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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

21st November, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**JOINT EDUCATION AND LEARNING & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE (SAFEGUARDING)**

A meeting of the Joint Education and Learning & Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) will be held in Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Monday, 2nd December, 2019 at 10.00 am.

Please note that a pre and post meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start and following the conclusion of the meeting for members of the committee.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol
Canolfan Dinesig
Glyn Ebwy
NP23 6XB

a better place to live and work
lle gwell i fyw a gweithio

should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

To consider any declarations of interests and dispensations made.

4. **JOINT EDUCATION & LEARNING AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SAFEGUARDING)** 5 - 12

To receive the Minutes of the Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) held on 15th July, 2019.

(Please note the Minutes are submitted for points of accuracy only)

5. **ACTION SHEET - 15TH JULY 2019** 13 - 18

To receive the action sheet.

6. **EXECUTIVE DECISION SHEET** 19 - 20

To receive the Executive Decision Sheet.

7. **SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION - 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2019** 21 - 46

To consider the report of the Service Manager Children's Services and the Strategic Education Improvement Manager.

8. **ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT - 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2019** 47 - 54

To consider the report of the Head of Adult Services.

9. **QUALITY ASSURING SAFEGUARDING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES (LGES)** 55 - 66

To consider the report of the Strategic Education
Improvement Manager.

To: Councillor S. Thomas (Chair)
Councillor D. Bevan
Councillor M. Cook
Councillor G. A. Davies
Councillor M. Day
Councillor P. Edwards
Councillor L. Elias
Councillor K. Hayden
Councillor W. Hodgins
Councillor J. Holt
Councillor C. Meredith
Councillor J. Millard
Councillor M. Moore
Councillor J. C. Morgan
Councillor J. P. Morgan
Councillor G. Paulsen
Councillor K. Pritchard
Councillor K. Rowson
Councillor T. Sharrem
Councillor T. Smith
Councillor B. Summers
Councillor H. Trollope
T. Baxter
A. Williams

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: **THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT
EDUCATION & LEARNING AND SOCIAL
SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(SAFEGUARDING)**

SUBJECT: **JOINT EDUCATION & LEARNING AND
SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(SAFEGUARDING) – 15TH JULY, 2019**

REPORT OF: **DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR H. TROLLOPE (CHAIR)

Councillors: M. Cook
G. A. Davies
P. Edwards
L. Elias
K. Hayden
J. Millard
J. C. Morgan
K. Pritchard
T. Smith

Co-Opted Member

A. Williams

WITH: Corporate Director of Social Services
Head of Education Transformation
Head of Adults Services
Service Manager, Children's Services
Safeguarding in Education Manager – Children Services
Adults Safeguarding Manager
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer – Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Holt, C. Meredith, G. Paulsen, S. Thomas and B. Summers.</p> <p>Co-opted Member – T. Baxter</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests or dispensations reported.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>JOINT EDUCATION & LEARNING AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SAFEGUARDING)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) Meeting held on 28th January, 2019.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>PROPOSED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) which was presented for Members approval of the Joint Safeguarding Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for 2019/20.</p> <p>The Chair spoke to the report and informed Members that the Forward Work Programme was a fluid document and items could be added if necessary.</p> <p>Members requested that the following items be considered for the FWP:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusions in schools and linking in with CAMHS • Healthy eating in schools 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Member briefing session be arranged on Operation Encompass. <p>The Head of Education Transformation advised Members that in relation to exclusions in schools, it was agreed that commentary would continue to be included in future Education and Social Services Safeguarding Performance reports. A Healthy Schools monitoring report that covers the healthy eating agenda in schools would be presented to a future Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee and could be included as an information item for the Joint Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee. A dedicated briefing session on Operation Encompass would be arranged.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 the Forward Work Programme 2019/20 for the Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) be approved.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2018</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Social Services and Corporate Director of Education which was presented to provide Members with safeguarding performance information and analysis from across the Local Authority.</p> <p><u>Social Services</u></p> <p>The Service Manager, Children's Services spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained in the Social Services information. The Officer reported an amendment to the period of safeguarding information from the Social Services Directorate. The period referred to in the report should read 1st April 2018 – 30th September 2019.</p> <p>In response to a Member's question regarding timescales for initial child protection conferences, the Service Manager, Children's Services clarified the timescales to</p>	

<p>hold initial child protection conferences. A statutory discussion meeting would be held within 24 hours of the referral, with 42 days to complete the assessment. Once the outcome of enquiries was determined then an initial child protection conference must be held within 15 days. Information regarding timescales for holding child protection conferences would be included in future performance reporting.</p> <p><u>Referrals to Social Services</u></p> <p>A Member enquired what groups were included in the category 'Other Agency'. The Service Manager, Children's Services clarified that 151 referrals had been made by 'Other Agency' which included the voluntary sector, libraries, youth provision and other varied sources in the community.</p> <p>The number of referrals from social landlords was low, a mandatory Corporate Policy was in place for housing colleagues, however, refresher training was needed on the categories of abuse to upskill landlords knowledge. Referrals could be made by telephone to the Duty Team.</p> <p>In relation to the thresholds for intervention, the Service Manager, Children's Services said that the numbers of referrals from the start of the year to the end of year had reduced by 210. This evidenced the confidence in the threshold applied to referrals and the levels of intervention provided.</p> <p>A Member enquired regarding the impact on the budget for independent foster carers. The Service Manager, Children's Services said that it was more expensive for the Authority to use independent foster carers and external placements. It was hoped that costly external placements could be re-established back to in-house provision to reduce cost pressures. The Director of Social Services commented that 2/3rd of Children Looked After were placed with in-house foster carers and the numbers of Children Looked After had reduced by 22 over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent had a small pool of foster carers and a raft of recruitment campaigns had been undertaken to</p>	<p>Service Manager, Children's Services</p>
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<p>increase the number of foster carers, i.e. radio broadcasts, leaflet drops and word of mouth. A Member felt that it would be beneficial to hold awareness raising events at supermarkets and street markets to help recruit new foster carers. The Service Manager, Children's Services said that this suggestion would be passed onto the respective team.</p> <p><u>Education Information</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding in Education Manager spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained in the Education Information.</p> <p><u>Operation Encompass</u></p> <p>A Member enquired regarding Operation Encompass. The Service Manager, Children's Services explained that this was a new police initiative its purpose was to address limitations in the early sharing of information between police and schools. It aimed to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware of any domestic abuse incidents a young person may have witnessed at the earliest possible stage to offer relevant and tailored support.</p> <p><u>Exclusions</u></p> <p>A Member referred to exclusions and those pupils who move between schools and requested information on the reasons for such transfers. The Head of Education Transformation said transfer information was produced as part of the Admissions report. This information could be prepared, which would include information on the reasons why pupils transferred between schools for Members information.</p> <p>The Chair commented on the readability of the performance data graphs as they were not printed in colour.</p> <p><u>Elective Home Education</u></p> <p>In response to a Member's query regarding curriculum changes and the number of Elective Home Educated</p>	<p>Head of Education Transformation</p>
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(EHE) pupils, the Corporate Director of Social Services said that it was difficult to predict if future numbers would increase. Safeguarding for home educated pupils was challenging as only one home visit per year was allowed by current national legislation. A letter requesting a review of the current policy had been forwarded to the Welsh Government but no announcement to revise the policy had yet been made.

In relation to the number of referrals per child, the Service Manager, Children's Services said that there was no set number but the IAA would look at the history and circumstances around the referral. The IAA could now provide feedback to the referrer. It was noted that the referrer could appeal against the decision.

Persistent Absenteeism

In relation to Persistent Absenteeism the Safeguarding in Education Manager said that the number of Persistent Absenteeism remained higher than last year except for pupils in yearly years, however, the numbers of Persistent Absenteeism in all phases had decreased since February 2019. The statistical information gathered included authorised and unauthorised absences including illness, medical appointments, exclusions and holidays taken during term time. Members felt that medical appointments and bereavements should be classified as authorised.

A Member enquired if there was a link to fines and children moving between schools to avoid fines for poor attendance and enquired if this would affect Key Stage 4 figures. The Head of Education Transformation said that the transfer of pupils at KS4 was monitored closely, particularly to minimise any impact on learner examination preparations.

The Committee AGREED to recommend, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 2 be endorsed, namely that the information provided and comments to improve the current monitoring processes be made.

<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>ADULTS ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2018-19</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Adults Service Manager for Development, Commissioning and Safeguarding and Sarah Jones, Adults Safeguarding Manager which was presented to provide Members with the Safeguarding Performance information relating to Adults Services from 1st April 2018 to the 31st March 2019.</p> <p>The Service Manager spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein.</p> <p>In response to a Member's question regarding the sources of referrals and the number of criminal prosecutions, the Head of Adult Services said that referrals were received from a variety of sources including a low number from the Leisure Trust, but the majority of referrals were submitted from commissioned and in-house provider agencies with referrals made by staff working with the local Authority noted as the second highest source of referrer. With regard to the number of prosecutions, the Officer would undertake to check how many of the 6 criminal investigations had led to a prosecution and report back to the Scrutiny Committee in due course. This information would also be included in future Adult Performance reports.</p> <p>In relation to referrals under the financial abuse category, it was confirmed that the Local Safeguarding Team work in collaboration with the Police and Trading Standards when investigating concerns reported. With regard to digital 'scams', the Safeguarding Lead confirmed that mechanisms were in place to ensure vulnerable people had access to digital inclusion support.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the information contained within the Adults Annual Safeguarding Report 2018/19 was considered and noted and the report be presented for consideration at Executive and Council.</p>	<p>Head of Adult Services</p>
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<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>EDUCATION DIRECTORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Education which was presented to provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the Education Directorate Safeguarding Policy following its annual review.</p> <p>The Safeguarding in Education Manager spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed; namely to accept the draft policy as presented in Appendix 1.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the commencement times of future Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) Meetings.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that future Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) meetings be held on a Monday at 10.00 a.m.</p>	

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Joint Education and Learning and Social Services (Safeguarding) Scrutiny Committee – Monday 15th July 2019

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
5	<p><u>Proposed Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2019/20</u></p> <p>Members requested information on the following areas to be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional behaviour in schools and linking in with CAMHS; • Nutrition in Schools; • Member briefing session to be arranged on Operation Encompass 	<p>Sarah Dixon / Alison Ramshaw</p> <p>Shan Palmeria / Scrutiny and Democratic Officer</p> <p>Lynette Jones / Damien McCann / Democratic Support Officer</p>	<p>A brief commentary to be included in future Education and Social Services Safeguarding Performance report.</p> <p>A report that is to be presented to a future Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee – to be included as an information item for the Joint Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Member Briefing Session arranged for Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 10.00am.</p>
6	<p><u>Safeguarding Performance Information for Social Services and Education</u></p> <p>Fig 2.7: A Member sought clarification on the timescales for initial Child Protection conferences.</p>	<p>Alison Ramshaw</p>	<p>Information provided at meeting and to also be included in future performance reporting.</p>

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	Fig 4.2: A Member referred to exclusions and those pupils who move between schools and requested information on the reasons for moves.	Lynn Phillips	Admissions information to be shared with Members on reasons why pupils change schools for information only. (Information attached)
7	<p><u>Adults Annual Safeguarding Report 2018-2019</u></p> <p>A member queried how many referrals led to a prosecution.</p>	Alyson Hoskins Sarah Jones	<p>There were no referrals that led to criminal prosecutions, as there was not enough evidence to support criminal proceedings.</p> <p>This information to be included in future Adult Performance reporting.</p>
Post Evaluation Meeting	Member Briefing session to be arranged in relation to the Connect Gwent project.	Democratic Support Officer	Member Briefing Session arranged for Thursday 17 th October 2019 at 2.00pm.

