



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH NOVEMBER 2020

CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

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 2019/20 for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board. See Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes and endorses the content of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Annual Report for 2019/20.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an Annual Report 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.
- 3.3 This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government gave all Regional Safeguarding Boards an extension to the submission deadline and the report was therefore published on the 30th September 2020.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend. 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 Morgannwg. 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 Cwm Taf and Bridgend Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (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.
- 4.5 The Board also now has responsibility for overseeing the effectiveness of the safeguarding activities in Parc Prison.

5. SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019/20

- 5.1 The Board published an Annual Plan on 31 March 2019, setting out the priorities for safeguarding children, young people and adults in 2019/20. A summary of the progress made against these priorities is provided below:
- 5.2 Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk from the Impact of Domestic Abuse

Close collaboration between the VAWDASV¹ Steering Group and the Safeguarding Board resulted in a wider reach for raising awareness activities in the region. In RCT, this included:

- Four workshops on Coercive Controlling Behaviour
- Additional VAWDASV Group 1 training for RCT schools
- Ten targeted youth workshops arranged by the RCT Youth Engagement and Participation Service (YEPS)

¹ Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Operation Encompass was introduced to signal to schools when a pupil has been connected to a domestic abuse incident within the previous 24 hours. Education and Inclusion Services have worked in conjunction with South Wales Police to set this up to support intelligence sharing and the ability of schools to understand the home life of some of their pupils.

Two audits were carried out on domestic abuse cases involving adults at risk to seek assurances that strategy discussions are held on a multi-agency basis where there are indications that domestic abuse is involved. The outcomes from those audits was that the response was robust and comprehensive.

5.3 Improve the Way in which we Communicate, Engage and Promote Participation with our Communities and Partner Agencies

The Board has a dedicated post to support with communications and engagement. Work during 2019/20 included:

- The development of a new website for the Safeguarding Board
- Launch of a Facebook page
- Safeguarding Week 2019

5.4 Ensure that the Transition to the New Regional Footprint for Safeguarding is Managed Effectively

From 1st April 2019, the Board became responsible for safeguarding in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil. The process of transition required effective planning and management to ensure that the Board and its partner agencies were able to continue to carry out core safeguarding functions during the time of change. Activities included:

- Reviewed governance arrangement
- Alignment of protocols and procedures
- A new Joint Review Group to support the Adult and Child Practice Review process

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 Morgannwg 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 Morgannwg Safeguarding Board website www.ctmsb.co.uk

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. 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

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