



## THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING BOARD

### ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

#### An Overview of the Objectives and Achievements of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Board

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Director of Community Services  
Carmarthenshire County Council

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Director of Social Care & Leisure  
Pembrokeshire County Council

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## INTRODUCTION

Regional Safeguarding Boards function under Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. The wellbeing of its citizens is central to current Welsh Government policy and legislation. Within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, the Welsh Government seeks to define and measure the wellbeing of its citizens in a variety of ways. This includes physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing, social and economic wellbeing, education training and recreation as well as how well its citizens are prevented and protected from experiencing abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm. The need to ensure the citizens of Mid & West Wales are adequately prevented and protected from experiencing abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm is therefore a core function and responsibility of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board.

The region of Mid & West Wales is unique in that it covers a very large geographical area spanning almost half of the land mass of Wales, which in itself presents challenges within the context of meeting the needs of a wide and diverse mix of communities. The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding board is however very proud of the strong partnership and collaborative working culture it has established across such large regional footprint and is committed in the coming year to strengthen and consolidate the progress made to date to safeguard and protect the most vulnerable members of our communities.

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board serves the communities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys, working together collaboratively and in partnership within a multi-agency setting. The Board aims to raise awareness of safeguarding issues with members of the public and provide support, advice and guidance to professionals working in our local communities who deliver a range of voluntary and statutory services. This includes people who give their time voluntarily, in places like youth clubs, community centres and sports clubs as well as professionals such as nurses, health visitors, teachers, police officers, social workers and probation officers.

Mid & West Wales is covered by two sister Safeguarding Boards:

- **CWMPAS** [*Collaborative Working & Maintaining Partnership in Adult Safeguarding*]: The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Adults Board, **and**;
- **CYSUR** [*Child & Youth Safeguarding, Unifying the Region*]: The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board.

The CWMPAS primary focus is adults at risk, although it works collaboratively and in partnership with its sister Board, CYSUR. CYSUR covers the same geographical area as CWMPAS and operates under the same legislative framework. However, its primary focus is to safeguard children and young people who may be experiencing or who are at risk of abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm. The CWMPAS and CYSUR boards share a number of strategic priorities and also work together by jointly hosting several board Sub Groups.

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board members seek to achieve their objectives in a variety of ways. Its structure consists of an overarching Executive Board and a number of local and regional Sub Groups which report directly to and carry out

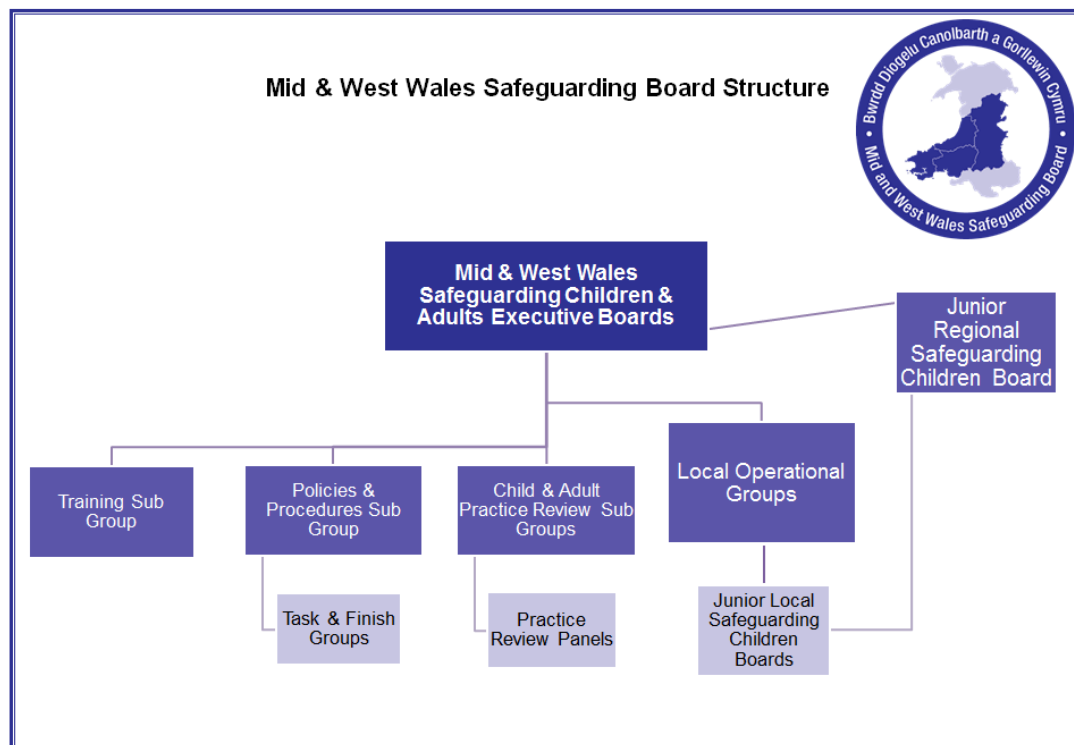
functions on behalf of the Executive Board. The promotion of safeguarding matters and the provision of support to professionals are assisted by the delivery of safeguarding training and the development of regional policies and procedures which seek to help support and guide professionals in their day to day work. The Board also has a mechanism to allow practitioners to reflect on professional practice and learn lessons when children or adults at risk die or suffer serious harm via the undertaking of Adult & Child Practice Reviews.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

