

SUBJECT:	Providing Members with an evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding within Monmouthshire
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	4th November 2015
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

To provide members with information and analysis regarding the safeguarding of children and young people. Comprehensive strategic and operational information is provided via a suite of three cross referenced reports:

- i. **Strategic Report for Safeguarding September 2015**; this provides an evaluative overview for Members on progress, areas for further work and includes case studies. **Pages 1-5 of this report will enable Members to obtain a good summary of the current safeguarding agenda.**
- ii. **Safeguarding Report Card September 2015**; this provides detailed evidence and analysis for Members wishing to review safeguarding performance in more depth.
- iii. **Service Improvement Plan for Safeguarding 2015 – 2016, Quarter 2 Review**; this is the mid-point review of the annual plan for the safeguarding unit detailing progress against identified the priorities and actions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That cabinet members receive the attached reports, noting the progress and areas for further work and using them as the basis for challenge.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Safeguarding children and young people is a key responsibility for the Council. These duties apply to all officers and members of council and include the specific child protection duties carried out via Children's Services.

3.2 In November 2012 Estyn carried out an inspection of the Local Authority and found that the arrangements for safeguarding were unsatisfactory.

A monitoring visit in February 2014 found that whilst the Local Authority had made some good initial progress the shortcomings identified in the strategic management of safeguarding had not been addressed well enough. This judgement was echoed by a Welsh Audit Office inspection in March 2014. It was partly as a result of this that the current suite of reports were commissioned to ensure that Members had access to comprehensive and thoughtful analysis of the state of safeguarding in Monmouthshire.

3.3 CSSIW carried out inspections of Monmouthshire Children's Services in April and November 2014. Whilst confirming that children involved in the child protection process were safeguarded, CSSIW did identify some key deficits and areas for improvement including the consistency and quality of management oversight within Children's Services and the effective embedding of performance management and quality assurance arrangements.

3.4 Estyn Inspectors will be carrying out a further inspection of the authority in November 2015. The focus will be on how the authority has responded to the recommendations following the November 2012. The first of these was regarding safeguarding: Ensure that safeguarding procedures are robust and underpinned by a clear policy

4. REASONS:

Safeguarding and child protection concerns some of the most vulnerable children in Monmouthshire. This is an important opportunity for cabinet members to consider the current arrangements for safeguarding.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None directly from this report

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

These reports focus on enhancing safeguarding of children and young people. No negative implications have been identified and if there are actions that subsequently require decision, EQIAs will be undertaken at that stage.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

Throughout the reports consideration has been given to how the Local Authority promotes safeguarding and corporate parenting.

8. CONSULTEES:

- Paul Matthews – Chief Executive
- Tracy Jelfs – Head of Children’s Services

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

10. AUTHOR: Jane Rodgers, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

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