In-Year Transfers into Blaenau Gwent for May 2019 Primary

TRANSFER FROM

TRANSFERING TO

	All Saints RC	Beaufort Hill Primary	Blaenycwm Primary	Bryngwyn Primary	Brynbach Primary	Coed y Garn Primary	Cwm Primary	Deighton Primary		Ebbw Fawr LC PP	Georgetown Primary	Glanhowy Primary	Glyncoed Primary	Queen Street Primary	Roseheyworth Primary	Rhos y fedwen Primary	St Illtyds Primary	Sofrydd Primary	St Marys CIW	St Mary RC
All Saints RC																				
Beaufort Hill Primary																				
Blaenycwm Primary																				
Bryngwyn Primary																				
Brynbach Primary																				
Coed y Garn Primary																				
Cwm Primary																				
Deighton Primary																1				
Ebbw Fawr LC PP																				
Georgetown Primary																				1
Glanhowy Primary																				
Glyncoed Primary																1				
Queen Street Primary																				
Rhos y fedwen Primary																				
Roseheyworth Primary																				
St Illtyds Primary																				
Sofrydd Primary																				
St Marys CIW																				
St Marys RC																				
St Josephs RC					2															
Tillery Street																				
Willowtown Primary									1											
Ystruth Primary																				
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg																	2			
Home Schooled																				
The River Centre 3-16																				
Out of Borough/ Unknown						1				2	1				1			1		
Late applications 2018/19																				
	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0		1	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	1

Analysis Reasons for Primary In-Year Transfers May 2019

All Saints RC																	0
Beaufort Hill Primary																	0
Blaenycwm Primary																	0
Bryngwyn Primary																	0
Brynbach Primary																	0
Coed y Garn Primary																	0
Cwm Primary																	0
Deighton Primary			1														1
Ebbw Fawr LC PP																	0
Georgetown Primary																	0
Glanhowy Primary			1														1
Glyncoed Primary														1			1
Queen Street Primary																	0
Rhosyfedwen Primary																	0
Roseheyworth Primary																	0
St Illtyds Primary																	0
Sofrydd Primary																	0
St Marys CIW																	0
St Marys RC																	0
St Josephs RC											2						2
Tillery Street																	0
Willowtown Primary						1											1
Ystruth Primary																	0
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg												2					2
Home Schooled																	0
The River Centre 3-16																	0
Out of Borough/ Unknown			4	2										1			7
Late applications 2018/19																	0
	No Reason Provided	Late application	Moving	Moving from abroad	Travellers	Distance/ Transport	Language	Pupil unsettled at	LAC	Bullying	Personal Reasons	Issues with School	ALN	Domestic Abuse	Social Group	Behaviour problems	15
	0	0	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	

In-Year Transfers into Blaenau Gwent for May 2019 Secondary

		TRANSFERING TO						
		Abertillery Comprehensive	Brynmawr Foundation	Ebbw Fawr LC SP	Tredeggar Comprehensive	Home Schooled	Out of Borough/Unknown	
TRANSFERING FROM	Abertillery Comprehensive							0
	Brynmawr Foundation							0
	Ebbw Fawr LC SP		1					1
	Tredeggar Comprehensive							0
	Home Schooled				2			2
	The River Centre 3-16							0
	Out of Borough/ Unknown	1		2	4			7
	Late applications 2018/19							0
		1	1	2	6	0	0	10

Analysis Reasons for Secondary May 2019

TRANSFERRING FROM

Abertillery Comprehensive																	0	
Brynmaur Foundation																	0	
Ebbw Fawr LC SP	1																1	
Tredeggar Comprehensive																	0	
Home Schooled	1										1						2	
The River Centre 3-16																	0	
Out of Borough/ Unknown			2							2					2	1	7	
Late applications 2018/19																	0	
	No Reason Provided	Late Applications	Moving	Moving from abroad	Travellers	Distance/ Transport	Language Issues	Pupil unsettled at school	LAC		Bullying	Personal Reasons	Issues with School	Issues with ALN	Domestic Abuse	Social Groups	Behavioural problems	10
	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	1	0	0	2	1	0	

Report to: **Joint Education and Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee – 21st October 2019**

Subject: **Executive Decision Sheet**

Item	Scrutiny Committee Recommendation	Executive Decision	Recommendation			Executive Member invited to attend if recommendation accepted in part or rejected
			Approved	Accepted in Part	Rejected	
Executive Meeting – 26 th September 2019 Education Directorate Safeguarding Policy	The Committee recommended Option 2, that the information provided and comments to improve the current monitoring processes be made.	RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Education Directorate Safeguarding Policy be approved prior to distribution to schools.	Scrutiny recommendation accepted.			No further action
Executive Meeting – 26 th September 2019 Safeguarding Performance Information for Social Services and Education – April to September 2018	The Committee recommended Option 2, that the information provided and comments to improve the current monitoring processes be made.	RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.	Scrutiny recommendation accepted.			No further action
Executive Meeting – 26 th September 2019 Adults Annual Safeguarding Report 2018-2019	The Committee recommended Option 1, that the information contained with the report was considered and noted and the report be presented for consideration at Executive.	RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.	Scrutiny recommendation accepted.			No further action

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Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: Joint Social Services & Education and Learning
(Safeguarding) Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 2nd December 2019

Report Subject: Safeguarding Performance Information for Social Services and Education – 1st April to 30th June 2019

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Mason, Executive Member Social Services
Cllr Clive Meredith, Executive Member Education

Report Submitted by: Alison Ramshaw, Service Manager, Children's Services and Michelle Jones, Strategic Education Improvement Manager

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
30/09/19	01/10/19	Oct 19			02.12.19	18.12.19		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide scrutiny members with safeguarding performance information from the Council with a focus on analysis from Children's Social Services and Education from 1st April 2019 to the 30th June 2019. Monitoring and reporting systems are well developed to ensure the department is able to track information and evidences that the safeguarding agenda remains a priority for the Local Authority.
- 1.2 The information provided will enable members to identify safeguarding trends and areas within the Authority that require further development to improve safeguarding practice in order to meet the safeguarding needs of children and young people within Blaenau Gwent.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report contains safeguarding information from the Council in particular from Social Services from 1st April 2019 – 30th June 2019, and Education information from 29th April 2019 – 24th July 2019
- 2.2 This report is written in order to provide a greater focus on the safeguarding agenda. The Corporate Leadership Team and Elected Members agreed for safeguarding information to be reported to a Joint Social Services /Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee after each school term.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 Having scrutinised the information members can:

Option1

Accept the approach and information detailed in the report provided.

Option 2

Consider the information provided and provide comments on where improvement can be made to the current monitoring processes.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

The Safeguarding agenda is considered as part of the Council's Corporate Strategies that includes:

- Corporate Plan;
- Corporate Risk Register;
- Safe Reduction of Children Looked After Strategy.

Social Services work to a number of regional and national safeguarding procedures which can be located on the South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board website: <http://sewsc.org.uk>

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

Q1 has seen a rise in the numbers of children on the child protection register, from 56 in Q4 to 70 in Q1, however whilst this number accounts for the numbers of children on the child protection register, the numbers of families has only risen by 3. (56 children to 33 families in Q4, 70 children to 36 families in Q1). Whilst the numbers of children who have needed to be accommodated has also risen slightly, the numbers of court applications continues to be stable which is having a positive impact on the budget.

The Safeguarding Manager has successfully completed an induction and the Safeguarding Team is now running at full staffing capacity which is also having a positive impact on the safeguarding budget as the department no longer requires the services of independent chairs.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The Directorate Risk register identifies the highest risks for the Social Services Department. These are monitored as part of the quarterly report of the Director of Social Services.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data (see Appendix 1)

6.2 Social Services

6.2.1 Referrals to Social Services

Figure 1:1 Shows the number of referrals made to Social Services from April 2019 – June 2019. The chart demonstrates a slight dip in referrals during Q1 (1,091) from Q4 (1,283). The drop in referrals may be an indication that the work currently being undertaken with partner agencies regarding thresholds /assessments of risk and the availability of preventative services is having a positive impact on Children's Services.

Figure 1.2: Shows the source of the referrals as previous quarters, police remained the highest referring agency (31%) followed by education (17%) closely followed by Health (14%).

Figure 1.3: shows the numbers of referrals received into the department on open cases, which were 806. This is a slight increase on Q4's data.

6.2.2 Youth Services

Figure 1.4: Shows the numbers of youth service referrals during Q1 (18) this figure shows that double the amount of referrals were received in this quarter compared to that of Q4 (9).

The youth service is an active partner on the Space Wellbeing Panel, they sit on the Steering Group as part of the Families First model and they actively participate in the South East Wales Safeguarding Local Network meetings. Multi agency working and close partnership arrangements with the youth service ensure that safeguarding is prioritised.

6.2.3 Child Protection

Figure 2.1: Gives the number of children (and families) on the child protection register (CPR). The summary of registrations and deregistration is given in figure 2.2. The total of 70 children to 36 families in Q1 evidences a slight rise in numbers however this number is following an overall trend as the numbers in previous quarters demonstrate consistency (see below):

74 in Q1
77 in Q2
75 in Q3
56 in Q4
70 in Q1 (2019)

Figure 2.3: shows the categories of abuse, it is usual to see neglect and emotional abuse being the largest form of categorisation within Blaenau Gwent and Q1 shows no exception to this trend.

The age profile and gender of the children on the CPR is shown in **Figure 2.4**: The graph shows that there is no difference regarding the numbers, with an equal split (35 females/35 males) with boys and girls aged 5 – 9 years being the slightly largest cohort. However the difference in boys to girls is minimal across the age ranges.

The average time a child is on the CPR is shown in **Figure 2.5**. The Social Services Senior Management Team review all those children on the CPR for 12 months or longer on a regular basis to ensure plans are appropriate and there is no drift.

Figure 2.6: gives the breakdown on both initial and review conferences. They show the numbers of conferences held the number of families involved and the outcomes in terms of registered or not.

The numbers of initial conferences increased during Q1 (30) with 26 children being registered (16 families) and 14 children were registered (1 at birth) 3 not registered.

36 review conferences were held, 19 children continued registration and 17 children who ceased registration.

Figure 2.7: shows the number of initial conferences held within timescales (15 working days). There has been consistent practice in this area throughout the 12 month reporting period, with 100% of conferences held within timescales.

Figure 2.8: relates to review conferences and the graph shows 100% performance which is excellent.

6.3 **Education Information**

6.3.1 **Overview**

Blaenau Gwent Council and Education Directorate is committed to ensuring that Safeguarding in Education processes are robust, fit for purpose and are being consistently applied. Through this report Scrutiny Members are provided with greater clarity on the extensive work that is undertaken in ensuring that safeguarding arrangements give no cause for concern and fulfil the requirements as set out in the Estyn framework for Local Government Education Services (LGS), and as such the structure of this report is kept under review.

6.3.2 **Bullying Incidents and Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPI)**

There have been processes developed between Education and the Youth Offending Service to tackle anti-social behaviour in schools and a draft policy is in the process of being adopted to look at parenting contracts and parents.

6.3.3 **Numbers of restrictive physical interventions**

Systems are in place within the Local Authority to gather incidents when Restrictive Physical Interventions (*Figure 4.1*) are used in school to manage pupils' behaviour. Following each incident the school is required to record the incident in a Bound and Numbered book and complete an incident form. The incident form is sent to the Local Authority Education Directorate where it is recorded on a central recording system.

Figure 4.1: number of RPIs used in school during the summer term.

In the last report, it was noted that not all schools had submitted their information for the previous period. This information has now been submitted and shows the numbers of RPIs as follows:

Autumn term – 82

Spring term – 45

Summer term - 34

From the data, it can be seen that the number of RPIs has decreased as the school year has progressed.

Regular monitoring of incident forms is undertaken by the Safeguarding in Education Manager to ensure the use of physical intervention is appropriate. A small group of pupils account for a large number of the incidents. There has been an increase in the level of complexity which is a contributory factor in terms of RPI. Whilst the figures have reduced as the year has progressed, a focus is needed to this area to ensure any learning is gained and applied.

6.3.4 **Numbers of bullying incidents reported which have led to exclusions**

Bullying has been identified by children and young people as a significant issue they face. An anti-bullying strategy has been developed by the Education Department.

Figure 4.2 shows that between April and June there was one exclusion from school where bullying was recorded as the primary reason for the exclusion. This is an increase on the same period last year when there were no recorded incidents. There were two further exclusions where bullying was recorded as a third reason for the exclusion. This is a decrease on the previous period where there were 3 such recorded instances.

It should be noted that due to the small numbers recorded we need to be cautious about drawing trend conclusions.

6.3.5 **Quality Assurance Visits**

The Education Directorate has developed a quality assurance process across Local Government Education settings (LGES) which has been in place since September 2017. As such, quality assurance visits to Local

Government Education Settings (LGSES) include pupil and staff voice through pupil and staff discussions, scrutiny of training, policy, safe recruitment practice, and record-keeping of concerns. A “dip test of activity” Activity is undertaken by the Safeguarding in Education Manager to test the robustness of the safeguarding systems and to ascertain a level of assurance. Over a two year time period, this process has been applied to Schools, Early Years settings, the Youth Service, Leisure Trust, Home to School Transport, Catering and Organisational Development.

Figure 4.3: Since the Quality Assurance protocol was introduced in 2017, 20 visits out of a possible 30 (67%) have been completed under this process (Figure 4.3). There have been no significant safeguarding issues identified and visits have provided reassurance that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place in schools and other education services. This protocol has been updated for the next two years and is cognisant of emerging learning.

6.3.6 **Estyn Judgements**

Scrutiny members will be aware of the Estyn framework for schools which changed in 2017 and that Inspection area 4 covers the safeguarding element. In arriving at a judgement for this Inspection area within 4.3 Inspectors will consider whether the schools safeguarding arrangements are effective and give no cause for concerns. In coming to a judgment Inspectors will consider a multitude of evidence such as:

- whether the schools safeguarding arrangements protect all children
- the arrangements for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers
- how well the school promotes safe practices and a culture of safety
- whether the school complies with statutory guidance in discharging its safeguarding functions
- the arrangements of the management of bullying, harassment and discrimination reporting of physical interventions
- how well the school keeps pupil safe from radicalisation
- arrangements for the provision of pupils educated off site and;
- The health and safety of the school buildings and site.

Figure 4.4: provides an overview of the Estyn judgements for schools inspected under the new arrangements from September 2017 up until July 2019. During quarter 2 there were no full Estyn inspections carried out and as a result the data remains unchanged to the previous quarter 1 report.

6.3.7 **Operation Encompass**

Figure 4.5: shows the number of domestic abuse incidents reported during the period 29th April to 19th July 2019. During the period there were 141 occurrences involving 245 children. When further analysed it is noted that the majority of the children (157 63%) affected are of primary school age.

On an individual pupil level :

- 2 children had 6 reported incidents during the period
- 5 children had 4 reported incidents during the period
- 6 children had 3 reported incidents during the period
- 27 children had 2 reported incidents during the period
- Of the cases reported during the period:
 - No cases were high risk
 - 54 cases were medium risk
 - 191 cases were standard risk

Risk is assessed on a case by case basis by a professional against a risk tool known as the Dash checklist. The purpose of the Dash risk checklist provides a consistent and simple tool for practitioners who work with adult victims of domestic abuse in order to help them identify those who are at high risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a Marac meeting in order to manage their risk.

6.3.8 **Compliance Reporting**

The Police compliance target for recording the school name on the PPN is 90%. However, at the end of the Q2 period the compliance rating although still below target had improved from 55% to 72.7%.

Members will be aware that this initiative is a pilot and the evaluation of this is still ongoing at this stage. A member briefing session has also been arranged for later this term.

6.3.9 **Elected Home Educated (EHE):**

Elective home education (EHE) is when parents decide to provide home based education for their child rather than sending them to school. Home educated children are therefore not registered at mainstream or special schools.

Figure 4.6: The total number of children electively home educated as of 31st July 2019 was 88. At the same point in 2018 the number was 80.

Figure 4.7: sets out the number of secondary age pupils who have become EHE or who have returned to school from being EHE during the Autumn Spring and Summer term. This is a decrease of 8 pupils coming out of school when compared to the data for last year.

Figure 4.8: sets out the number of additional pupils who have become EHE or who have returned to school from being EHE during the Autumn, Spring and summer term. Again this is a downward trend with the numbers lower than last year.

Figure 4.9: provides a breakdown by year group of EHE pupils. The numbers of pupils in KS4 is the highest which is similar to the pattern across Wales.

Members should note that there are appropriate processes in place to monitor elective home education with formal visits held to check on the suitability of education. However, whilst the number of EHE pupils overall has seen a small increase the work carried out in the last academic year has ensured the rate of rise has been positively impacted.

7.1 Expected outcome for the public

Those children who are assessed to be at risk of harm are protected and safeguarded, and that the Local Authority adheres to legislation regarding statutory intervention.

7.2 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

The development of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the Departmental Safeguarding Leads meetings which are due to be reconvened help ensure all departments within the Authority are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and are kept updated with any emerging issues or trends within safeguarding.

Termly meetings also take place with the Safeguarding Leads from all the schools and monthly meetings take place between the safeguarding team and lead education staff.

The SEWSCB local Safeguarding Network group also reviews the safeguarding information to ensure all partner agencies are as fully aware as possible.

7.3 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

The Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF) enables Social Services to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where the Council is currently and where it needs to be in the future.

7.4 Preventative focus

The work undertaken by the Social Services Directorate looks to promote a preventative approach to practice through early identification and intervention. Having a proactive rather than reactive approach to service planning can also help with planning resources.

Providing this report and the level of detailed safeguarding information to Scrutiny Committee enables members to ensure risks are identified and acted on.

7.5 Collaboration / partnership working

The South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board and its sub groups ensure a multi-agency collaborative approach to safeguarding. Blaenau Gwent fully participates in the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards.

Additionally the Corporate Safeguarding Policy ensures each department has safeguarding leads and these meet together on a quarterly basis looking at safeguarding across the whole Authority. The Leisure Trust lead also

participates in this meeting.

Throughout Q1 partnership working with the police continues to progress through the Early Action Together programme. The Detective Sergeant (DS) has been in post and is making positive contributions to the safeguarding process. Strategy Discussions are now being held in a timely manner (within 24hours) and information relevant to safeguarding decision making happens in a much more efficient manner.

Regarding the quality assurance element to the DS role, it has been reported through the Early Action Together steering group meetings that the police are feeling better supported in the completion of the PPN's and this has been evidenced with the Information Advice and Assistance service as the quality of information in the PPN's is much improved.

7.6. Integration (across service areas)

All local authorities and partner agencies work together on safeguarding through the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board and Gwent wide Adult Safeguarding Board.

8 EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed) N/A

8.1 Monitoring Arrangements

The Local Safeguarding Network Group is a sub group of the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board and Gwent wide Adult Safeguarding Board. This group is made up of multi-agency representation from within Blaenau Gwent who monitors and reviews the safeguarding information and performance. This group has direct links with the Youth Forum to ensure the voice of the child is fully considered and heard on safeguarding issues.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Performance Report*

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Safeguarding Performance Report

Social Services

1st April 2019 to
30th June 2019

Education

29th April 2019 to
24th July 2019



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide safeguarding information that is recorded by Social Services and Education.

Monitoring and reporting systems are well-developed to ensure the department is able to track information and evidences that the safeguarding agenda remains a priority for the Local Authority.

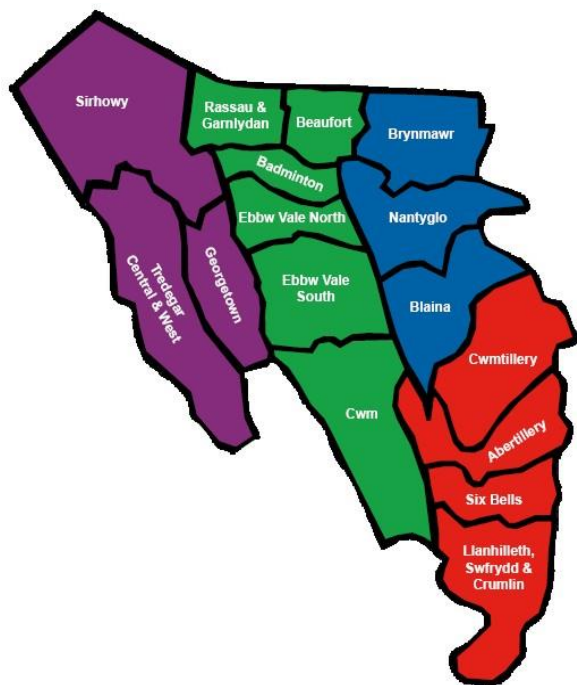
Performance information is collated from Social Services and Education information systems which identifies activity, demands and trends of data. This includes a number of items that are statutory requirements as part of the Welsh Government Performance Framework.