| <b>CWMPAS Executive Board</b>  | <b>CYSUR Executive Board</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>Jonathan Griffiths</b> (Chair)<br>Director of Social Care & Leisure,<br>Pembrokeshire County Council                        | <b>Jake Morgan</b> (Chair)<br>Director of Community Services,<br>Carmarthenshire County Council                    |
| <b>Anthony Griffiths</b> (Vice-Chair)<br>Det Superintendent,<br>Dyfed Powys Police   | <b>Rhiannon Jones</b> (Vice-Chair)<br>Director of Nursing,<br>Powys Teaching Health Board                          |
| <b>Jake Morgan</b><br>Director of Community Services,<br>Carmarthenshire County Council  | <b>Jonathan Griffiths</b><br>Director of Social Care & Leisure,<br>Pembrokeshire County Council                    |
| <b>Sue Darnbrook</b><br>Strategic Director: Care, Protection and<br>Lifestyle,<br>Ceredigion County Council                    | <b>Sue Darnbrook</b><br>Strategic Director: Care, Protection and<br>Lifestyle,<br>Ceredigion County Council        |
| <b>Louise Barry</b><br>Interim Chief Social Work – Operations<br>Director for Social Care,<br>Powys County Council             | <b>Louise Barry</b><br>Interim Chief Social Work – Operations<br>Director for Social Care,<br>Powys County Council |
| <b>Rhiannon Jones</b><br>Director of Nursing,<br>Powys Teaching Health Board   | <b>Anthony Griffiths</b><br>Det Superintendent,<br>Dyfed Powys Police  |
| <b>Avril Bracey</b><br>Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities<br>& Adult Safeguarding, Carmarthenshire<br>County Council | <b>Stefan Smith</b><br>Head of Children’s Services,<br>Carmarthenshire County Council                              |
| <b>Carys James</b><br>Head of Adult & Commissioned Services,<br>Ceredigion County Council                                      | <b>Elfed Hopkins</b><br>Head of Families & Children Services,<br>Ceredigion County Council                         |
| <b>Jason Bennett</b><br>Head of Adult Services,<br>Pembrokeshire County Council  | <b>Diane Beacroft</b><br>Interim Head of Children’s Services,<br>Pembrokeshire County Council                      |
| <b>Jen Jeffries</b><br>Head of Adult Services,<br>Powys County Council   | <b>David Johnston</b><br>Interim Head of Children’s Services,<br>Powys County Council                              |
| <b>Christine Harley</b><br>Assistant Chief Executive,<br>National Probation Service  | <b>Christine Harley</b><br>Assistant Chief Executive,<br>National Probation Service                                |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Deanne Martin</b><br>Assistant Chief Executive,<br>Wales Community Rehabilitation Company   | <b>Deanne Martin</b><br>Assistant Chief Executive,<br>Wales Community Rehabilitation Company   |
| <b>Mandy Rayani</b><br>Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient<br>Experience,<br>Hywel Dda University Health Board                      | <b>Mandy Rayani</b><br>Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient<br>Experience,<br>Hywel Dda University Health Board                      |
| <b>Sian Passey</b><br>Assistant Director Nursing Assurance and<br>Safeguarding Corporate Nursing,<br>Hywel Dda University Health Board | <b>Sian Passey</b><br>Assistant Director Nursing Assurance and<br>Safeguarding Corporate Nursing,<br>Hywel Dda University Health Board |
| <b>Nicola Edwards</b><br>Head of Safeguarding Adults & Children<br>(Named Nurse),<br>Hywel Dda University Health Board                 | <b>Nicola Edwards</b><br>Head of Safeguarding Adults & Children<br>(Named Nurse),<br>Hywel Dda University Health Board                 |
| <b>Sonia Mason</b><br>Assistant Director of Safeguarding (Named<br>Nurse),<br>Powys Teaching Health Board                              | <b>Sonia Mason</b><br>Assistant Director of Safeguarding (Named<br>Nurse),<br>Powys Teaching Health Board                              |
| <b>Debbie Pachu</b><br>Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding<br>Team (NHS Wales),<br>Public Health Wales                             | <b>Karen Toohey</b><br>Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding<br>Team (NHS Wales),<br>Public Health Wales                             |
| <b>Nikki Harvey</b><br>Head of Safeguarding,<br>Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust   | <b>Nikki Harvey</b><br>Head of Safeguarding,<br>Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust   |
| <b>Hazel Lloyd-Lubran</b><br>Regional Third Sector representative,<br>Ceredigion Association of Voluntary<br>Organisations (CAVO)      | <b>Hazel Lloyd-Lubran</b><br>Regional Third Sector representative,<br>Ceredigion Association of Voluntary<br>Organisations (CAVO)      |
| <b>Chris Harrison</b><br>Regional representative for Heads of<br>Commissioning   | <b>Steve Davis</b><br>Regional representative of Youth Justice<br>Managers   |
|  | <b>Kate Evan-Hughes</b><br>Regional representative of<br>Directors of Education  |
|  | <b>Dr Ingrid Prosser</b><br>Named Doctor, Child Protection, PTHB   |
|  | <b>Dr Velupillai Vipulendran</b><br>Named Doctor, Child Protection, HDUHB  |
| <b>Julie Breckon</b><br>Business Manager ,<br>Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board  | <b>Julie Breckon</b><br>Business Manager ,<br>Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board  |

## **BOARD STRUCTURE**



### **Executive Board:**

The Executive Board is an overarching regional board which seeks to monitor and improve regional safeguarding activity. The Executive Board consists of senior officers from all key statutory partners and agencies (see membership table). The Executive Board seeks to ensure it provides strong leadership and guidance to all of its statutory partners and does this by identifying annual strategic priorities and desired outcomes in respect of safeguarding activity and practice. The Executive Board supports, guides and takes advice from the regional Sub Groups.



### **Local Operational Groups:**

Each of the four Local Authorities within Mid and West Wales host Local Operational Groups (LOGs). The purpose, membership and structure of these LOGs mirror that of the Executive Board. However, the primary objective of LOGs is to monitor and analyse safeguarding practice locally, rather than regionally. Membership consists of the Head of Children's & Adult Services, who chair the groups, senior managers and officers from local statutory agencies, including Health, Police and Probation. LOGs seek to improve safeguarding practice locally by discussing local safeguarding activity in an open and transparent environment, sharing and analysing local data and by the

undertaking of practice audits. LOGs seek to share and acknowledge examples of good safeguarding practice yet will professionally challenge and hold agencies to account when safeguarding practice falls below expected standards.

#### Regional Practice Review Sub Groups:

The Adult Practice Review (APR) & Child Practice Review (CPR) Sub Groups consider referrals from agencies where a child or adult at risk has either died or suffered significant impairment of health and development as a result of abuse and neglect. The regional APR/CPR Sub Group considers information against defined criteria within 'Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 3 – Adult Practice Reviews & Volume 2 – Child Practice Reviews' and makes a recommendation to the relevant Executive Board Chair as to whether there are identified learning outcomes and whether an APR/CPR should be undertaken to learn lessons. Practice Reviews are undertaken by a multi-agency group of professionals who collectively analyse information and identify any practice themes and lessons to learn. The report is then published as a Child/Adult Practice Review on the Board's website.

