accordance with the new Act. In 2016/17 the benefits from these significant changes in leadership, legislation and systems will start to be realised.

As set out in the forward, 2015/16 has been a challenging year for children's services in Monmouthshire. The service has been focussed on improving practice and performance for a number of years. An action plan to ensure the areas for improvement identified in the inspection undertaken by Care and Social Services for Wales (CSSIW) in November 2014 has driven that improvement. There has been some tangible improvements in key areas such as contact arrangements and working together with partners to achieve best evidence when investigations are needed. There is, however, much still to do. It is critical that the improvements made are embedded sustainably in practice and commissioning. In essence this means we need a permanent children's services workforce which is confident in practice who can access a range of evidence based support options which can achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people; and are delivered within the budget for the service set by the Council on the basis of really understanding the level of investment needed.

Recognising the pressures within the children's service, one of my first actions as Director was to present a service and financial recovery plan to the Cabinet, which was approved in January 2016. The plan approved further investment in the service and a clear set of priorities for workforce development, practice improvement, strategic commissioning and financial balance. However, addressing the financial resourcing of the service can only ever be part of the solution. A review was commissioned from the Institute of Public Care (IPC) to work with the service to provide analysis of the work required to deliver excellence outcomes in children's services. This was a very thorough piece, reviewing 40 case files as well as other evidence. The service has fully accepted its findings which reflect, and build on, the analysis within my early report to Cabinet of the areas where action is needed. We need to get the basics right and organise our workforce to deliver them. I am confident we have a clear understanding and ownership of what our issues are.

It is clear that getting social work practice right is the absolute key to sustainable improvement in children's services. Whilst it is important to acknowledge there is some excellent, child centred practice evident in assessments and care plans, practice is too variable and not supported systemically. As noted above, improvements in performance indicators achieved in 2014/15 were not sustained. The workforce, which included significant numbers of agency staff, struggled to manage the demand upon it, particularly when periods of unavoidably high levels of absence from work occurred during the summer of 2015.

The granularity of the analysis underlying the variation over the last 2 years has given me, as the new statutory director, a really indepth understanding of where the focus of the improvement programme needs to be. Some areas identified required immediate address; most critically how we work as a service, and with partners, to ensure referrals to children's services are managed so decisions on further action are made immediately (i.e. within 24 hours), and secondly how administrative staff support the social work duty system. The other critical areas form part of the children's services improvement programme and are actively being addressed in a prioritised way which recognises both the need for pace, and, based on experience of elsewhere of sustainable cultural and practice change, the realistic timescales to really embed different ways of working.

The critical areas of improvement to highlight are:

- The need for a really well articulated model of social work practice, so that 'what good looks like' in children's social services is understood by everyone working in, and with, children's social services;
- A need to develop the model of intensive family support which works up to the level of statutory intervention by children's services, edge of care and rehabilitation from care;
- Clarity where the current Team Around the Family (TAF) fits within this family support model, recognising there may be a need to remodel the current offer;
- A new operating model for management of contacts and referrals underpinned by pathways and protocols for all agencies on how Monmouthshire categorises and responds to contacts and referrals and a supportive way of working with referrers to manage risk;
- A review of the role and function of business support as critical to the functioning of the service;
- Having developed the model of family support, clarity with regard the role of the social worker in delivery of intensive interventions support for families in need;
- Practice and protocols for applying eligibility to families in need consistent with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act;
- Practice and protocols for undertaking parenting assessments;
- A review of the range and capacity of parenting and attachment support for families;
- Clarify the roles and case responsibilities of senior practitioners, team managers and service managers and support managers to operate management arrangements effectively;
- Ensure quality assurance system is actively driving a cycle of continuous improvement across the service.

The highest priority for Social Care and Health, and indeed for the Council corporately, in 2016/17 is to deliver a programme for improvement which is based on evidence of what works in delivering wholesale service improvement. We have a highly skilled, permanent Head of Children's Services, who has shown through her leadership of safeguarding in the Authority that she has the vision and tenacity to drive improvement at pace. We are beginning to recruit a collaborative leadership team across Social Care and Health. We are building on

the strengths within adult social care and have full support corporately which is giving the capacity we need. Indeed, we are drawing into this programme the very best people Monmouthshire has to offer, and will continue to access the external support of IPC where it needs it. We will also work with our local and regional partners in schools, health, police and provider sector – working collaboratively, and indeed in an integrated way with them, where it make sense to do so. We will have the support of an external reference group to advise and challenge us as we progress on our improvement journey.

The culture and practice of continuous improvement is well-developed within adult teams within Social Care and Health in Monmouthshire. There are a number of improvement priorities which need to progress at pace in order to maintain the progress in light of reducing budgets, increasing demand and the role adult services needs to play in the whole service focus envisioned in this annual report. The strengths based model of social work practice needs to be continuously reinforced through supervision, coaching, mentoring and quality assurance systems. The placed based model of well-being and prevention which Monmouthshire is implementing requires even stronger productive partnerships which deliver in local areas; drawing in primary care through the Neighbourhood Care Networks, third sector, Registered Social Landlords and importantly the social capital within communities. Recognising, there is different levels of social capital within different communities in Monmouthshire, there will be different challenges for social care and health to manage people's needs outside of more traditional statutory services, and this can have considerable budgetary implications. Finally, Monmouthshire, as other counties in Wales, is managing a considerable level of risk with external provider markets. This has been evidenced in recent years with a number of providers being managed through provider performance procedures for reasons of service quality, financial risk, or both. A critical factor in county like Monmouthshire is the ability to recruit and retain a quality workforce of care providers. Recognising the range of challenges, particularly in the domiciliary market, the 'Turning the World Upside Down' work is looking to radically challenge the traditional task and time basis of commissioning care and home, with a view to reflecting the lessons from the remodelling of the in-house homecare service in the reset of the market. This work needs to deliver tangible outcomes in the coming year; it is clear the current model of commissioning domiciliary care is not sustainable beyond the short term.

A critical priority across Social Care and Health is to ensure that the benefits are realised from the significant, very courageous, investment in development of an in-house IT system to support practice in adults and children's services. The new system is very well supported by practitioners, and there are key benefits already being realised in integrated teams through health and social care workforce using the system. A pilot has commenced for schools to be able to directly access the children's services system. It is important that we have well understood support arrangements, both internally through business support, in-house support; and externally reflected in the Service Level Agreement with the SRS. Secondly, the potential is there for the system to provide the management and performance information to enable a real cycle of continuous improvement. This is an absolute priority for us. This leads to ensuring that practitioners across adults and children's services are using the system to its

optimum so that there is confidence at all levels in the management information and performance reports produced.

Summary of Areas for Improvement – over 3 years

Note are these the right things for the 3 years?

1. We will deliver a specific, targeted, Programme for Improvement in Children’s Social Services to deliver excellence in our children’s social services.

- *The programme for improvement will have be overseen by the Council’s Senior Leadership Team and will have the full corporate support of the Council. An external reference group will act as critical friend to the programme. There will be dedicated support to the programme, including access to external advice as necessary*
- *We will develop a practice model for children’s services in Monmouthshire which will align to the overarching vision for Social Care and Health*
- *The programme will ensure there is the right capacity and resource to support improvement in children’s services, at pace but sustainably, with key workstreams in the areas of workforce development, pathway and threshold management, commissioning, performance and quality and management and support arrangements.*

2. We will implement the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014)

The Social Services and Well-being Act fundamentally changes the legislative basis for social services in Wales. The priority objectives in implementing the Act in 2016/17 are:

- *To ensure that every member of the workforce (internal social care, external providers, colleagues across the Council, partners) has the training they need to support delivery of the Act and realise the benefits from it.*
- *To effectively communicate with people, partners, elected Members and Council colleagues the important changes as a consequence of the Act*
- *To review our approaches to information, advice and assistance across adult and children’s services*
- *To work across the Council, with partners and communities to embed a preventative approach and the active promotion of well-being in everything we do.*
- *To continue to embed integrated assessment and care planning in social work practice. This is a proportionate, strength based way of working which focuses of what people can do, not what they can’t.*
- *To ensure we work effectively work with partners to implement regional safeguarding arrangements and embed adult protection orders in our practice.*
- *To actively promote direct payments as a key enabler for voice and control for people with care and support needs.*
- *To develop alternative models of delivery where these provide the best model for well-being, care and support.*
- *To realise the benefits for people from the statutory partnership arrangements and priorities for integration.*
- *To ensure that people within the secure estate in Monmouthshire are safeguarded and have their social care needs met.*

3. We will support people to live the lives they want to live by ensuring they have access to the timely, quality, information, advice and assistance

- *We will review our access points to ensure people are able to easily access the information and advice they need to make decisions about their own lives.*
- *We will work with our Greater Gwent colleagues to implement the Dewis information portal*
- *We will consider how we best assist people if they require it to access their community or a commissioned service, looking at options for better links between the housing gateway and social care access points*
- *The ‘professional’ front doors into children’s and adult social care will provide consistent, quality decision making and there will be clear pathways to other IAA outlets.*

4. We will ensure there are coherent models of early intervention, prevention, well-being with a focus on connecting people, families and communities – place based approach

- *Having evaluated the outcomes from community co-ordination, we will build on what works and develop place based approaches to sustaining and developing social capital which promotes individual and community well-being and prevents people’s needs escalating to require commissioned services. We will have particular focus on tackling the scourge of loneliness and social isolation.*
- *We will develop a targeted, evidence based model of early intervention and prevention in children’s services for families that are showing signs of distress to ensure they can access appropriate support at the earliest opportunity is critical. We will aim to prevent families reaching a point where it is necessary for children’s social services to intervene (pre children in need), less still for them to break down to the stage where their children are taken into care (edge of care services)*
- *We will work with partners to review current investment from all funding streams, eg core funding, Families First, Supporting People etc. to ensure the right range of targeted support is in place.*
- *We will work with colleagues across the Council and with our partners and communities to embed the principle that well-being and prevention is everyone’s business and every service area can make a considerable contribution to well-being.*

5. We will build on the success of our integrated community health and social care teams to develop place based approaches to well-being, primary, community and social care based on Neighbourhood Care Network boundaries

- *We will work with statutory and non- statutory partners within the Neighbourhood Care Networks to deliver population health systems which integrated primary, community and social care delivery, alongside well-being and preventative approaches*
- *We will work through the NCNs to develop resilient place based community approaches*
- *We will develop the place based approach for all parts of Social Care and Health, children’s services, learning disabilities and mental health teams, as well as teams who support older people.*
- *We will review structures and governance in partnership, reflecting a renewed purpose*
- *Performance measures will be developed which are based on an agreed understanding of what good looks like.*

6. Confident social work practice will facilitate the best possible outcomes for people

- *Social Workers will spend their time working with people to understand what matters to them and facilitate them to live the lives they want to live.*
- *We will get the basics right – learning lessons from audits and complaints in key areas such as child protection, Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.*
- *Strengths based and outcome focussed practice will be embedded in adult and children's services.*
- *Progression/ recovery/reablement will be at the heart of social work practice.*
- *Quality assurance systems will support continuous improvement in practice and will be fully embedded in the way we work. Reflection as an essential part of practice is critical and a positive approach to learning and review will support us to ensure we understand people's experience of us and improve from it.*
- *We will improve the way we work with young people and their families at the critical time of the transition to adulthood*
- *Where people have care and support needs we will work with them in a way which empowers them to identify, choose and control the support or care they need to live life as they want. There will be more direct payments so people can access the support which is right for them.*

7. Safeguarding children and adults at risk is our very highest priority

- *Our whole authority safeguarding group will continue to provide leadership of safeguarding and ensure all parts of the Council address the priority actions within the internal audit report*
- *The whole authority group will provide leadership around adult and children safeguarding, ensuring both are everybody's business*
- *We will develop statutory regional safeguarding boards with our partners which will provide partnership leadership to the safeguarding agenda.*
- *We will ensure our workforce are fully trained in use of adult protection and safeguarding orders*
- *We will continue to work with regional partners to ensure the deprivation of liberty (DoLs) safeguards are used when needed*

8. We will support and develop the whole social care workforce so they have high levels of confidence, competence and training, underpinned by person centred, values, behaviours and attitudes.

- *A new leadership structure for Social Care and Health will be in place.*
- *We will implement the workforce plan for children's service, the priority outcome being a stable, permanent workforce*
- *We will work with partners to address critical workforce issues in the care sector*
- *Training and organisational development activity will be aligned to the culture and values we are developing.*

9. We will commission intelligently, informed by a clear evidence base and analysis of the needs we need to meet. Commissioning and innovative redesign of traditional services will be based on positive, long term relationships with providers. Links between

practice and commissioning will be strengthened by using information from assessments and care plans as well as population level assessments.

