

Committee: **People Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

Report Subject: **Safeguarding Performance Information for Social Services 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September and Education Summer Term–2023**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Haydn Trollope, Cabinet Member People & Social Services and Cllr Sue Edmunds, Cabinet Member People & Education**

Report Submitted by: **Tanya Evans, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and Luisa Munro-Morris, Interim Corporate Director of Education**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
12.12.23	x	17.01.24			30.01.24	21.02.24		16.1.24

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide scrutiny members with safeguarding performance information and analysis from Children's and Adult's Social Services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and Education for the Summer term 2023.

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 and adults within Blaenau Gwent.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report contains safeguarding information from Social Services for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and Education information for the summer term 2023.
- 2.2 This report is written 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 People Scrutiny Committee after each school term.
- 2.3 In April 2016, the Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GwASB) and the South-East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB) became a statutory Board as set out in Part 7 of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014. The role of the Board is to set the strategic direction in relation to multi agency safeguarding. The Board carries out these core functions through policy direction, monitoring the effectiveness within

agencies, commissioning practice reviews, and disseminating learning to practitioners to ensure safeguarding is high on the agenda at all levels of the workforce.

### 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 this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

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

- Corporate Improvement Plan
- Single Integrated Plan
- Corporate Risk Register
- Safe Reduction of CLA Strategy

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 places a statutory duty on all local authorities to produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions' Social Services work to a number of regional and national safeguarding procedures.

### 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

There is no impact on the budget both in the short and long term.

#### 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. Similarly, the Education Directorate risk register captures the risks in respect of Education and is again included for reference in the data pack.

#### 5.3 ***Legal***

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6th 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**

There are no human resources implications attached to this report.

### 6. **Supporting Evidence**

#### 6.1 **Performance Information**

Performance and data are provided within the report and the accompanying data pack.

#### 6.2 **Children Social Services**

##### 6.2.1 **Referrals to Social Services**

6.2.2 **Figure 1:1** Identifies a continued upward trend in respect of referral rates into Childrens Services with referrals received per quarter exceeding 2000 in both Q1(2,045) and Q2 (2,069). This offers a total of 4,114 for the two Q's. For comparison, the number of referrals for the same period (Q1/Q2) in year 22/23 totalled 3,388 therefore demonstrating a 21.4% increase in referrals. The volume of referrals being received via our front door Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Team is at an unprecedented high. Despite the significant increase in referrals, we continue to work tirelessly to ensure children and families are offered the right support at the right time to prevent escalation of needs and to safeguard children.

Referral rates continue to be monitored and similar increasing referral patterns are being reported within neighbouring Gwent authorities.

6.2.3 **Figure 1.1A** Shows the number of individuals associated with the referrals received, the number of individuals who have had 2 or more referrals during the month and the highest number of referrals received by an individual during the month.

Q1 saw an average of 577 individuals linked to a referral and an average of 70 individuals who received 2 or more referrals. Q2 saw an average of 595 individuals linked to a referral and an average of 77 individuals who received 2 or more referrals.

The highest number of referrals linked to any 1 individual across Q1 and Q2 was 13 which occurred in May. This is somewhat higher than all other months during this reporting period where the average across the remaining months was 5.2.

6.2.4 **Figure 1.2:** Shows the source of the referrals. As in previous quarters, Police remain the highest referring agency (Q1 35.5% and Q2 34.5%).

Health and Education referrals are grouped closely within these quarters as being the second and third highest referring agency.

Ongoing joint working with Police through safeguarding hub meetings allows for regular discussion and monitoring of Police referrals alongside a Detective Sergeant from Gwent Police being co-located in Children's IAA, to quality assure all PPN's received.

Referral thresholds from partner agencies are being considered on a regional basis as part of a task and finish group which has been set up under the Gwent Safeguarding Board. The task and finish group are currently looking at the development of a regional Duty to Report (DTR) threshold document to act as an aid for professional judgement on when to appropriately submit a referral to Children's Services. This work is progressing, and it is hoped the draft document will be presented for approval at Gwent Safeguarding Children Board before the end of financial year. Following approval this will be disseminated to partner agencies to consider when using their professional judgement on when to submit a Duty to Report to Children's Services. Training and briefing sessions on the application of this document will be provided to partner agencies by Children's Services.

