

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards

Annual Report 2017-18

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



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Introduction



This Annual Report outlines the progress we have made against the outcomes set by CYSUR in March 2017 as part of our Annual Strategic Plan. The Board has matured in the last year

to one where effective co-operation and challenge are part of everyday business.

We can demonstrate how we have influenced the National agenda on Elective Home Education as well as standardising the application of thresholds in child protection locally. Managers and staff are now collaborating well across agencies and the region. It is particularly pleasing to note the progress of our Junior Safeguarding Board. The prospect of them being attendees at every board in the future is an exciting one and reflects well on the work they have done and the confidence the board has in these fantastic young people.

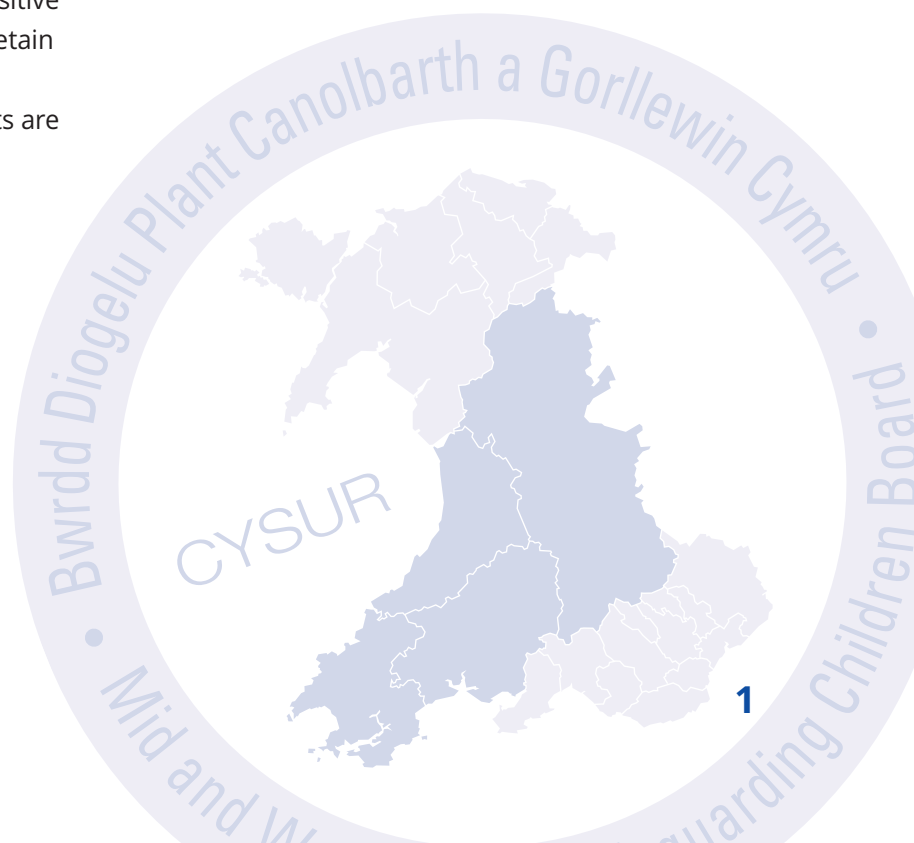
The position of Powys Children's Services has been a concern to us all but the signs of improvement are now showing with outcomes now clearly improving. Lessons on how sensitive services are managed, the critical need to retain frontline staff and for all agencies to avoid disproportionate and unrealistic budget cuts are

Jake Morgan (CYSUR Chair)
Director of Community Services
Carmarthenshire County Council

all lessons the region has taken from the experience in Powys. I am confident that the Safeguarding Board is now in a stronger position and understands better the need to challenge each other. Crucially we now have the data and audit system to enable us to provide support and challenge to each other much earlier to prevent things going wrong.

Joint working with CWMPAS has been positive and we now have an agenda that is richer with the different areas of practice in adult and children's services now starting to enrich each other with practitioners seeing the benefit of an all age approach to protecting vulnerable children and adults. All agencies, with the exception of Public Health Wales make the agreed financial contribution which is so critical to the success of the Board.

There will always be challenges in delivering such complex services across such a large geographical area but this annual report clearly demonstrates good progress in demonstrating how CYSUR is now impacting on outcomes for children and young people in Mid and West Wales.





I was pleased to take up the role of CWMPAS Chair in January 2017 and to be a part of the continued progress and development of the Board.

The annual report outlines in detail the progress we have made against the outcomes that were set by the CWMPAS Board as part of our Annual Strategic Plan published on 31st March 2017. The Board has great commitment from its members which clearly supports the improvement journey. The Board is emerging into a more robust, open, constructively challenging, and continually developing body that has a clear focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults at its core.

It has become increasingly clear that the Board is enhanced by a more cross cutting agenda which focusses on safeguarding with a 'people' perspective. The annual report references the

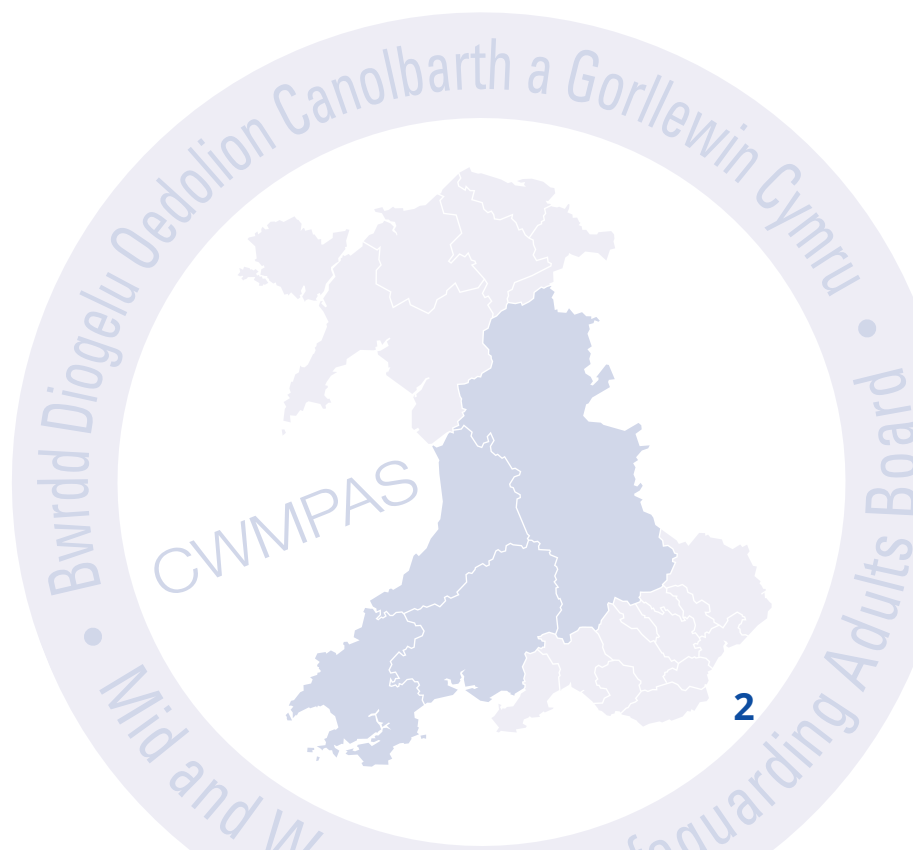
future objective to pilot this approach in the future and I welcome that.

It has been particularly pleasing this year to see the progress made on a consistent procedure for the threshold for adult safeguarding. This has demonstrated the wealth of knowledge that we have in the region and also the enthusiastic and committed involvement of adult safeguarding specialists across the region. I am looking forward to the Board in the coming year approving the procedure and thereby acknowledging the progress being made.

I would like to thank the members of the Board and Sub Group members for the progress made in the last year. CWMPAS is progressing well and I look forward to working with the Board next year to continue to improve and enhance practice across the region to protect vulnerable adults from the risk of abuse.

Jonathan Griffiths (CWMPAS Chair)

Director of Social Services
Pembrokeshire County Council



Objectives of a Regional Safeguarding Board

The objectives of Regional Safeguarding Boards as outlined in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 are below.

The objectives of a **Safeguarding Children Board** are:

- to protect children within its area who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- to prevent children within its area from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

The objectives of a **Safeguarding Adults Board** are:

- to protect adults within its area who –
 - have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 - are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- to prevent those adults within its area from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

Guidance on the functions of Safeguarding Boards

The focus for Safeguarding Boards is twofold. It is both the protection of children and adults who are in need of care and support from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and the prevention of children and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other

kinds of harm. These two objectives should inform the priorities of Safeguarding Boards when they are considering their work programmes and annual plans, and reviewing their performance.

Keeping children and adults who may have needs for care and support safe is everyone's responsibility. This means feeling safe and being safe with those with whom they live and who support and care for them, as well as being safe in environments outside the home where they may live, travel, play, learn, work or undertake sport, cultural, leisure and other activities. This responsibility lies primarily within the family or with carers and within the wider community. Many organisations have responsibility for safeguarding children and adults through the services they provide directly to them, through the help and support provided to families and carers, or through their work to develop and strengthen communities.



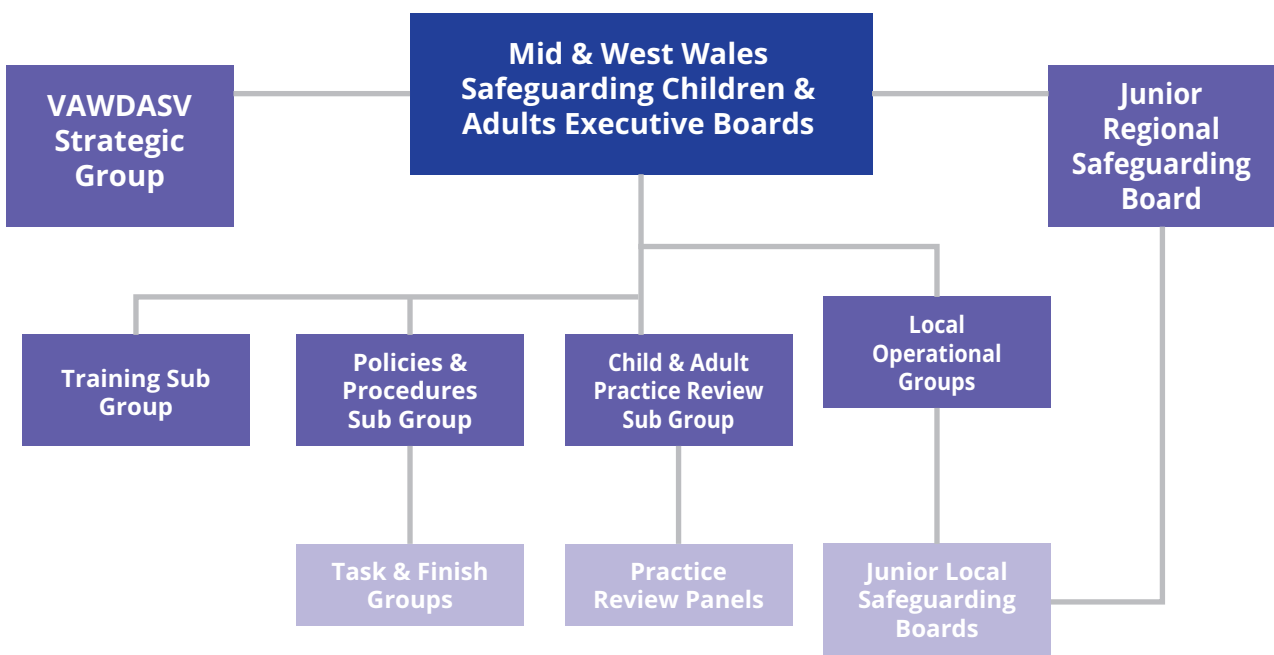
Board structure

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards serve the communities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys, working together collaboratively and in partnership within a multi-agency setting. The Boards aim 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. 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.

Mid & West Wales Board Structure



Executive Boards:

The Executive Boards for CYSUR and CWMPAS work together as an overarching regional Board to monitor and improve regional safeguarding activity across Mid & West Wales. The Executive Boards consist of senior managers from all key statutory partners and agencies (see membership table). The Executive Board's aim is

to provide leadership and guidance to all its constituent agencies through the delivery of a series of strategic priorities for safeguarding activity and practice. The two Executive Boards support, guide and take 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 Boards. 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 and middle managers 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 performance data and completing practice audits to inform practice improvements and

identify risk. LOGs seek to share and acknowledge examples of good safeguarding practice, in addition they 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/or 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 Boards' website.

Regional Policies & Procedures Sub Group:

The Policies & Procedures Sub Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. The Group seeks to provide guidance to professionals by the development of regional policy and procedure. A key

objective for the Board this year is to work towards the development of existing local into regional policies and procedures to help promote a more consistent response to safeguarding practice across the region.

Regional Training Sub Group:

The Training Sub Group 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 partners' 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.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategic Group:

After a pilot in 2017, the VAWDASV Strategic Group has been formally amalgamated into the Board governance structure. 'VAWDASV' affects all citizens of the region and incorporates all forms of violence against women, honour based

violence, forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, and domestic abuse. The VAWDASV Strategic Group is a multi-agency collaboration that is driving forwards the requirements of the **VAWDASV Act**, including the development and implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan.

CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

The CYSUR Board continues to commission Tros Gynnal Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its Junior Safeguarding Board. The group continues to advise the Executive Boards on safeguarding matters and issues from a

young person's perspective via meetings, workshops and consultation events. The CADW Group meet quarterly and are complemented by three local junior safeguarding groups and a youth partnership, closely aligned to their respective Local Operational Groups.



(a) Membership

CWMPAS (Safeguarding Adults Executive Board)

Jonathan Griffiths (Chair)

Director of Social Services,
Pembrokeshire County
Council

Anthony Griffiths (Vice-Chair)

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Jake Morgan

Director of Community
Services,
Carmarthenshire County
Council

Carys James

Strategic Director of Social
Services & Corporate Lead
Officer Adult Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Alison Bulman

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Sian Passey

Assistant Director Nursing
Assurance and Safeguarding
Corporate Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health
Board

Avril Bracey

Head of Mental Health,
Learning Disabilities & Adult
Safeguarding,
Carmarthenshire County
Council

Donna Pritchard

Service Manager Mental
Health, Adult Safeguarding,
MCA & Substance Misuse,
Ceredigion County Council

Jason Bennett

Head of Adult Services,
Pembrokeshire County
Council

Louise Barry

Head of Adult Services,
Powys County Council

Christine Harley

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service

Deanne Martin

Assistant Chief Executive,
Wales Community
Rehabilitation Company

Mandy Rayani

Director of Nursing, Quality &
Patient Experience,
Hywel Dda University Health
Board

Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood

Director of Nursing,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Nicola Edwards

Head of Safeguarding Adults
& Children (Named Nurse),
Hywel Dda University Health
Board

Sonia Mason

Assistant Director of
Safeguarding
(Named Nurse),
Powys Teaching Health Board

Karen Toohey

Designated Nurse, National
Safeguarding Team (NHS
Wales),
Public Health Wales

Nikki Harvey

Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services
NHS Trust

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran

Regional Third Sector
representative, Ceredigion
Association of Voluntary
Organisations (CAVO)

Chris Harrison

Regional representative for
Heads of Commissioning

CYSUR (Safeguarding Children Executive Board)

Jake Morgan (Chair)

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Sian Passey (Vice-Chair)

Assistant Director Nursing Assurance and Safeguarding Corporate Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Jonathan Griffiths

Director of Social Care & Leisure,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Carys James

Strategic Director of Social Services & Corporate Lead Officer Adult Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Alison Bulman

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Anthony Griffiths

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Stefan Smith

Head of Children's Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Elfed Hopkins

Head of Families & Children Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Anthony Maynard

Head of Children's Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

David Johnston

Interim Head of Children's Services,
Powys County Council

Christine Harley

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service

Deanne Martin

Assistant Chief Executive,
Wales Community Rehabilitation Company

Mandy Rayani

Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood

Director of Nursing,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Nicola Edwards

Head of Safeguarding Adults & Children (Named Nurse),
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Sonia Mason

Assistant Director of Safeguarding (Named Nurse),
Powys Teaching Health Board

Karen Toohey

Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding Team (NHS Wales),
Public Health Wales

Nikki Harvey

Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran

Regional Third Sector representative,
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO)

Steve Davis

Regional representative of
Youth Justice Managers

Kate Evan-Hughes

Regional representative of
Directors of Education

Dr Ingrid Prosser

Named Doctor, Child Protection, PTHB

Dr Velupillai Vipulendran

Named Doctor, Child Protection, HDUHB

Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

Julie Breckon

Business Manager

Wendy Butcher

Business Coordinator

Elizabeth Thomas

Business Support

(b) Action taken to achieve our outcomes

Strengthen the strategic relationship between the Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards

The combined governance structures and close alignment of CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards was further enhanced in 2017/18 and is now beginning to deliver results in the work by Sub Groups which have worked collaboratively on a number of joint initiatives and regional projects. This includes the development of a multi-agency all-age Regional Training Strategy which will be finalised in the coming year, a joint protocol for parents with identified mental health needs and the publication of thematic research into suicide of children and young adults within the Mid & West Wales region.

The CYSUR and CWMPAS Executive Boards continue to hold their meetings together with a very successful cross-cutting agenda section, where all-age safeguarding issues are collectively considered. The board is clear that this model will continue to evolve and develop over the next year into a single all-age safeguarding Board for Mid & West Wales. This is being achieved without compromising the joint focus of Board discussion and giving space for both adult and children's agendas. A pilot to hold one meeting with a full combined agenda is scheduled for the coming year and will be evaluated and considered as a future model for Executive Board meetings.

Implementation of the Boards' Regional Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Framework

The Regional Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Framework, developed in 2016/17, has now been fully implemented. The

implementation of this framework is considered to be a significant step forward for the Boards in enabling the Executive Boards to better understand safeguarding practice within the region. An evaluation of its use by agencies will follow.

Development of a Regional Framework for undertaking Multi-Agency Professional Forums

The development of this framework compliments the Boards' Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Framework, providing a consistent regional structure which will enable and support the undertaking of Multi-Agency Professional Forums to support learning and help improve professional safeguarding practice. The Terms of Reference provide opportunities for frontline practitioners to reflectively learn in a safe environment and share good practice. The coming year will see this model implemented alongside the development of a regional forum to manage and oversee MAPF cases.

Strengthen the governance of VAWDASV within the Regional Safeguarding Boards' structure

After an initial pilot initiative, VAWDASV has now been embedded into the Board's governance structure and core business. The focus to date of the Regional VAWDASV Strategic Group has been the development of a regional strategy 'Safer Lives, Healthier Families', in accordance with requirements of legislation, as well the development of structures to implement and oversee the Ask and Act training requirement across partner organisations. Formal consultation is in the process of taking place across the region.

(c) Extent to which we have implemented our strategic annual plans 2017-18

1 Improving Outcomes

To be assured that there is efficient, effective and coordinated responses to the identified needs of children, young people and adults at risk, across the 'continuum of need' that results in improved outcomes.

What we said we would do:

- Implement a Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Framework to provide the Executive Boards with better data and information about safeguarding practice
- Improve business support arrangements to develop work plans for Sub Groups
- Establish more consistent thresholds for children and adults in safeguarding responses and services
- Establish stronger links with Education Safeguarding Leads

What improvements we have made:

- The Boards' regional Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework introduced in April 2017 consists of a comprehensive data set and local and regional thematic audit programme. This data set and audit programme are reported to the Executive Boards by the Local Operational Groups through targeted reports and action plans.
- Administrative business support arrangements have been strengthened. There are now efficient and effective systems and process in place, overseen by the Board Business Unit, which support the Executive Boards, Sub Groups and all respective work streams and action plans in place. Accountability, governance structures and reporting arrangements are clear, supporting direct and robust communication between the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups.
- The 'Right Help at the Right Time' regional eligibility for support and threshold document and practitioner tool for children and families was completed and formally launched as part of National Safeguarding Week 2017. Local Operational Groups have led on promoting awareness of this document amongst practitioners in ensuring it assists professionals to improve consistent responses to presenting need and risk.
- Two thematic audits and commissioned research have been undertaken in the last year in respect of probable suicides and children who are electively home educated.
- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 removed the terms 'significant harm' and 'vulnerable adult', and along with the new definition of an 'adult at risk', this has had an unprecedented and significant effect on the number and volume of adult safeguarding referrals received across the four Local Authorities. This, exacerbated by the absence of any statutory guidance and

up-to-date protection procedures, has caused confusion amongst professionals regarding thresholds and appropriate professional responses to different levels of risk. This includes the difference between what is a poor practice concern, what requires a formal investigation with the Police and what can be safely managed as part of a Care & Support plan. Work has

been progressing on the development of a regional Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document and a process for practitioners to improve understanding and consistent practice.

- The Business Unit has established positive links with regional Education Safeguarding Leads across the four respective Local Authority areas.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- We better understand safeguarding practice across the region and this helps us to identify groups of children and adults most at risk.
- Through the regional and local audits and the research we have commissioned we know more about children who are electively home educated and those who may be at increased risk of suicide. This is guiding and standardising regional practice.
- Guidance, policies and procedures have been produced to support and guide practitioners in their work and help keep children and adults at risk safe in Mid & West Wales. Examples include a [policy for working with parents with identified mental illness](#) and a guide for undertaking [Sec 47 enquiries](#) for children at risk of significant harm.
- We have produced guidance to promote a more consistent response from professionals for those in need of services and those who need protection. This will help improve outcomes for children and families by ensuring they receive the [Right Help at the Right Time](#).

Feedback from Children in Wales:
"We really love your 'Right Help at the Right Time' document and refer to it in our training courses."

- The outcome of this has been a difference in the numbers and types of cases being managed by preventative Services as opposed to statutory and duty services. Carmarthenshire Flying Start services report only 15% of cases referred into their services were stepped up to formal statutory services in 2017/18. Domestic abuse and housing issues are the most common reasons for referrals to Flying Start Services. Both of these have seen increases in numbers referred into preventative services in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. This evidences more families are being supported with preventative services without the need for formal care and support plans and packages.
- A review of the Safeguarding in Education provision across the region was undertaken by the lead Director of Education, which included an assessment of services and arrangements for advice, guidance and support to schools, partnership working, training and the management of allegations. The review provided assurance to the Boards that there are robust arrangements in place across the region.

What we still need to do:

- Further work will be undertaken in the coming year to develop the framework further to ensure information captured is multi-agency as opposed to being overly reliant upon social care information.
- Further strengthen the Business Unit with additional support in regard to partnership data analyst time to improve the interpretation of information produced to

the Board.

- The Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document was ratified at the July Exec Board and is now available on our website.
- Work will continue to support regional Safeguarding Leads in regard to improving consistency and outcomes for school children and for those Electively Home Educated across the region.

2 Better Engagement

To demonstrate that the voice of children and adults at risk is central to our work and that the views of children, young people, adults at risk, their families and frontline practitioners inform practice and shape services.

What we said we would do:

- Strengthen and support communication with the Junior Safeguarding Board
- Seek to engage practitioners and service

users in the Boards' work and improve communication with vulnerable groups

- Raise awareness of the Boards, their functions, profile and activities

What improvements we have made:

- The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board continues to support a Regional Junior Safeguarding Board (CADW), facilitated by Tros Gynnal Independent Advocacy Service. In the last year a significant amount of time has been invested in strengthening the regional CADW group's relationship with the CYSUR Board. The Business Unit and Tros Gynnal have worked closely together on improving the format of the quarterly meetings to ensure discussion and workshops are more closely aligned to the Board's strategic priorities.
- Following feedback from the young people the Board has adapted the way it

communicates with the CADW group using social media (Facebook and [Twitter](#)) and a dedicated [CADW page](#) on the Board website. Executive Board members regularly attend CADW meetings and CADW

CADW Junior Safeguarding Board:
"Links with Wendy have been great and have helped us have a better understanding"

representatives have had the opportunity to participate in an Executive Board meeting, where a number of issues of concern to the young people were raised in relation to bullying, which directly led the ['Anti-Bullying' page](#) on the Board website, and Safeguarding in Education. These issues were subsequently raised at a National Level by the Statutory Director of Education and as a result, a number of agreed actions were taken forward, including ensuring young people from Mid & West Wales are consulted

on the new curriculum in Wales.

- Practitioners and frontline staff have participated in the development of new Policies & Procedures with consultation via Task & Finish Groups, targeted consultation events and virtual feedback. The development of the regional Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document has involved substantial consultation with practitioners and, as part of the Regional VAWDASV Strategy, extensive consultation exercises have taken place with third specialist sector providers and survivors of domestic abuse.
- The Boards have sought to raise awareness of their work via a variety of channels. Time has been invested in improving the content of the Board website, which has enabled

more information [about the Board](#) to be made publically accessible and created an information hub for practitioners and the general public, in relation to [regional](#) and [national](#) safeguarding policies and procedures. The Board website also contains links to other relevant sites and useful forums, including the [National Independent Safeguarding Board](#).

Widespread promotional activity took place across the region as part of National Safeguarding Week 2017 using the Board website and social media. Every opportunity to circulate web links to staff, rather than standalone documents, has been utilised, where possible, as this helps to raise awareness of the Board and information available on the website.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Improved communication has strengthened the relationship between the CADW Junior Group and the CYSUR Executive Board.
- The Executive Board has a better understanding of what safeguarding issues are important to children and young people. This has directly influenced the Board's work as their input on education has been fed through to ERW (Education Regional Working), Welsh Government and all Directors of Education in the region. Feedback on what action was taken based on what the young people said was given at the Regional CADW meeting in February 2018 by Executive Board member, Kate Evan-Hughes, Director of Education in Pembrokeshire.
- The voice of the children and young people

of Mid & West Wales has directly influenced the national education agenda and development of school curriculum. This has helped raise awareness and enable education professionals to better understand the impact of bullying on children and young people's emotional wellbeing and how to make better use of social media to continue to raise awareness.