- *We will develop an integrated commissioning unit within social care and health which will embed commissioning as a core function within children's services*
- *We will commission a new approach to care at home, 'turning the world of domiciliary care' commissioning upside down. We will also continue to address risks of business sustainability in the sector.*
- *We will reprovide the Council's residential care for older people with dementia through an innovative partnership arrangement*
- *Learning disability mandate*
- *Supporting people*
- *We will deliver the remodelling of Mardy Park as an integrated community hub*
- *We will develop relationships with providers to deliver what matters to people with a learning disability and mental health problems, including increased community connection and reduction in dependency on service provision*
- *We will develop a commissioning framework in children's services and engage with providers to ensure a full range of services which provide positive outcomes for children, young people and families*
- *We will continue to explore procurement approaches which ensure we pay a fair price for care, based on an open book, high trust, relationship*

11. We will integrate commissioning and delivery of health and social care where there is a clear business case and improved outcomes for people in partnership with ABHB Health Board and other Greater Gwent Local Authorities. We will explore opportunities for wider integration and joint working with other partners, such as the police, schools and housing, where it makes sense to do so.

- *We will agree a new s33 agreement for the frailty service*
- *We will continue to develop our integrated team models, strengthening further the neighbourhood care networks as the basis for well-being and integration of primary and community care and also strengthening links with older adult mental health services.*
- *We will develop opportunities for further joint and integrated working in learning disabilities and mental health, learning from the LEAP and BOLD projects in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent*
- *We will improve joint working between children's social services and partners in health, police, education and preventative services, exploring opportunities for integration where it is in the interest of children, young people and families to do so.*
- *We will build on successful collaborations with partners in the Greater Gwent areas such as the regional adoption service and frailty service and progress further collaborations where there is a clear business case.*

12. The voice of the people we work with will be at the heart of everything we do

- *We will build on the success of the care leaver apprenticeships to ensure we are doing what matters to children and young people and we involve them fully in all parts of the service.*
- *We will co-produce our approaches to well-being, care and support with people and communities*

13. We will align our business systems to support delivery of our priorities.

- *We will realise the benefits from our new Flo and Plant systems*
- *We will ensure our business support is flexible to the way we work*
- *Each team will understand what good looks like and align measures of performance*

14. We will achieve a balanced budget within adult and children's services; by doing the right thing, savings will follow

- *We will deliver year 1 of the 3 year financial plan for children's*
- *We will deliver the savings mandated to us through improved practice and commissioning.*

Annual Council Report Framework - Adult Services 2016-17



Head of Service area Overview

This is the opportunity for the Head of Service to provide a brief overview of the current context of their service area, which will be further substantiated by the detailed self-evaluation.

Head of Service and Service areas managed?

Adult Services:

Commissioning Team, Integrated service teams in Monmouth, Chepstow and Abergavenny (Older people) Learning Disability team/ Independent living team Adults with Physical Disabilities. Mental health teams adult /older people. Safeguarding team Direct care services: Mardy Park Resource Centre, Severnview Resource Centre, Home Care support: Dementia, reablement and enablement. Day provision, Budden Crescent, My Day My Life, Individual support services and Monmouthshire meals.

What is your services purpose & what outcomes do you align to?

Adult Social Care and Health Services are striving to make sure that “**people are able to live their own lives**”, and that people are protected from harm. People approach Adult Social Care Services for support at different times in their lives. We want to support and enable people to remain in control of their lives, working with people to find options/solutions that best meet their vision of a good life. We focus on people’s strengths, abilities and contribution. We enable family/friendship networks and communities alongside services to support people to live their own lives.

Vision/operating model.

The current vision/operating model is driving the transformation journey and preparing us for the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014).

Over the last 4 years we have changed the approach to the way we deliver Adult Social Care. Like many other local authorities Monmouthshire is faced with the twin challenges of declining budgets and an ageing population. If we want to keep delivering adult social care and health in the same old way we need to find another £25 million a year by 2030. Salami slicing isn’t an option.

The national policy agenda in Wales places great emphasis on a person led approach that respects that people are the best judges of their own wellbeing/quality of life and what they need from others (including formal services) to maintain and improve their wellbeing. Our transformative approach harnesses these values/principles and looks to embed this in all aspects of delivery.

We are re modelling/transforming what we do ensuring that the approach we take focuses on and is driven by what people see as their good life and with a real emphasis on delivering outcomes set by individuals.

What does this mean for people who approach us?

- People are supported at the first point of contact by the most appropriate person, whether that's an occupational therapist, a social worker or a district nurse.
- We've changed the way people are supported, discarding the deficit focussed approach in favour of having conversations with people about what matters to them.
- We are re focussing the ways we deliver domiciliary 'at home' support away from episodic to relationship based care.
- We are re focussing what practitioners spend their time doing, more time in communities and less time at desks and we are measuring our performance in terms of the impact we have had on people's lives.
- We have re focussed how we deliver support to people at home, moving away from task based to a relationship based approach that places emphasis on emotional as well as physical wellbeing.
- We have re -defined our longer term commissioning intentions in line with the transformation.
- In developing Community Coordination and Small Local Enterprise we aim to see more people supported in their own communities with a support from family, friends and natural associations.
- Our work with informal Carers is central to all developments and is concentrating on keeping a support focussed co- produced approach.

A little while ago we developed a short animation which further describes the approach to delivering Adult Social Care and Health support. [here](#).

These operating principles guide how we deliver support to people who are in contact with us;

OPERATING PRINCIPLES:

- We will work in **partnership** to facilitate solutions, building meaningful rapport/relationships with family's individuals and partners.
- We will know/be clear about the people who we will support in a **timely** manner.
- We will have a plan of how we will support people to develop a 'whole life' plan, and have a method to track progress and **communicate** effectively. (including commissioning)
- We will take an **outcome focused** approach to future planning (long term and short term) with families and individuals to meet their own aspirations and goals.
- We will involve the **right people** at the right time to help people in crisis and will take responsibility for the appropriate pace and continuity of our on-going intervention.
- We will have **honest and transparent** conversations with all people.

- We will work with and **respect** other colleagues and challenge systems to ensure best practice and service delivery.
- We will use knowledge to reflect **learn** and develop on our practice and decisions.
- Everything we record will be **purposeful** and proportionate.
- We will **value and respect our staff** and trust their judgement; and promote wellbeing in the workforce.
- Our IT system will work for us.
- We will work **creatively** and equitably within all resources available.

Key Priorities 2014-2017

- Developing new models for community living
- Place based approaches to wellbeing
- Consolidate new ways of working/practice change
- Integration with Health
- Safeguarding
- Infrastructure /workforce development/FLO
- Working towards implementing the Act

Where are we currently?

- We have a clear purpose and vision based on continuous improvement and learning through doing.
- We have a dedicated, passionate and committed workforce delivering high quality support and services to enable people to lead full lives.
- Building on the success of the Raglan project we are rolling out this approach; extending the approach using an accredited 'train the trainer' approach to deliver relationship based home support using a cross section of staff from head of service to frontline home carer.
- Real progress using action learning sets to embed person centred approaches and creating the right conditions for ongoing learning and improvement.
- A clear commissioning approach that has evolved and developed alongside the transformation in practice.
- A key programme ;'turning the world upside down' will develop over the next 18 months with a vision to create a sustainable, flexible and relationship based approach to commissioned at home support.

- Community Coordination and SLE approaches have been evaluated following a two year learning project. Next steps are to roll out the approach.
- Progress in the 'My Day My Life' work is beginning to deliver real outcomes for individuals and is being rolled into other areas in Monmouthshire.
- We continue to have high satisfaction levels with services.
- Well-being of staff is a key component to our success we continue to survey and receive high response rates and high levels of well-being reported.
- An uptake in practice assessing places and professional development opportunities.
- Extensive training has been delivered in dementia and collaborative communication and extended mentoring approaches being employed to embed and sustain learning.
- We are seeing a reduction in spend levels through understanding demand which is having a positive impact on the budget.
- Community engagement events at Mardy and MDML have generated opportunities for contribution and co-producing with the community.

Where do we need to be?

A personal outcome approach that addresses wellbeing, with the right conditions for excellence in practice.

Moving from a deficit based approach to a fully Integrated strengths based approach is certainly a contemporary challenge.

Since the implementation of the NHS & Community Care Act 1990 we have been delivering social care through a largely needs led approach which has often remained service led. The Social Service and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 sets out an extensive and aspirational approach which will transform how we will deliver support to people over the coming decade and beyond.

Transforming practice remains a key focus and one which we have invested in heavily in the last 12 months. As part of the national outcomes framework pilot run in conjunction with SSIA, we have been able to demonstrate some excellent practice but also has given us a view of what is still needed to ensure we can " help people to live their own lives" The new Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) was introduced on the 6TH April and is a real opportunity to shape the future.

It is imperative that we create the conditions within which practitioners can un-learn and re-learn. There is a need to set free practitioners to develop relationships with people that really do address what matters to people with much less emphasis on bureaucratic processes. We also need to ensure that our partners in care delivery within the wider market share the same values principles and vision.

This all requires time, thinking and reflection. We need to develop a much more relational approach move away from the reliance on episodic approach to care management and service delivery. Creating opportunities for practitioners to come together e.g. action learning sets, themed workshops all aid the learning of a new language and new practice that is needed.

The question of measurement and knowing if we have done a good job is a key requirement moving forward. Building confidence with people and being able to measure the impact using feedback and engaging to evaluate effectiveness of the approach is the next key challenge

We will also need to :

- Continuing to develop approaches in line with purpose/vision and operating principles
- Further remodelling of workforce to ensure we have sufficient capacity to maintain progression at pace.
- Succession planning and growing the skills we need in the workforce to meet the demands of the new approaches.
- Delivering against the transformation budget mandates.
- Commissioning that support the person centred/relationship approach.
- Embed the safeguarding team that has been reviewed and invested in.
- Ensure that we can deliver against the new duties in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

How will we get there?

- Continued effort and energy drive and leadership at all levels.
- Creating the right conditions within which our staff can deliver against purpose and operating principles.
- Keeping sight of purpose and principles and evaluating progress towards these.
- Increasingly being able to measure impact using data and stories to evidence we are improving.

Report on PI's and any other metrics we can use to be added

Project/Work Area	Work Streams	What do we want to achieve & by when? (Aspiration)	What have we done so far? Is this where we expected to be?	What difference did this make?	How do we know the impact made? (Evidence – information & data) Infographic PI's How Much How Many Talking Heads Quotes Guided Conversations	Impact score between 1-6 (Judgement)	What next? (Future actions as a result of evaluation) What next? (Future actions as a result of evaluation)	What are the barriers/risks?	How will we know we have achieved what we wanted
		Backwards looking evaluation					Future activity (informed by backward looking evaluation)		
Prevention and Early Intervention									

<p>Population Needs Assessment (Part 2)</p> <p>Preventative Services (Part 2)</p> <p>Information Advice Assistance (Part 2)</p> <p>Page 47</p>	<p>Place based approaches to wellbeing</p> <p>Getting nearer to an understanding of the ‘anatomy of resilience’ at both individual and community level and supporting this by delivering place based approaches to wellbeing. This year the Community Coordination and small local enterprise learning pilot has been evaluated and signed off from a cabinet perspective. The next steps include talking the learning to the next level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCO/SLE Evaluation • Cabinet report • Next steps <p>To date: pilot has worked with 43 people and created over 100 connections. Early learning is helping define what the future needs to look like; opportunities for wider place based teams are emerging.</p>	<p>Both pilots commenced April - June 2014. Original business. Now concluded with an evaluation 2016 and next steps defined.</p>	<p>See evaluation. Main headline points are: “People need people “ People want to contribute</p> <p>Rogiet Film insert Insert Dorena film</p>	<p>Coordinators reflections.</p> <p>Individual stories/case studies.</p> <p>Performance information</p> <p>Community Care Questionnaire</p> <p>Compliments</p> <p>Full evaluation report</p>	<p>Some learning so far: Implementation of this type of cultural change will take many years and needs to be embedded in whole system reform. “ a large part of what I do is listen to where the obstacles are and to where the passion is and try and address those issues” “Use all available resources, don’t think this is a one person job, keep track on</p>	<p>Increase capacity and resilience of approach through the development of place based teams in partnership with others. Incorporate approach with whole place – using neighbourhood approaches to loneliness for engagement and contribution. Engage corporate colleagues in relation to duties in the New Act</p>	<p>Lack of engagement from partners at operational and leadership levels.</p> <p>Approach still seen as ‘belonging’ to social care missed opportunities for increasing capacity through place based teams</p> <p>Lack of community buy in/engagement.</p>	<p>Place Based teams are in situ. Clearer idea about what structure would be needed to take this forward i.e. Public, social partnership. Wide range of alternative ‘offers’ for people.</p> <p>Delivery of the Act has a wider focus across the Council not just Social Services.</p>
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Page 48	which reflect what has been learnt in particular the importance of contribution for wellbeing. An emphasis on creating wider multi agency response at a local level. We will also be working up the IAA approach.					facilitating and resist all efforts for you to fix things!"			
Cultural Change and Practice Development									
Assessment (Part 3)	<p>Changing practice/new ways of working.</p> <p>We are aiming to create the conditions within which practitioners across Adult services can un-</p>	Re-designed the front of the service Fish 'Finding individual solutions here ', continues to assist in reducing demand.	Fewer people are pulled into services that are not needed. People tell us our approach has helped	Individual stories Group supervision agendas/action learning Doing it differently, Doing it Better, monthly sessions		We need to embed new IT system and begin to 'mine' data and outcomes. Continue to support	Implement follow up for people 'Fished out' once every 6 months across 3 hubs. Continue to look at alternative options to reduce demand	Capacity in teams reliant on a few with capability to manage the validation and transfer of information to the	Measurement of personal outcomes will tell us a story. Budget – continuing to be managed despite savings and demand.