6.2.5 **Figure 1.3:** Shows the numbers of referrals received into the department on open cases. The graph identifies a marginal reduction for the receipt of additional referrals on open cases from Q1(1,796) to Q2(1,787). Figure 1.3 demonstrates minimal fluctuation in the receipt of additional referrals for open cases across the 4 Q's included in the graph.

#### 6.2.6 **Child Protection**

6.2.7 **Figures 2.1 & 2.2:** Provides a summary of the number of children on the child protection register with the numbers of registrations and deregistration's also being referenced within Fig 2.2.

There was a total of 63 children on the child protection register in Q1 which demonstrates an increase of 1 from Q4. During Q1 there were a total of 24 new registrations which is a decrease of 7 compared to Q4. There were 19 less de-registrations in Q1 compared to the previous Quarter.

During Q2 there were a total of 83 children on the child protection register which demonstrates an increase of 20 from Q1. During Q2 there were a total of 47 new registrations which is an increase of 23 compared to Q1. There were 4 more de-registrations in Q2 compared to Q1. In Q2 we have seen a sharp increase in the number of children registered on the child protection register.

When scrutinising this data there has been a double in figures for pre-birth conferences and for transfer-in conferences. One of the transfer-in conferences was for a large sibling group of 6.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) undertook a national rapid review of child protection arrangements earlier this year for which Blaenau Gwent was chosen as one of 5 Local Authorities across Wales to have CIW undertake fieldwork activity to support their national review. We were proud of the feedback from

CIW in particular their comments on how committed staff are to the children and families with whom they work which led to them receiving the right support at the right time.

The CIW rapid review full report was published in September 2023 which included several recommendations for all agencies and Regional Safeguarding Boards to consider to further strengthen child protection practices across Wales. A working group consisting of service and operational team managers within Children's Services will be seeking to review the actions as part of an action plan to consider how best these can be implemented locally in Blaenau Gwent.

6.2.8 **Figure 2.3:** Shows the categories of abuse for which children's names are registered for on the Child Protection Register over the past year. Neglect and Emotional/Psychological abuse remain the highest categories of abuse across Q1 and Q2. This is typically in keeping with national statistics for child protection categorisations.

We have continued to see an increase in the number of children that have been registered under the category of Emotional/Psychological Abuse over the past 2 quarters with this category accounting for 36 (Q1) and 42 (Q2) of all registrations. The category of Neglect is the second highest category and accounts for 24 (Q1) and 35 (Q2) of all registrations.

Conference chairs seek to ensure that if the category of Emotional/Psychological Abuse is agreed within the conference, then there should be a CAMHS consultation arranged by the social worker for the child/ren to consider their emotional wellbeing needs with health colleagues to inform the child protection plan.

6.2.9 **Figure 2.4:** relates to the age and gender breakdown of children on the child protection register during Q2. In Q2 we identified males aged 10-15 being the highest (19), followed by females in the 1-4 age brackets (15).

Age group comparison with Q1 data identifies the following;

- 10–15 year-olds = 30 demonstrating an increase of 9 from Q1.
- Under 1's = 8. No change.
- 5–9 year-olds = 20 demonstrating an increase of 4 from Q1.
- 1–4 year-olds = 24 demonstrating an increase of 8 from Q1.
- There was 1 young person between the ages of 16 and 18 demonstrating a decrease of 1.

### 6.3 **Adults' Social Services**

6.3.1 **Figure 3.1:** The data shows a 15.9% increase in referrals of adults at risk received in quarter 2 this year compared to last year. Although slightly lower than quarter 1 (12 less reports) there is a still a consistent increase across the year in comparison to last year. This may be reflective of there being more adults at risk due to increased poverty with regards to the cost-of-living crisis affecting all local communities. The Safeguarding network event delivered by GWASB earlier this year focused on the impact of poverty on the most

vulnerable people within our communities. The increase could also be due to awareness raising through the regular Safeguarding training that we deliver jointly with Caerphilly safeguarding team. Training has now returned to the classroom and there is a high number of attendees in every session over the last 2 quarters.

- 6.3.2 **Figure 3.2:** The data shows we received the highest number of referrals for females over 65 who are experiencing neglect (42) followed by females over 65 who are experiencing physical abuse (29). The information suggests females tend to be more at risk than males across all types of abuse and people over 65 tend to be more at risk of physical abuse and neglect. There are more consistent figures across the ages for the other categories of abuse. This data is consistent with previous quarters.

The regional Quality Assurance sub-group continues to support the development of the performance management and quality assurance framework identifying any emerging safeguarding themes and challenges that may become more amplified and require more targeted attention moving forward.

- 6.3.4 **Figure 3.3** The figures reflecting where the alleged abuse/neglect took place shows that we had the highest number of reports from care home settings in Q2 (91) followed by own home (70). It is more likely that abuse will be witnessed and reported in this type of environment. There has been a concerted attempt to work with care home managers to raise their awareness of the safeguarding procedures. We also continue to have a close working relationship with the Commissioning team within the department and with our Health colleagues in sharing information and jointly investigating any concerns. The majority of the population still reside in their own homes therefore we would expect to see a high number of reports from 'own home'. Care and support is often provided by domiciliary care companies in people's homes who again are aware of the safeguarding procedures so are more likely to report. Domestic abuse cases will also likely be included in the 'own home' category. This data is consistent with previous quarters.

- 6.3.5 **Figure 3.4** This data shows the person allegedly responsible for the abuse is most often recorded as 'not known' (92). An example of this is where an incident such as a fall in a care home would not identify the alleged perpetrator. There can also be cases in which the report is closed because it was inappropriate, and no abuse/neglect has occurred. The alleged perpetrator may have been identified through the course of enquiries but if the safeguarding process is still ongoing when the data is taken it may not be captured in the final performance statistics. There were less reports of abuse by a professional in Q 2 (19) compared to Q1 (35) this year. This will be closely monitored and further assessed over quarters 3 and 4 to see if this trend continues and if a rationale or reason can be provided. There has been an increase in reports in which the alleged perpetrator is a son or daughter, 17 in quarter 2 compared to 11 in quarter 1.

6.3.6 **Figure 3.5:** The majority of our reports are received from provider agencies and the local health board which is to be expected due to their awareness of the safeguarding procedures. This is consistent with previous data. There has been a 50% increase in the reports received from relatives/friends. This may be due to more awareness via media or the drive to recruit more carers who will then receive the mandatory training and are more likely to report abuse in all circumstances. This is an encouraging increase from members of the public. Self-reporting continues to increase also which suggests adults at risk are becoming more aware of their rights and the importance of raising any concerns,

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.

6.3.7 **Figure 3.6:** The data suggests females continue to be more at risk of domestic abuse than males or are at least more likely to be reported. There continues to be a steady increase in females aged between 18 and 64 experiencing domestic abuse. This could be reflective of the crisis being experienced by the community as a whole such as poverty and unemployment. The reports could also be increasing due to an increased awareness of 'Ask and Act'. This figure only captures the adult at risk cases and not all people within the community experiencing domestic abuse. We have a dedicated worker within the team who has expertise in this area and responds to these reports.

A strong link also remains with the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) partnership. Our close working relationships are also demonstrated with the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, and nationally recognised bodies such as Public Health Wales along with our regional volunteering agencies, Gwent Association of Volunteering Organisations (GAVO) and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance.

## 6.4 **Education**

### 6.4.1 **Overview**

Action Short of Strike (ASOS) was in place until the end of November 2023, this impacted on some of the data that would routinely be presented to Members.

Data presented within this report is done so on an exception basis to bring key aspects of information to Members' attention and as such not all evidence in the supporting performance report will be included in this narrative.

