

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
8 MARCH 2024

**AUDIT WALES FOLLOW-UP REVIEW OF CORPORATE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING – CARMARTHENSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the Audit Wales report and the Carmarthenshire County Council response to the recommendations of the report relevant to the Council.

Reasons:

We have a duty to consider regulatory report recommendations and Proposals for Improvement.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services.

Communities & Chief Executive's Department	Designations:	Tel:
Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care	ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Paul Thomas	Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)	PRThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT WALES FOLLOW-UP REVIEW OF CORPORATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING – CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

- In 2015 the Auditor General for Wales published a report into the Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils. That report made eight recommendations, of which seven related directly to councils and one related to Welsh Government. This review focuses on whether the Carmarthenshire County Council has addressed the recommendations in the 2015 national report.
- The review focussed on the Council-wide corporate arrangements for safeguarding. It was not a review of specific safeguarding arrangements in Education or Social Services.
- The report examines progress against the eight recommendations in the 2015 national report on corporate safeguarding.
- In addition, it makes 5 new recommendations arising from the follow up review.

Key finding:

That the Council has not addressed all the recommendations in the 2015 national report on corporate safeguarding and there are weaknesses in its corporate safeguarding oversight and assurance arrangements that need addressing so the Council can assure itself that risk is minimised.

The Council has drafted an action plan in response and several actions have been completed already. These are documented in the attached action plan response.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

1. Audit Wales Report
2. Carmarthenshire County Council response

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: Avril Bracey, Head of Adult Social Services
Paul Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- All regulatory report recommendations are entered onto the Council's performance monitoring system (PIMS) and any reasons for discounting recommendations should be explained and recorded. Progress against recommendations is monitored and reported.
- All regulatory reports are considered by the lead Director, Cabinet Member, Governance and Audit Committee and where appropriate relevant scrutiny committees.
- The role of the Governance and Audit Committee is to review and assess the risk management, internal control, performance management and corporate governance arrangements of the Council, it is expected that the Council's Governance and Audit Committee formally consider all reports of external review bodies – principally; Audit Wales, Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
- As well as actively considering reports, committees are expected to assure themselves that there are arrangements in place to monitor and evaluate progress against any recommendations contained in them. The focus here should be on holding executives and officers to account to ensure that reports and recommendations have been acted upon.
- Some reports may also be relevant for consideration by scrutiny committees.

5. Risk Management Issues

Recommendation 5 in the report makes recommendations on Risk Management.

7. Staffing Implications

Recommendations 2 and 3 in the report:

- R2 - Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers
- R3 - Safeguarding Training

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Avril Bracey, Head of Adult Social Services
 Paul Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	N/A
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Cllr. Jane Tremlett
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information		
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:		
Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
None		