	<p>learn and re learn. There is a need to set free practitioners to develop relationships with people that really do address what matters to people with much less emphasis on bureaucratic processes.</p> <p>We are engaging in developing a new language around practice. This new language includes; what matters to you, what your good life look likes, what are the outcomes/goals/ dreams you want to achieve, how and what you</p>	<p>Strengths based Integrated assessment being rolled into all areas complimented by outcomes training and being part of National outcomes pilot work.</p> <p>Outcomes measures framework has been developed. Progress to date has been slow but with the implementation of the new IT system we are getting nearer to measuring people’s personal outcomes. Further work to simplify this is below. <u>Outcome Measurement</u></p>	<p>them find solutions. Staff are working hard to change practice and deliver personal outcomes with people. We have learnt that setting personal outcomes is based on a co productive relationship with individuals and is best achieved once fix it outcomes have been achieved. The community care budget has</p>	<p>driving practice change. Oliver weekly leadership approach to managing change process.</p> <p>Insert further topics covered in DibDob in 15/16</p>		<p>practice change.</p> <p>Ensure measurement framework delivers the right information and can inform on going practice development .</p> <p>Continue to work closely with ABUHB to develop the integrated model across therapy and nursing.</p>	<p>in particular around equipment queries.</p> <p>Consider a role profile for people working in FISH</p>	<p>new IT system. The task is huge and we are not many.</p> <p>Integrated assessments not recorded appropriately and no outcomes data available to evidence shift in practice.</p> <p>Health partners really understanding the priority.</p> <p>The new national IT system may</p>	<p>Compliments /complaints.</p>
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Page 50	can contribute, amongst others.	<u>Framework Scales</u>	been in an underspent position for the last three years. We are helping fewer people in the community which is in line with managing demand well.					present a risk.	
	<i>Link to grids</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FISH • Integrated Assessment 								

Alternative Models of Provision									
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<p>Meeting Needs (Part 4)</p> <p>Page 51</p>	<p>Developing new models for community living. For the purpose of this I have highlighted two areas in detail and added links to the grids which give a more detailed picture these will also feed the Service improvement plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raglan Model of Community Support • Commissioning new models of Home Support • Enhanced Reablement Model • My Day My life • Shared lives • Mardy Park Resource Centre Development 	<p>Raglan model of community support for older people with dementia.</p>	<p>12 month pilot now evaluated. This approach is being rolled out county wide. 6 day Dementia care training now being delivered via Train the trainer(now accredited through Dementia Care matters and University of Surrey) Project has shown that flexible approaches can meet emotional</p>	<p>This approach was subject to extensive qualitative and qualitative evaluation. Qualitative feedback captured extensively by the staff teams continues to evidence improved outcomes and improved quality of life. (using i pads and Evernote) Two highly successful community groups now run by the communities themselves. THE RAGLAN PROJECT Raglan Project - Summary</p>	<p>(5)This is a ground breaking project that has demonstrated well the value of a person led approach. This learning has enabled the approach to be widened out and will form part of the approach we use to develop the independent sectors approach to care.</p>		<p>Continue current work streams to achieve roll out by Sept 2016. Training programme delivered via Train the trainers.</p>	<p>Senior and support arrangements are not sustainable and leadership undermines autonomy which is at the heart of the project.</p> <p>Cost of the project as rolled out are in excess of those anticipated .</p>	<p>We promote a relationship based experience of receiving care- that supports a more natural life, promotes choice, independence and meets social and emotional needs of the people we support. Service supports the informal carer – they are involved and listened</p>
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<p>• Insert carers grid</p> <p>Developing models of support that are truly person centred and start from the person and their aspiration for a good life. We will supplement, facilitate and enable people to remain connected to the things that matter most.</p> <p>Photo folder</p> <p>New photo album insert</p>	<p>‘My Day My Life’ broadening opportunities and access to community activities. Recognised that old approach to project management was not producing results and was replaced with engaging frontline staff to set a journey with each person. Supported staff to take on a support broker role, working with people one by one. Used action learning sets to embed learning and shape progress supported by Bob Rhodes (livesthroughfriends).</p>	<p>and social needs of people as well as their physical needs. Improved wellbeing for staff. Improved awareness and connections with local community .</p> <p>20 people have been through the approach one by one, with many more being supported to access community based activities as opposed to</p>	<p>Tangible Improvement in self-esteem for many people, evidenced in conversations, dress code, personal hygiene. People who previously would not converse now approaching others and initiating conversations</p>	<p>(5) This approach has significantly contributed to a whole system approach that strives to deliver a person centred approach, examples of huge life impacts are now common place. Confidence in this approach is growing with staff who are delivering the approach, evidenced through the</p>			<p>The roll out of this approach is iterative and builds on the philosophy of what matters to each person and at a speed that can achieve the aspirations desired. The approach will continue to be embedded and reviewed across all people who use the service. Developing a permanent staffing structure to support the Abergavenny journey. Work in Monmouth and next Chepstow</p>	<p>We are optimistic that following the success and impact of the approach to date , however all change that matters there have been barriers to overcome and these will continue to be worked on: For some this approach</p>	<p>to, they will experience improved choice and control, their health and wellbeing will be supported .</p> <p>We deliver better outcomes at same cost.</p> <p>There will be at least 3 vibrant hubs in Monmouthshire</p>
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		Having established the philosophy in Abergavenny we are now rolling this out to Monmouth and Chepstow .	traditional services. The individual stories of how this has changed lives are very powerful. Pace is variable dependent on level of complexity , examples of opportunities include; Yam yams music workshop, swimming, Touch trust yoga, tea dances, bowling, drumming and other sporting activities.	by asking questions. Some people requiring less paid support as their networks grow. Reliance on council transport has decreased with people and families sourcing and providing their own transport solutions.	action learning sets.		is in scope for further roll out.	has been a challenging concept and has attracted high levels of scrutiny. Capacity to manage a programme at a pace and scale. Some staff are finding this paradigm shift hard to live with. . .	offering social support, safety and opportunities. We will have a series of powerful narratives that evidence people's lives have been transformed.
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Safeguarding									
Safeguarding (Part 7)	<p>Safeguarding The vision around safeguarding is that we have a robust process for managing adult protection issues but we develop and more proactive preventative approach in the coming year.</p>	A comprehensive review has been carried out and a new team structure has been developed.	The Safeguarding service has been under resourced for some time and recruitment is underway to ensure the recommendations of the review are implemented.	Insert POVA report to select last year		Safeguarding procedures are well established across the board the need to gain momentum prevention remains to be fulfilled.	GWASB Annual PLAN 15-16 GWASB Sub Group Work Plans 2015-2016 Insert new plan	Prevention agenda is underdeveloped. Non-criminal investigations and ability to use workforce to deliver this well. New Act and changes required. New app/FLO phase 2. QA and performance data management.	We have information that evidences where prevention has had an impact. We are able to quality assure the process and the Safeguarding scorecard evidences changes.

Commissioning								
<p>Joint Commissioning (Part 9)</p>	<p>Turning the World Upside Down (Possibly insert working papers) Supporting People Quality Assurance Learning Disability Mandate Work</p>	<p>We are working towards a new model of At Home Support which is: sustainable and strengths based enables people to take responsibility for their own lives and Promotes independence.</p> <p>In May 2015 we held a series of events for all existing and interested providers of At Home Support. This included not only the independent sector but the voluntary sector and the community, especially through small</p>	<p>We are now embarking on a series of systems thinking workshops with providers who have expressed an interest in 'turning the world upside-down'</p> <p>These will take place in June and July over 6 days respectively.</p>	<p>The interest in taking a new approach to delivering at home support from a wide range of providers has been very encouraging we will be taking a co-produced approach to this. We expect the difference to be significant but this work is only just underway.</p>	<p>To follow once complete.</p>			<p>Our overarching aim is to have a new model of At Home Support in place by</p>

Page 56		<p>local enterprises. The events were used to:</p> <p>Signal a desire and commitment to change. Enthuse and encourage existing and potential providers to work with the Council in experimenting to develop a new model for At Home Support in Monmouthshire.</p>							
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Performance and Business Systems									
National Outcome		Training and development	Action learning						

<p>Framework & Performance Management</p>	<p>Workforce planning/development/FLO.</p> <p>To deliver support to Adults in Monmouthshire the practice change required and the shift for all staff is challenging; we are supporting this change by a number of different mechanisms training and development remains a key theme.</p> <p>Update with new one Workforce Development Activity</p> <p>Business support review.</p>	<p>approach to what matters Outcomes training to support practice. Action learning sets to support practice change. Dementia care matters 'Being a star' programme train the trainers. New IT development to support practice change.</p> <p>The change in practice across teams and the new IT system requires a new look at what business support in moving forwards. A</p>	<p>sets in My Day My Life.</p> <p>Mentoring using internal supervisors supporting collaborative communication training. Follow up action learning sets for dementia training.</p>						
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		review is underway.							
Training & Awareness	Personal Outcomes Training Dementia Care Matters Collaborative Communication Strengths Based Assessment DIDDIB								

Page 58

Integration									
	Developing the integration journey. We have a good working relationship with health partners and we want to be in a position where we have more explicit autonomy to reduce the levels of		A series of senior management meetings with ABUHB with agreement reached to move forward.	Permission given to nursing staff to go ahead with practice change. Learning from Mental Health systems work will roll into each area; this is changing the approach from a	People are having 'what matter's conversations regardless of which person they speak to. All staff are able to access the integrated assessments	Despite distance travelled there is some way to go. The Journey around integration is a long standing one and we have	Embed the new IT system. Continue to support and drive change in practice. Ensure the measurement framework is delivered and the information assists in	Health understanding the priorities around the practice changes. The task and culture shift is a big	Measure ment of personal outcomes will tell us how far people " people are living their own lives"

	<p>bureaucracy and continue to roll out the approach across the whole integrated service.</p> <p>Integrated Health Insert MH</p>		<p>More work is in scope to pilot a freeing up from organisational processes. Delivered Integrated Assessment workshops to Gwent community for wider roll out across the area. All health staff are part of DIDDIB.. Mental Health approach to Systems work and LEAP are progressing well. Learning disability</p>	<p>heavy medical model to a more co- produced approach.</p> <p>Involving the whole integrated service in the transformation of practice is the vehicle to ensure we deliver what matters and reduce duplication. Permission given to nursing staff to go ahead with practice change.</p> <p>Learning from Mental Health systems work will roll into each area; this is changing the approach from a heavy medical model to a more co- produced approach.</p>	<p>avoiding duplication and giving staff relevant information on which to base their work with people.</p>	<p>made real progress. Integrated teams working on the same assessment process with a shared vision is a key achievement , but, we are at a critical point in relation to the integration services of older people, we will need more autonomy if we are to move forward.</p>	<p>changing practice. Continue to work on models/workforce to deliver a sustainable service.</p>	<p>challenge and we are not many.</p>	<p>The budget position remains positive.</p> <p>Complaints and compliments tell a story.</p>
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			will commence systems work in March 15, locally work on integrating Children's services (disability team) and LD/ILT is on hold.	Involving the whole integrated service in the transformation of practice is the vehicle to ensure we deliver what matters and reduce duplication.					
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SUBJECT:	End of Year Performance 2015/16 on Whole Authority Safeguarding
MEETING:	Joint Adult and Children and Young People Select Committees
DATE:	20th June 2016
DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of performance on whole authority safeguarding in 2015/16.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members consider this information in parallel with the separate report on the proposal for the future whole authority safeguarding approach.
- 2.2 That members scrutinise the performance and challenge the Cabinet Member with portfolio and the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group lead officer (WASCG) on any issues of concern, this is the Chief Officer for Social Care & Health.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Since 2014 the Safeguarding Unit has annually provided two performance reports to the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Council using a trio of reports.
- 3.2 The Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group has developed a proposal on whole authority safeguarding which has been provided in a separate report. The proposal constitutes adopting a strategy that is supported by an activity programme and a scorecard of measures. This will be steered through a newly constituted WASCG.
- 3.3 The proposal has been presented to the Senior Leadership Team and following scrutiny by the select committees will be presented to the Council on 28th July for approval.
- 3.4 On approval of the proposal, future performance appraisals will be facilitated through the scorecard of measures.
- 3.5 However, for consistency in completing a year end appraisal for 2015/16, the report format used to date has been continued based on the nine prioritised objectives. This is in the Appendix using a narrative assessment and a score

on performance. The scores given are based on the whole authority self assessment matrix.

3.6 However, in leading into the proposed approach, the two supplementary report strands previously reported have not been provided.

3.7 **A summary of overall performance:**

- Important processes and practices are embedded across the authority supported by key services such as the Safeguarding Unit, Peoples Services and the Volunteer Coordinator. These include on recruitment and staff training, including for volunteers.
- Some parts of the authority have embedded safeguarding better than others, for instance, assuring volunteers used across all service areas and on other aspects of recruitment.
- There is a need to tighten practices across the authority where safeguarding does not appear to be understood and / or mainstreamed e.g. as identified through internal quality assurance completed on practices and in assuring safeguarding through contracted service arrangements

3.8 The six monthly performance scores on the prioritised objectives from 2014 to 2016 are given in the table below:

Objective	Score at April 2014	Score at September 2014	Score at April 2015	Score at September 2015	Score at April 2016
1. Safeguarding children and young people is understood as 'everyone's responsibility	N/A	4	5	5	4
2. Monmouthshire's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is embedded across all settings and services	4	4	4	4	4
3. Through our Audit Framework we are assured that all settings and services meet their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding /child protection	3/4	4	4	4	This objective has been assessed as part of objective 2
4. Safe recruitment and safe work force practices are operating effectively and embedded across the authority.	2	3	4	4	4

Objective	Score at April 2014	Score at September 2014	Score at April 2015	Score at September 2015	Score at April 2016
5. All workers and volunteers in contact with children and families are trained at the appropriate level	5	5	5	5	4
6. There is a system in place that identifies and addresses any professional allegations or concerns about individuals who may pose a risk.	4	5	5	5	4
7. We are well-informed about the issues that compromise the safety and welfare of children and /or potentially expose them to harm through abuse and neglect and can demonstrate how we respond to and reduce areas of need.	3	3	4	4	4
8. We operate best safeguarding practices and can demonstrate how we identify and address areas where improvement is needed.	3	3	3	3	3
9. Engagement with children and young people is at the heart of our safeguarding and child protection activity.	3	3	4	4	4

4. REASONS

To ensure that:

- 4.1 Safeguarding performance is kept under review and that intervention is initiated as necessary.
- 4.2 Chief Officers and Cabinet members are held to account in assuring safeguarding processes and practices.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications in relation to the report.

**6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS
(INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING
AND CORPORATE PARENTING)**

There are no Wellbeing of Future Generations Implications in relation to this report.

7. CONSULTEES:

The performance appraisal has been signed off by the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group

The appraisal will be presented to the Council on 28th July.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire's Safeguarding Policy

The trio of safeguarding reports provided since 2014

The internal audit carried out on safeguarding

The Wales Audit Office study on safeguarding 2015

The Ellis Williams on safeguarding completed in 2015 report (former Rhondda Cynon Taff Chief Officer for Social Services)

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Appendix: Performance assessment at year end 2015/16 on the prioritised whole authority safeguarding objectives

The cornerstones for authority wide improvements on safeguarding were set in 2014 as in the diagram below:



1. As a means to underpin these cornerstones, the improvements were factored into nine prioritised objectives. These are picked up in **Table 1** with the performance scores that have been given since 2014. The scores have been based on the whole authority self-evaluation scoring matrix shown in **Table 3**.
2. **Table 1** encapsulates performance information previously reported from 2014 to the mid-year point 2015/16, but finalises a new appraisal for the whole year 2015/16. The main evidence used for previous reporting was drawn from the Estyn inspection 2012 to 2015, the CSSIW inspection 2014 with further feedback given in 2015, the Safeguarding Unit service plan and prescribed information captured from particular services, for instance on child protection, recruitment and from youth surveys.
3. However, additional information on performance was received in 2015 and has therefore been taken into account in arriving at the whole year appraisal for 2015/16. This is in **Table 2**. The references are noted in paragraph 3.4 of the covering report and the most influential are Monmouthshire's Internal Audit Service report and the Ellis Williams report, both undertaken in 2015. In light of these references the end of year scores for 2015/16 in some cases are lower than scores previously reported.
4. The objectives are very broad and the view of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group is that evidence used to assess performance against them previously has not been sufficient to substantiate the scores given. This recognition has prompted development of a new framework to refocus safeguarding objectives and to strengthen how we monitor and measure performance going forward.
5. Currently the authority is implementing the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 with an associated national outcomes framework and so this will be interfaced with the new safeguarding framework as far as practicable.

References are given below on the performance information used for this report.

[2015/16 half year report to Cabinet November 2015](#)

[Safeguarding Service Plan 2015/18](#)

[Ellis Williams Review of Safeguarding in MCC 2015](#)

[Internal Audit Report January 2016](#)

Table 1: Scores from April 2014 to the end of year 2015

Objective	Score at April 2014	Score at September 2014	Score at April 2015	Score at September 2015	Score at April 2016
1. Safeguarding children and young people is understood as 'everyone's responsibility	N/A	4	5	5	4
2. Monmouthshire's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is embedded across all settings and services	4	4	4	4	4
3. Through our Audit Framework we are assured that all settings and services meet their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding /child protection	3/4	4	4	4	This objective has been assessed as part of objective 2
4. Safe recruitment and safe work force practices are operating effectively and embedded across the authority.	2	3	4	4	4
5. All workers and volunteers in contact with children and families are trained at the appropriate level	5	5	5	5	4
6. There is a system in place that identifies and addresses any professional allegations or concerns about individuals who may pose a risk.	4	5	5	5	4
7. We are well-informed about the issues that compromise the safety and welfare of children and /or potentially expose them to harm through abuse and neglect and can demonstrate how we respond to and reduce areas of need.	3	3	4	4	4

Objective	Score at April 2014	Score at September 2014	Score at April 2015	Score at September 2015	Score at April 2016
8. We operate best safeguarding practices and can demonstrate how we identify and address areas where improvement is needed.	3	3	3	3	3
9. Engagement with children and young people is at the heart of our safeguarding and child protection activity.	3	3	4	4	4

Table 2: Performance for the year 2015/2016:

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
<p>1. Safeguarding children and young people is understood as 'everyone's responsibility</p>	4	Teresa Norris, Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group (WASCG)	<p>Overall, important processes and practices are embedded across the authority, supported by key services e.g. the Safeguarding Unit, Peoples Services and the Volunteer Coordinator. These include on recruitment and staff training, including for volunteers.</p> <p>The level of progress on whole authority safeguarding influenced an Estyn decision to release the authority from Special Measures early in 2016.</p> <p>In building on this, services will further embed and assure safeguarding within service and workforce planning through measures incorporated into service plans as standard.</p>	<p>The Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group review of whole authority safeguarding in 2016 to close the gap in weaknesses identified out of recent reviews and widen the agenda to Adult safeguarding.</p> <p>A judgement of "Good" out of the Estyn Inspection reported in early 2016 – related to children and young people particularly</p> <p>Safeguarding practices stack well in some aspects against the Wales Audit Office study on good practice / poor performance 2015</p>	<p>Some parts of the authority have embedded safeguarding better than others, for instance, assuring volunteers used across all service areas and on other aspects of recruitment.</p> <p>There are weaknesses in accountability and practices where safeguarding does not appear to be understood and / or mainstreamed e.g. assuring safeguarding through contracted service arrangements.</p> <p>Also, the Ellis Williams review 2015 and even more particularly the Internal Audit Service report 2016 identified a number of key activities that need to be improved across MCC services.</p>	<p>The trio of reports to SLT and Cabinet from 2014 to the half year 2016</p> <p>The Ellis Williams review 2015</p> <p>The Internal Audit Service report 2016</p> <p>The Wales Audit Office study and appendix on good practice / poor performance 2015</p>

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
<p>2. Monmouthshire's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is embedded across all settings and services</p>	4	<p>Heather Heaney, Liaison Officer for Safeguarding in Education</p> <p>Statements 2 and 3 are linked to the same objective</p>	<p>MCC has had a Safeguarding and Child protection Policy since 2012 which was subsequently reviewed in 2014. It is now due for a re-review. It embeds safeguarding practice such as safe recruitment and training. It also covers the Safeguarding Audit Framework for Evaluation (SAFE).</p> <p>All settings that are supported are asked to be aware of the MCC policy.</p> <p>The SAFE process and programme is a model of good practice shared regionally and nationally.</p> <p>The authority's services and settings, including schools, Leisure Services, Early Years settings and the Youth Service complete the SAFE every 2 years.</p>	<p>The policy is accessible and is included in the induction day attended by all new staff. It is also included in the Level 1 training and forms a key element in the current Safeguarding Team service plan.</p> <p>Settings have completed a SAFE for the second time and all have at least partially met some of the standards. The Safeguarding Unit pull out themes and completes a report for each group e.g. schools, early years settings TLC etc. and each setting receives an action plan to work towards which is RAG rated. The Unit also use the SAFE information in discussions with settings in the event of safeguarding issues, to strengthen any particular areas or standards.</p>	<p>It cannot be confirmed that all staff have seen the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. It is not possible to assess whether "all settings and services" have embedded the policy but only that services have had opportunity to embed it. The policy is due for review.</p> <p>We know from MCC's Internal Audit report that the policy is not working robustly across the authority e.g. safe recruitment practices which is also covered in statement 4.</p>	<p>Training has identified that some staff are not aware of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy</p> <p>The Internal Audit Service report 2016 raised issues of concern</p>

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
3. Through our Audit Framework we are assured that all settings and services meet their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding /child protection	N/A	Heather Heaney, Liaison Officer for Safeguarding in Education Statements 2 and 3 are linked to the same objective	This objective has been assessed as part of objective 2.	N/A	We need to strengthen application to safeguarding in some service settings. We need to ensure in a more robust way how contracted services comply with safeguarding processes and practices.	N/A
4. Safe recruitment and safe work force practices are operating effectively and embedded across the authority.	4	Sally Thomas, Interim HR Manager	An IT system is available for managers to track all pre-employment checks and workers are not permitted to commence work without the necessary pre-employment checks in place. Joint training on safe recruitment has been delivered by People Services HR and the Safeguarding Unit to all head-teachers and senior leaders in schools, governors and also, to managers across the full range of authority service areas. Training has been on-going since 2014.	Employee Services have completed a full data cleanse for all workers in relation to pre-employments checks. On a monthly basis the People Services Admin Team extract specific data reports on DBS checks across the organisation which they provide to the Safeguarding Unit, relevant chief officers, People Services HR and the directorate safeguarding champions for scrutiny and action as necessary. A safe recruitment audit across schools is undertaken every	The Internal Audit Service provided a report on safeguarding processes and practices and made a number of recommendations in January 2016 including on safe recruitment. For instance the audit showed there were gaps in DBS checks and gaps in references obtained before employment. The audit report also showed the recruitment of volunteers needed to be tightened, including in identifying the numbers in situ and the status of completeness of <i>safe</i> volunteers overall. This has been picked up in entry 5.	An audit carried out once a year on school based staff identifies any concerns. People Services system reports to chief officers, the Safeguarding Unit and school heads have identified gaps in DBS checks and other recruitment requirements. The Internal Audit Service report 2016 identified weaknesses in recruitment practices and processes.

