

REPORT

SUBJECT: Update and approval of matters arising from the Action Plan - Safeguarding arrangements – Kerbcraft scheme

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 5th July 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Countywide

1. PURPOSE

To receive an update and approve matters arising from implementation of the action plan approved by Council on the 20th March 2017 (appendix 2 of the report titled ' Wales Audit Office report on safeguarding within the kerbcraft scheme in Monmouthshire County Council').

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members note the progress made against various items within the action plan reported to Council on the 20th March 2017 (appendix 1 attached).
- 2.2 That the new procedure for the provision of kerbcraft training (appendix 2 and 3) be approved.
- 2.3 That members consider feedback from the select committees and decide what action they wish to take – if any.
 - 2.1.1 Explicitly a request from Strong Communities Select Committee that the update to the action plan be reported to Council.
 - 2.1.2 Recommendations arising from the CYP Select Committee – to be completed.
- 2.4 That members note the transfer of the kerbcraft training function and management of the school crossing patrol service to the CYP directorate.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Following a review by Wales Audit Office (WAO) of the provision of kerbcraft training by MCC staff on behalf of Welsh Government an action plan was reported to Council in March 2017.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 replicates the action plan but in italics under relevant headings an update is provided.
- 3.3 One of the actions requires the preparation and implementation of new procedures for the provision of kerbcraft training and that the future operating model be reported to Cabinet.

- 3.4 During March and April officers reviewed previous and current working arrangements and developed a new procedure for the provision for kerbcraft training.
- 3.5 The new working arrangements are provided in appendices 2 and 3 .However the following points are brought to members' attention.
- 3.6 A major weakness highlighted by WAO was the control and recording of volunteers that supported MCC in the training of children at each school.
- 3.7 Since WAO expressed concern over the management of volunteers in August 2016 none has been used and all kerbcraft training has been provided by MCC kerbcraft trainers occasionally with assistance from school support staff.
- 3.8 The new procedure limits the use of volunteers to six at any one time so the checking and recording of safeguarding information relating to the volunteers becomes much more straightforward (previously records for up to 80 volunteers were required).
- 3.9 This change in procedure along with clear instructions on how the scheme is to be delivered will offer greater confidence that safeguarding is controlled in the provision of this service.
- 3.10 Although included within the Road safety Grant from WG there is synergy between the kerb craft training and school crossing patrol service with the CYP role of support to schools. As a result CYP are now providing the line management function for these services albeit in conjunction with Highways to collate WG returns.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 The Council's action plan in response to the WAO findings is quite specific and in particular seeks to ensure that members are kept informed on progress with implementation, and its ongoing performance. This report seeks approval of some aspects of the action plan and keeps members' informed of progress with implementation of the action plan.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None directly from this report. The kerbcraft scheme is funded and delivered on behalf of Welsh Government. The funding is £56,000 per annum and is incorporated within the WG Road Safety Grant.

6. FUTURE GENERATIONS and EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

Attached

SAFEGUARDING ASSESSMENT: As contained within the body of the report, supporting reports and the FGEA. The Action plan is intended to strengthen safeguarding arrangements surrounding the kerbcraft scheme.

7. CONSULTEES:

None

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to Council on the 20th March 2017 titled ' Wales Audit Office report on safeguarding within the kerbcraft scheme in Monmouthshire County Council'.

9. AUTHORS

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