- 6.4.2 **Section 05 Figure 1.2 Estyn** There was one school inspected by Estyn Summer 2023, no health and safety or safeguarding concerns were highlighted.
- 6.4.3 **Section 05 Figure 4.2.1/4.2.3 - Training** - The number of school staff completing the VAWDASV Group 1 online training during the summer term was 72% which is a small decrease on the Spring term when it was 73%. Whilst recorded completion of the online safeguarding module appears low, all schools are compliant with 'in-person' delivery of their whole school safeguarding training.
- 6.4.4 **Section 05 Fig 5.13** - There are established arrangements in place for the reporting of bullying within schools. Due to ASOS data for the summer term 2023 is not available for inclusion as not all schools have returned their data.
- 6.4.5 **Section 05 Figure 5.2.1/5.2.2/5.2.3: Electively Home Educated Pupils** - Annual visits by LA Officers to EHE pupils provide valuable information regarding the efficiency of the education provided. Support is offered to reintegrate or to signpost. Home visits are offered parents who refuse are few. Neutral venues are offered, and School Attendance Orders are considered. Additional funding from WG has improved engagement with hard-to-reach families. There is emerging positive impact of this work but more needs to be done nationally so that a national register is compiled of all those children EHE. The implementation of effective safeguarding nationally continues to be compromised until this is achieved. More robust EHE guidance has been issued by WG however there is no longer going to be a national register of EHE children. All local authorities will be required to keep their own CME database but there will be requirements for other agencies to inform the local authority.
- 6.4.6 **Section 05 Figure 5.4.1/5.4.2/5.4.3/5.4.4/5.4.5: Children who offend** - There is a service level agreement in place with the Youth Offending Service and both agencies work together to ensure that children are in appropriate education.

The 22/23 academic year has seen a decrease in children accessing the youth offending service when compared to 21/22

- 6.4.7 **Section 05 5.5 Anti-social Behaviour Process**  
The Council's Community Safety Team membership includes Gwent Police (CADRO), Social Services (including Families First), Youth Offending Service, Senior Education Welfare, Youth Services, Registered Social Landlords and Legal Team, where appropriate. Referrals to the group can come from the Council, Police or Registered Social Landlords.

The purpose of this Group is to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour by providing multi-agency tailored support.



There are 4 different stages of intervention:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Warning Letter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Warning Letter
- Case Review
- Punitive sanction

6.4.8 **Figure 5.5.1: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** - shows the number of children identified in the 4-Stage Anti-Social Behaviour Process, broken down by age and gender. Generally, more males have been identified in the anti-social behaviour for primary and secondary school age children. Overall, there has been a drop in the number of incidents.

6.4.9 **Figure 5.5.2 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents-** identified from children who have received Stage 1 and Stage 2 Warning Letters. As can be seen the majority of issues are in relation to being part of a group: nuisance behaviour and setting fires.

6.4.10 **Figure 5.5.3 - Children Identified in 4-Stage ASB Process.** The majority of individuals do not progress past Stage 1. However, in the summer term there was an escalation in the number of Stage 3 cases, attributed to anti-social behaviour in one of our town centres. There were no stage 4 cases.

6.4.11 **Figure 5.8.5 Operation Encompass**

In the Summer term, children were present at 52.2% of occurrences of reported domestic violence, a significant increase from 31.6% in the Spring term. However, it is important to note that the local authority is now recording this information, as opposed to relying on police data, which may account for the increase.

6.4.12 **Section 05 Figure 5.10.1/5.10.2: Exclusions** - Exclusions are high, with many schools seeing a decline in the behaviour of pupils. There is a similar picture across Wales. Targeted support meetings have been offered to schools to discuss attendance and behaviour. Training has been offered to governors. A vulnerable learner panel has been established where schools can discuss pupils with persistent disruptive behaviour. This remains a key priority for the Education Directorate and schools.

6.4.13 **Section 05 Figure 5.11.2: Physical Interventions** - Most of the interventions reported are attributable to the specialist schools. Since the Autumn term, there has been a reduction in the number of interventions used in both specialist schools.

6.4.14 **Section 05 Figure 5.12/5.13/5.14 – Prejudice Related Incidents/Bullying** - There are established arrangements in place for the reporting of bullying concerns within schools which involve an alleged incident involving a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act. Due to ASOS the data for the summer term 2023 is not available for inclusion.

