



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

#### **CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

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

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Cabinet the Annual Report for 2018/19 for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board. 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 2018/19.

#### **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.
- 3.2 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.

#### **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 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. NEW REGIONAL FOOTPRINT FOR SAFEGUARDING FROM APRIL 2019**

- 5.1 In June 2018, the Welsh Government announced that from 1st April 2019, Cwm Taf University Health Board would be responsible for healthcare services in the Bridgend County Borough Council area. This meant that accompanying partnership structures in the delivery of social services across the Western Bay region joined with Cwm Taf, with the creation of a new Regional Safeguarding Board for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area.
- 5.2 The first Annual Plan for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board was published on 30th April 2019 and the progress and outcomes of this will be published on 31st July 2020.

## **6. SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2018/19**

- 6.1 The Board published an Annual Plan on 31 March 2018, setting out the priorities for safeguarding children, young people and adults in 2018/19. A summary of some of the key achievements included in the report is provided below:

### **6.2 MASH**

- A review of the business support arrangements in the MASH was carried out which resulted in a generic team being established in April 2019.
- A MASH Performance Management Framework and Audit Programme was implemented in April 2018. This has enabled us to evaluate MASH processes to evidence specific themes and findings relating to the reporting of safeguarding concerns. This included 7 detailed audit appraisals which evidenced areas of good practice as well as matters that required some escalation/improvement.

### **6.3 Monitoring Safeguarding Performance**

Each partner agency has a responsibility to report on the effectiveness of their agency's contribution to the overall functions of the Board. This is done by a number of means, including audits, evaluations, inspection reports and data on

safeguarding activity. Board and Sub Group members are actively encouraged to challenge information constructively, with the overall aim of continuous improvement. Examples this year included:

- Training gaps in the voluntary sector due to a reduction in staffing capacity. This has been continually monitored by the Board's Training and Learning Sub Group to address any gaps and manage associated risks.
- Multi-agency Safeguarding Complaints – there was a low level of complaints in relation to adult safeguarding which evidences the effectiveness of our safeguarding processes. The Board received 1 complaint in respect of the multi-agency child protection process which was upheld by an independent complaints panel.
- Police Powers of Protection - 31 reported during the year and the Board was assured that actions were appropriate and safeguards in place.
- The Board's Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Group Considered 28 new cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in the last year and reported 107 disruptions of CSE perpetrators, with 27 Child Abduction Warning Notices being served.
- The Board published 1 Adult Practice Review during the year. This involved a case where both the victim and the perpetrator were adults at risk. The learning identified from this review is summarised in more detail in the report.

#### 6.4 Protocols and Procedures

- Wales Safeguarding Procedures - representatives from the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board have been actively involved in the development of the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures via a Project Board, Task Groups and Stakeholders Groups. The Procedures will be formally launched in November 2019.
- Local Safeguarding Protocols – 8 new/updated protocols and guidance documents approved in 2018/19.

#### 6.5 Additional Safeguarding Activities

- Following the publication of two Adult Practice Reviews in 2017, recommendations were made to develop a set of principles to support agencies in managing the transition of cases for young people into adulthood. These principles were developed and endorsed by the Board in 2018.
- County Lines - in Cwm Taf there has been a strong focus on raising awareness of the nature of this harm and providing practitioners with the ability to spot the signs of criminal exploitation.

- Radicalisation - the Board has worked closely with the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership to raise awareness of the PREVENT process to address radicalisation. This was identified as a priority for the Board's Training and Learning Group.
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) - close working arrangements are in place between the Board and the VAWDASV Steering Group in Cwm Taf. Reports on training in accordance with the National Training Framework are presented to the Boards Training and Learning Group.

## 6.6 Communications and Engagement

Throughout 2018/19, the Board has raised awareness of its objectives through a number of ways, including:

- Events
- Literature
- Partnership working
- Dedicated Communications and Engagement Officer

6.7 Full details are included in the report.

## 6.8 Safeguarding Training

The majority of the multi-agency safeguarding training is planned, delivered and co-ordinated by the local authority-based Cwm Taf Training Department. In 2018/19, a total of 165 training courses were delivered to 2,806 delegates across the region.

In addition to the standard children and adults Levels 1-3 safeguarding training, additional multi agency training included Substance Misuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Transgender Awareness, Human Trafficking and Foetal Alcohol Disorder.

Individual agencies also report to the Board on a quarterly basis with details of the safeguarding training activities taking place within their own organisation. Full details are included in the report.

## 7. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 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.

## 8. **CONSULTATION**

8.1 The Annual Report has been approved by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and shared with the Welsh Government, the National

Independent Safeguarding Board and the five other Regional Safeguarding Boards.

- 8.2 A copy of the report has been published on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board website [www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org)

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

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

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

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

## **11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 11.1 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

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