- Practitioner feedback into the development of key safeguarding policies has helped improve quality and ensured theory in policy aligns with practice.
- Website and social media promotion of the Boards and their functions continue to help raise awareness of citizen's responsibilities within communities and encourage them to report concerns in respect of people who may be at risk.

What we still need to do:

- Further work is ongoing to improve consistency in practice across the region within adult safeguarding through the implementation of the regional Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document.
- Work closely with young people of CADW to continue with the alignment of Junior and Senior Board strategic priorities.
- Work towards Junior board members being regular attendees and a consistent presence at regional Board meetings and working with them collaboratively on agenda items of

mutual interest.

- Encourage and support the young people to develop and carry out their own safeguarding projects to support our joint strategic priorities.
- Continue to improve awareness of the Board and fully explore opportunities to promote new regional safeguarding policies and events via the website and social media.
- Work to develop systems and processes to capture the voice of adult service users who are at risk and develop opportunities for them to participate in the boards work.

3 Increased Knowledge

To be assured we know the children and adults most at risk and effectively safeguard them.

What we said we would do:

- Seek to improve understanding and professional practice in relation to:
- Suicide and Self-Harm
 - Mental Health

- Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Elective Home Education, and;
- Provider Performance.

What improvements we have made:

- Considerable work has been undertaken in relation to children and adults identified to be at increased risk in Mid & West Wales. Suicide, Elective Home Education, Child Sexual Exploitation and the quality of care provided to older people in care homes have been identified as areas of work that need particular attention.
- Understanding risk factors associated with suicide in respect of children and young adults, as well as what can help prevent suicide, has been a key priority for the Boards in the last year.
- The Mid & South West Wales Regional Suicide & Self-Harm Forum has been established and had developed a draft

prevention strategy. Stakeholder events are taking place to consult on the strategy with a view to publishing and launching the strategy in National Safeguarding Week in November. The strategy mirrors the objectives of the national 'Talk to me 2' strategy. Sub regional and local delivery groups are developing action plans to deliver the strategy, which will be monitored at the regional forum. Suicide and self-harm is a standing agenda item at the Safeguarding Executive Board where progress is reported.

- The Regional Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Plan developed in 2016 and its identified actions are now embedded into multi-agency professional practice. Measures to raise professional awareness and understanding

of those vulnerable to and at risk of CSE has been further developed. MACSE (Multi-Agency CSE) meetings take place regularly across the region, data is provided to and discussed at LOG meetings and the Executive Boards as a part of the Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework, and training is available to professionals across the multi-agency partnership.

- As a result, Pembrokeshire has reported improved outcomes in their management of cases where CSE is a feature. Systems and processes such as SERAF tools and MACSE meetings have improved management oversight of high risk cases and enabled

improved tracking and monitoring of out of county children placed within Pembrokeshire.

- Work to strengthen the Escalating Concerns process is underway to include all aspects of provider performance. A regional thematic audit has been commissioned to review the effectiveness of commissioning procedures and the escalation process, where concerns are identified in respect of the quality of care provided. A quality assurance framework within the West Wales Commissioning footprint is in development which will compliment this work.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Regional practice guidance to safeguard children who are Electively Home Educated has been developed. Parallel work to support timely information sharing between agencies is underway to support this process.
- The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board has worked closely with the Welsh Government to support the development of national practice guidance to better support home educators and the work completed in Mid & West Wales is being used as the basis for national practice guidance presently under development.

Children's Commissioner for Wales in response to WG Home Education announcement (1/2/18):
"..every child should have the opportunity to be seen and their views and experiences listened to."

- The Board has driven and influenced the national consensus in safeguarding regarding the need for a compulsory register for EHE. The Board continues to advocate for government action in relation to this.
- A significant amount of work has been undertaken on suicide prevention, including the development of a practitioner guide on risk factors associated with suicide.
- An all-age protocol for children of parents with mental health difficulties has been developed and rolled out to practitioners across the region.

What we still need to do:

- Continue to work with the NISB and WG to support the development of National Guidance to better safeguard children who are Electively Home Educated whilst recognising that the current legislative framework in Wales is inadequate.
- Escalating Concerns is a nationally agreed process for monitoring and tracking the quality of care provided to adults who reside

in residential nursing or care homes. Work to strengthen the Escalating Concerns process within the Mid and West Wales region is underway to include all aspects of provider performance. A regional thematic audit has been commissioned to review the effectiveness of commissioning procedures and the escalation process where concerns are identified.

4 Continuous Learning

To continually develop and improve the way we work so that outcomes for children and adults at risk improve.

What we said we would do:

- Tell people about the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards and what we do.
- Seek to review and improve the quality of regional safeguarding training

- Improve our Child and Adult Practice Review process
- Share learning

What improvements we have made:

- The Regional Safeguarding Board Manager has delivered awareness raising training to staff as part of induction programmes and to Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service. The Board website contains information on the Boards' functions and responsibilities, activity undertaken across the region as part of National Safeguarding Week and local and national media coverage.
- Significant work has been undertaken to develop a regional all-age multi-agency training strategy to support partner agencies to discharge their collective responsibilities as Safeguarding Board members, as outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, in respect of safeguarding

training.

- We have implemented regional [APR](#) & [CPR](#) Protocols which support statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard People – Volumes 2 & 3, in relation to the undertaking of Child and Adult Practice Reviews. These protocols have sought to improve the quality and transparency of the practice review process and to support a more consistent approach to the identification of cases that meet the criteria for consideration for a review.
- A process to share learning has been developed via the communication of information between the Executive Boards, Sub Groups and Local Operational Groups to frontline staff and practitioners.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Promotion via training and use of the website has helped raise awareness of the Boards and their profile.
- Working on the training strategy has involved much discussion amongst partner agencies. This has helped to improve understanding of all organisations' knowledge of each other's training frameworks and strengthen



- the multi-agency relationship.
- The number of referrals into the Regional Practice Review Sub Groups has risen from 4 in 2016-17 to 9 in 2017-18, which is an increase of 56%. As a result, more Practice Reviews are being undertaken, which will help identify more learning and ultimately improve safeguarding practice.

What we still need to do:

- Continue with the programme of delivering awareness raising training across all the region and utilise the website to promote all Safeguarding Board activities.
- Finalise the Regional Training Strategy to incorporate a core multi-agency training framework, identified multi-agency learning outcomes and a training matrix of available training within the region. The strategy

- incorporates a long term 5-year strategic vision and work plan. The Regional Training Strategy has now been ratified and is available on the Board website.
- Build confidence in our practitioners on the Practice Review process and its function to improve practice through learning.
 - Commission training on the threshold for Adult Practice Reviews to our multi-agency colleagues in Adult Services.

5 Strong Leadership

To provide strategic leadership across the partnership in relation to safeguarding.

What we said we would do:

- Strengthen governance, review progress of the Boards and measure improvement
- Improve the efficiency and quality of information provided to the Executive

- Boards by Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups
- Seek to work more closely with the National Independent Safeguarding Board and other regional partnerships

What improvements we have made:

- The structure and management of **Local Operational Groups** have improved by the alignment of the respective children, adults and cross-cutting agendas with two further

- Local Authorities within the region moving to a combined meeting.
- All regional Sub Groups have work plans. Focused reports and action plans have been developed that are reported directly into the

Executive Boards on an exception principle basis, which includes regular updates from the VAWDASV Strategic Group.

- Good links and communication have been established with the NISB. The Regional Board Manager communicates regularly with identified representation and the Board Chairs have attended meetings with the NISB,

facilitated by WG.

- Initial communication channels have been established between the Safeguarding Board and West Wales Partnership Board. Further work will be undertaken in the coming year to develop more formal communication pathways.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- A combined agenda and all-age 'safeguarding people' approach, supporting collective discussion and collaborative working between children and adult services, has improved the efficiency and management of the meetings.
- This has supported a collaborative approach to working between children and adult services. This is particularly evident for vulnerable groups who routinely access children and adult services. Although discussions are in the early stages it is hoped this model will support better outcomes for children and adults who lack capacity and may be deprived of their liberty. Work to consider children between the ages of 16 and 18 who may fall within the DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) legislation is currently being led by adult safeguarding professionals with the Regional DoLS Group.
- The Executive Board Development Day afforded

Board members the opportunity to self-assess progress made, measure improvement and identify what areas need further development and to strengthen the relationship building amongst Board members.

- The Executive Board is able to see progress made on all work plans and action plans through a simple system of RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating by LOGs/Sub Groups.
- This has enabled focus to be directed to areas that need it and resources allocated, where necessary.
- The NISB have supported the CYSUR Board in their work on Elective Home Education and commissioned [a national review](#), undertaken by CASCADE, which has made a series of recommendations to WG in respect of additional support needed for home educators, as well as more robust safeguards needed for some potentially vulnerable 'unseen' children.

What we still need to do:

- Continue with the programme of aligning all LOGs to an all-age focus and a combined Exec Board agenda was piloted with one collective 'safeguarding people' Executive meeting.

- Continue to improve the quality of information provided to the Exec Board to easier identify areas of focus.
- Continue to explore opportunities to work collaboratively with NISB and other regional partnerships.

6 Evidenced Compliance

To ensure the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards are able to demonstrate effectiveness against their statutory functions.

What we said we would do:

- Implement measures to improve the Boards' strategic oversight of Sub Group work plans and identify ways to measure and monitor any risk to the Boards
- Promote consistency and support good professional practice via the development of regional policies and procedures

What improvements we have made:

- A number of regional action plans have been implemented, along with business mechanisms to ensure progress of these plans is self-assessed and monitored by Local Operational Groups, and reported to the Executive Boards.
- A number of Task & Finish groups are in existence working towards the development of regional policies, including a multi-agency information sharing protocol, an 'out of hours' protocol, and the management and response to professional abuse allegations.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- The regional Policies & Procedures Sub Group has developed a number of regional policies to support practitioners to practice within the frameworks of existing legislation including the Children Act 1989, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. A Regional DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) Group has been established to work collaboratively to manage the significant increase in workload and DoLS referrals since the impact of the Cheshire West judgement.
- The identified outcome of this work is practitioners and managers are able to identify and prioritise those most at risk. This has helped ensure those most in need of help and support are provided with services in a timely way.
- As the host Local Authority, systems have been developed within Pembrokeshire County Council's internal governance systems to identify and respond to any risk incurred from hosting the Regional Safeguarding Boards via their risk register.

What we still need to do:

- Continue to monitor and review regional work plans, actions plans and reports to the Executive Boards to identify areas of risk.
- Support regional consistency and multi-agency collaboration via joint working on regional projects.

(d) How we have collaborated with other bodies engaged in activities relating to the boards' objectives

Welsh Government



The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board Manager has continued to work closely with the WG in the last year via attendance at regular briefing meetings with Government officials to discuss the Boards' work. The Boards have supported the development of National Protection Procedures by facilitating a regional multi-agency consultation event which enabled Board members, managers and practitioners to give their views on the content and structure of the procedures. The Regional Board Manager is the Mid & West Wales representative on the National Project Board which is overseeing the development and implementation of the procedures.

Other Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales

All Regional Safeguarding Board Managers meet regularly to share good practice, discuss areas of development and identify emerging national safeguarding trends. The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board Business Coordinator has worked collaboratively with her counterparts across Wales to plan National Safeguarding Week, developing regional themes to distribute the work and share good practice.

Regional West Wales Partnership Board



The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards have

established links and communication with the West Wales Partnership Board. Plans are in place to undertake a joint review of the Partnership and Safeguarding Board Annual Plans in the coming year to identify any potential future opportunities for collaborative work.

Social Care Wales

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards have engaged and worked with Social Care Wales who are reviewing multi-agency arrangements for the delivery of safeguarding training across Wales. The Board Manager attended a workshop to start the process of developing a national multi-agency training framework. The Board Manager and the Chair of the Regional Training Sub Group will continue to input into this process in the coming year.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)



We have with worked with the CIW in their review of adult safeguarding practice. Senior representatives attended a Regional Executive Board meeting in January 2018 to discuss and provide feedback on their findings in relation to Adult Safeguarding Practice. Work is already well underway in Mid & West Wales to address some of the issues identified, particularly in relation to the ongoing development of the Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document and practitioner tool. A regional thematic audit will be undertaken in the coming year to assess how

mental capacity is being considered in safeguarding work.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)



The CYSUR Board has worked with the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in

respect of the Truth Project, which has been promoted on the Board website and information has been disseminated across the region. The Truth Project allows any victims of sexual abuse to share their story and information in a free and confidential way to a panel. Information provided will help inform the outcome of the Inquiry's work and influence any recommendations made.

Community Safety Partnerships



The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards have worked with Community Safety Partnerships in the

region to consider how the interface between the Practice Review process and the Domestic Homicide Review process could become more aligned to ensure any lessons learned are shared widely. A regional protocol to support collaborative working, where appropriate, and to develop structures to share learning will be developed in the coming year.