## 6.5 Corporate Safeguarding

- 6.5.1 **Figures 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 DBS Compliance** evidences all those within the Council who require a DBS and those who do not. Currently over 73% of Council employees require a DBS check. It is evident that this is an area in which we are performing exceptionally well. All directorates are performing at over 98% and those where no DBS is in place, there is a clear escalation process in place to ensure that managers and leads are aware and can take necessary action to resolve. Operational Teams receive fortnightly reports of all DBS applications currently in progress to enable Safeguarding escalation where required.
- 6.5.2 **Figure 6.2.1 VAWDASV Corporate Online Training** evidences that corporate training has been provided to staff in respect of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with 52% of staff having completed the VAWDASV online training. Welsh Government has developed an e-learning module which is available on our online learning platform – the All-Wales Academy and there is an expectation for all council staff to complete this training.
- 6.5.3 **Figure 6.2.2 Corporate Online Safeguarding Training** evidence 52% of staff having completed the safeguarding training. On commencing employment with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, all practitioners are required to have basic safeguarding awareness training. A refresher training session is required every 3 years. This is the 'All Wales Group A Safeguarding' online session to be completed as part of the induction process.

The National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Standards were launched in November 2023. This provides an overview of the knowledge, skills and competence expected for each group of practitioners, in relation to their safeguarding role and responsibilities. The National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Framework provides guidance for the implementation of training and how this could look in practice. Work is ongoing with the Regional Safeguarding Board in order to ensure the training opportunities across the region are reflective of the practitioner needs within each practitioner grouping.

Training compliance is being monitored via the Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group. There are identified challenges in respect of the data collection in respect of safeguarding training in the absence of an online learning management system. This is including the monitoring and tracking of safeguarding training consistently across all service areas. Work is ongoing to consider methods and practices which can support this function more effectively across all directorates.

- 6.5.4 **Figure 6.3 Risk Register** – The tables under this section evidence the progress being made against the controls outlined within the risk register and progress set against the recommendations for corporate safeguarding. As noted, the annual safeguarding self assessments for service areas across the council have been submitted and will be reviewed by the Children's

Safeguarding Team to identify themes, trends and gaps to inform a forward work plan for the Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group for year 24/25.

The Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group (CSLG) will be seeking to review the effectiveness of the current corporate safeguarding model in the new financial year. This will inevitably lead to the CSLG group proposing recommendations to help strengthen and improve the current corporate safeguarding functions across the Council. This work will support the review of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

#### **6.6 Expected outcome for the public**

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

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

#### **6.7 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

The development of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the Departmental Safeguarding Leads meetings reconvened in 2021 and this helps to 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 other education settings and half termly 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.

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.

#### **6.8 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

The Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF) enables both Social Services and the Education Directorate to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where the department is currently and where it needs to be in the future. This process is further supplemented by the Local Government Education Services (LGES) framework within which local government education services operate.

The rigorous self-evaluation processes ensure that key areas for development are identified and then embedded within business planning arrangements.

## 6.9 **Preventative focus**

The work undertaken by the Social Services and Education Directorates 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.

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.

The recent establishment of the Strategic Safer Schools Partnership Board continues to progress strategic issues across the Local Government Education Services.

## 6.10 **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 the Q's partnership working with the police and statutory partners continued to progress. The Hub model is working well, with multi agency safeguarding meeting happening in a timely manner.

## 6.11 **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.

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. Within Education this is further supplemented by the work of the Strategic Safer Schools Partnership Board and the termly meetings with Designated Safeguarding persons (DSP'S)

6.12 **Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

N/A

6.13 **Integrated Impact Assessment - EqIA**

N/A

6.14 **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Local Safeguarding Network Group is a subgroup 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 monitor 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.

The performance of both directorates is monitored throughout the financial year from April to March and reported to People Scrutiny Committee and in the context of Education is supplemented by various quality assurance activities that are routinely reported to Education DLT on a termly basis and seek to inform the ongoing self-evaluation and the priorities to be progressed in respect of Safeguarding in Education.

6.15 **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

*Appendix 1 – BG Safeguarding Reporting Data Template Q1&Q2 2023-24 Final*

*Appendix 2 – BG Education Risk Register*

The following hyperlink provides further details on the governance and Structure: [www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk)