



30 January 2024

Re: Pre-Scrutiny of the Local Authority's arrangements to Safeguard Children and Adults at Risk

Dear Cabinet Members

I have been instructed by this Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the Local Authority's arrangements to Safeguard Children and Adults at Risk

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the arrangements at its meeting on the 29th January 2024. Members undertook a constructive discussion in respect of the proposals. The Members' comments are summarised below.

Reassurance was sought around the Council's Corporate Safeguarding responsibilities in relation to lone working which now extends to office workers, as well as those who worked alone in their day to day role prior to the pandemic and urged that there are no delays to the lone working policy and any training being rolled out to staff.

A Member sought clarity on how the new arrangements will be communicated to schools to ensure they adopt the latest guidance to revise their own policies. The Committee were reassured to hear that arrangements through the Corporate Safeguarding Steering Group ensure that there is clear line of communication with all schools to ensure they receive the necessary guidance and support.

A Member referred to the Forms of Exploitation section in the report and referenced that Hate Crime is listed under this section, which they did not consider is a form of exploitation or a protected characteristic. The Member also added that the protected characteristics were not accurate and recommended that further guidance on this was sought before being adopted.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were grateful for the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the arrangements. A copy of the recording of the meeting can be found [here](#)

Yours sincerely,



Christian Hanagan
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Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council