#### Regional Policies & Procedures Sub Group:

The Policies & Procedures Sub Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. This Sub Group seeks to provide guidance to professionals by the development of regional policies and procedures. A number of local policies and procedures are in place within each member organisation. A key objective for the Board this year is to work towards the development of these into regional policies and procedures to help promote a more consistent regional response to safeguarding practice.

#### Regional Training Sub Group:

The Training Sub Group also operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. It seeks to support and guide the delivery of safeguarding training and learning across the four local authority areas and partner agency organisations. The Training Sub Group works closely with organisational training departments to ensure and promote the quality and consistency of safeguarding training and delivery. The group can commission specialist, bespoke safeguarding training across the region and works closely with other Sub Groups such as the APR/CPR Sub Groups to ensure any learning outcomes that have been identified as result of Child/Adult Practice Reviews are disseminated to staff.









Project. This is 3 year WG funded project aimed at reducing the risk of vulnerable children and young people experiencing CSE or demonstrating sexually harmful behaviour through the development of prevention model for use in social care. The project is exploring the hypotheses that there is a correlation between experiencing trauma in early childhood and the potential to become a victim of CSE or develop sexually harmful behaviour in adolescence.



As part of this work a CSE project worker has been appointed Giselle Moran. Giselle has worked closely with the Safeguarding Board in the past year and has supported the implementation of the CSE strategy and plan across the region. Giselle has undertaken a comprehensive service mapping exercise across the Mid & West Wales Region to identify what services and support is available to this group of children. The project has completed its first year and is now at the start of year 2. Phase 2 will see the implementation of a pilot project and model of intervention which will select a small sample of children aged between 5 and 11, who are identified to be vulnerable and in receipt of services from social care within Carmarthenshire.

### Development of Regional Threshold Document

The regional Policies & Procedures Sub Group has led on the development of a regional threshold and eligibility for support document – ‘The Right Help at The Right Time’. A series of workshops have taken place which has included senior managers and front line practitioners from all partner agencies. The document provides guidance to professionals on how to respond to children and their families identified to be in need of services and support across the spectrum of need from universal and preventative services to those deemed to be at risk of harm and/or in need of protection.

**Practitioner feedback:**  
 “Broken down well with bullet points and colour & is easily accessible when you are in a car before you meet a parent”

## The Right Help at the Right Time Framework



**Practitioner feedback on the new MARF:**

“Much more user friendly”

“More focused on the reason for referral”

A Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) for Children has been developed by the Policies & Procedures Sub Group which compliments the Regional Threshold Document. It is hoped that this will help promote more consistent practice across the region when professionals refer families for services and/or support. Good feedback was received from all partners.

**Regional Domestic Abuse Conference Call (DACC) and Multi-Agency Information Sharing Hubs (MASH) Pilots**

Both of the above models are aimed to improve multi-agency information sharing, risk assessments and decision making within broader safeguarding systems. Pilot projects in respect of both DACC and MASH were set up in Carmarthenshire, although it should be noted the MASH pilot was limited to the placing of a non-qualified member of the Children’s Services department within the Police Central Referral Team. The outcome and potential long term benefits of both these projects were evaluated by an independent reviewer Rosie Rae in October 2016.

In respect of the DACC, although on-going benefits and improvements in practice have been identified as a result of this project. Within the context of better cohesive and multi-agency working and responses to domestic abuse, and improving practitioners insight and understanding of some of the more complex dynamics of domestic abuse work, the overall the benefits of implementing this system could not be justified against the cost, significant resources and staffing levels needed for this to continue. As a result the pilot ended in Carmarthenshire in February 2016 and there are no current plans for this model to be implemented regionally.

In relation to the MASH project whilst benefits to this model were again acknowledged, the challenges of implementing it in a predominantly rural location that covers a large geographical area were highlighted. Overall it was felt it was not something that there was sufficient evidence base to support the significant changes needed to implement.

**HOW WE HAVE DELIVERED ON CWMPAS OBJECTIVES**

The main focus of this year has been to establish the CWMPAS Board, set governance and align with the CYSUR Board. The CWMPAS Board is still in its infancy so there are few objectives to report upon this year.



**Regional Operation Jasmine Action Plan**

The Board’s quality assurance and reporting framework has been strengthened by the development of the Regional Operation Jasmine Action Plan, which aims to monitor commissioning arrangements and the quality of care provided to older people in the region or live in care or nursing homes.

## HOW WE HAVE DELIVERED ON JOINT BOARD OBJECTIVES



### Closer alignment of CYSUR & CWMPAS Boards

Although CYSUR & CWMPAS are two separate distinct Boards, they have a very strong alignment and work closely together on many objectives. Executive Board meetings take place on the same day in the same location. A cross-cutting section has been developed that takes place in between the two main Board meetings which enables members to jointly discuss and consider safeguarding issues that are relevant to both the adult and children's safeguarding agendas. This includes issues such as domestic abuse, mental health and modern day slavery. This has helped avoid unnecessary duplication and repetition. It has enhanced and strengthened the relationship between the two Boards and its members. This model has been mirrored at a local level with all of the four Local Operational Groups adopting the same format to enable cross-cutting safeguarding issues and themes to be discussed locally.

As part of this close working relationship, the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards held a Joint Business Planning Day as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2016. This event set and agreed both the CYSUR and CWMPAS strategic priorities for 2017/18.

Many of which are identified to be joint priority objectives and outcomes as outlined in its



annual plan published on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. This has strengthened the Board's all-age approach to safeguarding children and adults at risk.

### Completion and Launch of the Board Website

National Safeguarding Week saw the official launch of the Board's website. This is intended as an information sharing hub, accessible to members of the public and professional agencies across the whole region.

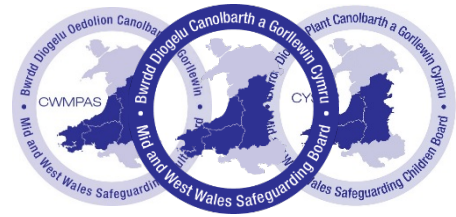


The website can be used by parents and carers, children and young people, adults at risk of harm, teachers, health professionals, police officers, probation officers, youth workers, voluntary agencies, and community members. There is a commitment in Government to openness and transparency, making public services more accountable so that people know how money is being spent and how decisions are being made. In line with this ethos, the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board will make the most of its online presence to tell the general

public what we do and how we do it. We intend to be proactive about what is made available online to highlight the work of the Board in a positive way.

## Board Branding and Logo established

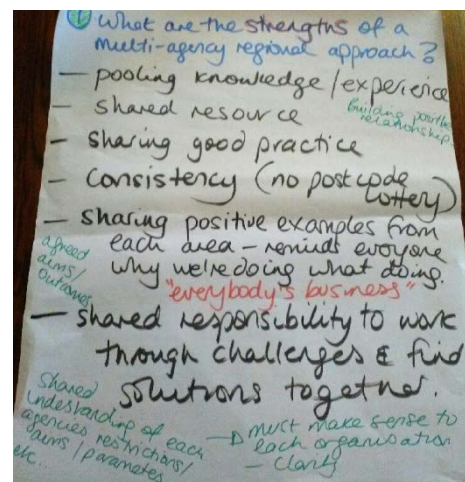
Board branding has been developed with connected logos used for the CYSUR, CWMPAS and the Joint Board. These are now used in all official Board documentation, correspondence and Policies.



## Comprehensive Training Needs Analysis undertaken

A comprehensive multi-agency training needs analysis was undertaken by the Regional Training Sub Group in October 2015. This identified all agencies had comprehensive, focussed safeguarding training available to staff which included subject matters such as CSE, FGM and Prevent training. There was also a number of good quality e-learning packages available to staff. The analysis identified the need for more specialist training to be provided to staff in respect of matters such as Section 47 training and for practitioners who were undertaking independent reviews as part of Practice Reviews, and for any future regional training to focus upon identified specialist bespoke training.

The Regional Training Sub Group has undertaken a significant amount of further work in the last year that has consolidated and further developed the findings of the training needs analysis. The outcome of this work and direction of travel for the group going forward in the coming year is captured throughout various sections of this report.



## Business Unit Capacity Strengthened

The Board has invested in the development of the Board Business Unit. The requirements of the existing business manager post for the CYSUR Board were re-evaluated and extended to support the CWMPAS board. The role profile has been revised with a strategic focus incorporated into the job description with the appointment of a new Regional Board Manager, Julie Breckon and an additional high level business support post has been created to support the Board Manager.



## Practice Reviews

The Board commissioned an independent consultant to develop a Practice Review Protocol for its CPR process to help gain a more consistent approach and practice across the region and to provide a framework for timely dissemination of learning. The framework will be implemented in the coming year and replicated for APRs. Arrangements are also in place to build in dissemination of any practice learning from MAPFs to the newly developed quality assurance framework.

## Quality Assurance and Performance Framework

This year has seen the development of a regional quality assurance and performance framework. This will be fully implemented in 2017/18 with the introduction of a new and more comprehensive data set and regional/local thematic audit programme. Audit themes in the coming year include suicide and children who are electively home educated. This framework will help strengthen the Executive Board's oversight of safeguarding activity and performance across the region.

## Governance Arrangements Strengthened

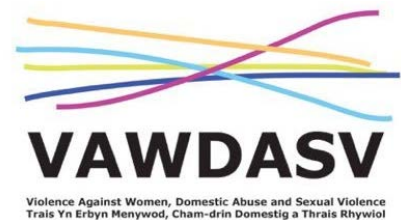
Terms of Reference which clearly outline the Board's purpose, focus and vision have been established which are closely aligned to the core principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 to protect children, young people and adults at risk and prevent them from experiencing abuse.

## **WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES**

The CYSUR & CWMPAS Boards have worked collaboratively with a range of organisations as part of their safeguarding activities and work.

- VAWDASV

The Mid and Wales Safeguarding Board has worked closely with the local Police and Crime Commissioner, Dafydd Llywelyn, in the setting up and establishment of regional arrangements for the VAWDASW consortium. This is a legal requirement as required under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Act (Wales) 2015. The purpose of this legislation is to address all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence as it affects all citizens across the region including adults, children and young people. The term 'Violence against Women' incorporates all forms of gender based violence, honour based violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, and domestic abuse.



**Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner:**

“Safeguarding the vulnerable is a key priority for me”

Since October 2016, Dafydd Llywelyn has led a multi-agency working group to consider the transition from existing arrangements to a regional model aiming to ensure the most efficient and effective response to prevent serious harm caused by domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of gender based violence in Dyfed Powys, through partnership working and the use of shared resources. In January 2017, a proposal was considered at the Regional Safeguarding Board and agreement reached that the VAWDASV Executive Board for Dyfed Powys will be incorporated into the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board.

The requirements to develop a VAWDASV Executive Board will now be fulfilled by the existing Safeguarding Executive Board who will also provide strategic leadership and guidance to the VAWDASV Strategy Group. This group is also made up of existing Safeguarding Board partners who will oversee the operational delivery of the strategic plan and will be accountable to and report directly into the Executive Board on progress. VAWDASV issues and discussions are incorporated into the cross-cutting part of the Board's agenda items.

- National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB)



The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board has developed a very positive working relationship with the National Independent Safeguarding Board and the regional representative, Keith Towler. Regular quarterly briefing meetings have taken place between the Business Manager and the Board. Keith Towler attends the cross-cutting section of the Executive Board meeting and provides regular updates on ongoing work of the NISB. The CYSUR & CWMPAS Chairs attended a

leadership summit at the request of the NISB in March 2017, which focussed on establishing effective leadership for Safeguarding Board Chairs. The Business Unit, Board Chairs and Keith Towler have identified a number of priorities going forward in 2017/18 which will include the undertaking of a comprehensive training analysis.

- Care Council For Wales & ADSSC

The Regional Training Sub Group completed a comprehensive multi-agency training survey at the request of the Care Council for Wales and ADSSC in December 2016. The purpose of this survey was to identify the provision of current safeguarding training arrangements in Wales and to identify what measures might improve this. This piece of work enabled the group to engage in reflective discussion and enabled practitioners to identify shortfalls and inconsistencies in respect of the provision of safeguarding training within a local and regional context. Going forward in 2017/18 the Regional Training Sub Group will also develop a long term 5 year regional training strategy.

- CASCADE Research Facility, Cardiff University

In March 2016 the Board jointly facilitated a multi-agency consultation event in respect of a review being undertaken by CASCADE on behalf of Welsh Government. This review looked into the current Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) guidance and the SERAF tool. This tool is widely used by professionals to help them identify if children are either experiencing or at risk of CSE. All Board partners and statutory agencies contributed to and were represented at this event. The conclusions of which will be published in the coming year 2017/18.



- Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner

On the 1st March 2017 the Safeguarding Board supported a St David's Day conference on Coercive Control organised by the Police & Crime Commissioner, Dafydd Llewellyn. The purpose of the conference was to raise awareness in respect



of coercive control as a form of domestic abuse, as part of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act. The conference was attended by a number of Board partner agencies and a joint press release was issued highlighting the on-going joint work between the Safeguarding Board and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

## **WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARDS**

- Carmarthenshire County Council has undertaken a Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) on behalf of the Western Bay Adult Safeguarding Board.
- Regional Board Managers meet on a regular basis as peer support and to aid collaborative working across Wales.
- Regional Board Business Development Managers have been meeting with WG and NISB colleagues to collectively plan for National Safeguarding Week.

## **WHEN AND HOW CHILDREN OR ADULTS EXERCISED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SAFEGUARDING BOARD WORK**

The CYSUR Board commissioned Tros Gynnal Independent Advocacy Service to run and facilitate its Junior Safeguarding Board (CADW). The membership is made up of children and young people from across the 4 counties. The group meets 4 times a year which includes an annual residential event. The group provides advice and information to the CYSUR Executive Board on a variety of safeguarding issues that are important and relevant to young people. This is done via facilitated workshops and consultation events facilitated by Tros Gynnal.



### **CADW member:**

“Being part of the group has built my confidence and knowledge of safeguarding”



Throughout 2016-17 the CADW Board has assisted the Board in the development of its strategic annual plan. The Regional Board Manager undertook a consultation exercise with them as part of a visit to the group in July 2016 in which they were asked to identify safeguarding themes that should be considered. Work was prepared and presented to the Executive Board as part of its business planning day in November 2016. The identified themes of mental health, substance misuse and exploitation have been incorporated into the annual plan which published on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**Staff working with the CADW group:**

“By working with this group we as professionals have learnt a lot about various safeguarding issues by giving them an opportunity to have a voice”



The CADW Board have been working closely with the Board’s Business Support Co Coordinator, Wendy Butcher, and have provided feedback on how the Board’s social media presence and communication mechanisms can be improved and developed. As a result, plans are now in place to for the CADW Board to have their own dedicated webpage on the Board website and for the CYSUR

Board to develop a Facebook page to enable communication to the young people on a forum of their choosing.

As well as the Regional CADW Board each of the 4 local authorities – Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys – have their own **Local Junior Safeguarding Groups** and arrangements. These are closely aligned to the Local Operational Groups in 3 of the 4 local authorities. Junior members attend and provide information to LOG meetings on local safeguarding issues for young people.

- **Pembrokeshire’s** local ‘Junior Safeguardians’ held a very successful junior conference in October 2016, where they explored and considered issues in respect CSE. The conference was very well attended with 6 out of the 8 secondary schools represented. A very positive evaluation was received from the young people with a 100% reporting they would attend another conference in the future.

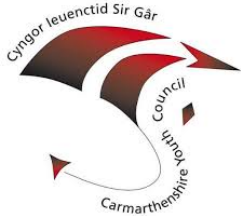
**Conference Participant:**

“I feel that I can help my friends and family if they are ever in a situation like we learnt about today”





- **Ceredigion's** 'Safe Stars' produced an anti-bullying video which was successfully launched as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2016 and publicised to the CYSUR Board website.



- Local junior safeguarding arrangements in **Carmarthenshire** are incorporated into the Carmarthenshire Youth Council. Safeguarding issues explored by this group in the past year include mental health and substance misuse.

- In **Powys**, the junior 'Eat Carrots' group have undertaken some consultation events in respect of healthy relationships. The young people were able to advise Powys LOGs on issues relation the PSE Curriculum and in particular the need for better support and information in schools in relation to diversity and sexuality issues. The young people also explored the concept of 'wellbeing' and their understanding of this.



**CADW member on Twitter:**

"It was a very interesting day, I was glad I had the opportunity to attend!"

Going forward the Board as part of its annual plan has given a strong commitment to strengthening the relationship between the Regional CYSUR Executive Board and Regional CADW Junior Board. There are plans in place for the Junior Board to attend an Executive Board meeting at least annually and for members of the

Executive Board to attend the quarterly CADW Junior Board. Keith Towler, Mid & West Wales link to the National Independent Safeguarding Board, attended a CADW meeting in June 2017.

**Keith Towler on Twitter:**

"Really enjoyed meeting you all"

A series of consultation and awareness raising events took place in various locations across the region as part of **National Safeguarding Week** in November 2016. This included a White Ribbon event in Pembrokeshire jointly with Dyfed Powys Police. Stalls were set up in public places such as the hospital and supermarkets with a view to raise public awareness in relation to Domestic Abuse issues.



Carmarthenshire County Council ran a successful campaign during National Safeguarding Week in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police and the Community Safety Partnership. Roadshows were held in Llanelli and Carmarthen with both well attended by members of the public.

**Pembrokeshire People First:**

“I’ve really enjoyed working with you and it means a lot to the members to be consulted”

The Board has commissioned the organisation Pembrokeshire People First to assist with development of any Easy Read version of the Board’s annual plan. Consultation on format and language has taken place with a group of adult service users with identified learning difficulties. This

work is on-going and the CWMPAS and CYSUR Boards aim to have this complete and published in its website soon.

A number of parent, family and adult groups were consulted across the region in respect of the content, format and language of the Regional Threshold & Eligibility for Support Document developed by the CYSUR Board. Although this was a children focussed document relating to support and provision for children and their families, many of the adults consulted were in receipt of preventative and statutory services as adults in their own right. Considerable consultation took place with practitioners and front line professionals on this document to ensure that their views on service and practice improvement were integrated.

