

Report To:	Corporate Governance Committee
Date of Meeting:	28 September 2016
Lead Member / Officer:	Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit
Report Author:	Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit
Title:	Corporate Safeguarding Update

1. What is the report about?

This report provides an update on progress in implementing the action plan that accompanied the Internal Audit report on Corporate Safeguarding in August 2015.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

This report is to provide information on how the Council is implementing improvements in corporate safeguarding since the issue of the Internal Audit report in 2015. The original audit report gave 'Low Assurance', which was upgraded to 'Medium Assurance' when we reported on our follow up review in March 2016. The Corporate Governance Committee requested a progress report to ensure that the issues are being addressed.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee to review progress and decide whether it requires a further progress report.

4. Report details

Appendix 1 is the Internal Audit follow up report, which shows that good progress continues to be made with implementing the action plan and the assurance rating remains as 'Medium'.

Improvements have been made in service risk management, measures to improve controls for the assessments of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) referrals, and in the Corporate Safeguarding Panel.

There are still some areas in progress, in particular relating to development of staff training and ensuring that employees and elected members are aware of the existence of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy, which needs to be revised. Work is also progressing to improve the skills and knowledge of the Designated Safeguarding Managers (DSMs) by developing a competencies framework and training programme.

One other issue raised in our follow up is the need to address the low attendance of elected members at the mandatory training on safeguarding to ensure that they have sufficient awareness of safeguarding. Democratic Services hopes to introduce e-learning modules in the future to improve access to training for elected members.

5. **How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
6. **What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
7. **What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
8. **What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
9. **Chief Finance Officer Statement**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
10. **What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
11. **Power to make the Decision**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.