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
			<p>Safeguarding champions are established in each directorate to raise awareness on safeguarding, guide in addressing issues and in ensuring directorates' ownership of safeguarding. Also they act as a key link between People Services, the Safeguarding Unit and directorates.</p> <p>People Services HR has developed and implemented a Manager/Head-teacher guide/workflow for the recruitment process. Additionally, there is a range of information to provide continued assistance for managers on the Hub.</p> <p>People Services HR link with Owen Wilce on a regular basis in supporting the Volunteering sector.</p>	<p>year.</p> <p>Employee Services assess that In Children and Young People Services and in schools the rate of compliance is around 99%. The assessments for the other directorates needs to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Internal Audit Service provided specific recommendations which have been taken on board for the academic year 2015/16. Internal Audit officers assessed a sample of 20 files against a new starter checklist. Schools were given a report on the issues identified and a re-check confirmed the discrepancies had been dealt with.</p>	<p>The Internal Audit Service report also recommended on recruitment practices carried out by partners and contracted services, where this is an area of uncertainty in as much as the authority does not have a robust system with checks in place in all cases to verify safeguarding recruitment through these avenues.</p>	
5. All workers and volunteers in contact with	4	Owen Wilce, Volunteer Coordinating Officer	We have made strides in assuring volunteers used across MCC services. by producing a Volunteer	425 staff have used the volunteering toolkit making 3,271 website visits – it is currently going through the	We still need to identify the number of volunteers who support children, young people and vulnerable adults	Monmouthshire's Internal Audit Service report 2016

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
<p>children and families are trained at the appropriate level</p>			<p>Toolkit that provides a framework and guidance checklist on the requirements that volunteers need to satisfy. This can be accessed through a central point.</p> <p>We have formed a volunteer network to share best practice and reinforce the safe recruitment principles provided in the toolkit.</p> <p>We are delivering “Leading Volunteers” training to all staff in volunteer supporting roles to ensure for instance, safe recruitment and appropriate levels of safeguarding training. (as in SSWA 139).</p> <p>Role profiles are being developed for volunteers to outline what is needed.</p> <p>Safeguarding Level 1 training has been delivered to volunteers across the county and is available on a bi-monthly schedule to instil</p>	<p>political process for approval.</p> <p>Two courses have been run giving 25 staff training across the authority. 87 volunteers have been trained at Level 1. Further courses are planned.</p> <p>All departments supporting volunteers are currently developing role profiles.</p>	<p>as part of their role and in line with this, identify the level of support that is needed. We will then be able to assess how far we meet the requirements around volunteers.</p> <p>An electronic system for volunteer management is under development to include safe recruitment and safeguarding training. Once this is up and running we will have a clear picture across the county on volunteers.</p> <p>The Internal Audit report 2016 highlighted the need for an effective Monmouthshire database on volunteers.</p>	

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
			safeguarding practice.			
<p>6. There is a system in place that identifies and addresses any professional allegations or concerns about individuals who may pose a risk.</p>	4	Kelly Turner, Child Protection Coordinator / Jo Sansom, Business support Officer	<p>We have strengthened our work in addressing professional allegations through updated regional guidance at the end of 2015. To accompany this, Level 2 'Responding to Concerns or Allegations of Abuse Made Against Adults Who Work with Children or Young People' training has been launched and has led to successful training for multi-agency colleagues. There are plans to roll this out on a regular basis.</p> <p>In the child protection field specifically, there is a raised awareness on roles in relation to safeguarding and among multi-agency colleagues facilitated via advice and support on conduct and on the threshold of statutory intervention.</p> <p>There is increased sharing of information facilitated by Safeguarding leads across all regions meeting on a bi-monthly</p>	<p>The increase in numbers of professional strategy meetings highlights that multi-agency colleagues are using the practice guidance.</p> <p>In the child protection field team managers and senior practitioners now liaise more closely with the Child Protection Co-ordinator to discuss specific cases / issues and Professional Strategy meetings now better recognise prescribed time-scales.</p> <p>Closer working relationships have developed between colleagues as evidenced through more regular contact. Also, relevant professionals are automatically invited to meetings and bi-monthly meetings are planned on the work plans agreed by SEWSCB.</p>	<p>Police resource constraints trigger delays and drift in dealing with cases which poses risk to progress on agreed actions.</p> <p>The figures show that from 1st October 2015 to 31st March 2016 there have been 31 new incidents of professional allegations. This compares with 20 incidents in the previous year indicating that the referral rate for professional allegations has gone up.</p> <p>We are completing internal quality assurance work to address weaknesses in processes and practices.</p>	<p>WASCG monitoring to ensure strategic and operational links with regional and local services meet need. Our aim in the next phase will be to develop preventative strategies.</p>

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
			<p>basis to identify regional themes and to exchange information.</p> <p>We have improved how we track and review cases still open or closed through monthly Safeguarding meetings.</p>			
<p>7. We are well-informed about the issues that compromise the safety and welfare of children and /or potentially expose them to harm through abuse and neglect and can demonstrate how we respond to and reduce areas of need</p>	4	Sian Schofield / Matthew Gatehouse, Policy & Performance Unit	<p>Our awareness is facilitated through performance indicators and also through other avenues such as the SAFE audits and via schools.</p> <p>In relation to data intelligence, the Children in Need Census for 2014/15 (latest available) tells us that domestic abuse is the most commonly observed issue affecting parenting capacity within Monmouthshire, as presented in 26% of cases. Following this, parental substance misuse and mental health are the next key issues. The most common reason for registration is emotional abuse (which includes domestic abuse).</p>	<p>During 2015/16 Children's Services took 3,924 contacts, of which 465 progressed to referral (11.9%). 91 of the referrals progressed to a strategy discussion (the start of a child protection investigation). As a result, an initial (or pre-birth) child protection conference was held for 73 children. Following the initial conference, 66 children were registered during the year.</p> <p>At the 31st March 2016, 33 children were on Monmouthshire's child protection register. This is low as shown in the last 4 year trend.</p> <p>SAFE audit results.</p>	<p>We are well informed, but the number of looked after children is particularly high in 2015/16 at 129 at the 31st March 2016. This might suggest children becoming looked after before attempting to manage and improve the family circumstances of those on the child protection register. We need to look at this through our internal quality assurance work.</p>	<p>National performance indicators and Children's Services returns</p> <p>WASCG assessments as a result of internal quality assurance work</p>

Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
<p>8. We operate best safeguarding practices and can demonstrate how we identify and address areas where improvement is needed.</p>	3	Sian Schofield / Matthew Gatehouse Policy & Performance Unit / Teresa Norris, WASCG	<p>Continuous monitoring and review of data on safeguarding and child protection particularly, provides the necessary snap-shot intelligence to know what is working and what isn't.</p> <p>From the data we can see that important child protection is taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of children on the child protection register are allocated a named social worker (SCC/013ai). <p>During 2015/16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70.5% of initial assessments were completed within 7 working days (SCC/042a) • 80.0% of core assessments were completed within 35 working days (SCC/043a). • 87.7% of initial child protection conferences were held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion (SCC/014) • Following registration, 88.7% of initial core groups were held with 10 working days of the initial 	<p>National performance indicators and Children's Services returns</p> <p>The WASCG assessment based on Monmouthshire's Internal Audit Service report 2016, the Wales Audit Office study 2015 and the Ellis Williams report 2015</p>	<p>In the wider whole authority safeguarding sense, the three reports noted as evidence and the SAFE audits demonstrate some of the means we have available in assessing performance on whole authority safeguarding and have identified areas that could be improved, for instance on recruitment, on volunteers and on contracted services.</p> <p>In relation to child protection, 17.8% of children had a re-referral within 12 months (SCC/010) even though this is within the CSSIW's suggested rate of 12-30%. 18.2% representing 12 out of 66 children registered in the year had been previously registered.</p> <p>Internal quality assurance work has identified developmental issues in child protection procedures within Children's Services which is being addressed.</p>	<p>National performance indicators and Children's Services returns</p> <p>WASCG assessment based on Monmouthshire's Internal Audit Service report 2016, the Wales Audit Office study 2015 and the Ellis Williams report 2015, internal quality assurance work</p> <p>SAFE audit</p>



Objective	Score at April 2016	Officer responsible for the information	What is working well	Evidence used to substantiate success	What is not in place / not working effectively and needs to improve	Evidence used to substantiate weakness
			<p>conference (SCC/015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93.1% of child protection reviews were held on time (SCC/034) <p>The WASCG have carried out an assessment based on three significant reports completed between 2015 and 2016 in order to take the safeguarding agenda forward.</p>			
<p>9. Parents Engagement with children and young people is at the heart of our safeguarding and child protection activity.</p>	4	Heather Heaney, Liaison Officer for Safeguarding in Education / Tracy Thomas, Youth Service manager	<p>Analysis of the Safeguarding survey undertaken in July 2015 has informed an action plan from Dec 2015 to March 2017 with regular reviews to ensure concerns raised by young people are addressed. At March 2017 a new survey will be carried out and new actions incorporated.</p> <p>Year 8 pupils in Monmouthshire attended a conference in January 2016 to discuss issues that affect them and this has been used to inform the work plan for the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board.</p>	<p>The action plan:</p>  <p>Monmouthshire Survey outcome actio</p> <p>The report and also, follow up meetings to ensure themes are actioned in 2016.</p>  <p>Report on consultations with you</p>	<p>The action plan is not yet agreed and circulated for implementation and so not all areas been addressed to date. However, the Youth Service and Safeguarding Unit anticipate all actions will be addressed by March 2017.</p> <p>We need to ensure that key actions out of the plan are factored into any other relevant strategies and into relevant teams' service plans.</p>	Lack of progress in agreeing and delivering on the action plan.

Table 3: The whole authority self-evaluation matrix:

Level 6 Excellent	Excellent or outstanding
Level 5 Very Good	Good – Major strengths
Level 4 Good	Important strengths with some areas for improvement
Level 3 Adequate	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
Level 2 Weak	Important weaknesses
Level 1 Unsatisfactory	Major weakness

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SUBJECT:	Proposed changes to the whole authority safeguarding approach
MEETING:	Joint Adult and Children and Young People Select Committees
DATE:	20th June 2016
DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the select committees with proposed changes to the whole authority safeguarding approach.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That members support the proposed changes to:

- Introduce a Safeguarding Strategy – Appendix 1.
- Underpin the strategy with a programme of three distinct elements covering: Corporate, Children and Young People and Adults. Appendix 2.
- Change the terms of reference and representation of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordination Group - Appendix 3
- Discontinue the current performance report mechanism and replace it with a scorecard of key safeguarding measures to monitor performance. The scorecard will be developed once the strategy and activity programme have been agreed through Council
- Widen the current political accountability for safeguarding to include the Council's Audit Committee

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The authority has made huge progress within the past three years on assuring safeguarding in the authority. In the main, this has been in response to Monmouthshire having been placed in Estyn Special Measures where Safeguarding was a first of six key recommendations.
- 3.2 The authority has been released from Special Measures since the start of the year. This has given an opportunity to reflect on the framework in place around safeguarding and consider what the authority needs in going forward
- 3.3 The authority must implement the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 and as an integral part of this, the Safeguarding agenda needs to be widened to incorporate Adults.
- 3.4 There needs to be an escalated focus on safeguarding practices applied by agencies and volunteers that the authority works and by commissioned providers.

- 3.5 Governance arrangements are overseen by the Council's Audit Committee. However, currently the Audit Committee does not have a role in assuring whole authority safeguarding.
- 3.6 Important reviews have been undertaken to assess the current safeguarding framework and the learning gleaned has contributed to a take stock of the current position and assess what is needed going forward. These are:
- A report completed by the Wales Audit Office on safeguarding across the greater Gwent authorities in 2015
 - A report carried out by Ellis Williams on Safeguarding in Monmouthshire in 2015 – the former Rhondda Cynon Taff Social Services chief officer
 - A Monmouthshire Internal Audit Service report on safeguarding carried out in 2015 and presented in January 2016

These reports are identified as sources of evidence in the programme of activities that underpins the strategy and in this context reflect the issues picked up through them.

- 3.7 Reflection by the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group has led to the following considerations:
- The composition and terms of reference of the current Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group are no longer appropriate to drive the agenda forward and embed accountability
 - The authority needs to develop the leadership, accountability, monitoring and review of safeguarding across the authority services and also by services delivered for the authority by others
 - Adult safeguarding needs to be integrated into the whole authority approach
 - Safeguarding needs to be seen as distinct from the specific function of child protection to avoid confusion
 - A need to develop the authority's approach to safeguarding in line with the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
 - A need to mainstream safeguarding into service planning across the authority

- 3.8 This proposal has been presented to the Senior Leadership Team and following scrutiny through the select committees will be presented to the Council for approval on 28th July 2016.

4. **REASONS**

To ensure that:

- 4.1 Safeguarding across the authority is strategic and robust, is integral to all decisions and part of everyday operations and that Chief Officers and Cabinet members are robustly held to account.

4.2 Services commissioned through other providers apply robust safeguarding practices and procedures.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

It is not envisaged that additional resources will be needed to support the changes proposed. As now, responsibility will be absorbed within day to day business activities.

**6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS
(INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING
AND CORPORATE PARENTING)**

This proposal should increase the level of safeguarding compliance. An evaluation form will be completed for the Council report.