**Parent feedback:**

“I think that professionals can refer to it easily and it also ensures consistency”

**THE EXTENT TO WHICH EACH MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD’S EFFECTIVENESS**

- Hywel Dda University Health Board



Hywel Dda University Health Board have made a full and very active contribution to the CYSUR Board and the ongoing development of the CWMPAS Board. Hywel Dda representatives are

routinely represented and have fully contributed to the Executive Board, Local Operational Group and all Sub Group meetings, including the Health Board’s Named Nurse and Named Doctor for Safeguarding.

Hywel Dda presents local safeguarding performance data to all Local Operational Group meetings which contributes to the local monitoring of safeguarding practice, themes and trends.

Dissemination and awareness raising of safeguarding issues across its workforce has been demonstrated via the delivery of a focussed safeguarding training programme as well as the design and development of CSERQ tool for children at risk of CSE, a Flow chart for FGM and a leaflet to support Adult Safeguarding Training.

Hywel Dda has had a strong strategic focus on Looked After Children in the preceding 12 months has developed a health and dental pathway for Looked after Children. Hywel Dda has contributed to the delivery of training for newly recruited foster carers, as well as collaborating with the organisation Children in Wales in organising an engagement event for the Looked After Children in the Hywel Dda area.

- Powys Teaching Health Board



Powys Teaching Health Board have made a full and very active contribution to the CYSUR Board and the ongoing development of the CWMPAS Board. PTHB representatives are routinely represented and have fully contributed to the Executive Board, Local Operational Group and all Sub Group meetings, including the Health Board's Named Nurse and Named Doctor for Safeguarding.

The PTHB Director of Nursing is currently the Vice Chair of the CYSUR Board. PTHB staff have been actively involved in bespoke groups such as the Regional CSE Task & Finish Group and DoLS Group.

PTHB link in closely with the local Junior Safeguarding Group 'Eat Carrots' and have attended some of their meetings. Young people have also been included in interview panels for new members of staff. The Assistant Director of Safeguarding has acted as Independent Reviewer for the Board in the undertaking of its first Adult Practice Review.

- Public Health Wales (National Safeguarding Team)



Public Health Wales have made a full and very active contribution to the CYSUR Board and the ongoing development of the CWMPAS Board. PHW National Safeguarding Team representatives are routinely represented and have fully contributed to the Executive Board. They provide independent expert advice on behalf of NHS Wales to the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Executive Board and Practice Review Sub Groups.

Nationally PHW have specific expertise as Practice Reviewers and the current CYSUR Board representative is also Chair of the CPR Sub Group.

PHW have led on the dissemination of national research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The PHW ACEs Research was published this year.

- Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)



WAST became formal members of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board in October 2016. They are represented at the Executive Board, some Regional Sub Groups and Local Operational Groups. Their input into the regional safeguarding agenda and how this should be managed locally needs further discussion and consideration in the coming year. They have contributed to an Adult Practice Review via the provision of information.

WAST have had a strategic focus on mental health with the creation of a mental health lead to progress the mental health agenda. WAST safeguarding team support collaborative multi-agency working with relevant partners where concerns are raised either internally through the Trust's reporting processes or externally from patients and other service users.

- Dyfed Powys Police



Dyfed Powys Police have demonstrated a commitment to multi-agency working at a both strategic and operational level with transparent and collaborative approach to Safeguarding children and adults. Dyfed Powys Police have made a full and very active contribution to the CYSUR Board and the ongoing development of the CWMPAS Board. This is evident through routine officer attendance and participation at the Executive Board, all Local Operational Group and Sub Group meetings. The Dyfed Powys Police representative is the Vice Chair of the CWMPAS Board.

In the past year and in response to increased workload, Dyfed Powys Police have restructured their resources internally to increase the numbers of officers available to undertake safeguarding investigations by the realignment of their Public Protection Unit within its CID Unit.

Dyfed Powys police have introduced dedicated, specialist CSE investigators in each area as well as a centrally based CSE Coordinator and Intelligence Officer. They have been instrumental in promoting the establishment and development of MACSE meetings across the region as part of their input into the Regional CSE Task & Finish Group. The establishment of a police online investigation team, dedicated to targeting online criminal activity, has complimented and strengthened CSE work. An effective school liaison programme has been introduced which enables officers to provide advice and support to schools. Vulnerability training has been delivered to all front line officers to help improve their knowledge and response to safeguarding related crime.

The organisation Llamau has been commissioned by Dyfed Powys Police to undertake debrief sessions with children and young people who have been reported missing. The CADW Junior Board were consulted by officers from Dyfed Powys Police as part of research being undertaken into children who go missing in July 2016.

- Dyfed Powys Youth Justice Service (YJS)



The YJS have made a full and active contribution to the Safeguarding Board via regular and consistent attendance at the Executive Board and underlying Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups. The Pembrokeshire Youth Justice Service Manager represents regional youth justice interests at the Executive Board and Sub groups, disseminating information to colleagues across the Dyfed Powys Area via Regional Youth Justice Meetings. All Local Operational Groups have engagement and representation with their local Youth Justice Service Managers who input into the local safeguarding agenda. A particular focus for the Board this year has been to strengthen the reporting of Youth Justice critical learning events and to ensure systems are in place to capture and report any learning themes identified as part of this in Local Operational Group meetings.

- The National Probation Service (NPS) & Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

Gwasanaeth Prawf  
Cenedlaethol  
National Probation  
Service



Cwmni Adsefydlu Cymunedol  
Cymru  
Wales  
Community Rehabilitation Company

Both organisations are represented on the Executive Board and Local Operational Groups. Presence and engagement in the various Regional Sub Groups across both Boards has been strengthened as the year has progressed. With additional resources and staffing levels, the service is now represented in most of the Sub Groups in operation. In The NPS and CRC have worked collaboratively with Dyfed Powys Police via the introduction of a Public Protection Hub aimed to better manage offenders and risks posed to vulnerable people including children at risk of CSE.

- Carmarthenshire County Council



Carmarthenshire County Council's Statutory Director of Communities chairs the CYSUR Board and has fulfilled this role for a number of years which has provided consistent strategic leadership to the Executive Board and its underlying Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups. Carmarthenshire has implemented Signs of Safety as a model for undertaking its child protection case conferences which is part of a broader systemic model of social work practice. Over the last 12 months Carmarthenshire have seen a reduction in the number of children on the Child Protection Register and consider that implementing this model is part of the reason for this.