Barnardos Cymru - Gwella Project



The Gwella project has now entered its final year and there are pilot cases with children and families ongoing in four local

authorities across Wales. These children and their families are receiving support from a Gwella practitioner for a year with the aim of understanding the impact of trauma on the child in order to better focus support; enhancing the relationship between the parent and child; and establishing a trauma informed system around

the child. The aim of the project is to evidence that increased earlier support reduces the need for it later in adolescence when vulnerabilities may become apparent through increased risk of CSE or displaying sexually harmful behaviour.

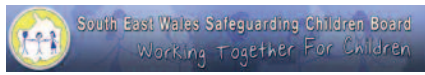
There are currently four children working with the Gwella Project within the Carmarthenshire area. All of these children are 'Looked After' with three placed with Local Authority foster carers while one remains on a Care Order and has returned to reside with the birth mother. The Gwella Intervention is due to end for three of these children in November 2018 and for other child at the start of December 2018. To date the Gwella Intervention and engagement received from the children and their families/ carers has been positive whilst working alongside other professionals. This has included supporting relationships and the stability of placements; working towards proposed rehabilitation plans; undertaking life journey sessions; and using the principles of Theraplay. The pilot is being evaluated by Cardiff University and this process is underway.

The Barnardo's Gwella practitioner also delivered a CSE awareness session in the University of St David's Trinity in Carmarthen on 14th May which was carried

over from the National CSE Day on 19th March. The session was well attended by workers from a wide range of organisations and some of the findings from research carried out in the first year of the project were disseminated during the session.

Attendee feedback:
"I found the course very interesting and have been provided with the information and knowledge to be able to support children experiencing trauma."

THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



(e) Requests made to qualifying persons under sec 137(1) and whether they were complied with

For the purpose of enabling or assisting the Boards to perform its functions, Section 137 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 allows Safeguarding Boards to ask a qualifying person or body to supply specific information. The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Adults Board made one formal request under Sec 137(1) to a care provider to release information to assist the completion of an ongoing Adult

Practice Review. The Review Panel considered the information essential to inform any recommendations and learning. The request was subsequently complied with and the information released. This review is now progressing well with publication due in the coming year.



(f) Achievements we have made during the year

Joint Executive Board Development Day



Executive members of both CWMPAS and CYSUR Boards came together in February 2018 to reflect on progress made in the last year and to develop our strategic priorities for the coming year 2018-19. It was a very successful day with open and honest discussion on our collective expectations of each other, which highlighted the significant development and progress of the Boards to a confident and effective working partnership.

It was noted that it is crucial for the Boards to continue to develop effective challenge and engagement from all stakeholders. In order to improve outcomes for people in our region, it was

Input from CADW Junior Safeguarding Board:



agreed that there needs to be a strong level of trust so we can use our collective voice to support, challenge and hold all agencies to account. Recent concerns in Powys were discussed openly with a view to what the Boards could do to help prevent the situation recurring in the future.

Feedback from an Executive Board Member:
"There is such a positive feeling about going forward"

Influence the National agenda to better safeguard children who are Electively Home Educated

Since the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Dylan Seabridge in 2011, the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board has strongly advocated for the introduction of primary legislation in Wales to better safeguard children who are Electively Home Educated. The CYSUR Board has worked closely with Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board to highlight shortfalls in existing legislation. As a result, the National Independent Safeguarding Board commissioned the CASCADE research faculty at Cardiff University to undertake a [national thematic review](#). A national protocol and practice guidance is now under development, which has been directly influenced by the work undertaken by the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board in collaboration with NISB.

The formal statement issued by Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, [‘Securing the right to a suitable education for](#)

all children', on 30th January 2018 and the announcement to strengthen existing legislation is welcomed. However we feel the decision not to introduce a compulsory register for children who are EHE, supported by a stronger legal framework, is a significant missed opportunity to offer more robust safeguards to a small number of unseen children who may be at risk of significant harm.

The Board is of the view that proposals to introduce local databases, will do little to assist professionals in identifying the need to undertake formal assessments for Care & Support or statutory Child Protection Investigations.

Clear deficits within this legal context were identified by the independent author, Gladys Rhodes-Whyte, who undertook the Child Practice Review on behalf of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board following Dylan Seabridge's death and the need for this is clearly supported by the National Independent Safeguarding Board. There is in fact an overwhelming consensus from all safeguarding professionals that this is necessary. The Board will continue to make this case to Welsh Government for action.

Publication of CYSUR 4 2017 Extended Child Practice Review

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board published its first Extended Child Practice Review in 2018, undertaken by two independent authors into the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of a Looked After young person. The conclusions of the review have helped identify a number of areas for improvements needed in relation to multi-agency professional practice in care planning for care leavers and young people approaching independence. Local and regional action plans based on the review findings have been developed and are being implemented.

Suicide Prevention Work

The aforementioned review and other similar cases in the region have influenced the Boards' work in relation to suicide prevention. In 2017 Cardiff University and CASCADE research organisation were commissioned by the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards to carry out research into probable suicides of children and young adults in the region. This work was carried out by Dr Tom Slater, who is a qualified social worker with experience in social work practice. He teaches on the social work course in Cardiff University and is part of the research faculty, CASCADE. He has undertaken extensive research in relation to suicide.



In collaboration with the Boards, Dr Slater published 'a desk based review of probable suicides amongst children and young adults in Mid & West Wales'. The review sought to explore wider evidence that might be utilised in local prevention strategies and practice, and undertook a thematic review of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Child Practice Reviews (CPRs), Procedural Response to Unexpected Deaths in Children (PRUDiC), Adult Practice Reviews (APRs) and other multi-agency reviews.

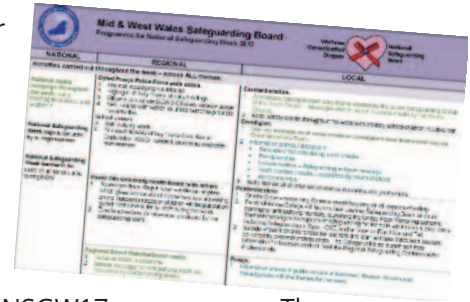
The findings highlighted increased risk factors for children and young adults, associated with suicide including:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Bereavement

- Social media and peer group influence
- Substance misuse, and;
- Mental Health issues

The research was supported by a concise report and practice guidance for professionals who work with or come into contact with children and young adults who may be vulnerable or at increased risk of suicide. The findings of the research were launched as part of National Safeguarding Week along with four learning and dissemination events delivered throughout 2017/18 across the region.

each partner organisation had regular 'virtual' meetings to plan and coordinate



the regional NSGW17 programme. The Board Business Coordinator was the link between this group and WG, NISB and other Boards in Wales who all worked collaboratively to provide consistency of approach and resources that were useable in each area. This included a communication pack with factsheets on all safeguarding themes, pre-translated tweets/quotes, press releases and pictures for use by each organisation's communication team, where appropriate.

Each Regional Safeguarding Board across Wales chose a safeguarding theme – the Mid & West Wales theme for National Safeguarding Week 2017 was Online Abuse & Exploitation. Each Board produced a fact sheet on their theme to be shared with other Boards for use across Wales. These fact sheets were promoted internally within organisational intranets, and externally on the Board website and social media forums.

Under this regional theme of 'Online Abuse and Exploitation', a very successful regional safeguarding conference, supported by Dyfed Powys Police, was hosted by Pembrokeshire. It explored and addressed a diverse range of issues surrounding online abuse and exploitation, including financial abuse, Cyber-Crime and doorstep scams. The conference sought to raise awareness of methods of abuse and exploitation of both adults and children. The event was a huge success with excellent feedback



Practitioner feedback:
 "77% of evaluators felt that the Service User would directly benefit from their attendance at the learning dissemination event."

The review also identified some important strategies for professionals to help prevent and reduce the numbers of children and young people who take their own lives. This includes:

- the provision of appropriate training and support to Social Care practitioners working with vulnerable children and young adults, as well as voluntary non-statutory agencies, and;
- the importance of information being available to vulnerable children and young adults, their families and professionals as to where they can access support and services, and the importance of promoting positive mental wellbeing.

Local, Regional & National Collaboration for National Safeguarding Week



In November 2017 the Board Business Unit, in collaboration with Local Operational Groups, coordinated and supported a regional programme of events to support National Safeguarding Week. A Regional Planning Group was set up, consisting of representatives from

from attendees, including managers, social workers, representatives from health and third sector organisations, teachers and education representatives.

Other highlights included:

- Promotion of the [anti-bullying video](#) developed in 2016 by young representatives of Sêr Saff, Ceredigion’s Junior Safeguarding Group. Ceredigion also carried out a school campaign, focusing on cyber bullying and sexting with year 7 pupils.
- Launch of the CYSUR regional [‘Right Help at the Right Time’](#) eligibility for support and threshold document for children’s services.
- Milford Haven Youth Group carried out some work to help raise awareness and stamp out bullying at their youth centre.
- Pembrokeshire’s Junior Safeguardians hosted its annual junior safeguarding conference, attended by all schools in the county.
- Lunch & Learn sessions were held across Powys on Modern Day Slavery
- Drop-in sessions at various venues using the mobile Police Station, including Haverfordwest Skate Park and Aberystwyth University
- Training/information sharing events at all Hywel Dda hospitals on a variety of safeguarding themes
- A Cyber-Bullying poster competition was

- organised by Ceredigion Youth Services
- Open access sessions in family centres, leisure centres and youth clubs on safeguarding themes
- The first dissemination event in Powys for the Board’s CASCADE research on probable suicides in Mid & West Wales.

Partner agencies of the Boards also arranged and facilitated a diverse number of activities across the region to support National Safeguarding Week, including:

- Dyfed Powys Police carried out an awareness raising campaign across the force, in respect of mental health.
- Hywel Dda University Health Board developed and promoted a global newsletter in respect of online safety and undertook joint work with Hafan Cymru in respect of domestic abuse and safeguarding children.

It was noted from best practice in Ceredigion that as safeguarding is ‘everyone’s business’ the responsibility for planning safeguarding week should not just sit within Safeguarding Teams, but should be shared corporately within organisations and externally with specialist third sector agencies. This model will be recommended to all areas for NSGW 2018.



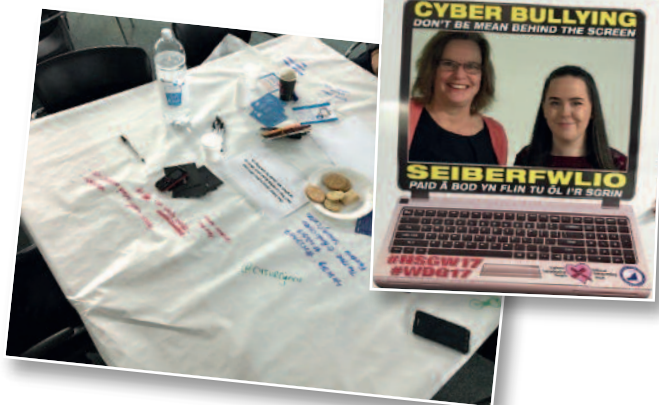
Some collective photos from National Safeguarding Week 2017:

Tweets 585 Following 98 Followers 123 Likes 609 Lists 0 Moments 0

Safer Dyfed-Powys @CYSURCYmu · 16 Nov 2017
 Winners of the @CeredigionCC youth group poster competition 'don't be mean behind the screen' #NSGW17
 Enillyr cystadieuath posteri grŵp ieuencid @CSCeredigion 'Si' a bod yn flin tu ôl i'r sgrin' #WDG17

Safer Dyfed-Powys @CYSURCYmu · 16 Nov 2017
 Pembrok College hosts the Mid & West Wales Regional Safeguarding Conference discussing Online Abuse & Exploitation #NSGW17
 Mae @PembrokCollege yn cynnal Cynhadledd Diogelu Rhanbarthol Cnoharth a Gorllewin Cymru sy'n trafod Cam drin Ar Llein a Chamfantasio #WDG17

Jonathan Griffiths, Keith Towler, NDDWales and 2 others



(g) To what extent have agencies contributed to the boards' effectiveness

Hywel Dda University Health Board



Hywel Dda University Health Board have made an active contribution to the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards' work and the ongoing development of safeguarding practice at a regional and local level. Hywel Dda representatives are routinely represented and contribute to the Executive Boards, Local Operational Group and Sub Groups. The Head of Safeguarding is the Vice Chair of the regional Adult Practice Review Sub Group and has supported the Child Practice Review process by undertaking the role of Panel Chair in an ongoing Child Practice Review. The Assistant Director of Nursing Assurance and Safeguarding Corporate Nursing has been elected as Vice Chair of the CYSUR Executive Board in the last year.

Hywel Dda presents local safeguarding performance data to all Local Operational Group meetings which enables and supports the

monitoring of safeguarding practice, and the identification of themes and trends. Arrangements have now been put in place to incorporate some of this data into the regional quality assurance data set that will be reported to the Executive Boards in the next year. This will include information on self-harm related admissions to hospital, supporting the Boards' ongoing work on suicide prevention. Hywel Dda have an internal CSE Task & Finish group which supports the CYSUR Board's regional CSE action plan.

Hywel Dda have supported and promoted a strong ethos of partnership working with third sector organisations in the last year. They have endorsed the Net Safe project, which aims to deter and prevent early stage sex offenders from accessing indecent images. Awareness amongst staff members and patients has been promoted via posters and leaflets.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Hywel Dda University Health Board have undertaken an audit on ulcers and pressure damage on behalf of the CWMPAS Board. As a result, routine referrals will no longer be made into adult safeguarding teams and a more proportionate system for managing pressure damage cases has been developed, involving the introduction of an internal scrutiny panel to review cases and the sharing of numerical data with LOGs. The outcome of this has been a reduction in the number of inappropriate referrals being made into front door services and safeguarding teams.

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB)



Powys Teaching Health Board have made a full and active contribution to the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards. PTHB representatives are routinely represented at the Executive Boards, Local Operational Group and all Sub Group meetings and they support the ongoing development of safeguarding practice at a regional and local level. PTHB have a strong commitment to partnership and multi-agency working. The Assistant Director of Safeguarding is the Vice Chair of the Local Operational Group and is working closely with Social Care colleagues in Powys to support them to deliver aspects of their improvement plan following their poor inspection report.

PTHB support the development of national safeguarding practice and are active partners in the NHS Wales National Safeguarding Network, and engage in their ongoing work streams and Task & Finish groups, including the Learning from Reviews group. PTHB Executive Lead for Safeguarding co-chairs the newly established

CYPP (Children & Young People Partnership) Start Well Group. The Health Board is well represented on the group and the newly formed work streams within it. PTHB fulfils its statutory responsibility as a member of the Powys Youth Justice Board and currently has a CAMHS nurse seconded into the Youth Justice Service, promoting resilience and positive mental health for vulnerable groups of young offenders. Powys Teaching Health Board staff work in close partnership with their multi-agency partners in all areas of the safeguarding agenda including MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements), MACSE (Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation), PRUDiC (Procedural Response to Unexpected Deaths in Childhood), Corporate Parenting, Practice Reviews and Audits etc. Senior safeguarding staff promote children's participation in the safeguarding agenda and continue to engage with the Powys Junior Safeguarding 'Eat Carrots' Group.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys Teaching Health Board have undertaken significant work on developing systems for data collection measures which will support the Boards' oversight of safeguarding activity themes and trend at a local and region level. Plans are in place to share and present this at Local Operational Group meetings which will assist in oversight of safeguarding practice at local level in Powys.

Public Health Wales (National Safeguarding Team)



Public Health Wales (PHW) have made a full and very active contribution to the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards whilst maintaining their national position to be the only agency who do not financially contribute to the running of the Board. The Boards have benefited from regular consistent representation and membership at Executive Board level for several years. The National Safeguarding Team (NST) designated professionals are members of all Regional Safeguarding Boards (adult and children) across Wales. They provide independent expert advice on behalf of NHS Wales through regular attendance at the Executive Boards and Practice

Review Sub Groups. PHW have led a national review to update the PRUDiC process and have issued new guidance. This has sought to strengthen the process and the role Regional Safeguarding Boards play in monitoring and overseeing the PRUDiC process. PHW have particular expertise in Child Practice Reviews nationally. The PHW representative on the Executive Boards provides significant support to the ongoing development of the Child Practice Review process in Mid & West Wales and to the Board Business Unit. They continue to promote awareness of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) within the CYSUR Board agenda.

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)



The Welsh Ambulance

Service Trust have been consistently represented at the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Executive Boards since October 2016. WAST participate on Sub Groups and Local Operational Groups as and when needed. They fully support the wider safeguarding strategic agenda across the region.

They are members of the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Regional Steering Group and have supported on the ongoing VAWDASV work across the region via the pathway to Live Fear Free to support victims. WAST are also actively working with PHW to ensure they are an ACEs-aware organisation.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust have sought to raise awareness of pressure damage and sores in older patients via the development of self-contained learning programme. This will be promoted in the coming year at WAST national events, via the National Ambulance Training Centre and the SIREN communication centre.

Dyfed Powys Police



Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) have made a full and very active contribution to the Mid & West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards. This is evident through routine officer attendance and participation at all Board levels, including the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and all Sub Groups. Dyfed Powys Police have led a number of projects on behalf of the Boards in the last year. This includes the development of a Sec 47 Investigation Protocol and technical brief which supports consistent regional practice and responses to the undertaking of child protection investigations. Significant support has been provided to the CYSUR Child Practice Review process with a designated Executive Board

representative fulfilling the role of Panel Chair for the recently published Extended Child Practice Review (CYSUR 4 2017). The DPP Superintendent is also the current Vice Chair of the CWMPAS Board.

At a national level DPP are part of an All Wales policing project to introduce an ACEs informed approach to identifying and responding to vulnerability and safeguarding. This is linked to a better understanding of vulnerability in general and its effects on children and adults at risk. This is a two-year project and involves a cultural change within policing to better respond to vulnerable people.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

In the last year **Dyfed Powys Police** have implemented systems to improve their responses and to domestic abuse incidents. Specific training inputs have been delivered to all frontline officers regarding their understanding and assessment of risk. This was also linked to an increase in specialist resources to enable a higher level of expertise to be applied to high risk domestic abuse incidents and victims. The outcome of this is a better overall response high risk domestic abuse incidents, increased prosecution rates and overall better safeguards for victims.


Dyfed Powys Youth Justice Service (YJS)



The YJS have made a full and active contribution to the Safeguarding Boards via regular and consistent attendance at the Executive Boards and underlying Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups. The Pembrokeshire Youth Justice Service Manager represents regional Youth Justice interests at the Executive Boards 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.

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

 Both organisations are represented on the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and some Sub Groups although one representative usually attends on behalf of both organisations. The National Probation Service made a full contribution to the Executive Board Development Day in February 2018 and contributed the development of the Boards' strategic plan. Although attendance and input into Executive Board meetings has been consistent, both NPS and CRC have experienced significant challenges from a resource

perspective in the last year, which have impacted on their ability and availability to participate consistently in all regional Sub Groups and Local Operational Groups, which overall has been irregular and inconsistent. This has impacted on their ability to fully participate in the Boards' work and projects, including the development of the Regional Training Strategy and Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document.



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, providing consistent strategic leadership to the Executive Board, and its Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups. Carmarthenshire has made a full and active contribution to the Boards and underlying Sub Groups with consistent attendance from designated safeguarding staff. Children's Services have further developed the Signs of Safety model of practice, which encourages greater participation from parents in the Child Protection conference process. This is now used in all Carmarthenshire child protection case conferences. Carmarthenshire are leading on a number of ongoing projects for the Boards, which will ultimately assist frontline practitioners in the implementation of their safeguarding statutory duties and responsibilities. These projects include the development of a regional Information Sharing Protocol, which when complete will support the timely sharing of information between professional when

concerns are identified. Carmarthenshire Children's Services have supported the regional Child Practice Review process by releasing a senior manager to fulfil the role of Independent Reviewer in the recently published Extended Child Practice Review (CYSUR 4 2017). This involved a significant resource commitment from Carmarthenshire Children's services.

The strategic and operational lead for Adult Services continues to chair and support the Regional DoLS Group which is supporting regional collaborative work in respect of DoLS practice. The Head of Service for Mental Health and Learning Difficulties is the chair of the Regional Suicide & Self Harm Group, the Adult Practice Review Sub Group and the Regional VAWDASV Strategic Group, and is leading regionally on the ongoing development of the regional VAWDASV strategy and service delivery plan presently under development.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

The **Carmarthenshire County Council** strategic and operational lead for adult safeguarding is leading a regional adult multi-agency Task & Finish group which is working on establishing consistent adult safeguarding practice across the region.

The group has led the development a multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document which will be completed in the coming year. It is anticipated this will have a substantial impact on practice and reduce the number of inappropriate referrals received by adult safeguarding services. This will free up practitioner time and help improve the quality of professional intervention to those at high risk and reduce the amount of unnecessary time spent dealing with inappropriate and referrals. It is anticipated this will have a substantial impact on practice and reduce the number of inappropriate referrals received by adult safeguarding services. For example, a resident in a care home who has one minor unintentional medication error administered by a care worker that caused no harm can be dealt via low level support and improved training and a vulnerable elderly resident being financially exploited out of large sums of money from her life savings can be dealt with via a joint social services and police safeguarding investigation, enabling timely and proportionate responses.

Pembrokeshire County Council



Pembrokeshire County Council is the regional host authority for the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards and facilitates the Regional Safeguarding Board Business Unit. The Current Statutory Director of Social Services is the Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Pembrokeshire's Statutory Director of Education represents the other areas in Mid & West Wales as the regional strategic lead for Education. Pembrokeshire continues to benefit from an Integrated Safeguarding Team combining both children and adult safeguarding matters into one unified service. The pilot introduced last year of holding a combined children's and adult's Local Operational Group has been very successful and is now implemented as a permanent model. This progressive approach by Pembrokeshire fully compliments the spirit and ethos of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the all

age approach to safeguarding people. This model is now in the process of being replicated across the region with other Local Operational Groups following suit.


Pembrokeshire's Corporate Training Manager chairs the Regional Training Sub Group and has led the development of the Regional Training Strategy. Pembrokeshire's model for undertaking MAPFs has been used as a basis to develop a regional Practice Model. It is anticipated that both of these will add significant value to the delivery of safeguarding practice regionally within the context of supporting the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training and provide a framework that encourages and supports multi-agency reflective learning.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

In collaboration with **Dyfed Powys Police, Pembrokeshire Education Dept.** have piloted 'Operation Encompass' in the area. This was initially launched to address a shortcoming in the early sharing of information with schools. The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support those children and young people who have witnessed and/or been present at the time of a domestic abuse incident by ensuring schools are informed the following morning promptly if a domestic incident has occurred the previous evening. Although this pilot project is in its infancy, early indicators are demonstrating good results and better outcomes for children in the area. Feedback from teachers indicates they feel better equipped to support children in school who may have witnessed domestic violence and helps ensure a proportionate response is given to any impact this may have on the child's behaviour in school. This pilot project will be evaluated in the coming year with a view to rolling it out across the region.

Powys County Council

 Powys County Council Children's Services has experienced challenges this year following their CIW inspection in 2017, which highlighted significant concerns and shortfalls in the provision of services to children who are at risk and in need of care and support. These challenges have directly impacted on Powys' ability to effectively and consistently participate in the Boards' work. A high and rapid turnover of staff at a senior level has resulted in inconsistent and intermittent attendance and engagement from senior strategic managers at the Executive Boards. These difficulties have been compounded by the implementation at this critical time of a new IT system (WCCIS), which has prevented Powys from providing data, as part of the Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework, to the Boards for a period 12 months. This has compromised the Safeguarding Boards' ability to oversee and understand safeguarding activity within the Powys area.

At an operational level, attendance and engagement in the regional Sub Groups from Children's Services has been equally inconsistent further compromising any meaningful participation in a number of ongoing CYSUR Board projects. This includes work in relation to the development of the Regional Training Strategy and the development of a number of regional policies and procedures. This, along with Powys' initial unwillingness to be part of the Mid & West Wales Regional VAWDASV Strategic Board and subsequent conflicting messages given about its intentions, has led Safeguarding Board partners to conclude that Powys County Council

is a reluctant partner in the Regional Safeguarding Children Board collaboration.

Following several discussions at a senior corporate level and the recent appointment of a new permanent Statutory Director, the Board is hopeful the situation and level of engagement in the Safeguarding Boards will improve. Early indications are positive and a number of measures have been taken to improve the situation. The 'Right Help at the Right Time' regional eligibility for support and threshold document is in the process of being rolled out across Powys via a series of staff workshops. A local Quality Assurance Framework has been established and is in the process of being implemented. The outcome of CYSUR 4 2017, recently published Extended Child Practice Review, and its recommendations feature heavily in the Children's Services Improvement Plan.

In contrast to Children's Services, Powys Adult Services has made a full and active contribution to the Safeguarding Adults Board and its work. Notwithstanding some challenges in the provision of data to the Board, attendance and engagement in the CWMPAS Executive Board and its Sub Groups has been regular and consistent with a high level of participation and input from the senior Adult Safeguarding Lead who has made a significant contribution to the development of the Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document, along with other Board Sub Groups and work streams.

Ceredigion County Council



Ceredigion County Council have made a full and effective contribution to the Regional Safeguarding Boards 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 have led on the development of a number of projects for the Boards in the last year, including the development of regional policy for supporting children of parents with identified mental illness. They have made a significant contribution to the Boards' Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework with the provision of timely data and a local audit programme, which has focussed on reviewing

and improving the effectiveness of screening referrals at the front door, as well as improving responses to referrals into adult safeguarding teams.

Support has been provided to the regional Practice Review process with the Adult Safeguarding Senior Manager fulfilling the function of Panel Chair on an ongoing Adult Practice Review, and the Head of Children's Services chairing an ongoing Child Practice Review panel. Ceredigion have also made a full contribution to ongoing work and development of the regional Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance document.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Ceredigion County Council arranged and facilitated an impressive corporate programme of events for National Safeguarding Week, which was rolled across the whole Local Authority as opposed to just being confined to Social Care services and teams. The week's events included participation from Leisure, Education and 3rd Sector organisations. This enabled a wide reaching awareness programme promoted across the whole county.