7. CONSULTEES:

The Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group Senior Leadership Team
Children and Young People and Adults Select Committees
All DMTs

Views received will be considered in the final proposal before presenting to the Council for approval on 28th July.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire's Safeguarding Policy
The current constitution and terms of reference of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group
The Internal Audit Service report on safeguarding 2015
The Wales Audit Office study on safeguarding 2015
The Ellis Williams report on safeguarding 2015

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Monmouthshire County Council Safeguarding Strategy April 2016

Contents

1.	What the strategy sets out to achieve	page 2
2.	The values and principles	page 2
3.	The authority's current performance on safeguarding	page 3
4.	The intention and the gaps	page 3
5.	Delivering the intention and filling the gaps	page 4
6.	Governance and accountability for safeguarding within the authority	page 4
7.	Governance and accountability for safeguarding by others	page 4
8.	Key safeguarding designations across the council	page 5
9.	What do to if you have a concern	page 6
10.	Other legislation, policies and guidance associated with the Safeguarding Strategy	page 6
11.	Appendix on governance arrangements	page 7
12.	Appendix on Related Legislation, policy and guidance	page 14

The Strategy

1. What the Safeguarding Strategy sets out to achieve

The Safeguarding strategy has been put in place to ensure that responsibility for safeguarding is adopted by everyone both within the authority and where we deliver services with others. In this sense the strategy aims to clarify the levels of accountability that everyone must take to assure how we safeguard others.

The second purpose of the strategy is to inform what we must do if we have a safeguarding concern.

2. The values and principles:

In a policy context, this strategy gives foundation to Monmouthshire's overarching strategy; the Single Integrated Plan 2013 – 17 (which will be replaced from 2018 by Monmouthshire's Wellbeing Plan). It also underpins two of the Council's four priorities of *Supporting Vulnerable People* and *Supporting Education and Schools*. These are a continuous focus in the Improvement Objectives set out in the Council's Improvement Plan. The current plan is for 2016-17. In continuing this alignment, safeguarding is a foremost priority of all chief officer plans and mainstreams through each team service plan.

In terms of legislative compliance, local authorities have a statutory duty to put safeguarding arrangements in place including for strategic planning, in giving support and guidance for all providers of relevant services in its area and in a direct provision of some services. In this sense local authorities have a duty to work in partnership with others to secure the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and adults in their area, including working with the Local Safeguarding Boards. For Monmouthshire, this means the separate regional boards in place for children and young people and for adults.

In line with this, employees and volunteers who work with children and with adults have specific safeguarding duties and responsibilities and authorities must ensure that adequate checks are in place to know that employees and volunteers are of good character. In this same context, authorities must also ensure there are processes in place to monitor and manage working practices and to investigate and record safeguarding allegations made against staff, teachers, support staff and volunteers.

Additionally, members, Chief Executives and senior managers need to ensure that they have proper oversight of the safeguarding arrangements in place across the authority. They should actively seek and gain assurance that arrangements are operating effectively, as without this they are unable to demonstrate that they have discharged their statutory obligation on safeguarding.

This strategy and the programme of activities that supports it sets out how these requirements will be achieved.

3. The authority's current performance on safeguarding

In addition to the work done to align safeguarding to the Council's policies and the Improvement framework, work done over the past three years has given the authority and therefore Monmouthshire as a county, a strong foundation for safeguarding that we can build on. To date, additional work undertaken has been on developing a safeguarding policy, firming up practices of key concern and trying to embed a culture of safeguarding so it is everyone's responsibility. This means in our work with partners and through other agencies too. This has directed activities such as safer recruitment, safeguarding training, auditing safety in the settings used for children and young people and ensuring robust safeguarding processes and practices across a range of council and agency run support. A further focus has been on working with volunteers to embed safeguarding behaviour and practice.

Impact from this work is clearly seen and in the children and young people context particularly has contributed demonstrably to removing the authority from Estyn Special Measures early in 2016.

4. The intention: where we want to be on safeguarding and the current gaps in performance

The Council wants to ensure safeguarding captures the needs of children, young people and adults and wants to embed safeguarding as everyone's responsibility; officers, agency workers, volunteers, elected members and partners. Also, the council wants to more closely make a tie between safeguarding and the issues of domestic abuse and of people radicalisation.

The authority recognises there are gaps between this vision and the situation that exists at this time, for instance, the need to bring adults more cohesively into the whole authority safeguarding agenda and within that, tie a safeguarding culture around adults and children more closely together. Also, the need to respond to the direction outlined in the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 which means in many ways supporting safeguarding in a much broader context than previously and safeguarding becoming more integrated for children, young people and adults.

However, gaps have been highlighted through other references; work such as a Monmouthshire Internal Audit Service review of safeguarding and a commissioned study of Monmouthshire's safeguarding carried out by Ellis Williams, a former chief officer for Social Services in a neighbouring authority. In broad brush these uncovered the need to improve leadership and accountability at all levels of the authority, the need to mainstream safeguarding through council policies, decision making, service planning and operational delivery, the need to assure a safe workforce, better manage professional concerns and improve how we assure safeguarding through procured and commissioned services.

5. Working towards the intent and filling the gaps

A number of key work streams are underway to take the authority from the current position to where we want to be and essentially this is being developed and managed by the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group (WASCG). This includes:

- A safeguarding strategy to set out the authority's intent
- A programme of key milestones and actions across three strands; corporate, children and young people and adults. This will instigate responsibility taken by schools, other partners and volunteers. The programme will be reviewed annually
- A scorecard of measures to monitor and evaluate performance against the programme
- A revised constitution and terms of reference of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group to better steer, manage and monitor the strategy and programme

6. Governance and accountability for safeguarding within the authority

A number of clear accountabilities are designated to specific Monmouthshire officers and elected members and also, to a number of other agencies that we work with. These are outlined in the appendices to the strategy.

In line with this, the terms of reference of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group sets out chief officers and other practitioners' accountabilities for ensuring and assuring safeguarding. This group particularly acts as the safeguarding champions and have responsibility for driving the strategy through operational service delivery, for assuring performance and for ensuring information, advice and guidance on safeguarding to all service areas.

They also have responsibility for ensuring the systematic collation and reporting of key performance information using the programme and the measures scorecard. This coordinated performance information will be systematically reported to Department Management Teams, the Senior Leadership Team, the relevant select committees and the Cabinet.

In addition, safeguarding performance measures extrapolated from the strategy scorecard must be cascaded into all teams' service plans to assist safeguarding performance being regularly monitored at an operational level.

7. Governance and accountability for safeguarding by others outside the authority

Others that work with us also have responsibility for assuring safeguarding. This involves other public sector and voluntary sector organisations that we work with and also, commissioned services that we contract including in the private sector. This will in context reflect different responsibilities and accountabilities from those that need to be taken by the authority. For instance at a regional level, the regional

safeguarding boards for children and for adults keep their own programmes under review. These account for contributions from Monmouthshire County Council too.

The regional boards are represented by the neighbouring authorities and key agencies acting within the region; for instance for children this includes the Joint Fostering Service, the Joint Adoption Service, the Youth Offending Service, Health and for adults includes the Police and Probation Service.

The key accountabilities that fall under this umbrella are shown in Table 2 of the appendices, however, it above does not cover all regional and joint services that the authority works. Monmouthshire's services that liaise with regional and other joint services are responsible for defining the safeguarding accountabilities of these bodies through the governance arrangements and for holding them to account.

8. The key safeguarding designations in the council

As referenced in paragraph 6 the strategic safeguarding accountabilities are highlighted in the diagram and Table 1 in the appendices.

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Officer, Enterprise & Deputy CEO

Chief Officer Children & Young People

Chief Officer, Social Care & Health

Chief Officer, Resources

Head of Governance, Engagement & Improvement

The designated members of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group (WASCG) are listed below. Some designations will duplicate those given above:

Officers designated to form the WASCG:

Chief Officer for Social Care and Health

Chief Officer for Children and Young Peoples directorate

Head of Operations

Head of Adults Services

Head of Children's Services

Head of Governance, Engagement & Improvement

Head of Community Led Delivery

Head of Tourism, Leisure and Culture

Safeguarding Unit Manager

Monmouthshire Housing manager

Monmouthshire Youth Service manager

Interim HR Manager

Programme lead on Volunteering

9. What to do if you have a concern around safeguarding:

Any member of staff with concerns for the safety of individuals, or the behaviour of colleagues or members towards children or adults should immediately contact the Designated Officer for Safeguarding in the Social Care, Safeguarding & Health directorate or the designated officer (the Champion) within their service area; see paragraph 8 and Appendix 1 Table 1 and diagram for details.

Staff must also follow any other relevant policies and procedures laid down for their service.

Further advice and guidance can be given by the Safeguarding Unit on 01633 644392.

10. Other legislation, policies and guidance associated with the Safeguarding Strategy:

The authority's accountability for safeguarding must be undertaken in tandem with other direct legislation, policies and guidance both at a national and local level. For instance the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, the Equality Act 2010, the Children's Acts and the Wales Interim Policy & Procedure for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse Nov 2010.

Even wider legislation includes the Human Rights Act 1998 and wider policies include safeguarding through the Domestic Abuse policy and the policy against radicalisation through PREVENT.

Appendix 1: Governance Arrangements:

Table 1: Governance Arrangements within the Authority

Function	Who does this	The key safeguarding accountabilities
Designated Officer for Safeguarding	Chief officer for Social Care and Health services	Act as the lead on safeguarding for the authority and as the authority's guarantor for safeguarding Perform the role of the <i>Designated</i> senior leadership team safeguarding champion
Lead officer for safeguarding in education	Chief officer for Children and Young People Services	Perform the role of the <i>Designated</i> safeguarding champion in relation to schools and other education settings and for early years education child care settings for
Cabinet member portfolio for safeguarding	Cabinet member with portfolio for safeguarding	Act as the elected member lead on safeguarding for the authority and as the designated elected member guarantor and champion for safeguarding
Cabinet member portfolio for education	Cabinet member with portfolio for education	Act as the elected member lead on safeguarding in education
The Corporate Parenting Panel	Cabinet member with portfolio for safeguarding acts as Chair of the panel Additional representative elected members and officers Designated young people, the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and foster care representatives	Carry out the legislative Corporate Parenting Responsibilities Provide annual reports to the Council
The Whole Authority Safeguarding Co-ordinating Group (WASG)	Lead Officer and Chair – Chief Officer for Social Care and Health Also, representative officers in the group	Set the safeguarding framework for Monmouthshire Steer the safeguarding strategy, policy and associated programmes of activity for children and young people and for adults. Assess the need for support across authority services, schools, partners and commissioned providers, including the voluntary sector, to ensure a safeguarding culture and environment

Function	Who does this	The key safeguarding accountabilities
		<p>Monitor and reviews performance against the safeguarding strategy and policy and on safeguarding practices across the authority and by relevant external providers</p> <p>Receive reports from the Regional Boards, Estyn and the Children’s Social Services Inspectorate for Wales, assesses appropriate action in response to findings and reports / liaises with senior managers and elected members</p> <p>Liaise with senior leadership team and elected members on implementation of the Safeguarding strategy, policy and programmes</p>
The Senior Leadership Team	Chief officers and heads of service	<p>Strategically monitor and evaluate the authority’s application and performance on safeguarding through regular reports and also through external inspection and regulation and intervenes as necessary.</p> <p>Perform the role of directorate champions to ensure and assure a safeguarding culture and safeguarding practices across directorates</p>
Department Management Teams	Chief officers and directorate managers	<p>Ensure a standard agenda item for safeguarding at DMT meetings to test out application of the strategy.</p> <p>Ensure officers’ compliance with the expectation that any unsafe practices and concerns are reported to the <i>Designated Officer for Safeguarding</i> and / or the directorate champion.</p> <p>DMT representatives on the WASG act as the conduit between this group and their DMTs</p>
The Safeguarding Team	Safeguarding Unit manager	<p>Provide advice and facilitation to services and schools on safeguarding</p> <p>Act as the key support to the Corporate Safeguarding Co-ordinating Group in driving the whole authority safeguarding strategy, policy and associated programmes of activity</p>

Function	Who does this	The key safeguarding accountabilities
		Report on the progress and impact of the safeguarding programmes to SLT, select committees, Audit committee and Cabinet
Select Committees	Elected members of the Children and Young People's and the Adults Select Committees	Scrutinise and challenge performance achieved and application to safeguarding practices both in relation to the authority and that of authority partners as relevant Scrutinise safeguarding implications in relation to new and revised policies Scrutinise any strategic risks on safeguarding as part of the whole authority strategic risk assessment arrangements
Audit Committee	Elected members of the Audit Committee	Scrutinise the <i>governance arrangements</i> around safeguarding, including both the conduct and the culture of the authority and that of the authority's partners as relevant. This is distinct from <i>scrutinising performance</i>
Cabinet	Elected members of the Cabinet	Approve the safeguarding strategy and policy and any subsequent revisions Consider safeguarding matters in all decisions taken as the Executive for the authority Direct the authority to acts on safeguarding in relation to policies and decisions adopted
Service leads	All service managers across the authority	Ensure application to safeguarding is considered in planning and delivering services, including services commissioned through partners Ensure all staff are checked through the Disclosure Disbarring Service (DBS) and that safe recruitment and safeguarding training is carried out as appropriate to posts Ensure a safeguarding culture is adopted by the teams and safeguarding practices and procedures are followed in delivering services, including through any commissioned and procured contracts
Operational staff and ward councillors	All officers and members across the authority	Ensure safe practices in contacting vulnerable children and vulnerable adults

Function	Who does this	The key safeguarding accountabilities
		<p>within the course of their roles and functions</p> <p>Comply with the expectation that any unsafe practices and concerns are reported to the <i>Designated Officer for Safeguarding</i> and / or the directorate champion</p>

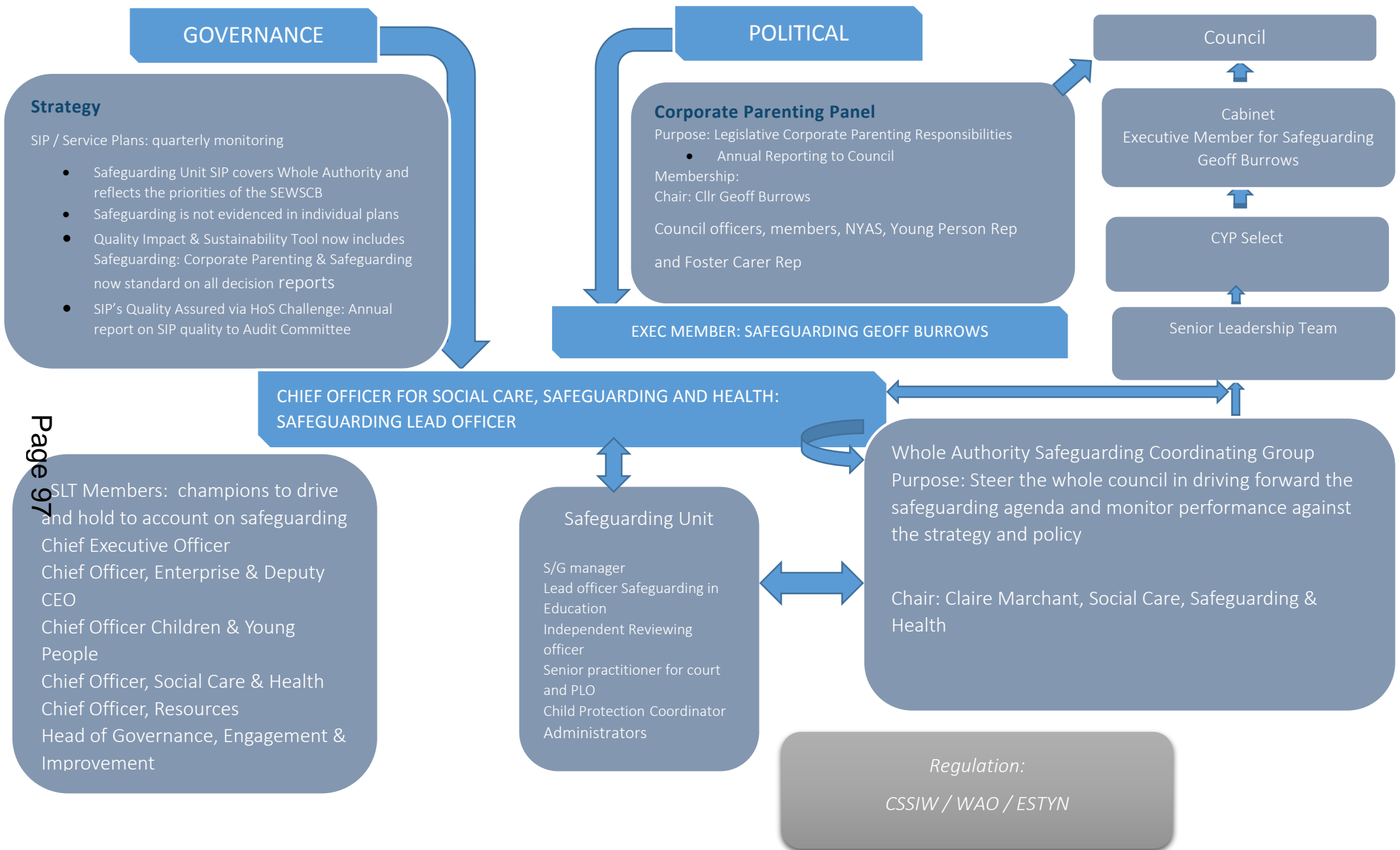
Table 2: Governance Arrangements outside the Authority

The organisation or body	The key safeguarding accountabilities	Monmouthshire service area that liaises with the organisation
<p>The South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (the regional board)</p>	<p>Provide strategic leadership and steering a three year action plan</p> <p>Hold agencies to account for discharging their safeguarding responsibilities</p> <p>Share best practice and seek ways to improve practice Undertaking Child Practice Reviews and sharing learning</p> <p>Developing practice guidance, procedures and protocols for multi-agency safeguarding children practice</p> <p>Engage with and consult children and young people, parents and carers, the public and professionals to identify ways in which services can be shaped and improved</p> <p>Develop and deliver safeguarding children training for volunteers and professionals</p> <p>Provide an annual performance report to the WASCG and to the Council</p>	<p>Children’s Services in the Social Care, Safeguarding & Health directorate</p>
<p>The Gwent Wide Adults Safeguarding Board (the regional board)</p>	<p>Act as a multi agency board to give a regional strategic steer on safeguarding adults</p>	<p>Adult Services in the Social Care, Safeguarding & Health directorate</p>

The organisation or body	The key safeguarding accountabilities	Monmouthshire service area that liaises with the organisation
	<p>Act as a conduit for senior leaders across local authorities and other key agencies to share and promote good practice</p> <p>Act in a monitoring role to assure safeguarding of adults</p> <p>Provide an annual performance report to the WASCG and to the Council</p>	
<p>The Local Service Board incorporating the Joint Assessment Framework around the Family (JAFF) and the Team Around the Family (TAFF)</p> <p>(the Local Service Board will become the Public Service Board in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act coming into force 2016)</p>	<p>Act as a multi-agency joint board to support effective partnership working including matters on safeguarding</p> <p>Support the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board in ensuring that robust multi agency governance arrangements are in place</p> <p>Steer, monitor and review the over-arching Single Integrated Plan for Monmouthshire and the programmes of activity that underpin it, including matters on safeguarding (This plan will become the Wellbeing Plan in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act coming into force 2016)</p>	<p>Partnership Team and the Policy & Performance Team (for the Wellbeing Plan) in the Chief Executives Department</p>
<p>Monmouthshire schools and governing bodies</p>	<p>Ensure safe recruitment of school staff and safe election of governors</p> <p>Ensure staff and governors are trained in safeguarding practices</p> <p>Assure that staff, governors and any volunteers are cleared through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS checks)</p> <p>Ensure a designated responsibility is taken for</p>	<p>The Children and Young People's directorate and the Safeguarding Unit</p>

The organisation or body	The key safeguarding accountabilities	Monmouthshire service area that liaises with the organisation
	safeguarding across staff and governors Ensure a proper process in dealing with safeguarding matters	
Contracted providers for children and young people including for example bus companies, Additional Learning Needs residential care, Education Other than at School (EOTAS), specialist Pupil Referral support, Youth Service support, foster care and any other specialised children and young people provisions	Comply with contractual specifications and / or legislative regulations in safeguarding children and young people in providing services with or on behalf of the authority	All directorates
Contracted providers for adults including for example home care / domestic care, day and residential care for the elderly, infirm, disabled, mental health care and any other specialised adult provisions	Comply with contractual specifications and / or legislative regulations in safeguarding adults in providing services with or on behalf of the authority	Adult Services in the Social Care, Safeguarding & Health directorate

An overview of Monmouthshire’s key governance arrangements around safeguarding are depicted in the diagram below.



Appendix 2: Related Legislation, policy and guidance

- Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014
- More than just words 2011
- Equality Act 2010
- Wales Interim Policy & Procedure for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse Nov 2010
- Valuing people 2001 and Valuing people now 2009
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Carers Act 2004
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services 2004
- Framework for the assessment of children in need and their families 2000
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Welsh Government guidance on Direct Payments
- Welsh Government guidance In Safe Hands
- Monmouthshire County Council Whistle Blowing policy
- Monmouthshire County Council Complaints policy

Monmouthshire County Council Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group (WASG)

Membership of the WASG:

The membership of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group will in the main constitute chief officers and heads of service as a leadership core. Lower organisational tier officers will also participate in the group as specifically designated.

Chief officers will be expected to designate nominees in their absence, but the nominees must be at a sufficiently strategic level to take decisions and take action in representation and will need to be agreed with the Chief Officer, Social Care and Health.

Officers designated to form the WASG:

Chief Officer for Social Care and Health
Chief Officer for Children and Young Peoples Services
Head of Operations
Head of Adults Services
Head of Children's Services
Head of Governance, Engagement & Improvement
Head of Community Led Delivery
Head of Tourism, Leisure and Culture
Safeguarding Unit Manager
Monmouthshire Housing manager
Monmouthshire Youth Service manager
Interim HR Manager
Programme lead on Volunteering

The purpose of the WASG:

- To steer the whole authority safeguarding strategy and support programme and keep under review
- To delegate responsibilities as a collective group to WASG representatives on accountabilities for safeguarding
- To monitor progress and performance against the whole authority safeguarding strategy support programme and measures scorecard, to hold others to account across directorates and intervene as necessary

- To report progress and performance against the whole authority safeguarding strategy support programme and measures scorecard to senior leaders and elected members and to respond to challenge
- To act as champions to embed safeguarding through service planning and in day to day operational delivery and ensure directorates mainstream safeguarding practices within directorate activities
- To ensure that designated WASG members represent the authority on the Regional Safeguarding Boards for Adults and for Children and Young People and that they contribute to develop the regional safeguarding action plans and the boards' work. Also, that information on work undertaken by the boards is shared with the WASG
- To ensure safeguarding representation on group working arrangements both within and outside the authority in relation to wellbeing and safeguarding support to adults and to children and young people
- To act as a conduit to ensure an information flow to the Senior Leadership Team and to Directorate Department Management Teams on safeguarding and ensure information is cascaded through service teams
- To share best practice on safeguarding and ensure good practice is shared among service teams
- To participate as nominated by the WASG in external regulation and inspection on safeguarding matters, which may be in addition to any other authority designated accountabilities

WASG meeting arrangements:

WASG will systematically meet on a 2 monthly cycle. Flexibility will be used to call meetings outside this cycle if necessary.

WASG reporting arrangements:

The WASG will systematically report to the Senior Leadership Team, directorate Department Management Teams, the Adults and Children and Young People Select Committees, the Audit Committee and the Cabinet. The chief officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health will keep the Cabinet member with portfolio up to date on key safeguarding matters.

Appendix 2:



Monmouthshire County Council Safeguarding Strategy Activity Programme 2016 - 2017

Consolidating activities in progress and new improvements

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
1. Ensure a Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet and Audit Committee steer and monitor and scrutinise the whole authority approach to safeguarding	Corporate	1. Review the representation and terms of reference of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group to ensure engagement of all chief officers or nominated heads of service and other key representatives	WASCG	May 2016	WAO study 2015, Ellis Williams review 2015 and WASCG review
		2. Develop a safeguarding strategy to support the safeguarding policy	WASCG	July 2016	
		3. Develop an activity programme to underpin the strategy and a scorecard of key measures	WASCG	July 2016	
		4. Mainstream key strands of the strategy / programme through chief officer reports and service plans	Chief officers	From April 2016	
		5. Review the safeguarding strategy annually and the safeguarding policy bi-annually and make available on the council's website (including schools' websites)	WASCG	Ongoing	
		6. Ensure related council and school policies are kept up to	Employee	Ongoing	

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<p>date e.g. Recruitment, DBS checks etc.</p> <p>7. Monitor performance against relevant strands of the strategy programme and scorecard via all DMTs</p> <p>8. Slim down the reporting framework on safeguarding by providing six monthly performance against the strategy programme and scorecard to SLT, Adults and Children & Young People Select Committees, Audit Committee and Cabinet</p>	<p>Services</p> <p>Chief officers</p> <p>WASCG</p>	<p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	
<p>2. Drive a safeguarding culture across the Authority and in schools</p>	Corporate	<p>1. Ensure every directorate designates a safeguarding representative</p> <p>2. Develop and implement a process for reporting and dealing with critical safeguarding incidents through a standard agenda item at DMT, SLT and service team meetings</p> <p>3. Set a standard item to share information on safeguarding – particularly on performance on safeguarding at the Senior Manager Network</p> <p>4. Ensure all strategic and operational groups across the authority dealing with the welfare of children and young people have an appropriate safeguarding representative e.g. the Integrated Youth Offer Group; Well-Being Group;</p> <p>5. Tighten the safeguarding assessments by officers in reports</p>	<p>Chief officers</p> <p>Chief officers/ team managers</p> <p>Head of Governance, Engagement & Improvement</p> <p>Chief officers / Safeguarding Unit</p> <p>Head of</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>WAO study 2015, Ellis Williams review 2015, MCC Internal Audit Service review 2016 and WASCG review</p>

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<p>to select committees and Cabinet to strengthen scrutiny and decision making</p> <p>6. Carry out a safeguarding survey every two years for staff and members on safeguarding awareness based on the WAO survey questions</p>	<p>Governance, Engagement & Improvement</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit</p>	<p>January 2017</p>	
<p>3. Embed safe recruitment across the authority and in schools:</p>	Corporate	<p>1. Develop service plan measures on safeguarding & provide quarterly updates on performance via the Hub to ensure that all officers in regulated posts are DBS checked and all officers in regulated posts are trained to level 1 and level 2 as appropriate</p> <p>2. Introduce a standard agenda item on monitoring DBS checks and safeguarding training at all DMT meetings</p> <p>3. Report on the SAFE audits to the WASCG and to DMTs on settings within the DMT brief to ensure robust monitoring</p> <p>4. Implement a robust mechanism in each directorate for identifying staff, agency workers and ancillary staff (e.g. foster carers) needing reference checks, DBS checks and safeguarding training and ensure a robust system on recording compliance</p> <p>5. Tighten DBS checks and checks on the delivery of safe recruitment training for all school governors and school staff and provide monitoring reports to CYP DMT and to WASCG</p>	<p>All team managers</p> <p>Chief officers</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit</p> <p>Chief officers / team managers</p> <p>Chief officer CYP / EAS / Employee Services</p>	<p>April 2016</p> <p>August 2016</p> <p>August 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	<p>Estyn inspection 2012, WAO study 2015, Ellis Williams review 2015, MCC Internal Audit Service review 2016 and WASCG review</p>

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<p>on the need and level of compliance</p> <p>6. Identify elected members who work in regulated activity with vulnerable groups (as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006) and ensure DBS compliance</p> <p>7. Introduce a module on safeguarding within the corporate staff induction process</p> <p>8. Ensure an up to date recruitment policy on recruitment</p> <p>9. Carry out sample audits on safe recruitment and safeguarding processes and report to the WASG for follow up / intervention</p>	<p>Head of Governance, Engagement & Improvement / Safeguarding Unit</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit / Employee services</p> <p>Employee services</p> <p>MCC Internal Audit Service</p>	<p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	
4. Ensure a programme of safeguarding training	Corporate	<p>1. Develop and deliver a training programme for volunteers</p> <p>2. Implement a programme of safeguarding training for all staff and members – for instance on the influence of Domestic Abuse, on PREVENT awareness and referral and on the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 - in complying with the duty to report Adults at risk and in delivering on 'Adult Protection Orders'</p>	<p>Volunteer Coordinator / Safeguarding Unit</p> <p>Chief officer SC&H/ head of Adults Service/ Adults Safeguarding manager</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	<p>WAO study 2015, Ellis Williams review 2015, MCC Internal Audit Service review 2016 and WASCG review, Gwent Wide</p>

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Deliver safe recruitment training to school governors and school staff 4. Deliver safeguarding training to private settings at a nil cost as far as possible e.g. in completing SAFE audits and risk assessments 5. Deliver preventing risks training to vulnerable adult groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Unit / Employee services Safeguarding Unit Workforce Development manager Adults Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2016 Ongoing by April 2017 	Safeguarding Adults Board action plan SSWB Act code 7
5. Ensure the safeguarding strategy supports the work around Domestic Abuse	Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helps to shape regional work on Domestic Abuse 2. Ensure safeguarding practices and training recognise the impact of domestic abuse 3. Ensure cases are referred to and that vulnerable people are supported to access the right intervention points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASCG Actions 2-3: Head of Adults Services / Head of Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 	
6. Ensure volunteers engaged by MCC direct and engaged through partnership arrangements are SAFE - DBS checked, safeguarding trained and consistently	Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a volunteer toolkit underpinned by a "Leading volunteers training" programme to provide a clear framework on safeguarding for volunteers 2. Develop a database to monitor volunteers working with the authority who are supporting children, young people and adults, including on references, DBS checks and training needs and ensure data protection on the shared access to information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Coordinator for actions 1 to 3 and 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing July 2016 	MCC Internal Audit Service review 2016 and WASCG review

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
applying the Council's safeguarding approach		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Develop a system to assess volunteer training needs and monitor the level of take up 4. Engage with GAVO to raise safeguarding awareness and raise the profile on safe volunteers 5. Devise a recognised approach to deal with volunteer non-compliance or "unsafe" practices 	Volunteer Coordinator/ Partnership manager	<p>July 2016</p> <p>July 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	
7. Ensure services delivered through commissioned arrangements and with partners that support children, young people and adults are safe	Corporate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise awareness across directorates on the authority's safeguarding expectations in relation to negotiating, procuring and reviewing contracts 2. Give guidance to third sector and voluntary groups on the authority's Safeguarding policy and strategy expectations 3. Ensure the Safeguarding policy and strategy expectations are explicit in contractual specifications e.g. on workforce reference checks & recruitment arrangements and monitor compliance of the contracts (also including via service plans actions and measures) 4. Provide guidance and advice to schools on integrating the Safeguarding policy and strategy expectations into contractual specifications e.g. on workforce reference checks & recruitment arrangements, on monitoring compliance of 	<p>Chief officers / Service managers for actions 1 to 3</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit / Employee services</p>	<p>August 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>September 2016</p>	<p>WAO study 2015, MCC Internal Audit Service review 2016 and WASC review</p>

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		the contracts and also, in letting agreements			
8. Share information and good practice on safeguarding outside the authority	Corporate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote safeguarding discussions and relationships with private residential homes for adults, children and young people to ensure essential safeguarding information and good practice is shared Participate in the South East Wales Consortium (SEWC) Safeguarding in Education Sub Group (SEG) to standardise and share good practice across the region and nationally Participate in the South East Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards for Adults and for Children to standardise and share good practice across the region Work with the South East Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards to ensure information is shared across all professionals and with families Ensure the annual reports of the South East Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards are systematically filtered through the WASCG for action and review 	Safeguarding Unit on all actions	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually on receipt of action plans and end of year reports</p>	WAO study 2015, Ellis Williams review 2015 and WASCG review
9. Ensure settings for children and young people are SAFE	Children & young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor the SAFE audit process and report to the WASCG and to DMTs Complete and monitor a needs analysis / compliance record 	<p>Safeguarding Unit</p> <p>Chief officers /</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	<p>Estyn inspection 2012, MCC Internal Audit Service review</p>

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<p>on safeguarding training for directorate staff, agency workers and volunteers operating in settings used by directorates</p> <p>3. Revise the Safeguarding policy for Child Protection and the Financial Instructions to schools on hiring premises for children and young people's activities and guide staff across the authority and in schools in letting and hiring premises</p> <p>4. Incorporate the inspection of non-maintained settings into the SAFE process</p>	<p>Service managers</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit / CYP Finance Service Manager</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit</p>	<p>September 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	2016 and WASC review
10. Improve the flow of information and the front door processes among professionals supporting children and young people		<p>1. Pilot access to Plant (the Children's Services recording system) with designated CYP officers and schools</p> <p>2. Monitor and evaluate the pilot and if successful roll out to all schools</p> <p>3. Improve integrated working between partnership preventative services and the statutory front door managed through Children's Social Services</p>	<p>Actions 1 – 2 Safeguarding Unit / Chief officer CYP / school heads</p> <p>TAF Coordinator / Children's Services managers</p>	<p>April 2016</p> <p>June 2016</p>	CSSIW inspection 2014 and WASC review
11. Ensure adherence to recognised processes and practices in Children's Services to assure child protection	Children & young people	<p>1. Implement a quality assurance framework based on best practice identified by the Wales Audit Office (e.g. Neath & Port Talbot) within Children's Services through SCS&H DMT, SLT, CYP select committee and Cabinet and intervene as necessary to drive improvement</p> <p>2. Respond to the findings out of the CSSIW inspection of Children's Services in June 2016 and keep actions under</p>	<p>Chief officer, SC&H / Chief Executive / Leader / CYP select chair & Scrutiny manager</p> <p>Chief officer, SCS&H / Head of</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>July 2016</p>	CSSIW inspections 2014 and 2016

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<p>monitoring and review</p> <p>3. Respond to the findings of the Excellence in Children's Services review by the Institute of Public Care (IPC) assessment of Children's Services</p> <p>4. Implement regular staff appraisal with directorate and agency staff to ensure laid down processes and practices are applied and to challenge / support non compliance</p>	<p>Children's Services / Chief Executive / Cabinet member with safeguarding portfolio</p> <p>Chief officer, SC&H / Head of Children's Services</p> <p>Head of Children's Services / Children's Service managers</p>	<p>June 2016</p> <p>July 2016</p>	
12. Ensure schools comply with safeguarding processes and practices	Children & young people	<p>1. Ensure schools' safeguarding policies are annually reviewed</p> <p>2. Ensure the findings out of the SAFE audits are reported to the CYP DMT, WASCg and schools and intervene as necessary to drive improvement</p>	<p>Chief officer CYP / school heads / chairs of governors</p> <p>Safeguarding Unit/ Chief officer CYP / school heads / chairs of governors / WASCg</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Estyn inspection 2012 and WASCg review

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
13. Engage with children and young people to support them in keeping safe	Children & young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out an 18 monthly survey with young people to assess what makes them feel safe and unsafe and develop and monitor an action plan based on responses to the survey 2. Provide generic and targeted information and training to young people on keeping safe such as managing relationships, self-harm, bullying and cyber bullying and sexual exploitation 	Youth Service Manager / Safeguarding Unit LOSIE for actions 1 and 2	Ongoing	Estyn inspection 2012 and WASCG review
14. Ensure settings for adults are SAFE	Adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess performance on safeguarding as part of external providers' application for quality accreditation 2. Ensure the Safeguarding policy and strategy expectations are explicit in contractual specifications with external adults' service providers 3. Provide reports to the CARE provider forum to assess lessons learnt from an assessment of safeguarding processes 4. Extend quality assurance feedback to service users via an apps on safeguarding criteria 	Actions 1 – 3: Lead Commissioner Quality Assurance/ Supporting People Adults Safeguarding managers	Ongoing July 2016 Ongoing September 2016	WASCG review
15. Improve the flow of information and the front door processes among professionals supporting adults	Adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve integrated working between the third sector and community services and the statutory front door managed through Adults' Services 	Head of Adults Services / Changing Practice/Changing Lives lead officer	Ongoing	WASCG review

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
16. Ensure adherence to recognised processes and practices in the Adults Service to assure adult protection	Adults	2. Contribute to review the All Wales POVA policy and procedures and implement once finalised	Adults Safeguarding manager	September 2016	WASCG review
		3. Ensure the quality assurance of external providers reflects key developments in adults safeguarding	Lead Commissioner Quality Assurance/ Supporting People	Ongoing	
		4. Implement regular staff appraisal with directorate and agency staff to ensure laid down processes and practices are applied and challenge / support any non-compliance	Head of Adults Service / Service managers	Ongoing	
17. Engage with adults to support them in keeping safe	Adults	1. Promote CHAT as an engagement activity with adults in care homes	Adults Safeguarding manager	Ongoing	WASCG review
		2. Implement the regional safeguarding questionnaire for adults subject to safeguarding processes	Adults Safeguarding manager / GWASB	January 2017	
18. Protect vulnerable older people in their home	Adults	1. Liaise with Trading Standards service to identify vulnerable adults at home via the "sucker lists"	Environmental Services manager / Adults Safeguarding manager	Ongoing	

Priority	Profile	Key actions	Accountable Officer/s	Start timescales	Source of evidence
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Work with Police and Housing associations to monitor intervene on anti-social behaviour as it Affects vulnerable adults 3. Share information with Police and Housing Associations Raising to protect vulnerable people preyed on by gangs 4. Develop a process to warrant appropriate MCC officers to apply for Adult Protection Orders 	<p>Actions 2 – 3: Adults Safeguarding manager / Project Officer Anti-social Behaviour</p> <p>Adults Safeguarding manager</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>September</p>	
19. Support the Gwent Wide Safeguarding Adults Board (GWASB)	Adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribute to developing preventative approaches in safeguarding adults through the GWASB 2. Ensure that regional priorities are focused through the work of the authority on adult safeguarding 3. Review the mechanisms in place in the authority and in working with partners for early identification of domestic abuse 	<p>Actions 1-3: Head of Adults Services / Adults Safeguarding manager</p>	Ongoing	