

Ref No.	Description of Risk	Triggers	Consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Status	Current Controls	Likelihood	Impact	Status	Proposed further controls to mitigate / reduce risk	Progress Update
Directorate Risk EDDRR3  Corporate Risk Register CRR4	Safeguarding - Failure to ensure adequate. Safeguarding arrangements are in place for children & young adults in Blaenau Gwent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate assessments and monitoring</li> <li>Lack of documentation</li> <li>Increasing demand for services</li> <li>Lack of appropriate guidance and training</li> <li>Poor communication between all parties (internal / external)</li> <li>High turnover of staff</li> <li>Varying capacity as a result of the pandemic so routine activities do not take place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential significant harm / loss of life</li> <li>Long term reputational damage and confidence in the Council undermined</li> <li>Increase in complaints / Potential litigation / prosecution</li> <li>External intervention</li> <li>Increased pressure on budgets</li> <li>Low staff morale</li> </ul>	3	4	Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Social Services and Education Scrutiny established</li> <li>Education Designated Lead and Deputy Officer nominated</li> <li>Education Safeguarding Officer established and in post</li> <li>Gwent Adult Safeguarding Board</li> <li>SE Wales Safeguarding Children's Board</li> <li>Safeguarding is a standing item on CMT agenda</li> <li>Lead Executive Member has been identified for having responsibility for safeguarding</li> <li>Senior leadership have received Level 1 training.</li> <li>Programme of training for schools underway.</li> <li>Corporate leads established for each directorate who have been requested to identify staff for Level 1 training (3 dates have already been set)</li> <li>Safeguarding in Education matrix regularly updated</li> <li>*Use of MyConcern software in schools will be used to gather data, monitor positive cases and create consistency across the school estate. The roll-out project team is fully established.</li> </ul>	1	4	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved reporting systems and databases in place</li> <li>Inclusion protocol in place</li> <li>Education Safeguarding Manager close working with School Improvement and Inclusion</li> <li>Close working relationships with Social Services Directorate</li> <li>Youth Services safeguarding arrangements are effective and monitoring is through the corporate arrangements.</li> <li>Half termly meetings to priorities to be diarised</li> <li>* DMT receive regular QA reports from Safeguarding in Education Manager</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quarter 1 Progress (April – June 2022) For Joint Report and self-evaluation</b></p> <p>During the period there was a critical incident in one of the schools involving an alleged racist incident that continues to be investigated by the police and was identified as a hate crime. The corporate response in responding to such a high-level incident inevitably had a direct impact upon key pieces of work for the start of the academic year for use by settings. As part of the recovery phase discussions are ongoing with partners to provide professional learning opportunities for key stakeholders on such matters.</p> <p>An overview of schools self-evaluation returns has been presented to DMT which identified one school with significant areas to be addressed which is presently a School Causing Concern. The Safeguarding in Education Manager continues to work closely with this setting to address the areas for development within the schools self- evaluation report. This work moving forwards along with other quantitative and qualitative data will continue to inform the work programme of the Safeguarding in Education Manager whose post sits within Social Services.</p> <p>The implementation of My Concern has continued to progress and work is ongoing with schools to agree a set of categories for use in September. Discussions are also ongoing with one school that is not using the system with a view to securing 100% participation during the next academic year.</p> <p>Key areas to be addressed and to be brought back on line include, performance reporting arrangements, the Sexual Abuse action Plan, Prevent Action Plan and the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Safer Schools Partnership Board, Policy reviews and self-evaluation of safeguarding.</p>

### **Quarter 2 Progress (July – September 2022)**

Schools are presently updating the Keeping Learners Safe self-evaluation returns for the 2022/23 academic year and at this stage it too early to draw any conclusions from this latest data capture. The Safeguarding in Education Manager continues to work closely with the setting that was identified as needing specific support in last year's self- evaluation report and progress is being made to address those areas. Quality assurance visits to school's settings have also been undertaken during the period. The revised performance report was presented to People Scrutiny Committee and was well received by Members. Scrutiny Members are now provided with an overview of the work that is undertaken in ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are managed effectively and fulfil the requirements as set out in the Estyn framework for Local Government Education Services (LGES).

At the end of the Qtr 1 period one school which had already been identified as a School Causing Concern was inspected and placed in an Estyn follow up category. During the inspection, the inspection team identified safeguarding and health and safety concerns, which encompassed site and building issues, Restrictive Physical Intervention policy to practice and the school's risk assessment arrangements for certain off-site educational activities. Of these areas of improvements identified the required actions have either been completed or are in train and to mitigate any potential risks alternative arrangements are in place. Whilst at a more strategic level the Directorate in response to this is undertaking a quality assurance review of all health and safety facilities functions to ensure that any further potential risks are identified and appropriately managed.

All schools have now registered to use the My Concern System but one school is not using it as staff need to undertake the relevant training, whilst all other schools have started to use the revised categories within My Concern at the start of the academic year and initial informal feedback received is promising but a more detailed review will be completed at the end of the autumn term.

The annual self- evaluation of safeguarding for the 2021/22 academic year has been completed with the findings summarised in the Directorates Self- Evaluation Autumn term report with key works streams identified and includes the establishment of the Strategic Safer Schools Partnership Board and the need to progress the Peer-on-Peer Sexual abuse action plan and Respect and Resilience action plan.

The areas for improvement continue to inform the business planning arrangements within the Directorate. There remains an invariable link to the risks identified in Social Services and the risk level remains unchanged.

### **Quarter 3 Progress (October – December 2022)**

School's safeguarding processes are closely monitored. The quality assurance arrangements that are in place include the safeguarding matrix, keeping learners safe audit tool and the quality assurance visits which the Safeguarding in Education Manager completes and reports findings through a FADE (Focused Area Development Evaluation) approach to Education DMT.

Safeguarding in Education Policy was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 following its annual review and prior to its distribution to schools.

Corporate Safeguarding Performance Report, which includes information for Education Summer Term 2022 went to People Scrutiny Committee 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and will be presented to the committee next in June 2023.

All schools have now bought into My Concern, the software package which supports effective data collection of children suspected to be at risk, Categories within My Concern have been trialled during the autumn term as well as a health check, which many schools have reported that they have found very helpful in understanding how they can use My Concern more effectively. DMT to receive a report by the end of January 2023 on progress and barriers to progress.

First meeting of Strategic Safer Schools Board taken place – Chair and vice chair elected.

The Council was subject to an Estyn inspection in November / December 2022. Arrangements for safeguarding were included in the areas for inspection and the preliminary feedback received on 2<sup>nd</sup> December suggests that Safeguarding arrangements are effective. The outcome of the Inspection is positive overall, progress since the last inspection has been made and there is no requirement for follow-up activity

### **Quarter 4 (January – March 2023)**

The Safeguarding in Education Manager continues to make good progress in implementing the various QA processes for the current academic year. There has been a slight delay in the submission of some Fades to Education DMT but these will be presented after Easter. SSSPB continues to support the development of key pieces of work across LGES but it is too early to assess the impact of this work. Good progress continues to be made in the implementation of My Concern. DMT have agreed the progress report that included the blueprint for the further use of My Concern and the TOR for a User group. The User group involving schools has met and has commenced phase 1 of trialling new aspects of My Concern, with an initial focus upon reporting Restrictive Practice Incidents (RPIs). The school that had not undertaken training in respect of My Concern has now been met with and have agreed to complete the training but as yet no date has been set.

The Council received the final report from the Estyn Local Government Education Services Inspection. The inspection was positive in terms of the work undertaken by the Council and recognised the improvements made to the collation of safeguarding information by introducing the "My Concern" system to record and report incidents and related pupil demographics. There was a recognition that officers and elected members are committed to safeguarding young people and received suitable safeguarding training. There was recognition that the education and children's services work together to improve multi agency working ensure that schools received support to manage the needs of pupils and their families more effectively.

