

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## Introduction of a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covers all the Council's service areas

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposed policy.

### Reasons:

- A corporate Safeguarding Policy will ensure that there is satisfactory governance in place across the Authority in relation to the Safeguarding of Children and Adults.
- To formulate views for submission to the Executive Board/Council for consideration.

### To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board                      28th September 2015  
County Council                      14th October 2015

### Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)
- Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health)

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children	<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Stefan Smith	Head of Children's Services	01267 246530 <a href="mailto:sjsmith@sirgar.gov.uk">sjsmith@sirgar.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Stefan Smith		

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## Introduction of a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covers all the Council's service areas

During the period March to May 2014, the Wales Audit Office completed a review of the assurance and accountability arrangements of Carmarthenshire County Council for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and are being adhered to.

The study examined what the Council itself has done to seek assurance that its arrangements to support safeguarding are effective by reviewing how the Council is discharging its safeguarding responsibilities at all levels: cabinet, senior management team, scrutiny and individual officers.

The study focussed on answering the following: Do the Council's governance and management arrangements provide assurance that children are safeguarded?

The main questions that the review sought to answer were:

- Are there clear governance, accountability and management arrangements for overseeing whether the Council is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
- Is the Council monitoring and evaluating appropriate information, which provides assurance that it is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
- Are assurance systems operating effectively?

The review was specifically in relation to children and overall the findings were that the authority had adequate systems in place. There were however, a series of recommendations. One of these was:

- Develop and introduce a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covers all the Council's service areas.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

**Signed:            Stefan Smith            Head of Children's Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

**Signed:            Stefan Smith            Head of Children's Services**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection