



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20th JULY 2021

**CWM TAF MORGANNWG SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL
PLAN 2021/2022**

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO
HOLDERS: COUNCILLOR HOPKINS AND COUNCILLOR LEYSHON**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Cabinet the Annual Plan for 2021/22 for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes and endorses the content of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Annual Plan for 2021/22.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an Annual Plan on 31st March each year, which sets out its priorities for the coming year. This year, due to the COVID pandemic, the deadline for submission to the Welsh Government was extended to the 30th June 2021.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB) is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area. The Board ensures that people of all ages, living in the region, 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 two key safeguarding objectives around protection and prevention underpin the work of the Safeguarding Board and inform the priorities that we have agreed in the Annual Plan for 2021/2022.

5. ANNUAL PLAN 2021/2022

- 5.1 The Board has acknowledged the difficulties and challenges partner agencies have faced over the past year. This year's Annual Plan recognises those challenges and aims to learn the lessons from a year of unprecedented demands on services.

- 5.2 The Plan identifies what the Board will be focusing on during 2021/22, in pursuit of our aim to ensure that the people of Cwm Taf Morgannwg are safeguarded from abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

- 5.3 Members of the Board met in March 2021 to agree the key priority areas that needed to be focussed on in the coming year. This decision was based on a detailed review of the lessons learned by partner agencies over the past year and an analysis of the current and prevalent safeguarding issues affecting the region. These priorities will be carried out alongside and in addition to the Board's core statutory safeguarding functions and are as follows:

5.4 Ensure an Effective Response to the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Board has recognised that as we slowly emerge from this period of challenge, that there are lessons that can be learned for the future, that some work deemed as non-essential at such a critical time should now be re-introduced and that we need to manage the impact that the pandemic has inevitably had on our partner agencies, our staff and the people that we have a responsibility for protecting.

5.5 Strengthen Safeguarding Links to other Partnerships in the Region

The Board wants to improve and strengthen links with other Partnerships to maximise any opportunities to work collaboratively to safeguard children and adults in the region. Good progress has already been made, particularly in relation to the response to Domestic Abuse and Suicide Prevention. This year, the Board will further enhance and build on established links and to extend to other areas of commonality and concern.

5.6 Improve our Approach to Public Protection Concerns

The world of Safeguarding is increasingly crossing over to the realms of Public Protection which has a wider focus on protecting and improving the health, safety and well-being of the general population of the region.

The Board has, over the past few years, ensured that training and awareness raising for staff across all partner agencies has been delivered in relation to areas of concern. This includes criminal exploitation (also known as County Lines), radicalisation and modern slavery. This year, the Board will strengthen its approach to Public Protection concerns by further embedding this into safeguarding practice and Board functions.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 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. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment form has been completed and there is no impact. The document will be available in Welsh.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1 The Annual Plan has been approved by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and shared with the Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board.

- 8.2 A copy of the report has been published on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board website www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to 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.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 A detailed work plan for the Board and its sub groups will sit underneath the Annual Plan. The work plan will include the actions required to achieve the improvements required, who is responsible, timescales and measures of success. The progress of the work plan will be monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis and will form the basis of the Annual Report for 2021/2022.

Other Information:-

Contact Officer; Nikki Kingham

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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