

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Progress Report

MEETING: Council

DATE: 20th March 2017

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet members with a review of safeguarding progress

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That members:

- 2.1 Note the progress and challenge the self-assessment of the Whole Authority Safeguarding Co-ordinating Group (WASCG);
- 2.2 Support the intention to focus the safeguarding programme approved by the Council in July 2016 against five key priority areas.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A Safeguarding Strategy and Activity Programme were endorsed by the Cabinet and approved by the Council in July 2016. This include a Strategy to steer the Safeguarding policy, changes to the WASCG terms reference and membership to ensure senior accountability and for whole authority safeguarding, and a programme of safeguarding activity supported by a measures scorecard.
- 3.2 These have provided direction to drive safeguarding standards and activity. WASCG has reviewed the original 19 sections of the activity programme into five clear priorities to better articulate and focus the programme. This report recommends that Cabinet members endorse this renewed programme to support clarity of safeguarding priorities and to facilitate future measurement and reporting. The five priorities are:
1. Good governance
 2. A safe workforce
 3. A preventative approach
 4. Robust protection
 5. Safe services – delivered through commissioning arrangements, grants, partnerships and volunteering

3.4 These priorities are used to report on the progress against the programme agreed by Council. The progress report is set out in detail in Appendix 1.

3.5 A revised safeguarding policy will be presented to the Council in early 2017/18 and subsequent reports on whole authority safeguarding will be brought at mid and end of financial / reporting year in line with other Council reports.

3.6 **A Summary of Progress and Priorities:**

- Governance through WASCg has been strengthened through Chief Officer membership and explicit links to DMTs. Safeguarding adults at risk has been integrated into WASCg and the safeguarding programme. The SAFE self-assessment against standards for safeguarding children is well established and has been revised so standards include safeguarding adults at risk. The next round of SAFEs will support self-evaluation against all aspects of safeguarding.
- There are real strengths in safeguarding culture, knowledge and practice; however, there is still work to do to ensure this is embedded as well as it should be in all parts of the Council. This is evident through external and internal audit reports and the SAFE assurance processes. The areas for further development are highlighted in the progress report; particularly there is a need to baseline understanding of safeguarding adults at risk as well as children and ensure SAFEs are in place across the board.
- Really good information systems across all safeguarding priorities need further developments; for example, whilst safe recruitment is accurately recorded and monitored, there is further work to do to ensure all parts of the Council accurately record training requirements and achievement for the whole workforce.
- There is a strong preventative approach in place across the Council and partner agencies. There is evidence that adult and child protection systems are working effectively; particularly a CSSIW review of the front door of Children's Services found positive progress since the previous inspection in 2014. Whilst there is much to do, there is a well-developed improvement programme.

4. **REASONS**

To ensure progress on the safeguarding so that improvement on whole authority safeguarding is measured and secured.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Responsibility for safeguarding is absorbed within day to day business activities therefore no additional resource implications are identified as part of this report.

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

The review of progress is to assure the Council around the level of safeguarding standards of practice which is essential to the well-being of future generations.

7. CONSULTEES:

The Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire County Council Safeguarding Strategy
Whole Authority Safeguarding Coordinating Group (WASCG) terms of reference
WASCG programme of actions

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10. CONTACT DETAILS: