

1. Governance and Terms of Reference

One of the key actions from the January 2025 scrutiny committee was to revise the Terms of Reference for both the Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board and the Corporate Safeguarding Board. This work has now been completed, and the revised Terms of Reference have been formally approved and signed off by the Corporate Safeguarding Board. These revisions strengthen governance arrangements, clarify accountability, and ensure that safeguarding responsibilities are embedded consistently across the Council.

2. Strengthening Membership and Engagement

The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board has expanded its membership over the last year, with representation now in place from nearly all council directorates. This has significantly strengthened cross-departmental engagement and created positive momentum in driving forward safeguarding responsibilities across the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

A briefing has been prepared for Directors, Heads of Service, and members of the Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board to ensure they have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to corporate safeguarding. This reinforces senior-level accountability and supports consistent safeguarding practice across all service areas.

3. Corporate Risk Register and Communications

Safeguarding continues to be identified as the third highest risk to the Council. This reinforces the need for strong corporate oversight and the continued message that *Safeguarding is Everyone's Business*.

During Safeguarding Week in November 2025, a corporate safeguarding newsletter was circulated to all staff to:

- Remind employees of their safeguarding duties and reporting pathways
- Reinforce the message that Safeguarding is Everyone's Business
- Promote the mandatory Safeguarding Group A e-learning module

We will now be issuing a quarterly safeguarding newsletter, with the next edition focusing on Domestic Abuse.

The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board is being supported by the Council's Communications Team to develop a comprehensive communication plan. This will ensure that safeguarding advice and information is shared regularly with staff and promoted to the public through social media and other communication channels.

4. Serious Organised Crime and Multi-Agency Working

Staff from Housing, Social Services and Trading Standards continue to be active members of the Serious Organised Crime (SOC) meetings arranged by North Wales Police.

Recent examples of effective partnership working include Trading Standards taking action against vape shops where concerns were raised that products were being used to exploit young people. This demonstrates the positive impact of multi-agency collaboration in reducing risk and protecting vulnerable individuals.

We are also in ongoing discussions with North Wales Police regarding partnership work on Operation Makesafe. This Operation helps identify and prevent exploitation, particularly in places like hotels, taxis, shops and other public-facing businesses. It raises awareness among staff so they can spot signs of both sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation and report concerns quickly to safeguard young people. The PCSO leading this work will attend an upcoming Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board Meeting.

5. Prevent Duty and Radicalisation Awareness

The Isle of Anglesey County Council was previously awarded the Prevent Radicalisation Fund from the Home Office to deliver Prevent workshops across the Island.

During Safeguarding Week in November:

- 220 people attended the Prevent workshops
- Sessions were open to council staff and third-sector organisations
- Workshops were delivered in Holyhead, Llangefni and Amlwch. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board worked closely with Medrwn Mon in order to reach third sector organisations.
- Feedback was positive, with participants reporting increased confidence in recognising online radicalisation risks

The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board are now preparing for the Home Office Annual Prevent Quality Assurance Check in January. Some members of the Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board have been part of a sub group responsible for completing an audit of the Council's compliance with the Prevent Duty, which will feed directly into the quality assurance process. The Home Office aims to share the outcome in May 2026.

6. Response to “Our Bravery Brought Justice”

Since the publication of *Our Bravery Brought Justice*, the Council, particularly Social Services and Education has been working closely with the North Wales Safeguarding Board to demonstrate how we have responded to the recommendations in this Child Practice Review. This work was explored in detail during the discussions at the Education Scrutiny Panel on 17th December 2025. Through that process, we were able to provide further clarity on the robust measures in place to manage and monitor safeguarding matters.

Since the publication, the Council has strengthened our working relationships with key governing bodies, including the Education Workforce Council, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Social Care Wales and Wales Rugby Union. We are working closely with these organisations to ensure they are notified at the appropriate time when concerns are raised about a registered employee. This ensures that regulatory bodies have the information they need to take timely and proportionate action, further strengthening safeguarding arrangements across the Council.

7. Procurement and Safe Commissioning

The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board is currently scrutinising the procurement processes relating to the transportation of children to and from school.

- The Licensing Officer has attended the Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board to explain the process for securing a taxi license
- The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board is reviewing whether current safeguarding training offered to taxi companies is sufficient and whether current policies prioritise safeguarding
- Next steps include examining how taxi contracts are commissioned by Education and Highways
- The aim is to ensure all taxi contracts include robust safeguarding arrangements

This work forms part of a wider focus on strengthening safe commissioning across the Council.

8. Safeguarding Reviews

It has not been necessary for the Isle of Anglesey County Council to refer any cases to the North Wales Safeguarding Board for a Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) in the last 12 months.

A Domestic Homicide Review relating to an Anglesey resident is expected to be published this year. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board will review the recommendations and ensure appropriate implementation across relevant services.

9. Workforce Development

Workforce safeguarding measures continue to be strengthened:

- DBS checks remain in place for relevant roles
- Robust pre-employment checks are consistently applied
- A dedicated Corporate Safeguarding Training Officer oversees training delivery

In addition to the above, an Internal Audit is currently being undertaken to focus on safeguarding arrangements relating to recruitment of supply teachers.

Mandatory safeguarding training for all staff includes:

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Prevent
- Modern Slavery
- Safeguarding (Group A) (mandatory module since end of November 2025)

Service	VAWDASV	Prevent	Modern Slavery	Diogelu Grwp A
ADULTS	100%	100%	100%	37%
CHILDREN'S	96%	97%	95%	47%
CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION	100%	100%	100%	17%
COUNCIL BUSINESS	100%	100%	100%	36%

HIGHWAYS, WASTE AND PROPERTY	79%	85%	85%	31%
HOUSING	89%	89%	89%	15%
LEARNING	94%	95%	93%	53%
PROVIDER UNIT	76%	84%	84%	41%
REGULATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	94%	94%	94%	32%
RESOURCES	99%	99%	100%	23%
SCHOOLS	61%	47%	55%	4%
SENIOR MANAGEMENT	100%	87.5%	100%	75%
Grand Total:	<u>75.2%</u>	<u>70.4%</u>	<u>74.2%</u>	<u>16.4%</u>

The percentage of school staff who have completed training on Learning Pool is low, but there are several factors to take into consideration such as:-

- Issues with access to Learning Pool, especially following the change in education emails and the use of Hwb emails.
- Some have completed training by other means, e.g., purchasing their own system to keep a record of safeguarding training in one place.
- The schools provide details about training in their annual safeguarding reports, and these will be presented to the education department by the end of January.
- Although the Council has made Group A training mandatory since November, the schools have been providing this training since September 2023, with a recording available so that staff/governors can watch it at any time. We are therefore hopeful that our school staff are in a strong place in terms of this training.

10. Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs)

In April 2025, the Home Office announced that North Wales had been selected as a pilot area for the newly launched Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs).

Under this legislation, the local authority, particularly Housing and Social Services can make third-party applications to protect victims of domestic abuse even without their consent.

The Council, one of the first councils within the UK pilot sites, has already successfully applied for a DAPO on behalf of a service user. The order resulted in:

- The perpetrator being electronically tagged
- A prohibition on contacting the victim
- A subsequent breach, leading to a three-year custodial sentence

The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board will continue to explore how the Local Authority can apply for DAPOs to empower and protect victims.

11. Next Steps

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Launching the five-year Corporate Safeguarding Board Strategy in April 2026
- Strengthening contractor safeguarding requirements
- Continuing to embed safeguarding across all directorates
- Enhancing multi-agency collaboration and community engagement
- Implementing a quarterly safeguarding newsletter
- Developing and delivering the new safeguarding communication plan

Next steps for Education department includes:-

- Concerns about the Learning Pool system will be discussed in the next Education Business and Systems meeting.
- A member of the Human Resources team will attend the wellbeing event in February to assist any individuals who don't have access or are unable to log in.
- Schools have already begun offering Group B training to their staff.

- Group C training is regularly offered to the designated safeguarding persons and governing bodies of schools.

12. Conclusion

The work undertaken over the past 12 months demonstrates strong progress in strengthening safeguarding arrangements across the Council. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board will continue to drive forward improvements, ensure compliance with statutory duties, and promote a culture where safeguarding is recognised as everyone's responsibility. The issues in relation to the recording of training records for schools will be escalated to the Corporate Safeguarding Board in February.