Regional Directors of Education representative

All regional education partners have a consistent framework for quality assuring safeguarding in schools, a yearly self-evaluation process and an external audit every three years. Education is represented on all Local Operational Groups and Board Sub Groups.

Any themes that arise from safeguarding health checks, such as site security, training, policy alignment and consistency of practice, are shared with Head Teachers and Governors. All regional education partners have concerns and challenges due to the increase of pupils being withdrawn to be Electively Home Educated (EHE). There is evidence that there is an

increasing complexity to the profile of pupils becoming EHE. Regional CYSUR partners developed and agreed an EHE Protocol. The development of a supporting Information Sharing Protocol will underpin this protocol.

Pembrokeshire Education Dept have led on a joint safeguarding initiative in liaison with Dyfed Powys Police called Operation Encompass which is an early intervention tool designed to give early notification to schools of a domestic incident which may have occurred in the family home and may affect a pupil the next day in school.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Pembrokeshire & Ceredigion were the 2nd areas in Wales to introduce the Stonewall Equality Index development.

Powys have implemented the kiVa anti-bullying programme in their schools.

Carmarthenshire have developed bespoke legal training for Head Teachers.

Regional Commissioning representative

The Mid & West Wales Commissioning Partnership is represented on the Executive Board and links with the Powys Commissioning Partnership for whole regional collaboration. An example of this is the Mid & West Wales VAWDASV Strategy where a whole region

approach was taken to ensure efficiencies are made with the commissioning of services to improve consistency and outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse across the whole of Mid & West Wales.

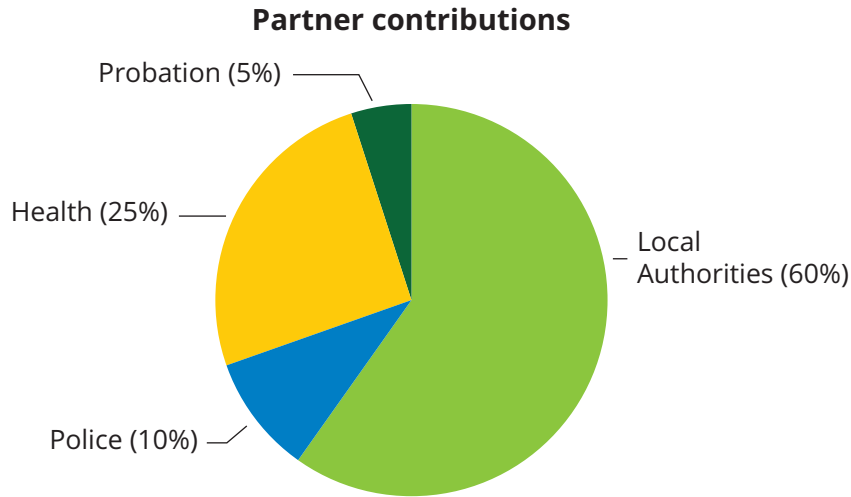


Safeguarding Practice Highlight

As a result of difficulties gaining information from a provider to support the undertaking of an Adult Practice Review. **Regional Commissioners** have worked collaboratively to ensure all new contracts across the region include a clause expecting the cooperation of providers in any safeguarding reviews in the region.

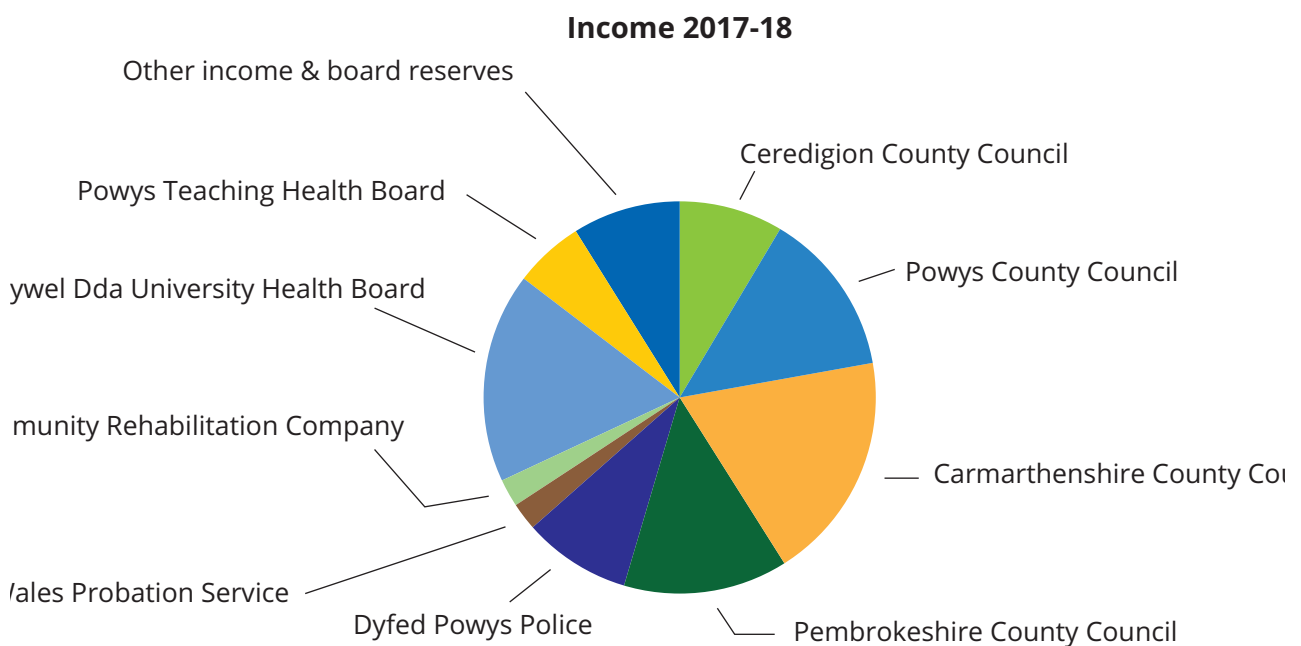
This demonstrates the Board is working to ensure providers of services understand safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

(h) An assessment of how the board uses its resources



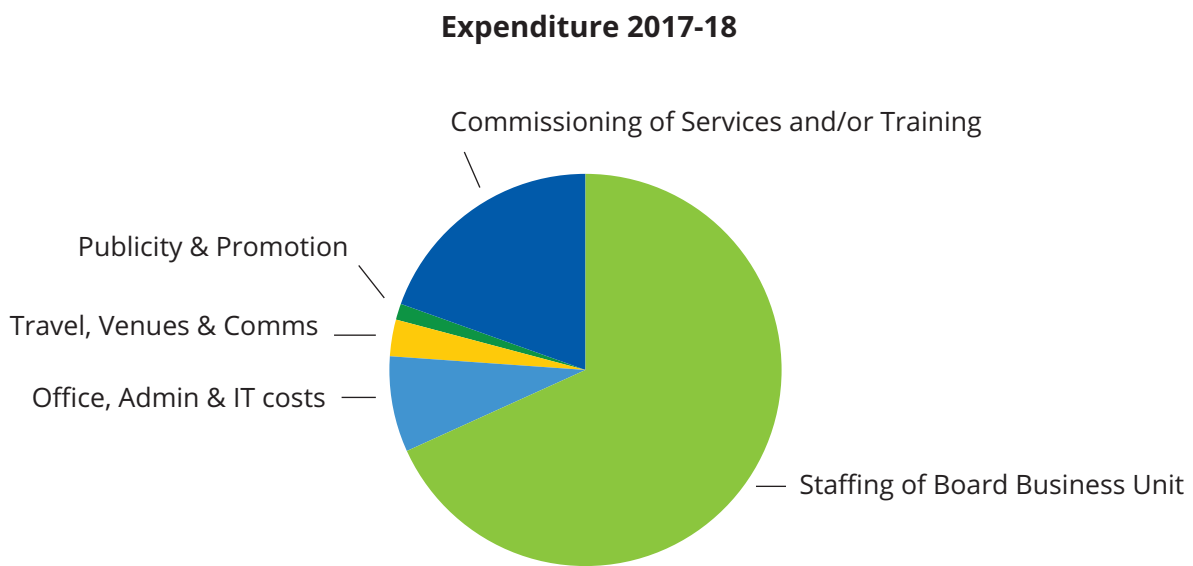
The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The graphs and charts below illustrate how the board has made use of its financial resources within the context of income, expenditure and partner contributions in the preceding financial year.

It is acknowledged that resources used to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board are not confined or restricted to financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The Regional Safeguarding Board Chairs, Executive Board Members, Sub Group Chairs and members provide a significant amount of the time to support the Board and its work. This is often in addition to their



identified professional roles and day to day responsibilities. The variable and diverse nature of the Board’s work makes this difficult to report on within a quantifiable and measurable resource context and is not always obviously visible to other professionals and agencies. The process, management and publication of Child and Adult Practice Reviews, the development of regional protocols and policies, are all examples of projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise.

All statutory partners of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards contribute financially to the running of the Boards, with the exception of Public Health Wales. This contribution is based on population areas within the region across the varied organisations. The total income into the Safeguarding Board was £134,642, which is the lowest across Wales.



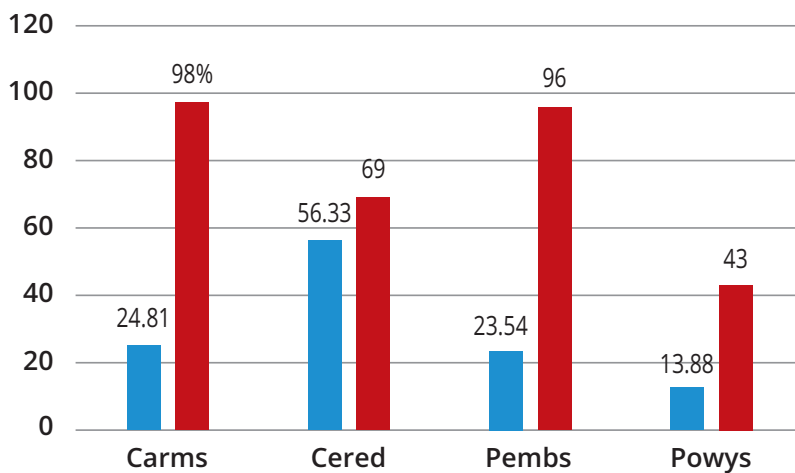
In 2017-18, the majority of the Boards’ expenditure went on general running costs, including staffing the Business Unit (£92,083), Admin/IT (£10,775) and travel/venues across the vast regional footprint (£3,795).

However, a large amount this year (£26,200) was spent on commissioning services and/or training, which included the CASCADE research into probable suicides, consultation with Pembrokeshire People First on the annual report, facilitation of the CADW Junior Board and the regional young person’s advocacy service with Tros Gynnal and bespoke training on working with difficult, evasive and challenging families.

(i) Underlying themes in the way the safeguarding boards have exercised their functions

Supporting effective challenge and professional accountability in the delivery of safeguarding practice

- Individual children who have had Initial Case Conferences (per 10k pop.)
- % of initial CP Conferences held within 15 days of strategy discussion

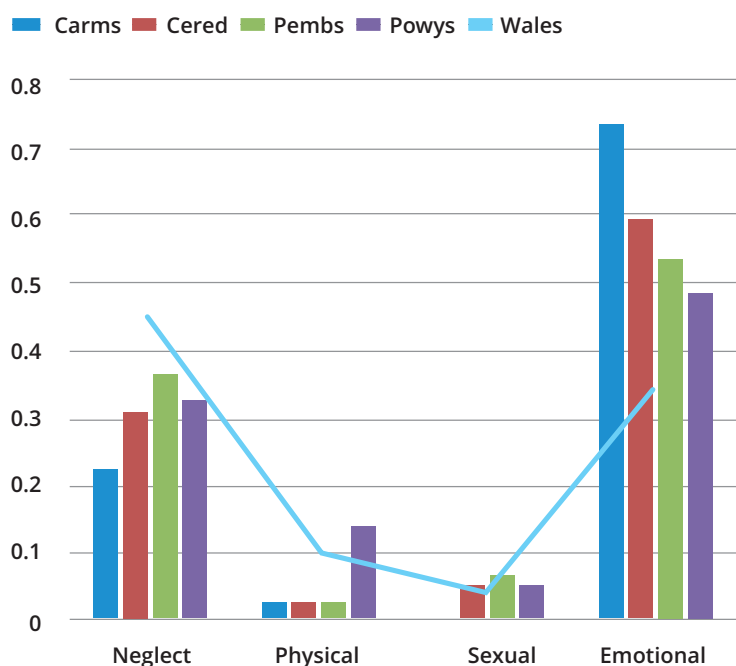


this framework and the provision of good quality performance data will support the Boards in their commitment to effectively challenge and hold agencies to account when safeguarding practice and service delivery falls below expected standards.

Practice Reviews

A multi-agency Resolution of Professional Differences Protocol is in development, in response to a recommendation from the recently published Extended Child Practice Review (CYSUR 4 2017), which will support the need to escalate concerns when safeguarding practice is poor or there is professional disagreement about plans. Three Concise Child Practice

The development and implementation of the Boards' Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework, which includes a comprehensive data set alongside a local and thematic regional audit schedule, has enabled the Boards to start to better understand professional safeguarding practice within the Mid & West Wales area. Themes and trends within the context of referral pathways for victims of domestic abuse, front door responses to service users in need of protection and the application of thresholds across both children and adult services have been identified as areas that require further analysis or improvement across the region. The continuing development of



Reviews have commenced in 2017. Any common themes that come out of these reviews will be considered and appropriate action taken when complete.

One Adult Practice Review remains ongoing; learning has identified the need to strengthen commissioning contacts with care providers. As a result, changes have been made to contracts across the region, strengthening clauses and wording to compel care providers to cooperate with safeguarding reviews when requested. The ongoing work to develop a Quality Assurance Framework within the West Wales Commissioning footprint will add further value to this work.

Multi-Agency Professional Forums

Work undertaken in the last year to develop a regional MAPF framework to support and aid learning is a significant step forward for the Boards. This will be strengthened in the coming year with its implementation, alongside plans to develop a regional forum to consider and review MAPF cases.

Local Operational Groups across the region have been proactive in the last year and undertaken MAPFs on cases that have been identified as part of their local work. In some cases these were referred for consideration for Child Practice Reviews, but not met the criteria for a full review.

The need for improvements in communication and information sharing amongst professionals has been identified as a common theme in many cases. The work underway to develop a regional Information Sharing Protocol will support this. Hywel Dda University Health Board are also in the process of developing a policy for children and babies who are admitted to hospital with minor injuries in direct response to learning identified in a MAPF.

Signs of Safety (SoS)

All of the four Local Authorities across the region

have either implemented Signs of Safety or are in the process of introducing this practice model to social work teams to varying degrees. This is more established and embedded in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, who have been using the model for some time. Ceredigion are in the process of training staff with a view to introducing it across both children and adult services. Powys have indicated their intention to introduce the Signs of Safety model in the future. Signs of Safety is a more inclusive, person-centred, solution-focused approach to safeguarding and seeks to enhance and encourage a greater degree of participation by the service user. The core principles of the model compliment the spirit and ethos of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, which seeks to put service user participation at the heart of professional intervention with children, their families and adults at risk.

A case example of the positive outcomes this SoS model of practice has achieved in the last year is:

• Circumstances:

Social Services became involved with a couple that could not safely care for their first child. After failing to engage with services, the child was subject of a contested hearing, and subsequently adopted. The couple became pregnant with their second child who was diagnosed in the womb with serious health problems. The problem of non-engagement continued with missed health and ante-natal appointments. An early inducement was required to operate upon the baby. Visits from the midwife and social worker failed to develop a pre-birth plan. The couple turned the professionals away. Sadly, the baby passed away.

The couple are planning to have a baby and want to keep the baby.

• Intervention:

Social services are working with the couple through the Signs of Safety model to ensure that

they are supported to be safe parents or to accept that this is not a possibility.

- **Positive outcome:**

Using Signs of Safety to establish a shared understanding. Social workers/professionals have been able to encourage the couple to engage with services.

- **Eureka moment:**

The couple highlight the practical benefit of sitting down with professionals to identify areas of their strengths, difficulties, and some understanding of what is expected of them. They value the visual mapping process and trajectory of expected change.

The couple have for the first time said that they have been given the opportunity to identify their own difficulties with professionals' expectations and contribute to finding solutions.

- **Examples of what has changed and outcomes achieved:**

They phone in to ask for advice and information, as well as to give updates on progress and challenges. They return missed phone calls. They allow visits to their home.

They are actively working with other professionals in direct work and they now recognise that they need support with ante-natal and parenting for the future.

Whilst it is a 'work in progress', the achievements have been facilitated by creatively adapting the Signs of Safety approach to work with these vulnerable adults. In this case, SoS has promoted trust and simplified the process for a couple who both have a degree of learning disabilities.

The baby will not be removed from parents' care at birth and will be supported living at home with a protection plan.



(j) When and how children and adults have had an opportunity to participate in the boards' work

Young members of the CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board attended an Executive Board meeting in July 2017.

They had the opportunity to sit down with Exec Board members to discuss issues that were important to them. The young people highlighted that they struggle with the different practice in different areas – in their opinion some areas are the best and some are not so good. The overarching theme was how you help young people become resilient.

Feedback after CADW attendance at the Executive Board:

"The young people felt politically empowered by their experience and want to continue to do this work"

young person illustrated her personal story through art, which was displayed during the Executive Board meeting.

There was discussion on exam stress, which is starting earlier and earlier. The messages were mixed some saying leave us alone, we'll ask for help and some saying to help now. This is a difficult thing to manage. The young people were keen that the curriculum should be shrunk and to include work on life skills – how to balance a budget/pay mortgage. It was suggested that as Mid & West Wales is leading on the new curriculum on wellbeing, these young people could be involved so their views are included in the development.



Young people look at schools as their main interface with the formal world. They discussed issues with the curriculum and the need to strengthen the PSE

(Personal & Social Education)

curriculum. Their plea was that they are tired of the academic focus of the curriculum. The emphasis should be on the doors that education opens, rather than achieving a certain grade. This is the pressure that schools are under in regard to this. One young person had said that in her Art GCSE – she doesn't want to evaluate other people's work, she just wants to paint. This



They young people also think that anti-bullying should be all year around and not just in November. They did not want to tell teachers directly when they had an issue with bullying. They would prefer a website or an app for both parents and children to use instead. It was agreed for an anti-bullying webpage to be developed on the Board website with information for young people.

The Executive Board agreed that these issues needed to be taken forward to ensure the young people know that their input is meaningful and worthwhile. The representative of regional Directors of Education made a commitment to the young people to feed this into the other Regional Directors of Education and ADEW (Association of Directors of Education in Wales). In relation to Substance Misuse, the young people said they would like factual information not "hysterical propaganda". They said that they are capable of making their own minds up. The Executive Board acknowledged that there is a debate within the harm reduction or desistance mode and it was agreed that these messages would be fed into the Area Planning Board to capture the young people's voice, rather than adults making decisions about young people's Substance Misuse issues.

The representative of the Regional Directors of Education attended the CADW Junior Board meeting in Feb 2018 to feed back on the issues the young people had raised. She informed that their views had been fed into and had influenced the national work being undertaken on the new curriculum, and regionally

more work was being done to ensure consistency in the delivery of services in schools.

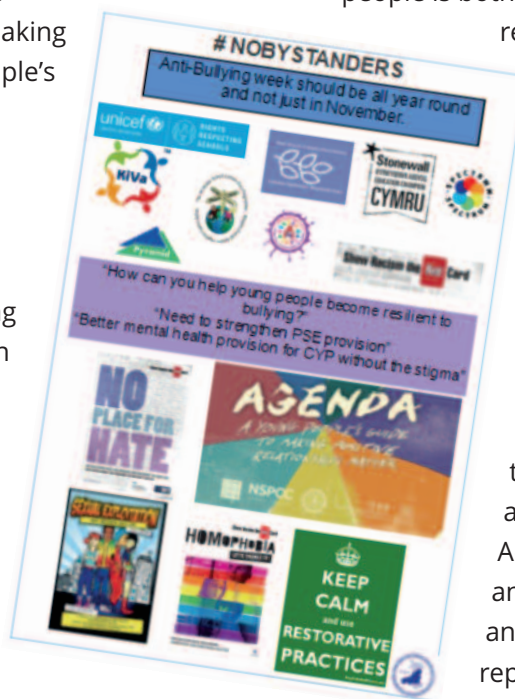
CADW members were consulted on their views in regard to the Board Annual Plan 2018-19. They asked for stronger alignment with the Senior Board's priorities and specific tasks that they can take ownership for and take forward. These tasks will be identified by the CADW group at future meetings with the aim of the young people developing some work projects of their own to support our joint CADW/CYSUR/CWMPAS Board strategic priorities.

CADW & Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians member, Bethany:

"This work has made such a difference in my life and I'm really passionate about giving young people a voice at a local, national and UK level."

A good example of how the voice of young people is both heard and promoted within the region is – CADW member and

Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardian, Bethany, has worked hard to ensure that young people's views are being heard and challenged adults, including Executive Board members, to think about the views of the young people she represents. Bethany, who is also a Member of Youth Parliament, won the Volunteer of the Year category at the Radio Pembrokeshire Young Achiever Awards for her hard work and commitment to young people and children's rights. Bethany also represented the UK Youth Parliament





and delivered a speech at the House of Commons advocating for votes for young people. We are proud to have young people of Bethany's calibre, participating in our Regional Safeguarding Board and influencing how we engage with young people.

As part of a consultation, the CADW Board were



asked about how they preferred to communicate with the Senior Board. The response included a website with more information about the Board directed at young people and accessible social media. The Board Business Coordinator has since developed the website to include pages dedicated to young people with regular feedback from CADW on content. The Board now has a Facebook page and Twitter accounts. Twitter has been the most successful way to engage with young people this year with much interaction between the Board, both regional and national organisations and young people.

Members of the Powys 'Eat Carrots Be Safe from Elephants' Junior Safeguarding and Participation Group were an essential part of the website/social media consultation process and



provided great initial feedback to give steer on how the young people wanted us to communicate with them. This year the Powys Eat Carrots group have been focusing on are



improving sex education by the inclusion of LGBTQ+ issues and teaching in small groups. Other issues that remain a priority for the young people in Powys are the content of the PSE curriculum, understanding the Child Protection and Court process, and healthy safe relationships.

Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' and Ceredigion Youth Service fully supported regional activities for National Safeguarding Week. In preparation for the week Ceredigion Youth Service held



a safeguarding poster design competition with the young people who attend youth clubs and young people engaging with school based youth workers in Secondary Schools across the county. They received 50 entries from young people aged

11-16 from across the County. The posters focused on our local theme for NSGW, cyber safety – particular focus was placed on cyber bullying and sexting. The NSGW local planning board met to decide on 5 finalists.



The 5 were handed Youth Service goody bags and their posters were circulated in the press during NSGW. The winning poster 'Cyber Bullying – don't be mean behind the screen' was designed by Tyler from Ysgol Penglais and Penparcau Youth Club. We liked this strapline so much that it was also used as the basis of all NSGW 'selfie screens' used across the region during NSGW.

Ceredigion Youth Service worked in partnership with Aberystwyth University and Ysgol Gyfun Gymunedol Penweddig's drama department and pupils to create a [short film](#) focusing on raising



awareness of online safety among young people, particularly highlighting and prompting discussions of the risks surrounding the misuse of Snapchat, to be used as an educational resource within schools and colleges in Ceredigion. The film was entered into the Welsh

Government's Safer Internet Day 2018 competition. This year's theme was 'Create, connect and share respect'. The competition asked children and young people to explore and express how being online makes them feel through word, film, music or art. Following a thorough judging process, the film was shortlisted as a finalist. The group was invited to attend the Safer Internet Day 2018 event hosted by the Welsh Government, South West Grid for Learning and UK Safer Internet Centre at the Pierhead, Cardiff Bay on Tuesday 6 February 2018. Ceredigion's short film came second in the competition's Secondary category, chosen from 300 entries across Wales.

Young people from **Carmarthenshire Youth**



Council launched a mental health pledge. Carmarthenshire teenager Harriet Alsop-Bingham launched



#StoriHarriet on behalf of the Youth Council. #StoriHarriet encourages people to pledge to start a conversation. Harriet, aged 17, has faced personal difficulties and suffered cruelty by a group of bullies from the age of 11, who tortured her to the point where she felt so worthless that she began to self-harm and her mental health deteriorated. Harriet has shown strength and courage in overcoming these personal difficulties and wanted to make a difference to other young people's lives. Harriet realised that starting a conversation can make a huge difference to someone's life and the #StoriHarriet pledge is asking people of all ages to promise to start a



conversation as it could change a life.

Inspiration to champion mental health issues and start #StoriHarriet came from winning the Carmarthenshire Radio Child of

Courage award 2017 in

recognition for the strength, fight and courage that Harriet has shown during her personal difficulties. With the support of fellow members on Carmarthenshire Youth Council #Storiharriet was created.

agenda included an introduction to safeguarding, workshops on keeping safe online and a planning task on how to raise awareness of safeguarding and keeping safe online within their schools.



Harriet's inspirational story has given encouragement and support to others and the Board is very proud of Harriet and the Youth Council for bringing attention to this important and difficult topic and hope that people will continue to support and sign Harriet's pledge.

If you would like to read Harriet's Story or support and sign the pledge then please visit

www.youthsirgar.org.uk/ourwork/storiharriet

In support of this theme, Carmarthenshire Youth Council held a youth conference 'It's a Bad Day, Not a Bad Life' focusing on mental health of

young people.



Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians hosted a junior safeguarding conference during National Safeguarding Week 2017 under the regional theme of 'Online Abuse & Exploitation'.

This conference was attended by 9 secondary schools and 1 independent school across Pembrokeshire. The

Young attendees of the Pems Safeguarding Conference:
"Motivated. Inspired. Informed."

