

## REPORT TO CABINET

June 10, 2014

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor R Hywel Wyn Williams

**Eitem:** The Annual Report of the Children and Adults Strategic Safeguarding Panel

**Contact Officer:** Morwena Edwards, Corporate Director.

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### Decision Sought

The Children and Adults Strategic Safeguarding Panel have been implementing the Strategic Safeguarding Policy which was adopted by the Cabinet in March 2013. The attached report outlines the steps that have been taken to realize this policy. The Cabinet's approval is sought for these actions.

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### The opinion of the local member

It is not a local issue

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### Introduction

The Welsh Government's expectation is that all councils will develop a strategy for safeguarding children and adults. The purpose of the strategy will be to satisfy lead members and officers of the Council of staff awareness of safeguarding issues and that they will respond appropriately and effectively to them.

### Reasons for the decision to recommend

The expectation to act strategically in this area.  
The Children and Adults Strategic Safeguarding Panel has put in place corporate and departmental policies; confirm that proper arrangements for DBS are in place for job appointment, arrangements are in place for raising awareness of safeguarding issues among members and staff and that monitoring arrangements are being developed to ensure that staff respond appropriately and effectively to safeguarding issues .

## **Relevant considerations**

The development of the strategy has been inspected recently by Estyn, CSSIW and the Wales Audit Office. A written response by Estyn has been received and they have commended the work that has been undertaken to date but noted the need to develop ways to monitor staff's understanding of the procedures and their implementation. A written response from the Wales Audit Office and CSSIW has yet to be received.

## **Next steps and timetable**

The Children and Adults Strategic Safeguarding Panel will need to formulate its program of action for the year 2014-15 on the basis of the work that has been completed within this year's program and feedback from the regulatory bodies. It's anticipated that it will include the development of monitoring methods following the recommendation of Estyn, confirmation of training programs and ensuring that members and staff attend appropriate awareness raising measures.

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## **Views of the Statutory Officers**

### **The Chief Executive:**

It is very important that the Cabinet satisfies itself on the progress with the work of safeguarding because it was the Cabinet itself who authorized these arrangements. As the report mentions, we have been able to take advantage of external views on these arrangements in recent months and the response received so far suggests that it is moving in the right direction although some work has yet to be completed. Of course, in reality, the TASK of checking and ensuring safeguarding procedures is one that needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis

### **The Monitoring Officer:**

Protection Panel was established by the Cabinet in November 2012 in order to be assured of sound governance arrangements in the field of protection of children and adults. It is important that the Cabinet receives regular reports from the Panel to fulfill its duty to supervise the arrangements. I am satisfied that this report is a means of allowing that to happen

### **The Head of Finance:**

I note that the report being considered deals retrospectively on steps that have been taken to realize the strategic policy Safeguarding Children and Adults, and there will be no additional financial implications if the Cabinet approves these steps. The Strategic Protection Panel's role and relevant work continues, and this is included in the Strategic Plan, but it is possible to operate and deliver as required within existing resources. Therefore, for clarity,

I confirm that there is no request here for resource provision beyond what is already in place

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Attachment:

The Annual Report of the Children and Adults Strategic Safeguarding Panel  
2013-14