

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

DATE: 22 May 2023

LOCATION:

TITLE: CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group
Safeguarding Report
Qtr 3 2022/23

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To monitor activity on a multi-agency basis of the actions taken to safeguard children and adults within Ceredigion

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: To ensure members monitor progress in the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group quarterly management meetings

BACKGROUND:

Please see attached CYSUR-CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report for Qtr 3, 2022/23.

These are multi-agency management reports in relation to safeguarding children and adults in Ceredigion during the period 1st October to 31st December 2022. They provide management information on action taken under the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

The Reports include information provided by other agencies in relation to safeguarding the welfare of children and adults in Ceredigion.

The management information is discussed by members of the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined (Ceredigion) Local Operations Group in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the safeguarding of children and adults arrangements in Ceredigion and the outcomes achieved

These multi agency meetings provide an opportunity to identify and act upon any performance and other issues within this area of work.

Performance information is also provided to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board which is also an opportunity to analyse performance, trends and issues across the Region.

Summary of Key points:

- In Quarter 3, there was an increase in the overall number of contacts/reports received regarding children/young people compared to Quarter 2-with there being 1112 contacts/reports received in Q3 compared to 1030 contacts/reports received in Q2.
- There was an increase in the overall number of contacts/reports which proceeded to actions needing to be taken under Child Protection Procedures, 193 in Q3 compared with 171 in Q2
- The percentage of reports that proceeded to a Strategy Discussion in this quarter was 17.3% compared to 16.7% in Q2.
- In Q3, 7.3% of reports proceeded to a Section 47 Enquiry compared to 8.3% in Q2. 0.97% of reports received needed to proceed to an Initial Child Protection Conference in quarter 2 compared to 1.6% in this quarter, Quarter 3. So, there was an increase in the number of contacts/reports received in Q3, which then led on to an increase in the number of strategy discussions held and an increase in the number of children who were the subject of Initial Child Protection Conferences.
- The total number of children placed on the Child Protection Register in this quarter following the Initial Child Protection Conference was 31 compared to 16 in Q2.
- The total number of children removed after Review Child Protection Conferences in this quarter were 28 compared to 13 in Quarter 2.
- The total number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken in this quarter were 81 compared to 86 in Quarter 2. 59 of those enquiries were undertaken in this quarter, jointly with the Police and 22 were undertaken as a Social Services Single Agency.
- The main category of abuse that led to a Section 47 enquiry in quarter 3 was Physical Abuse (40), sexual abuse/exploitation (15), neglect (13) and emotional abuse (9). This follows the same pattern experienced in Quarter 2.
- There were 49 children on the Child Protection Register as of the end of this quarter, compared to 46 as at the end of Quarter 2. 29 children were registered under the category of emotional/psychological abuse, in this quarter, 14 under the category of neglect and 6 under the category of both neglect and physical abuse.
- The main Risk Factors for the 49 children who were on the Children Protection Register as of the 31/12/2022, were domestic abuse, parental mental health, parental substance/alcohol misuse and parental separation.
- In terms of Adult Safeguarding, there has been a significant increase in the number of adults suspected of being at risk of abuse and/or neglect, with there being 128 adults at risk reported in this quarter compared to 113 in Q2. In particular there was a significant increase in the number of adults being reported, at risk, in the month of November (67) compared to 53 in October and 37 in December. It is not clear why there was such an increase in this particular month, but the reports relate concerns about domestic abuse.
- The most reported category of abuse this quarter again was emotional/psychological abuse, with 64 reports of adults at risk where this was the main category of abuse. Neglect was the second main category of reported abuse (51), financial abuse (42), physical abuse (33) and sexual abuse (23). This follows the pattern from the previous quarter.
- From the reports received, in relation to all categories of abuse, women are the highest reported to be most at risk, by a significant margin. However, in relation to financial abuse being the number of male and females reported to be at risk are almost equal (20 male, 22 female).

- In Quarter 3, the Police were the highest source of reporting (40) compared to Quarter 2, where it was a Provider Agency (30). In Quarter 3, the reports received by the Police were significantly higher than any other agency. The second highest being from Provider Agencies (26).

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why No

Summary:

This report is provided on an ongoing basis and demonstrates the continuing work that is undertaken in relation to safeguarding children and adults in Ceredigion.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

- Long term:** Balancing short term need with long term planning for the future
- Integration:** Positively impacting on people, economy, environment and culture and trying to benefit all three
- Collaboration:** Working together with other partners to delivery
- Involvement:** Involving those with an interest and seeking their views, stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Prevention:** Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To note the contents of the report and the levels of activity with the Local Authority

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

So that governance of the Local Authority activity and its partner agencies are monitored

Contact Name: **Audrey Somerton-Edwards**

Designation: **Corporate Lead Officer: (Children & Families)**

Date of Report: 6 April 2023

Acronyms:

CP – Child Protection

CPR – Child Protection Register

Part 4 – Allegations against a member of staff or those working with children,
e.g. - foster carers, volunteers, playgroups, etc.

CPCC – Child Protection Case Conference

ICPC – Initial Child Protection Conference