As part of the evaluation at the end, young people were asked to choose from 12 words to describe how they felt after the day. The three most popular words were 'motivated', 'inspired' and 'informed'.

Due to the success of this conference, the Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians have been shortlisted by Social Care Wales for an Accolade under the category of Effective Approaches to Safeguarding. We will know the outcome in September and update on this in next year's Annual Report. Fingers crossed!

The Junior Safeguardians were also interviewed by assessors for the Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales at a Silver level. This was a really good experience and the group was identified as good practice and a positive example of participatory practice.

Pembrokeshire young people fully supported NSGW activities in youth clubs and on social media. Milford Haven Youth Club did workshops



on cyber safety and anti-bullying, developing posters for the youth centre.

Some members of the Junior Safeguardians formed part of an interview panel to appoint the new Head of Children's Service for Pembrokeshire. They worked with the Director of Children and Schools throughout the process and provided feedback to the Director of Social Care and Chief Executive on their views.

The Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians decided that they wanted to work with Fixers UK on creating a resource on a social issue. From attending various meeting including the Pembrokeshire Stakeholders Well-being event and speaking various young people, they noticed that Mental Health was an occurring issue. As UK Parliament representatives for Pembrokeshire the group encouraged young people to take part in the 'Make Your Mark' consultation – 3041 young people participated in Pembrokeshire, 474 of whom voted for the national campaign to be Mental Health. The group considered there should be more work about building everyone's resilience – if we build resilience it should improve mental health issues not only for young people, but also for adults. On this basis, the Junior Safeguardians came up with the premise for the ['Labels'](#) video.

To create this video, they asked young people in various groups to suggest ways to build resilience and provide some insults that they as young people had experienced. This coming year, Pembrokeshire Safeguardians are aiming to develop a workshop around the 'Labels' video to further explore resilience and to promote the work they have already done to help as many



young people as possible.

During 2017/18 Mid and West Wales developed its first joint strategy to be published in line with the Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. The strategy outlines how the region will support anyone who is experiencing or has experienced domestic abuse, sexual violence or violence against women, hold perpetrators to account, ensure professionals have the tools and knowledge to act, increase awareness of the issue and how to access support and help children and young people to understand inequality in relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong. Survivor engagement is identified as a key principle underpinning the strategy.

To inform the development of the strategy, nine focus groups were held across the region with 56 survivors who have been involved in services. At least one group was held in each local authority area with specific focus groups held for male survivors and individuals who had experienced sexual violence and abuse. The purpose of the focus groups was to better understand the experiences of survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and all forms of violence against women in the region when accessing support, their views about preventing Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Violence against Women and priority considerations for the strategy. Survivors identified "what works", highlighted gaps in current provision and identified opportunities for

improvement.

The strategy was taken back to survivors for their views and comments as part of the consultation phase, providing an opportunity for them to consider how their input had shaped and informed the draft document. A total of 8 focus groups were held across the region in addition to 1-2-1 interviews with a total of 56 survivors engaging in the consultation activity.

The strategy recognises the vital importance of collaborating with survivors and service users, who are 'experts by experience' in terms of what has worked for them, their pathways through services and how easy (or difficult) it has been to find the right service and move towards independence and freedom from abuse. Survivor voices and experiences have been central in informing and shaping the development of the Strategy and must continue as an integral element of its delivery and monitoring going forward.

Without the input and opinion of survivors we cannot shape service provision to be responsive to the very individual needs of victims and survivors and their perceptions provide the

continuous opportunity to inform, refine and improve services.

Throughout the engagement events there was consistent feedback from survivors about their ongoing role in the development, delivery and monitoring of the regional strategy.

The Mid & West Wales VAWDASV Strategy 'Safer Lives, Healthier Relationships' will be ratified at the July Executive Board and will be published this coming year.

In regard to engagement with adults, the Boards carried out consultation with Pembrokeshire People First to work towards developing an easy-read version of their Annual Plan. The CWMPAS Board recognises that within the Mid & West Wales region opportunities for adult service users to input and participate in the work of the Board needs further development. This is a priority for the CWMPAS Board in the coming year and a key focus for our region during National Safeguarding Week 2018.



(k) Applications for adult protection & support orders

No applications for APSOs were made in Mid & West Wales during 2017-18. The Board is aware this trend mirrors activity in other Safeguarding Board areas and welcomes any observations from Welsh Government as to the likely reasons for this.

(l) Information or learning the boards have disseminated and training recommended or provided

Website



In the last year a considerable amount of time and resources have been invested in developing the Board website. Content has been developed by increasing and improving the quality of information that is publically available about the Boards, their functions and multi-agency collaborative work. It is hoped that the website will be a central hub for safeguarding information with links to all regional and national policies and procedures. There is also useful information on

how to report a concern and available training provided in the region. All Practice Review reports are published on the Board website for a period of 12 weeks, as per legislation, and then available on request after that.

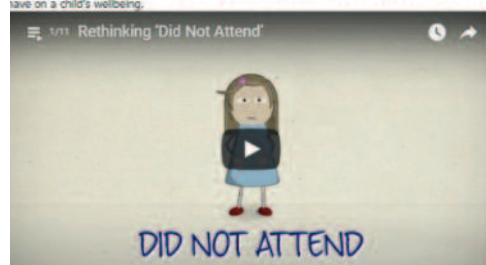
The website is also used as a conduit to promote safeguarding events, share learning and good practice. Examples of these are:

- An example of promoting safeguarding events is the IICSA Truth Project, which was in Aberystwyth at the end of last year and promoted heavily on the website.

Was Not Brought' - 'Did Not Attend'

Nottingham City Council, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group and the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board have jointly commissioned a video animation to encourage practitioners to identify children as 'Was Not Brought' as opposed to 'Did Not Attend' when referring to them not being presented at medical appointments.

The animation is a powerful reminder that children do not take themselves to appointments; they have to be taken by parents or carers. The animation therefore encourages practitioners to reflect on the impact that missed appointments have on a child's wellbeing.



- An example of shared learning is the regionally commissioned thematic review on probable suicides and practice guidance, which is publically available.
- An example of good practice from other areas is a video clip produced by Nottingham City Council **'Was not brought – Did not attend'**, which is on the website and was shared regionally with permission from Nottingham.

Training

As outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Regional Safeguarding Boards should ensure practitioners in their area have access to and receive the training they need in child and adult protection.

Much of the work undertaken in the last year by the Regional Training Sub Group has been in relation to the ongoing development of a multi-agency Regional Training Strategy. A training needs analysis completed last year provided the group with evidence and assurance that safeguarding training is available and being delivered across the multi-agency partnership at all levels, and comprehensive training programmes are in place that target diverse staff groups within organisations. The structure and delivery of safeguarding training across agencies varies in accordance within each organisation's own internal governance and training frameworks. For example, Health organisations follow UK core skills 2016 and Safeguarding Children and Young people: roles and competences for health care staff INTERCOLLEGIATE DOCUMENT March 2014 and the Police are required to ensure training complies with mandatory requirements as set out by the National College of Policing. All partner agencies of the Mid & West Safeguarding Boards do, however, collectively have clearly defined safeguarding duties and responsibilities as outlined in Part 7 the Act.

Specific safeguarding training that has been delivered within the region or supported by the Regional Training Group in the last year includes:

- The training arranged last year in relation to **working with difficult, challenging and evasive families** has now been rolled out extensively by individual agencies to large numbers of staff across the region.
- Examples of arrangements that are in place at a local agency level include training provided to **School Governors**, as outlined in the Safer Learner's Guidance.
- Powys County Council, in collaboration with Powys Teaching Health Board, continue to hold six **multi-agency training foras** per year across Powys. Themes and topics targeted this year include Harmful Sexual Behaviour and working with difficult and evasive families.
- The named doctor from Powys Teaching Health Board has delivered a training session to **GPs** in the area, in relation to the 'Right Help at the Right Time' regional eligibility for support and threshold document.
- Safeguarding training has been delivered across the four Local Authorities to large numbers of **Taxi Drivers** to raise awareness of issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

Attendee feedback:
"Excellent. Very valuable training – would enjoy more."

Safeguarding Professional:
"Very good feedback from taxi drivers. They do school runs so great input."

and organisation has individual responsibility under VAWDASV legislation to plan and roll out their own training plans, in relation to the National Training Framework, the Regional Training Sub Group supported by the

Regional **VAWDASV** Strategic Group has considered the initial training requirements from a regional multi-agency perspective. Focus in the last year has been on the responsibility to provide training to large groups of staff in Group 1 which has been managed individually by agencies. The training group has recognised the potential for collaboration and creativity in delivering some of the higher tier training going forward.



- Nine representatives from the Mid & West Wales region attended national training commissioned by Welsh Government for Panel

Chairs and Independent Reviewers, to support Regional Safeguarding Boards in the **Child and Adult Practice Review process**. Most of the key statutory Board partners were represented which has significantly increased the pool of suitably trained staff within the region.

- The Regional Training Group facilitated and supported a number of multi-agency staff from across the region to attend training, facilitated and arranged by Social Care Wales, on **Adult Protection & Support Orders**.
- BAWSO delivered a 'lunch and learn' training session to the Regional Training Group to promote awareness of **Modern Slavery** referral pathways when potential victims are identified.

As the Regional Training Group continues to develop and mature it will have a more focused and pivotal role in the delivery of safeguarding training across the region and will be able to offer an improved level of guidance and support to agencies in the delivery of safeguarding training.

(m) How the safeguarding boards have implemented advice from Welsh Government and National Independent Safeguarding Board

No specific advice from Welsh Government Ministers has been issued to the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards. The Chairs of the CYSUR and CWMPAS Executive Boards continue to work closely with senior WG officials on identified areas it considers more robust policy guidance and legislation could improve safeguarding practice.

An example of a formal issue that has been raised with WG is the need to strengthen recruitment practice for Health employees who may come into contact with adults at risk and in particular the need to clarify what is expected in respect of DBS checking for staff who commence their employment prior to the DBS checking system being implemented. A case in a

neighbouring Health Authority in which a former employee was convicted of murder has highlighted deficits in HR recruitment processes and inconsistent practice. The Board's position is clearer guidance on what is expected across multi-agency partnership work forces is needed.

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to have a positive working relationship with the National Independent Safeguarding Board who have supported the CYSUR Board in its continuing work on Elective Home Education. The Board has considered and acted upon feedback and advice on how the Board can better demonstrate the good work undertaken and the positive outcomes achieved in the delivery of its annual report.



Collectively what difference are we making

A clear and focused strategic agenda supports collaborative working across the multi-agency partnership which has enabled the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards to work together to help improve the lives of the citizens and communities of Mid & West Wales. The Executive Boards continue to support and guide its Sub Groups via a series of joint initiatives and projects to help ensure it meets its objectives as outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The joint work of the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards supports an overarching strategic focus on safeguarding people which aligns fully with the spirit and principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Boards' work has directly impacted upon professional practice. Examples include the dissemination of the commissioned research undertaken by CASCADE into probable suicides of children and young adults in Mid & West Wales and the implementation of practice guidance for working with children of parents with mental ill-health, which will help support and improve professional responses to those in need and at risk.

The Boards' work on thresholds has promoted a more consistent response to those in need of services. The launch of the 'Right Help at the Right

Time' eligibility for support and regional threshold document and the continuing work on thresholds for adult safeguarding practice supports and promotes timely professional responses to those most in need and at risk. The implementation of the Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Framework has helped the Executive Board to start to better understand safeguarding practice within a regional context. Analysis of regional themes and trends in relation to child and adult protection enquiries, CSE, Looked After Children and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards has helped guide the Boards' future work and focus. Regional thematic audits in respect of Sec 47 investigations and consideration of mental capacity in assessments will be undertaken in the coming year as a result of themes and trends identified.

The CYSUR Board is particularly proud of its CADW Junior Safeguarding Board and the supporting local Junior Safeguarding Groups and youth partnerships across the region. The strengthened relationship with the groups has enabled the Board to better understand safeguarding from a young person's perspective and championed their views at a regional and national level.

In the coming year the CWMPAS Board looks forward to engaging with adult service users and enabling them to participate in the Board's work.



Glossary:

APR/CPR – Adult Practice Review/Child Practice Review

MAPPF – Multi-Agency Professional Forum

VAWDASV – Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

MACSE/CSE – Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation/ Child Sexual Exploitation

LOG – Local Operational Group

NSGW – National Safeguarding Week

ERW – Education Regional Working

EHE – Elective Home Education

NISB – National Independent Safeguarding Board

DoLS – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

CIW – Care Inspectorate Wales

IICSA – Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

PRUDiC – Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Childhood

ACEs – Adverse Childhood Experiences

PTHB – Powys Teaching Health Board

CYPP – Children and Young People Partnership

CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MAPPA – Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

PHW – Public Health Wales

NST – National Safeguarding Team

WAST – Welsh Ambulance Service Trust

DPP – Dyfed Powys Police

YJS – Youth Justice Service

NPS – National Probation Service

CRC – Community Rehabilitation Company

SoS – Signs of Safety

PSE – Personal & Social Education

ADEW – Association of Directors of Education in Wales

LGBTQ+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning Plus

DBS – Disclosure and Barring Service