The report includes information on the following:

- Referrals received and their outcomes
- Children who are being safeguarded and analysis
- Quality assurance arrangements with education settings
- Broader issues within education that impact upon safeguarding

This report will be shared with Senior Management Teams within Social Services and Education and presented to the Joint Social Services and Education and Learning (Safeguarding) Scrutiny Committee.

Community Profile



- 47% of Blaenau Gwent's local areas are amongst the top 20% deprived areas in Wales. (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014)
- The proportion of benefit claimants amongst people of working age was higher in Blaenau Gwent than the proportion across the comparable authorities (working-age client group – key benefit claimants August 2014 - 23.2% in Blaenau Gwent compared to all Wales level of 16.4%)

- The total rate of Blaenau Gwent's recorded offence levels was higher than comparative areas. For the year ending December 2014 Police recorded crimes - 76.89 crimes per thousand population in Blaenau Gwent compared to its most similar group of areas average (as defined by the Home Office) of 69.03 per thousand population.
- Total Population: 69,713 Number of 0 – 17 year olds: **13,607** (2018 Population Estimates)
- Number of Open cases to Children's Social Services as at 30th June 2019: **971**
- Number of pupils attending primary schools: **5,849**
- Number of pupils attending secondary schools: **2,962**

01 | Referrals to Social Services

Fig: 1.1 Number of referrals received by Social Services

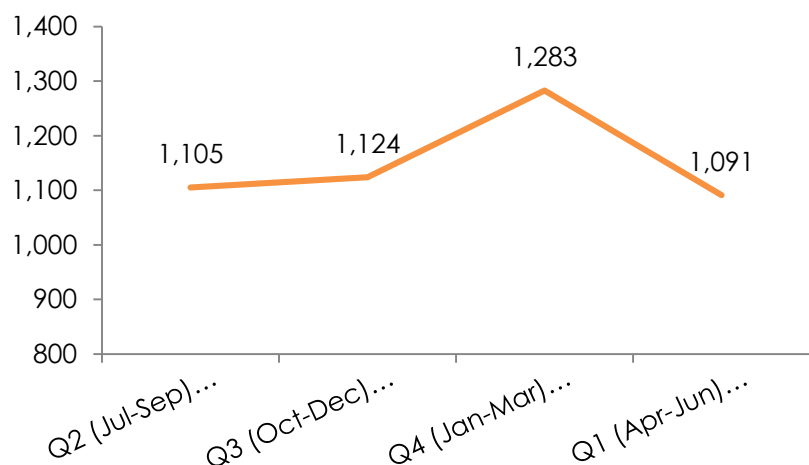
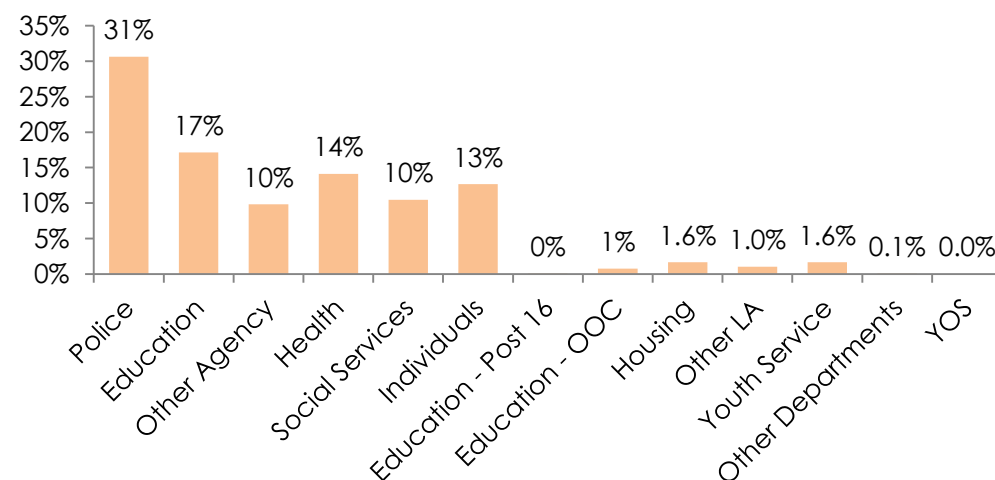


Fig: 1.2 Number and Percentage of Referrals by Source (Q1)

	No.	%
Education	187	17%
Education - Post 16	1	0%
Education OOC	8	1%
Health	154	14%
Housing	18	2%
Individuals	138	13%
Other Agency	107	10%
Other Departments	1	0%
Other LA	11	1%
Police	334	31%
Social Services	114	10%
Youth Service	18	2%
YOS	0	-
Total	1,091	100%

Graph showing the source of referrals and the percentage



01 | Referrals to Social Services

Fig: 1.3 Multi-agency referral forms (MARF's) received on open cases

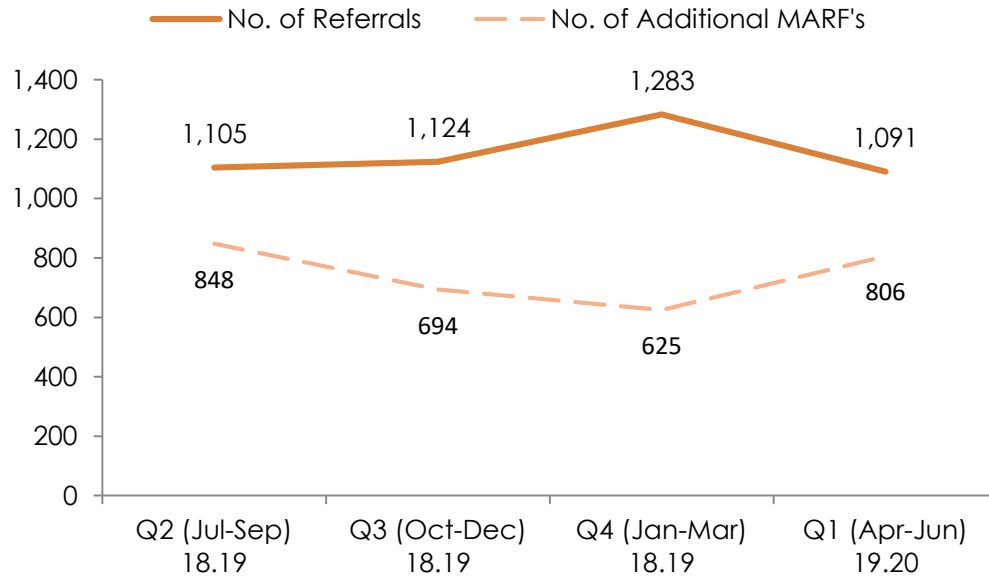


Fig: 1.4 Referrals received from Youth Services

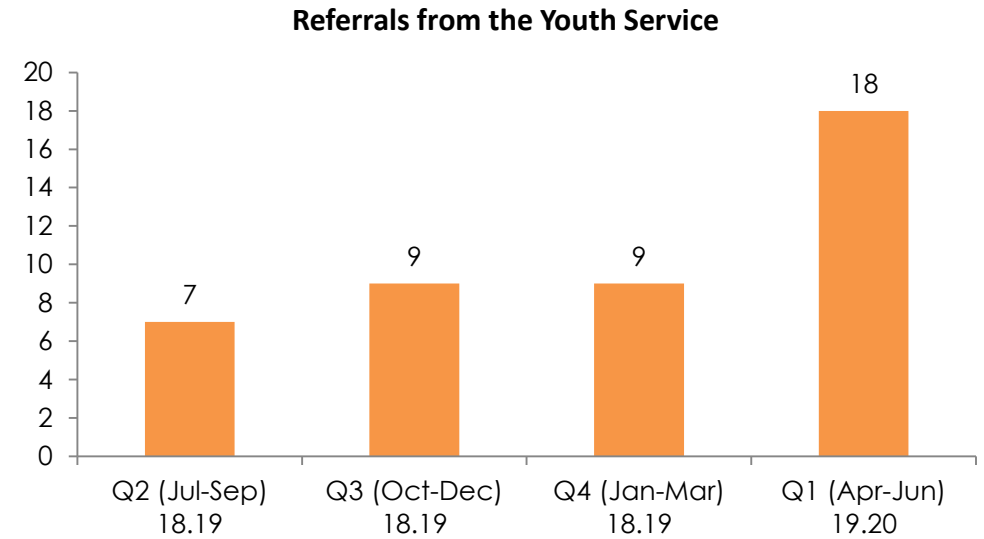


Fig 2.1 Children on the Child Protection Register

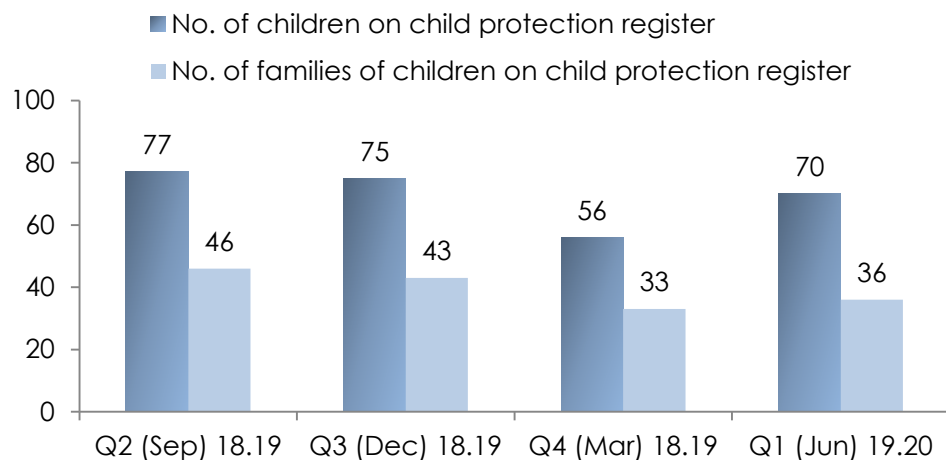


Fig 2.3 Categories of abuse

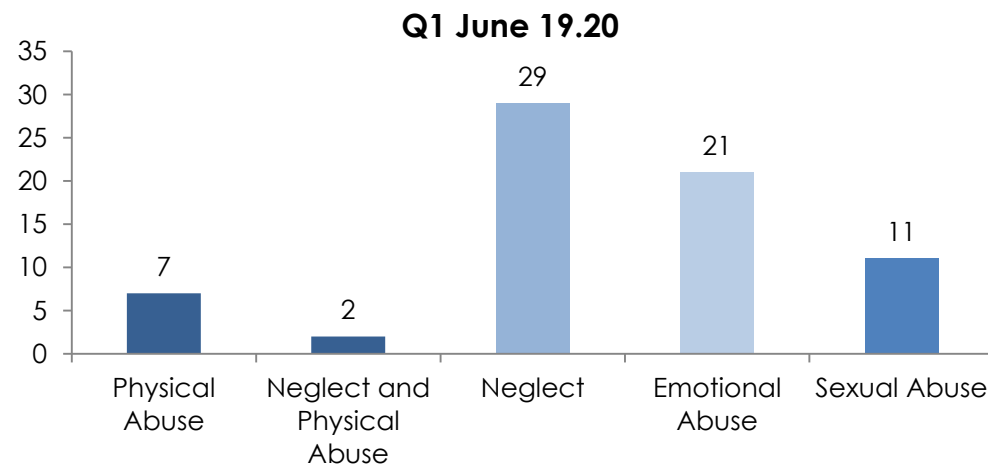


Fig 2.2 Child Protection Register Summary

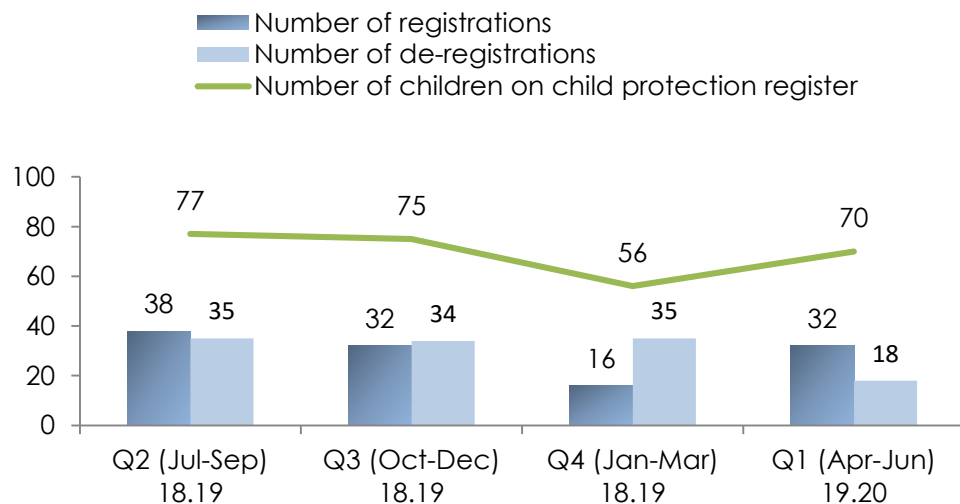


Fig 2.4 Age Breakdown of children on child protection register

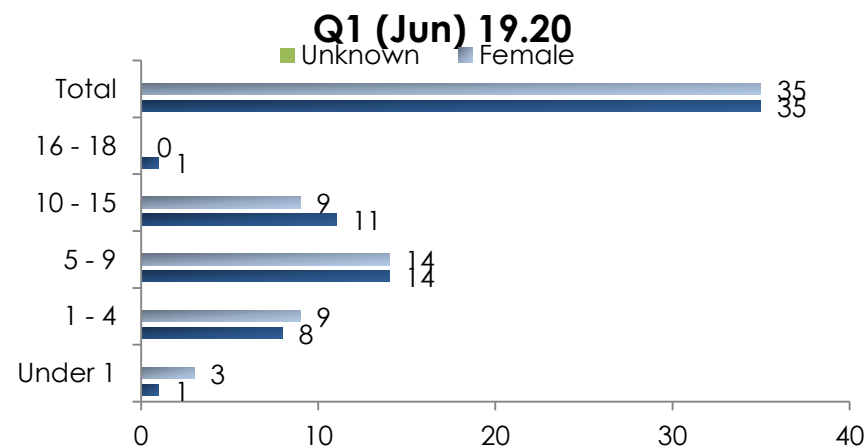


Fig 2.5 Average length of time on register

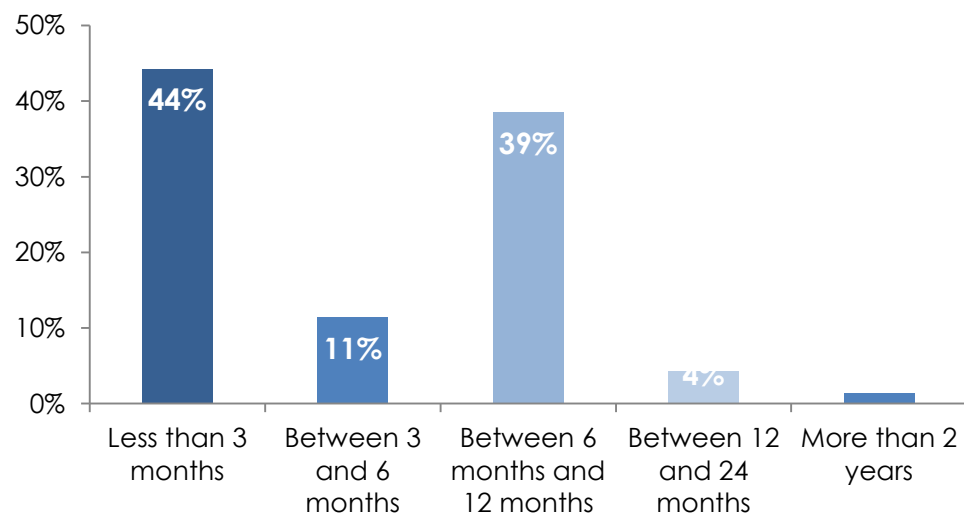


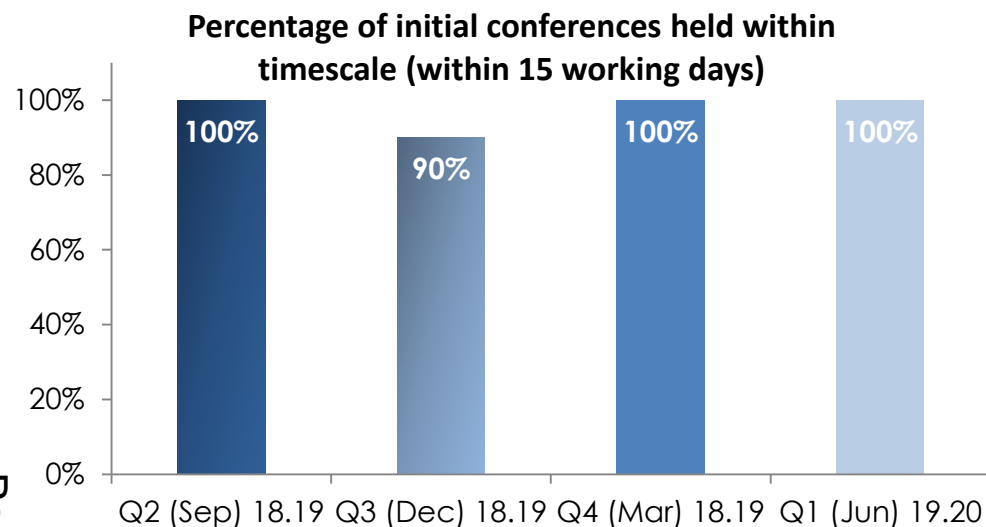
Table showing the breakdown of children on the child protection register over the last 12 months

	Q2 (Sep) 18.19	Q3 (Dec) 18.19	Q4 (Mar) 18.19	Q1 (Jun) 19.20
Less than 3 months	36	31	15	31
Between 3 and 6 months	13	24	25	8
Between 6 months and 12 months	22	18	15	27
Between 12 and 24 months	6	2	1	3
More than 2 years	0	0	0	1
	77	75	56	70

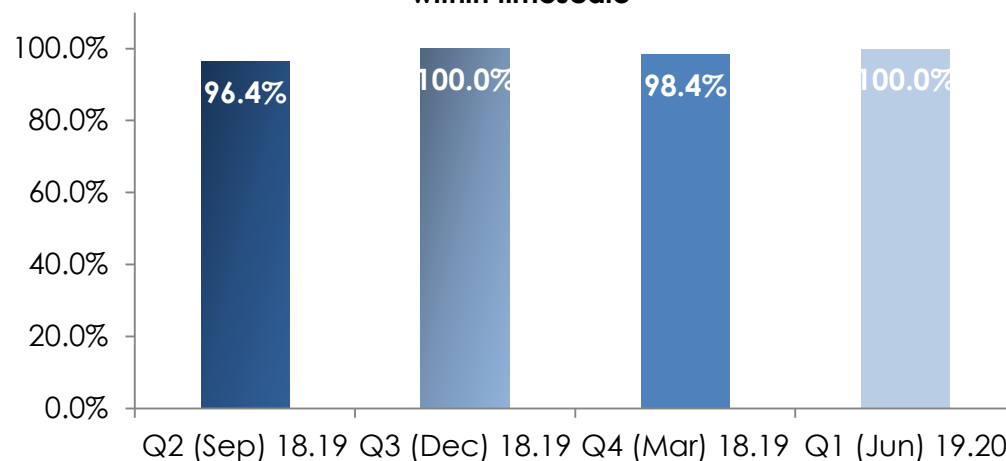
Fig 2.6: Child Protection Conferences

		Q2 (Sep) 18.19		Q3 (Dec) 18.19		Q4 (Mar) 18.19		Q1 (Jun) 19.20	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conferences Held		92		104		83		66	
Initial Conferences		36	39%	40	38%	20	24%	30	45%
No. of Families		21		22		14		16	
Review Conferences		56	61%	64	62%	63	76%	36	55%
No. of Families		21		41		38		23	
Initial Child Protection Conferences		36		40		20		30	
Outcome:									
Registered		30	83%	26	65%	14	70%	26	87%
Registered at birth		3	8%	6	15%	3	15%	1	3%
Not registered		3	8%	8	20%	3	15%	3	10%
Review Child Protection Conferences		56		64		63		36	
Outcome:									
Continue with registration		25	45%	32	50%	30	48%	19	53%
Cease registration		31	55%	32	50%	33	52%	17	47%

Fig 2.7 Initial Child Protection Conferences



Percentage of child protection review conferences held within timescale



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Fig: 2.8 Child Protection Review Conferences

	Q2 (Sep) 18.19	Q3 (Dec) 18.19	Q4 (Mar) 18.19	Q1 (Jun) 19.20
Number of initial conferences held	36	40	20	30
Number of initial conferences held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion	36	36	20	30
Percentage of initial conferences held within timescale	100%	90%	100%	100%

	Q2 (Sep) 18.19	Q3 (Dec) 18.19	Q4 (Mar) 18.19	Q1 (Jun) 19.20
Number of Review Child Protection Conferences held	56	64	63	36
Number of Review Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	54	64	62	36
Percentage of Review Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	96.4%	100.0%	98.4%	100.0%

03 | Referrals to Education

Fig 3.1 Contacts by Source – Primary School

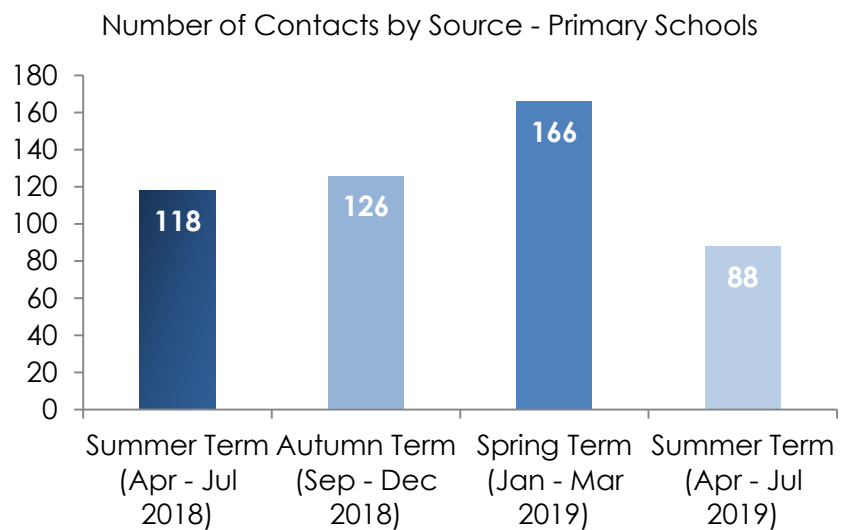


Fig 3.2 Contacts by Source – Secondary School

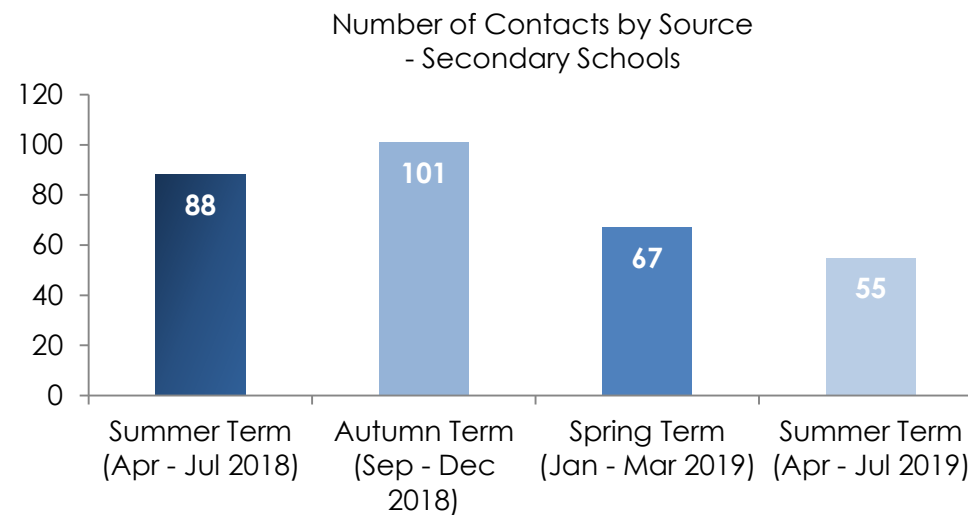


Fig: 4.1 RPI Incidents

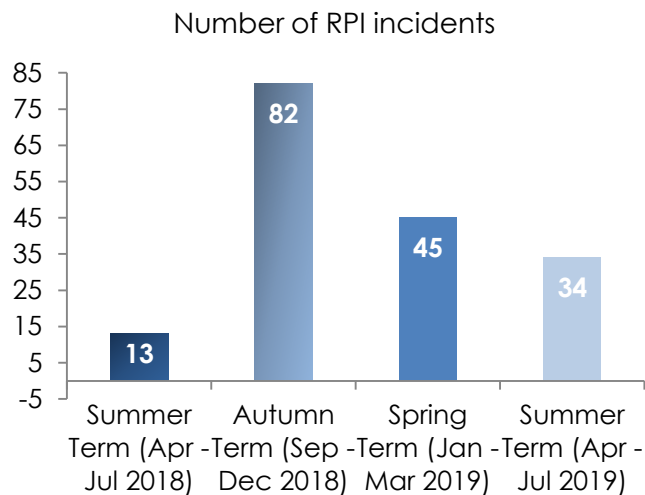


Fig 4.3 Quality Assurance Visits

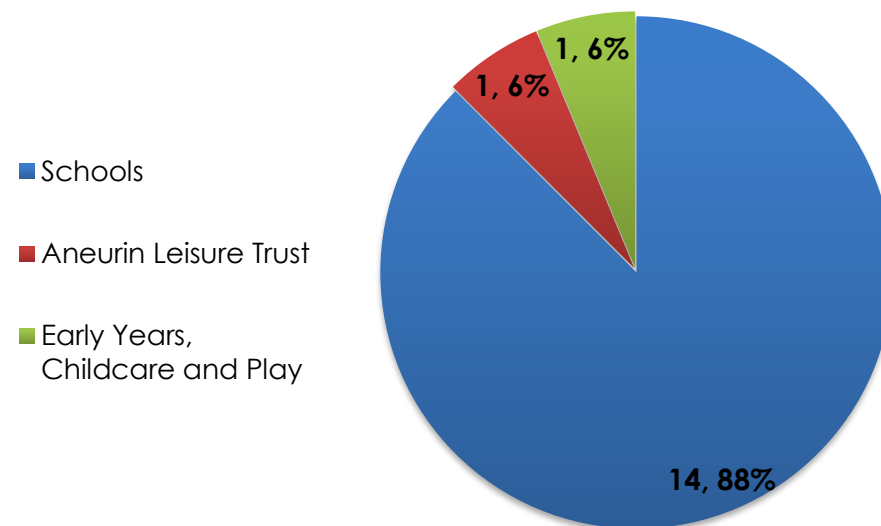
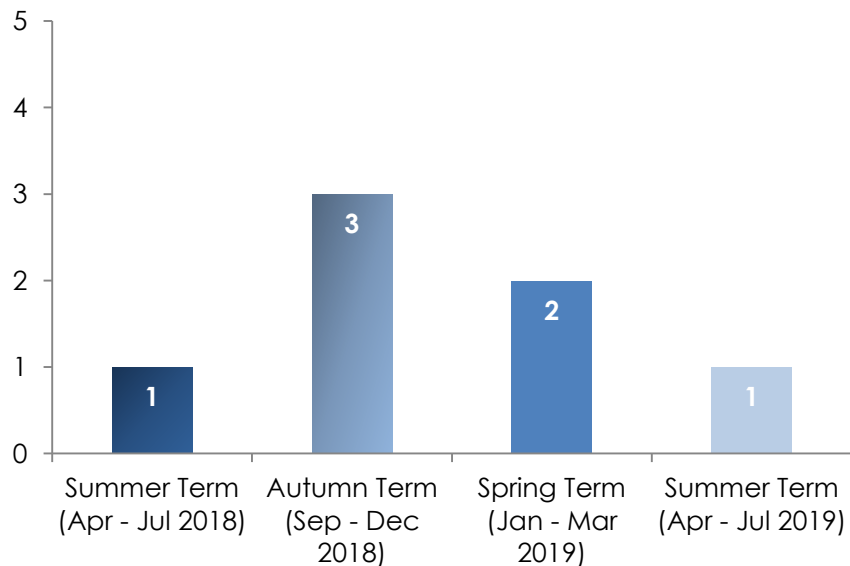


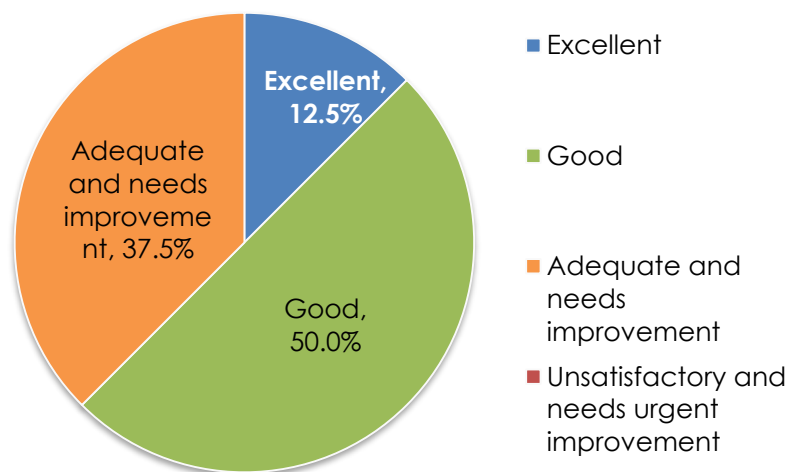
Fig: 4.2 Bullying incidents leading to exclusion



4.4 Estyn Judgements

The table below provides an overview of the Estyn judgements for schools inspected under the new arrangements from September 2017 up until March 2019.

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Care and Support Guidance Inspection Ratings



4.5 Operation Encompass

For the period 29th April to 19th July 2019

4.6 Elected Home Education (EHE)

	July 2019	July 2018
Total number of children electively home educated	88	80

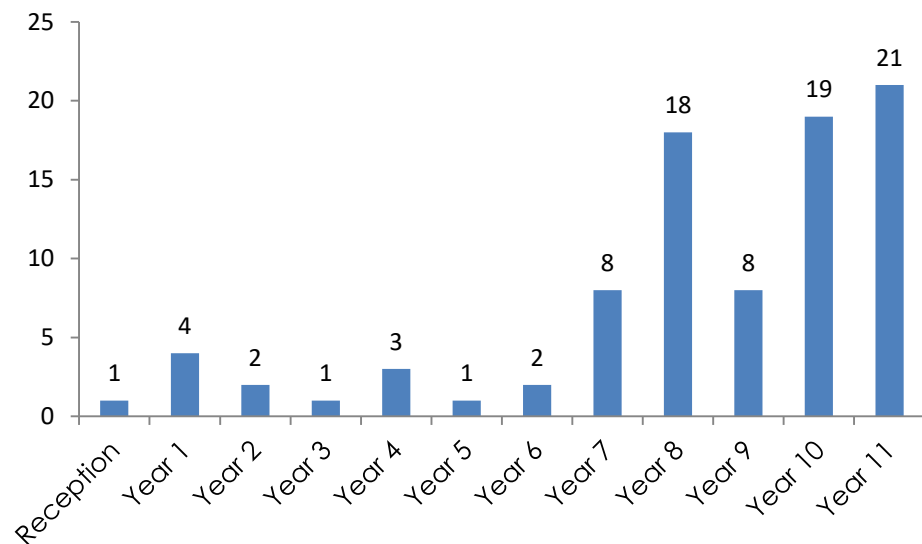
4.7 The table below sets out the number of secondary age pupils who have become EHE or who have returned to school from being EHE during the Autumn and Spring term.

Month	School 1		School 2		School 3		School 4	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Sept – Dec 2018	4	3	4	0	3	0	2	1
Jan – Mar 2019	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
Apr – Jul 2019	0	0	2	0	2	3	6	0
Total	5	3	8	0	6	3	10	1

4.8 The table below sets out the number of additional pupils who have become EHE or who have returned to school from being EHE during the Autumn and Spring term.

