



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CABINET

23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023

### CWM TAF MORGANNWG SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR CAPLE

**Author:** Neil Elliott

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

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present Cabinet with the 2022/23 Annual Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Report.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes and endorses the content of the 2022/23 Annual Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Report, attached at Appendix 1.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure Cabinet is fully aware of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Board's arrangements for safeguarding children and adults at risk and is satisfied that these arrangements are effective.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (Board) is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf, 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.

Rhondda Cynon Taf employs the staff of the Board Business Unit and holds the Board budget, to which the statutory partner agencies contribute.

- 4.3 The 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.
- 4.4 The 2022/23 Annual report, attached at Appendix 1, looks at how the Board has achieved its objectives as set out in its [Annual Plan](#) which was published in March 2022 and what the key achievements were.
- 4.5 The Board has a performance framework in place to capture safeguarding data and monitor performance and data trends. The framework was subject to development in 2022/23, to ensure that it had a more consistent, regional, multi-agency framework and this work will continue into 2023/24. Data reported demonstrated an overall increase in demands in the year, and quality assurance work was undertaken where a greater understanding on the reasons for this were required.
- 4.6 In 2022/23, there was a continued strong focus on developing Cwm Taf Morgannwg's approach to exploitation, both in relation to children and adults at risk and this will continue into 2023/24. The impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis continued to affect services and the community. Through its work in 2022/23, the Board recognised that early intervention and preventative services were crucial in meeting the needs of the people we support and to address the increasing demands on statutory services.
- 4.7 In November 2022, the publication of the Logan Mwangi Child Practice Review highlighted some aspects of safeguarding that needed to be improved. The Board fully accepted the recommendations from the review and have taken actions to address these, on a local, regional and national basis. It is essential that the Board and its partner agencies ensure that they do their utmost to prevent tragic cases like this happening in the future.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio-economic implications arising directly from this report.

## **6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising directly from this report. A Welsh version of the Annual Report will be available on the Board's website.

**7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 The Annual Report has been developed in conjunction with all statutory partners of the Board. It has been approved by the Board and shared with the Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**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, which includes the publication of an Annual Report on the 31<sup>st</sup> July each year.

**10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

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

**11. CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The 2022/23 Annual Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Report, attached at Appendix 1, offers valuable assurance in relation to the arrangements for safeguarding children and adults at risk and provides updates on the progress made in implementing the Board's objectives and priorities.
- 11.2 The Board's 2023/24 Annual Plan was published on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and the priorities within will be reported back to a future Cabinet meeting in 2024.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

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**Background Papers**

None

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