

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

3RD OCTOBER 2018

CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER,
COUNCILLOR HOPKINS AND COUNCILLOR LEYSHON**

AUTHOR: Nicola Kingham, Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business Manager,
Tel No: 01443 484550

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Cabinet the Annual Report for 2017/18 for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board (Children, Adults and MASH). See Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes and endorses the content of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report for 2017/18.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an Annual Report on 31st July each year, to demonstrate its effectiveness in exercising its functions in the preceding financial year.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in Cwm Taf. The aim of the Board is to ensure that people of all ages are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. This also involves preventing abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm from happening.
- 4.2 The work of the Board is delivered via a Sub Group structure, which aims to support multi-agency safeguarding in Cwm Taf. The Lead Partner (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) employs the staff of the Board Business Management Unit and holds the Board budget, to which the statutory partner agencies contribute.

- 4.3 The two key safeguarding objectives of protection and prevention underpin the work of the Board and inform the priorities each year.
- 4.4 The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) sits within the structure of the Board to enhance safeguarding practice, with agencies working together in one place to receive all safeguarding referrals and share relevant agency information to make collaborative decisions.

5. ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

5.1 The purpose of the Annual Report is twofold; it is a tool of accountability and a tool for evaluation. Accountability has three components:

- accountability to the public;
- accountability to the statutory partner agencies of the Board; and
- accountability to the inspectorate bodies.

5.2 The required content of the Report is set out in the statutory guidance under Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. A summary of some of the key achievements included in the report is provided below:

5.3 Safeguarding Practice

- The Cwm Taf MASH led on an Information Sharing System Working Group (with Cardiff and Bridgend MASH) to source alternative options to the current MHUB IT system (to be carried out in 2018).
- A review of the adult and children safeguarding processes and the thresholds for decision making within the MASH was carried out. This has provided the Board with a better understanding of where there are perceived differences between the two local authorities and how partner agencies can work together to overcome barriers that may cause delays in decision making.
- The introduction of a MASH Quality Assurance Group has enabled the Board to focus on the front-end safeguarding referrals and how the MASH systems and processes are ensuring that these are dealt with appropriately.
- The Board commenced one Adult Practice Review which was published in April 2018. One Child Practice Review commenced and two joint Child/Adult Practice Reviews were published, having commenced in 2016. The time taken to complete these reviews was due to the complexity of both cases.

5.4 Safeguarding Specific Groups of People

- There was a specific focus during the year to ensure that providers of services in Cwm Taf had an improved awareness of safeguarding and how concerns are reported. This resulted in a total of 16 care providers receiving Level 2/3 safeguarding training.
- Lessons learned from our two published Reviews identified a need to ensure that the transition to adulthood for young people is managed more effectively to reduce the risks of harm. A multi-agency task and finish group was set up to develop a set of transition principles for agencies to adopt.
- Over 60% of safeguarding reports for adults are for those over 65 years old and a significant proportion of these are for older people with dementia. This year, we have strengthened the questions asked by Safeguarding Officers around the adult at risk's decision making ability by adding additional questions to the case management tool.
- The local authorities have increased access to advocacy for people who need support to participate in safeguarding processes.
- The focus of the Board in relation to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards continues to be on safeguarding those people who are most in need. Whilst waiting lists for assessments remain high, every case is risk-assessed, prioritised and a review programme is in place.
- One of our priorities for 2017/18 was to work with the Cwm Taf Together for Mental Health partnership to support children and young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. A workshop with all partners was held in February 2018 to develop a plan to take this work forward into 2018/19.
- The Board has acknowledged that a clear policy is needed to manage children placed outside of the area and also for those placed in other areas from Cwm Taf. We are currently awaiting a national piece of work being conducted by the Welsh Government.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has continued to be a priority for the Board. A Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) group was set up in 2017 and has become embedded into the Board governance.
- The Board still awaits the outcome of the national work on neglect to adopt any recommendations for Cwm Taf.

5.5 Collaboration

- The Safeguarding Board Business Managers across Wales have continued to collaborate during the year.
- The Board continues to collaborate with the CSP as the agendas are increasingly aligned.
- The Board Chairs, Members and Business Managers have developed good working relationships with the Welsh Government.
- The Cwm Taf representative from the National Board attends the Board meetings on a quarterly basis, contributes to discussions and events and shares materials relevant to the work and interests of the Board.

5.6 Engagement, Participation and Communication

5.7 The Board has been proactive in raising awareness of safeguarding and how everyone is able to contribute to keeping people safe.

5.8 The Board ensures that participation is as inclusive as possible given the various needs of professionals, children, young people and adults at risk. This has enabled us to improve our engagement opportunities and ensure that the views of people contribute to developing best practice, and that frontline staff are integral to informing the improvement of learning and development.

5.9 This has been supported by a number of engagement activities and consultation with the people who use our services throughout the year.

5.10 Information, Training and Learning

- During the year, 150 multi-agency safeguarding training courses were delivered to 2,542 delegates in Cwm Taf.
- The Board also hosted a number of Multi Agency Practitioner events this year to share learning with a wide range of practitioners involved in safeguarding.
- The Board continues to use the Cwm Taf Safeguarding website to share a range of information to public and professionals. This year, two E-Bulletins for professionals were published which included a range of topics and news items.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Annual Report has been approved by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board and shared with the Welsh Government, the National Independent Safeguarding Board and the five other Regional Safeguarding Boards.
- 7.2 A copy of the report has been published on the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board website www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the responsibilities and the functions of the Regional Safeguarding Boards.

10.0 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 The Board contributes to elements of the work of the Public Service Board by reporting on safeguarding activity.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers:

None

**Contact Officer: Nicola Kingham, CTSB Business Manager.
Tel: 01443 484550**