Carmarthenshire have undertaken bespoke pieces of work with other organisations, including Dyfed Powys Police, in respect of Children who missing. Specific work has also been undertaken with colleagues, regarding children who are electively home educated, in attempt to better utilise the skills, expertise and knowledge of staff in both departments to better to support this potentially vulnerable group of children.

Carmarthenshire Adult Services successfully appointed a Senior Safeguarding Manager in October 2016. The post holder has a significant role in supporting the effectiveness of the Regional Board via her strategic and operational responsibilities.

Carmarthenshire has taken the lead in highlighting the current challenges relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and has been proactive in the development of a regional DoLS Group. This group will explore opportunities to share good practice in order to meet statutory responsibilities and to share resources where possible.

Carmarthenshire's Senior Safeguarding manager addressed this year's National Safeguarding Conference in Cardiff as a keynote speaker focusing on the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

Carmarthenshire County Council has recently piloted the presence of a dedicated Safeguarding Officer within the 'front door' team. This officer effectively screens and responds to all safeguarding enquiries that come the Local Authority. The pilot produced extremely positive results which will now see this become a more permanent arrangement.

- Pembrokeshire County Council



Pembrokeshire County Council is the regional host authority for the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board and facilitates the Regional Safeguarding Board's Business Unit. The Current Statutory Director of Social Services and Leisure is the Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Pembrokeshire's Statutory Director of Education represents the other areas as the regional strategic lead for Education.

Pembrokeshire's senior officers and staff have led on the regional development of a number key board of projects in the last year, which has included the development of a regional threshold document and protocol for safeguarding children who are electively home educated. Up until recently the Head of Children's Service chaired the Regional Policies & Procedures Sub Group and Pembrokeshire's Training Manager chairs the all-age Regional Training Sub Group.

Pembrokeshire has a Signs of Safety model of practice in operation across children and adults teams.

Pembrokeshire benefits from an Integrated Safeguarding Team combining both children and adult safeguarding matters into one unified service. As a result Pembrokeshire has successfully incorporated a very effective, efficient 'all age' approach to the structure and management of its Local Operational Group. As a result the coming year will see a 6 month trial of holding one unified Local Operational Group as opposed to 2 separate children and adults meetings.

- Powys County Council



Powys County Council has made a full contribution the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board and until October 2017 their Statutory Director of People chaired the CWMPAS Board. Powys has ensured regular attendance and full participation at the Executive Board, Local Operational Group and all Sub Groups. Powys made a valuable contribution to the development of the regional threshold document and their former Head of Children's Services had a lead role in the development of the Regional VAWDASV framework. The Children's Local Operational Group is well established and have very close links with their local Junior Group 'Eat Carrots'.

Powys has seen the appointment of a new Learning Needs Manager this year who also has a lead role in Safeguarding in Education. He has been actively working with local schools to raise awareness of safeguarding practice and procedures. He has also linked in with local parents groups for children who are electively home educated with a view to engaging them in improving safeguarding practice for this group of potentially vulnerable children.

- Ceredigion County Council



Ceredigion County Council have made a full and effective contribution to the Regional Safeguarding Board both at all levels. Senior officers have attended and engaged in all Executive Board meetings and there is appropriate consistent representation at all the identified Regional Sub Groups.

Ceredigion Children's Service has made a significant contribution to the regional CSE agenda and work. Their Senior Safeguarding Manager chaired the Regional CSE Task & Finish Group which steered the development of the regional CSE strategy and plan. Ceredigion were the first local authority in the region to introduce the MACSE meetings and have provided support and advice to other areas in the region in the implementation of this model.

Ceredigion have provided considerable informal support to the Board in the use and promotion of the Welsh language. Their Senior Safeguarding Officer has quality assured and proof-read a number of translated documents to ensure accuracy in respect of appropriate context and language.

Ceredigion Adult Safeguarding has introduced an electronic Enquiry Outcome Record (EOR) which is embedded onto the WCCIS System. This has streamlined the process for practitioners and professionals in recording the information required to support performance management requirements, ensured compliance with Part 7 requirements of SSWBA, and supported efficiency improvements by the teams involved.

Ceredigion have commenced the first Adult Practice Review within the region. The case is ongoing with a report expected to be reported to the Board later in 2017. The case has presented opportunities in improving the APR process, including additional guidelines for future reviews.

Safeguarding officers for both children and adults in Ceredigion have worked jointly and collaboratively on a number of safeguarding issues and projects. This includes undertaking a major review of the Ceredigion Local Authority's Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding in 2016-17. They have also led on the development of a Regional Protocol for Parents with identified Mental Illness. In the coming year Ceredigion are looking to develop their safeguarding practice and services further and are considering implementing the Signs of Safety Model practice and will explore further ways to integrate its children and adult safeguarding services.

#### **ANY REQUESTS THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS MADE TO QUALIFYING PERSONS UNDER S.137 (1) OF THE ACT FOR SPECIFIED INFORMATION**

No such requests have been made.

#### **ADULT PROTECTION AND SUPPORT ORDERS**

There have been no requests across the region for Adult Protection or Support Orders.



## HOW THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS IMPLEMENTED ANY GUIDANCE OR ADVICE GIVEN BY THE WELSH MINISTERS OR BY THE NATIONAL BOARD

The CYSUR chair has engaged in dialogue with Welsh Government Officials in relation to the Non-statutory Guidance that was published by Welsh Government in the early part of 2017 in relation to children who are electively home educated. The Board's view is this guidance falls considerably short of what is needed to effectively safeguard this group of children.

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board has ensured appropriate Board representation at a number of consultation events facilitated by Welsh Government in the last year in relation to ongoing and evolving development of safeguarding guidance and policies as a part of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board works closely with the National Independent Safeguarding Board, although no formal advice has been issued the Board are responsive to any requests for information received. The Board is currently in the process of gathering and analysing information in respect of the provision of safeguarding training across the region.

## ANY INFORMATION OR LEARNING THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS DISSEMINATED, OR TRAINING IT HAS RECOMMENDED OR PROVIDED

- Learning

The CYSUR Board has completed one concise Child Practice Review in the preceding year. The Board has now fully implemented the recommended actions from the resulting Regional CPR Action Plan. Multi-agency training was recommended to be delivered across the region in respect of working with difficult, dangerous and evasive families. The Regional Training Sub Group has commissioned the organisation Reconstruct to deliver this training.

