

SUBJECT: Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager

MEETING: Cabinet Report

DATE: 1st March 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All/ Whole Authority

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to create a Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager to provide leadership to whole authority safeguarding and manage the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members approve and endorse the proposal for creation of a Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager and the revised structure for the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Unit set out in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 2.2. That Members agree to reserve fund c£60k for 2017/18, which represents the resource pressure as a consequence of the creation of this post. The budget will need to be substantiated in the 2018/19 Council budget.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Safeguarding children and adults at risk has the very highest priority in Monmouthshire County Council. Safeguarding is recognised as everybody's business and considerable progress has been made over the last 5 years to systematically embed safeguarding culture, knowledge and practice in every area of the Council's responsibility. There are, however, areas where the understanding and operation of safeguarding are not yet of the standard they need to be. We need to be constantly vigilant in understanding the effectiveness of our governance and assurance systems.

3.2 The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit has a very important role in supporting safeguarding in Monmouthshire. The Unit works with directorates to support them to understand their safeguarding responsibilities and improve their practice. The Council has developed a SAFE self-assessment tool which has recently been reviewed and strengthened to incorporate adult as well as children's safeguarding. An analysis of the Unit, and its ability to deliver its' purpose, has highlighted the need to strengthen leadership and capacity to ensure fitness for purpose; i.e. to enable it to support to all parts of the Council in self –evaluation, analysis and improvement actions.

3.3 The Service Manager post recommended in this report will manage a Joint Children and Adult Safeguarding Unit comprising the following functions: independent review of Looked After Children (LAC), co-ordination of child protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA), safeguarding in education and corporate safeguarding. The postholder will works with a variety of partners both internal and external to the Council. and be the main operational link to the Gwent-wide Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards which are now on a statutory footing. The postholder will also be responsible for driving up standards and good safeguarding practice within the borders of Monmouthshire and across Council services. The post-holder will be part of the Children's Social Services division within Social Care and Health and as such the changes proposed in this report would amend the structure approved by Cabinet in January 2017 (**Appendix 1**)

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 The creation of the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager is a financial pressure of £60k. It is proposed that in 2017/18 this is reserve funded; it will need to be substantively reflected in the 2018/19 budget build.

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

5.1 Strengthening safeguarding leadership and capacity impacts positively on all children, young people and their families and adults at risk. The impact will be regularly updated and reviewed to ensure ongoing fitness for purpose. The proposed structure looks to will increase effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and put the Council in a strong position to deliver the all age approach set out within the Social Services and Well Being Act.

6. CONSULTEES:

Jane Rodgers, Head of Children's Services and Safeguarding
Senior Leadership Team

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children's Services – Service Redesign – Cabinet, January 11, 2017.

7. AUTHOR:

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