

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024

REFERENCE FROM GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:  
23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024

“382 ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2023/2024 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Operational Manager Employee Services.

Councillor M. Hooper referenced the number of instances where the adult abuse was recorded as ‘Own Home’ and also the high number of reports relating to the 85 years of age and older. He stated that it would be interesting to understand whether own home was a high category for that cohort. Councillor Hooper also queried the data contained in Table 1 - Compliance Rates for Corporate and Schools New Starters. In addition, Councillor Hooper raised concern in regard to the number of children and families going into hotels, which could potentially put children at risk. In reply, the Operational Manager advised that information regarding the 85 plus and the compliance rates would be taken away for consideration.

Councillor J. Protheroe commented on the 825 safeguarding reports within Adult Social Care, of which 300 moved to the enquiry stage. She commended the 99% completion rate within the seven working days of the time scale target, which was an improvement on the previous year. Councillor Protheroe referred to the 546 strategy meetings with Children Services and asked if there were similar statutory timescales to follow. In response, the Operational Manager advised that the query would be followed up.

The Chair, Mr. G. Chapman queried whether an enhanced DBS Check was required for Elected Members. In response, the Operational Manager advised that that had been checked and other local authorities held a different view, but the Vale Council had taken the decision that an enhanced check was required.

The Chair also asked whether there was a provision within Education and schools, for DBS checks to be carried out on a rolling basis. The Operational Manager stated that there were different requirements for the care sector and for schools. Individual staff had a duty to inform the Council if something had happened and the Police would also make the Council aware if someone was being investigated. The Chair added that a sample test maybe something for the Council to consider.

The actual number for the 41% of Carer/ Support Worker working with Adults at Risk that were referred as their child/ren were subject to Section 47 enquiries or were on the Child Protection, would be sent via email.

The Chair raised a concern in regard to Councils use of bed and breakfast accommodation, particularly for vulnerable 16 to 18 year olds. As these were some of the most vulnerable people in society, Councils needed to ensure that they were not putting them in positions of risk.

There being no further comments or queries, the Committee

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the reference from Cabinet of 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 and the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2023/24 be noted.

(2) T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee in relation to the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2023/2024 be referred to Cabinet.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) To advise Cabinet of the views of the Governance and Audit Committee.”