**Course attendee feedback:**

"Excellent chance to reflect and consider practical and emotional skills within the workplace."

Most partner agencies were represented at the training and each organisation is now considering and planning how to best disseminate the key messages from this training to a wider numbers across their organisation.

**Course attendee feedback:**

"Brilliant course! Trainers are excellent – made everyone feel valued and at ease."

Pembrokeshire has developed and implemented a very effective process for undertaking Multi-Agency Professional Forums (MAPFs). As part of their Integrated Safeguarding team several of these of these have taken place this year. Learning is disseminated via their Local Operational Group and Training Department. Themes explored in the past year include allegations made against professionals, care provided in Care and Nursing Homes and a death in a hospital environment.

- Training

Several training sessions on working with children who display Sexually Harmful Behaviour have been delivered across the region by the CSE Gwella project worker overseen by the Regional Training Sub Group.

**Course attendee feedback:**

“I found this course informative and engaging.”

“Helpful information on what’s appropriate and inappropriate regarding age range.”



PTHB have a very well established training fora. The Foras are delivered across the County and consist of 6 sessions. Three were delivered in November 2016 and three in March 2017. Themes covered in the last year include Prevent, hate crime and training on Team Around the Family support.

Following a request received from the National Independent Safeguarding Board, the Regional Training Sub Group has undertaken a significant piece of work to identify safeguarding training carried out by each organisation. Once this work is collated together, it will serve to give a baseline of training across the region and Wales.

**ANY UNDERLYING THEMES IN THE WAY THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS EXERCISED ITS FUNCTIONS AS SHOWN BY AN ANALYSIS OF CASES IT HAS DEALT WITH AND ANY CHANGES IT HAS PUT INTO PRACTICE AS A RESULT**

The Regional CPR Group has identified some emerging themes that have been evident via referrals into this group. A number of cases have been identified across the region in which child suicide and attempted suicide has featured. As a result of this the Board has commissioned Cardiff University to undertake a substantial piece of research that will help identify any common themes and how safeguarding practice and services can be better utilised to support this group of young people. The findings and outcome of this research will be disseminated across the region as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2017.

Although a relatively new group, the APR Sub Group will be responsible for identifying any emerging themes in relation to Adult Practice Reviews. This year the group has identified the need for more focussed contracts and commissioning arrangements for Care and Nursing Homes, in particular in relation their duty to cooperate in any identified reviews or learning events, if appropriate. The group also has a role to monitor and identify any emerging themes in relation to care providers who may be monitored as part of the escalating concerns process.

The Policies & Procedures Sub Group has had a very busy and active year. As part of the group’s work plan, a number of priority regional policies and documents are to be developed that would help gain a more consistent safeguarding practice across the region. This has included the need for a regional Multi-Agency Referral Form for both children and adults, a regional policy for children who are electively home educated and one for safeguarding children with parents with identified mental illness.

## ASSESSMENT OF HOW THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS USED ITS RESOURCES

| <b>Mid &amp; West Wales Safeguarding Board -<br/>End of Year Statement 2016-17</b> |                   |   |                |
|--|-------------------|---|----------------|
| Accumulated Board Reserves End of Year balance 2015-16                             | 89,726            |   |                |
| <b>EXPENDITURE:</b>  | <b>ACTUAL</b>     | <b>INCOME:</b>                                      | <b>ACTUAL</b>  |
| Regional Manager post  | 53,698.94         | Ceredigion County Council                           | 10,994         |
| 1 x FT Business Support (9/12mths)   | 19,644.47         | Powys County Council                                | 12,500         |
| IT equipment & software  | 2,984.80          | Carmarthenshire County Council                      | 12,500         |
| Office, admin & recruitment costs  | 12,318.58         | Pembrokeshire County Council                        | 12,626         |
| Travel, venues & communication   | 3,867.93          | Dyfed Powys Police                                  | 10,000         |
| Publicity and promotion  | 414.10            | Wales Probation Service                             | 3,054          |
| Commissioning of services and external delivery of bespoke regional training       | 16,524.10         | Community Rehabilitation Service                    | 3,054          |
|  |                   | Hywel Dda Health Board                              | 10,000         |
|  |                   | Powys Teaching Health Board                         | 7,635          |
|  |                   | <b>Total Board Partner Contributions in 2016-17</b> | <b>82,363</b>  |
|  |                   | Other income (WG NSW Grant)                         | 2,000          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>   | <b>110,058.46</b> | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                 | <b>84,363</b>  |
| Deficit<br><i>(based on original budget estimate of £82,237)</i>                   | 25,695            | Contribution from Board Reserves                    | 25,695         |
|  |                   | <b>TOTAL SPEND 2016-17</b>                          | <b>110,058</b> |
|  |                   | Board Reserves End of Year balance 2016-17          | 64,031         |

## ACTION THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HAS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE PARTICULAR OUTCOMES



In summary, The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board have had a very proactive and successful year which has resulted in the following outcomes:

- A **coherent Board structure** has been developed, underpinned by robust governance arrangements, which has strengthened the Executive Board's relationship with its Local Operational Groups and Regional Sub Groups.
- There is evidence of a **clear strategic focus** by the development of joint strategic priorities for the CYSUR and CWMPAS boards as outlined in its annual plan published on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.
- The development of a **regional performance and quality assurance framework** will provide the Executive Board with more robust oversight of safeguarding activity and performance across the region in the coming year.
- A **strong Board identity** has been established which reflects the diverse nature of the communities of the Mid & West Wales region by the development of Board branding and logos.
- There is evidence of a **robust strategic buy-in** from Board members and partners as evidenced by each member's significant contribution to the Safeguarding Board this year, as well as the wider work and engagement undertaken with other national and regional partnerships and organisations.
- The development of a very **solid alignment between the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards**, in accordance with the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the all-age safeguarding agenda.



- There is evidence of an **improved and stronger relationship between the CYSUR Executive Board and the CADW Junior Board** and a strong platform to enable the evolving CWMPAS Board to continue to develop closer links and communication with adult service users and community groups.

**Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguarding Conference 2016:**

How to keep safe!