

SUBJECT:	End of Year Performance 2015/16 on Whole Authority Safeguarding
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	6th July 2016
DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet members with an overview of the 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 proposed changes to the whole authority safeguarding approach.
- 2.2 That members seek assurance that the proposed changes will improve performance on issues highlighted through this report.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Since 2014 the Safeguarding Unit has provided six monthly performance reports to the Children and Young People Select Committee, the Cabinet and the Council using a trio of reports.
- 3.2 The Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group (WASCG) has developed a proposal for future whole authority safeguarding which has been provided to Council members in a separate report. The proposal constitutes adopting a strategy supported by an activity programme and a scorecard of measures which are to be steered through a newly constituted WASCG.
- 3.3 This proposal has been shared with Directorate Management Teams and has been presented to the Senior Leadership Team. It has also been informally presented to the Children and Young People and Adults Select Committees. After the Cabinet meeting, the proposal will be presented for approval to the Council on 28th July 2016.
- 3.4 On Council's 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 of performance for 2015/16, the reporting format used to date has been continued. This is based on nine prioritised objectives as in the Appendix and gives narrative assessments and scores on performance for each. The scores given are based on the whole authority self-assessment matrix.

3.6 To consolidate the previous trio of performance information and in anticipating the proposed approach, two of the supplementary report strands previously reported have not been provided. Refer to paragraph 3.1.

3.7 A summary of the performance:

- Important safeguarding processes and practices are embedded across the authority and are supported by key services such as the Safeguarding Unit, Peoples Services and the Volunteer Coordinator. These include safe settings, safe recruitment and staff and volunteers safeguarding training
- However, some parts of the authority have embedded safeguarding processes and practices better than others, including on those aspects noted above and also, different levels of accountability are embedded
- In some service areas safeguarding does not appear to be understood and or mainstreamed. This has been identified through the safeguarding training and the SAFEs (internal quality assurance safeguarding audits on services and settings)
- Other processes and practices need to be strengthened, for instance in assuring safe practices and processes through contracted service arrangements

3.8 A summary of the scores:

The six monthly performance scores on the nine 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	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
authority.					
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 Council members are held to account and also, can hold others 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)**

The report gives a performance appraisal. There are no Wellbeing of Future Generations Implications and in this context, an assessment form is not provided.

7. CONSULTEES:

The performance appraisal has been signed off through the Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group and the Senior Leadership Team.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire County Council Safeguarding Policy
The trio of safeguarding reports provided since 2014
The Internal Audit Service report on safeguarding 2015
The Wales Audit Office study on safeguarding 2015
The Ellis Williams review on safeguarding 2015 (former Rhondda Cynon Taff Chief Officer for Social Services)
The Estyn Inspection report 2016
The Safeguarding Unit service plan 2015/16 (incorporating responses to the CSSIW feedback on performance 2014 and 2015)
National performance indicators 2015/16

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