Month	Primary		Did not transition		Moved into/out of Borough (including BG pupils that were in OOC schools)		School place unavailable	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Sept – Dec 2018	1	0	2	0	2	2	1	0
Jan – Mar 2019	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Apr – Jul 2019	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	3	0	2	0	2	3	1	0

4.9 Breakdown per year group EHE



Agenda Item 8

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Joint Education and Learning and Social Services (Safeguarding) Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **2nd December 2019**

Report Subject: **Adult Safeguarding Report - 1st April to 30th June 2019**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr John Mason, Executive Member Social Services**

Report Submitted by: **Alyson Hoskins, Head of Adult Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
18.09.2019	01.10.2019	Oct 19			02.12.19	18.12.19		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Members with Safeguarding Performance information relating to Adult Services from 1st April 2019 to the 30th June 2019. The information provided will enable Members to identify Safeguarding areas within the Authority which require further development to improve Safeguarding practice and procedures for Adult Services.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 To enable greater focus on the Safeguarding agenda, Corporate Leadership Team and Elected Members agreed for safeguarding information to be reported to a Joint Social Services/Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee after each school term.
- 2.2 In April 2016 The Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB) became a statutory Board as set out in Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Board's purpose is twofold; to protect adults in Gwent becoming "adults at risk" and to protect adults who have been abused or neglected or are at risk of abuse or neglect. They are supported in their work by a number of sub groups that manage core business and other more specific pieces of work which deliver on the strategic priorities set by the Board each year.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 The report has been considered and agreed by the Social Services Leadership team and the Corporate Leadership Team.

3.2 Option 1

Members are asked to consider the detail contained in the Adult Safeguarding Report and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate comments and or recommendations for amendment to the report before approval at Executive Committee.

Option 2

Accept the report as provided and recommend for the Executive Committee to approve the report.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
- 4.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 places a statutory duty on all local authority's to produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions.
5. **Implications Against Each Option**
- 5.1 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***
The Directorate Risk Register identifies safeguarding as high risk and is, therefore monitored as part of the quarterly report of the Director of Social Services via the business planning process for each option. The Directorate Risk Register includes what actions have been taken to mitigate these risks and is reviewed on a regular basis.
- 5.2 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***
At this point in time, no continuation for the support worker post funded through the Integrated Care Funding (ICF) has been approved by the RPB or Welsh Government past 31st March 2020, therefore robust exit strategies have been built into the initial bid should funding cease from 2020.
- 5.3 ***Legal***
The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.
- 5.4 ***Human Resources***
The ICF support worker post is due to cease on the 31st March 2020, discussions are underway to secure funding beyond April 2020, however, exit and business planning arrangements are in place to ensure we continue to meet our statutory obligations.
6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 ***Performance Information***
Performance and data is provided within the report.
- 6.2 The number of reports received of an 'adult suspected of being at risk' during the given period was 118. During the same period for the previous year (2018/19) there were a total of 124 referrals received and the year before (2017/18) 127 referrals received. This evidences that the figures are fairly static year on year.

Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the first quarter of 2019/2020	
1 st April 2019 to 30 th June 2019 - 118	118

- 6.3 The number of referrals received within the different categories of abuse or neglect is shown below for April 1st – June 30th 2019. It should be noted that concerns about more than one type of abuse can be reported within the same referral.

Category of Abuse	Gender	Age - 18-64	Age – 64 and over
Physical	Male	6	1
	Female	9	12
Sexual	Male	1	0
	Female	5	1
Emotional/Psychological	Male	6	4
	Female	10	17
Financial	Male	6	3
	Female	3	8
Neglect	Male	6	4
	Female	8	28
Total	Male	25	12
	Female	35	66
	Total	60	78

The first quarter of the year is showing a similar trend to the previous year where neglect is the most prevalent category and sexual abuse the least prevalent.

- 6.4 Referrals of domestic abuse are captured as part of the data return for the Welsh Government, of the above, there were 17 cases of domestic abuse reported within the same quarter last year 18/19

		Age 18-64	Age – 64 and over
Domestic	Male	1	2
	Female	10	9

Each of the five local authorities have different structures in place to respond to concerns about domestic violence, however GWASB partner agencies are represented on local and regional domestic abuse forums. There are strong links between practitioners in safeguarding and domestic abuse fields of practice and domestic abuse training is available and is well attended by all agencies across Gwent in a variety of formats.

As discussed previously in the quarterly reports presented to scrutiny, the increase in domestic abusive situations had placed pressure on the safeguarding team and as a result Social Services made a successful business case to use the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) from Welsh Government to fund 1 support worker for 12 months. The domestic abuse/safeguarding support worker was appointed on a fixed term basis within the Adult Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) hub to

undertake initial screening of the safeguarding referrals, primarily in relation to domestic abuse cases. A review of the post evidenced a positive impact on the resources of the safeguarding team by intervening at an early stage and preventing incidents escalating resulting in alternative measures being put in place due to increased risks. Therefore this post has been extended further to 31st March 2020 and discussions are under way for securing funding beyond this date.

The place where the alleged abuse occurred can be seen in the table below. The majority of referrals were where the allegation of abuse occurred in the persons own home. The alleged perpetrators in these cases could be paid carers going into the home or friends and family. The number of allegations in a care setting is 41 including a health environment - this could be residential, nursing or respite care and again the alleged perpetrators could be paid carers, family and/or other service users.

Place alleged abuse or neglect occurred	Total
Own Home	57
Community	18
Care Home Setting	41
Health Setting	2
Total	118

Safeguarding is an important part of the commissioning function and requires a substantial resource commitment from the Commissioning Team who provide crucial information in respect of commissioned services and providers which contributes to informed decision making in relation to safeguarding cases. A member of the Commissioning Team attends every strategy meeting held for commissioned services to offer advice, guidance and perspective. The Contracts and Commissioning Team Manager and the three Contract Monitoring Officers are all fully trained non-criminal investigators and undertake investigations independently or jointly with colleagues depending on the complexity and size of the investigation, or, with health colleagues if there are nursing issues involved. Whether referrals progress to strategy meetings and/or investigation, or are closed down as inappropriate safeguarding referrals, there is very often some preliminary investigation work and/or recommendations / performance issues with providers to be acted upon and followed up by the Commissioning Team.

The persons alleged responsible for the abuse are broken down in the table below. Paid employees being alleged perpetrators for 28 and 33 being a relative or friend. To progress the referral consent is needed from the alleged victim, but that consent can be overridden when a paid employee is the alleged perpetrator. In the domestic abuse cases a high proportion of alleged victims do not consent to the referral progressing through safeguarding. These referrals are submitted to the Police for further action. During this quarter, 1 case has been presented to the Police and is awaiting consideration for criminal proceedings. This is consistent with the data in quarter 1 of 2018/2019.

Person alleged responsible	Total
Paid Employee	28
Relative / Friend	33
Volunteer / Unpaid employee	0
Other service user	10
Other	4
Unknown – no specific individual identified on the duty to report due to the nature of the service settings i.e. service user falls	43
Total	118

- 6.5 The referrals received are from a variety of sources, as listed in the table below. The majority of the referrals were submitted from provider agencies.

Source of Referral	Total
Self-reported	0
Relative / friend	2
Local authority	18
Police	3
Local health board	19
Independent hospital	0
Ambulance service	3
Care regulator	0
Provider agency	51
Probation	0
Third sector	13
Advocate	0
Other	9
Total	118

- 6.6 **Updates on the achievements and progress on the strategic development plans during 2019/2020 and beyond:**

- During 2018/2019 Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Safeguarding Boards have made significant progress on updating the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures to ensure they reflect the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Handling Individual Cases, the Welsh Government guidance that accompanies the Act. The first stage of the consultation has been completed and the new procedures are due to be launched during Safeguarding week 11-14th November 2019.

- Development of training resources to support implementation of the new Safeguarding Procedures is underway and a representative from Blaenau Gwent will be attending an event on 26th September with the supplier who is developing the resources.
- Engagement and communication including development of a new website, Participation and Engagement Strategy, a task group has also been set up and is ongoing.
- Learning and development including piloting a new Quality Assurance and Evaluation process, the group is also considering training for E-safety for adults, Modern Day Slavery, Falls and Skin Management, Advocacy and Risky Behaviours for 2019/2020.

6.7 *Expected outcome for the public*

Quarterly reporting provides the public with the opportunity to view progress of the Directorate and ensure accountability.

6.8 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 looks to build and strengthen on existing arrangements by involving service users, carers and other key partners where possible in helping shape and influence future design of services.

6.9 *Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)*

The Gwent wide Adult Safeguarding Board has developed a new partnership agreement between local authorities and agency partners including Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Wales Probation Trust, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations which sets out a clear and shared vision to ensure all adults in Gwent are safeguarded effectively through partnership working and community engagement.

6.10 *Preventative focus*

Providing this report and the level of detailed safeguarding information to the Joint Safeguarding Committee enables Members to ensure risks are identified and acted on.

6.11 *Collaboration / partnership working*

It is a very important that GwASB does not work in isolation and having strong working relationships with the South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (SEWSCB) and the Domestic Violence Board will be essential.

6.12 *Integration(across service areas)*

The development of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the Departmental safeguarding leads meetings helps ensure all departments within the Authority are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and are kept updated with any issues trends within safeguarding.

6.13 *EgIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)*

Not applicable.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The performance of the department is monitored throughout the financial year from April to March and reported to Social Services Scrutiny Committee.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

The following hyperlink provides further details on the governance and Structure: www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk .

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Agenda Item 9

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Joint Social Services and Education and Learning
(Safeguarding) Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **2nd December 2019**

Report Subject: **Quality Assuring Safeguarding in Local Government
Education Services (LGES)**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr J Collins Executive Member for Education**

Report Submitted by: **Michelle Jones, Strategic Education Improvement
Manager**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
✓		Oct 19			02.12.19	18.12.19		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To seek members views on the revised quality assurance protocol for safeguarding arrangements in Local Government Education Services (LGES).
 - 1.2 This report presents the revised quality assurance protocol for safeguarding in LGES. The revised protocol sets out the now established approach that the Education Directorate takes to checking that the safeguarding arrangements across its settings and commissioned services are robust and fit for purpose.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Safeguarding section (3.4) of the Estyn Framework for Local Government Education Services (LGES) requires inspectors to evaluate how well the Authority fulfils its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding.
 - 2.2 Whilst this is fulfilled in a number of ways the question that naturally arises is how does the Directorate know that our safeguarding systems are robust and fit for purpose and are being consistently applied?
 - 2.3 Over the past two years a quality assurance or system test protocol has been developed and the information from this is now routinely included in the Performance report to this Committee. This protocol has been reviewed and has been refined in the light of areas of learning with a view to ensuring that the system test continues to focus on key areas.
 - 2.4 The report requires members to consider the contents of the revised protocol and to offer views to further inform the development of the final document.
 - 2.5 Through this activity members will continue to demonstrate their understanding of safeguarding processes that are in place as well as the Directorate's approach to the management of risks.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

Members are asked to scrutinise the revised protocol and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee.

3.2 **Option 2**

Accept the report as provided.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 **Corporate Plan**

- **Education Aims**

- “To improve pupil outcomes, progress and wellbeing, particularly for our more able and most vulnerable learners
- To improve the quality of our education services and our school buildings to help learners achieve great outcomes
- To continue to support our school leaders to help our pupils achieve their ambitions.”

4.2 **Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan Objectives**

The process of rigorous self-evaluation as detailed in the revised policy makes a valued contribution to Blaenau Gwent PSB Well-being Plan Objectives. Blaenau Gwent Council wants:

- everyone to have the best start in life;
- safe and friendly communities;
- to look after and protect its natural environments;
- to forge new pathways to prosperity, and
- to encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, work and play.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

- 5.1 The revised quality assurance protocol is cognisant of the ongoing austerity measures and its implementation is managed through existing resources.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The Directorate Risk register identifies safeguarding risks for the Directorate and is informed by the findings from this process. Such risks are monitored as part of the routine Directorate risk management business activity.

5.3 ***Legal***

Safeguarding arrangements comply with relevant legislation and guidance which includes the Welsh Government Keeping Learners Safe Guidance.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There is no direct staffing or workforce implications arising from this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 The reporting of quality assurance visits are now shared with this Committee through the Performance Report and provides Elected Members with an overview as to how management assures itself that the safeguarding arrangements within Local Government Education Services (LGES) are fit for purpose and do not present a risk.

6.1.2 During the last two years there have been sixteen quality assurance visits to schools and quality assurance visits to each of the following service areas: Leisure Trust; Early Years, Childcare and Play; Home to School transport and Catering (schools).

6.1.3 From these visits, evidence has been gathered which has provided reassurance that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place in schools and other education services. Learning from these visits informs future policy and practice and is included in the Directorate's self-evaluation process.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Quality Assurance visits involve the Safeguarding in Education Manager meeting with the leadership of the setting, a representative sample of staff and in the case of schools, listening to the views of learners.

The high level learning from these visits is shared at termly meetings which take place with the Safeguarding Leads from LGES representatives. More detailed information is shared with the individual establishment, at monthly meetings between the safeguarding team and lead education staff and on a regular basis with Education DMT and on a quarterly basis with CLT and Members of the Joint Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee through the Performance Report.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF) and self-evaluation process enables the Education Directorate to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where the directorate is currently and where it needs to be in the future.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The work undertaken through this process seeks to promote a preventative approach to practice through early identification and intervention and the sharing of key areas of learning across Local Government Education settings.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The Council collaborates with a range of services to discharge its Local Government Education Service (LGES) functions. The Safeguarding in Education Manager participates in the local, regional and national safeguarding groups and shares learning with Safeguarding Leads from LGES settings.

The South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board and its sub groups ensure a multi-agency collaborative approach to safeguarding. Blaenau Gwent fully participates in the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

All local authorities and partner agencies work together on safeguarding through the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board.

6.8 ***EqlA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

Not required for this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Education DMT and CLT monitors the outcomes of this quality assurance process. The Performance report to this Committee provides Members with high level management information. The learning from this activity is shared with Safeguarding Leads and also informs the work of the Safeguarding in Education Manager through changes to policy and practice within LGES safeguarding.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – A Protocol to Quality Assure the Safeguarding in Education Processes

A Protocol to Quality Assure the Safeguarding in Education Processes in Blaenau Gwent Council.

August 2019

1.0 Background

Blaenau Gwent Council and the Education Directorate are committed to ensuring that Safeguarding in Education processes are robust, fit for purpose and are being consistently applied. To support this aim, we have reviewed our practice from the last two years and further developed the following quality assurance, or system testing protocol. This protocol underpins, and is supportive of, the Education Directorate's Self –Evaluation Policy and practice.

This protocol sets out how officers assure themselves, via a process of gathering evidence, arriving at judgements and making changes that children and young people are appropriately protected and kept safe from harm and that staff and volunteers are well placed to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues.

2.0 Current processes:

2.1 Monitoring (gathering first-hand evidence)

The Safeguarding in Education Manager (SEG Manager) and Strategic Education Improvement Manager (SEIM) have established a safeguarding matrix that holds information on:

- training and policy adoption for all schools
- training for education directorate staff
- DBS and EWC escalation
- Volunteer information for school settings

The matrix information is provided by schools and updated on a half yearly basis at October half term and at the end of the spring term by business support. At the commencement of each year the SEG Manager sends the Safeguarding protocol to schools. The protocol sets out the expectations for data submission and return from schools for the current academic year.

Within 2 weeks of each reporting period the SEG completes an evaluation (FADE) which is submitted to the Strategic Education Improvement Manager in the first instance and then to Education DMT for consideration.

To supplement this, the SEG Manager meets on a termly basis with safeguarding leads for

- Schools
- Youth Service
- Aneurin Bevan Leisure Trust
- Early years
- Organisational Development
- Home to school transport
- Catering

The SEM formally shares the minutes in the monthly meetings with the Strategic Safeguarding Lead for Education, Quality Assurance Manager and Service Manager for Children Services.

2.1.1 Quality assurance or system testing arrangements:

A range of 'dip-test activity' is undertaken by the SEG over a two year period as set out below:

	<u>Sample Of</u>	<u>Expected Evidence</u>
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training register • Safeguarding policy / self-evaluation report(SER) • Pupil voice • Leadership discussion • Discussion with wider staff (via interview) • Staff personnel file including volunteers • Supply staff • Record keeping of concerns • Governor DBS • Volunteers records (schools) • RPI reporting • Health and safety incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of training with dates and course attended • Policy adoption and distribution (parents, staff, pupils)/ updated SER • Response to questions from SEG Manager • Response to questions and an open narrative with SEG Manager • References, application form, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) verification for employed and supply staff • Chronology of concerns, Multi- agency referral form (MARF), actions, and any multi agency correspondence organised in a systematic way • Leadership discussion on Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPI's) and health and safety incidents. • Volunteer coordinator identified
Out of County Schools(via link SEG in LA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation with relevant team as to factors considered when placing child • Training register • Safeguarding policy/ SER • Staff personnel file including volunteers • Supply staff • Record keeping of concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To follow the agreed collection of data by Local Authority (LA) • Policy adoption and distribution (parents, staff, pupils)/ updated SER • Arrangements for sage recruitment to include supply staff • Appropriate record keeping of concerns
OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of concerns on an exception basis to SEG Manager/ Strategic Safeguarding Lead for Education (SSLE) and CLT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBS and Education Workforce Council (EWC) escalation protocol in place • Tracking of DBS and EWC escalations through the safeguarding log
Youth Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Safeguarding policy • Staff personnel file including volunteers • Record keeping of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of training with dates and course attended • Policy distribution to staff • References, application form, DBS verification • Chronology of concerns, MARF, actions, and any multi agency correspondence organised in a

	concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance arrangements for external provides 	systematic way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy/ staff list DBS
Leisure Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Safeguarding policy Record keeping of concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of training with dates and course attended Policy adoption and distribution Response to questions from SEG Manager Response to questions and an open narrative with SEG Manager Information brought to safeguarding leads meeting Chronology of concerns, MARF, actions, and any multi agency correspondence organised in a systematic way
Early years childcare and play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint monitoring visits with early years staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of actions addressed through Quality Assurance (QA) tool Leadership discussion
Home to school transport	<u>Corporate arrangements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Safeguarding policy Contractor personnel log Record keeping of concerns <u>Brynmawr Foundation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding arrangements to mirror those of the LA and explicit within the schools safeguarding SER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of training with dates and course attended Policy distribution to contractors and personnel working on contracted routes References, application form, DBS verification(licensing arrangements) Chronology of concerns, MARF, actions, and any multi agency correspondence organised in a systematic way
Catering (including breakfast clubs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training DBS Supply staff Ratios for supervision Reporting arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of training with dates and course attended for corporate staff and setting staff References, application form, DBS verification

2.1.2 Reporting:

A Safeguarding evaluation (FADE) is completed after each activity the findings of which are shared on a monthly basis at the safeguarding meeting referred to in section 2.1 and with the establishment/service area visited. Findings are then reported to Education DMT on a termly basis by exception of non-compliance in any area and as appropriate feed into South East Wales Consortia (SEWC) regional sub-groups as appropriate.

Completed evaluations (FADEs) feed into the Directorate self-evaluation process and updates of the Local Government Education Services (LGES) self-evaluation report (SER) as well as being reflected in Directorate, Service and Team plans.

Findings are shared with elected members and Chairs of school Governors via relevant reporting avenues such as the quarterly Joint Safeguarding Report to the joint Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee. Such items will be included on the forward work programme of both.

Findings from this quality assurance process informs the ongoing development of effective approaches to safeguarding as well as informing the professional practice of Challenge Advisers in our commissioned school improvement service Education Achievement Service (EAS).

This work influences the Council's aim of improving the identification and support of children experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

2.2 Evaluation/Review

Through the business reporting activities the SEG Manager updates the business plan identifying key areas and uses this information to inform future practice. In addition to the reporting arrangements aforementioned, findings are reported to the Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group on a termly basis.

In line with the Directorate's Self- Evaluation Policy and on an annual basis, the SEG Manager will complete an evaluation (FADE) report detailing the following:

- Focus of activity over the past year by service area
- Analysis
- Recommendations
- Evaluation of impact of the work

This work will inform the update of the self- evaluation report (SER) and the daily practice to keep children and young people safe and help to ensure that safeguarding systems and processes are robust, continue to be fit for purpose, withstand intense scrutiny and inform further improvement.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Education Directorate Self-Evaluation

Team/Service: Safeguarding

Title of the evaluation:

Date of report:

Report author: Sarah Dixon

Report author:	
Service Area:	
Date report written:	
Focus for the evaluation (F) A sentence to describe the area you are focussing on.	
Analysis (A) Your analysis of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• outcomes or process or change	
Evaluation (E) By way of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcomes (or process or change)• Provision• Leadership and management	
Development/Improvement	

required/Recommendation

(R) and Way Forward:

By way of :

- Outcomes (or process or change)
- Provision
- Leadership and management

Timetable for QA Safeguarding in Education Process

Academic Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2019/20	Alternative provision(3) Schools(1) Out of County (1) Early years child care and play (1) (6)	Leisure Trust (1) After school clubs School (2) (4)	Youth Service (1) Schools (2) Out of County (1) Home to School transport (1) (5)
2020/21	OD (1) Early years child care and play (1) Catering (1) Schools (3) (6)	4 Schools(4) (4)	Schools (4) (4)

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