

THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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



Cwmni Actiefyddu Cymunedol
Cymru
Wales
Community Rehabilitation Company



lechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales



Heddlu Police
DYFED-POWYS



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board



Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board



Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Gwasanaeth Prawf
Cenedlaethol
National Probation
Service



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Introduction

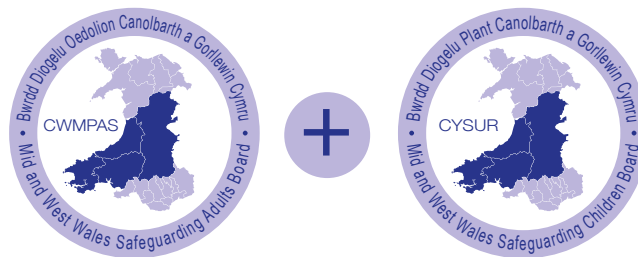
It gives us pleasure to jointly present the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards CYSUR and CWMPAS Annual Report.

This Annual Report outlines the progress we have made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of our joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2022-23.

This year has seen the departure of the chair of the CWMPAS Board, Jonathan Griffiths. We would like to thank Jonathan for his leadership and commitment to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and acknowledge the contribution he has made to the development of its work and strategic direction during the preceding six years.

Significant investment and time has been dedicated throughout the year to supporting the development of the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process, including the development of the draft statutory guidance published earlier this year. We are proud to report we have been commissioned by the Welsh Government to develop and deliver the national training framework to support and accompany implementation of the new guidance.

Our particular successes this year include the development of multi-agency safeguarding training packages. This includes the development and implementation of professional curiosity training and accompanying resources, as well as the development of a safeguarding training animation created by our Junior Board. These suites of training and resources help to support practitioners in their



work safeguarding children and adults at risk, and give powerful messages to practitioners about how to best communicate with and listen to children.

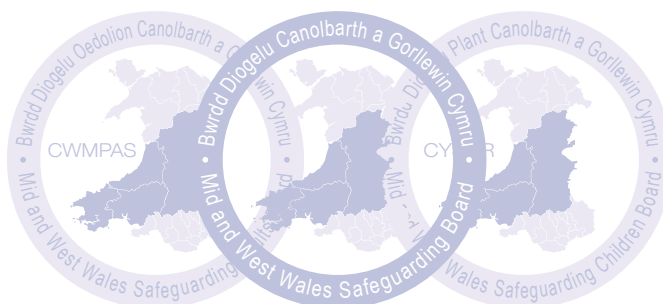
Our continued commitment to deliver against our Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) agenda has progressed at some pace this year. Our new four-year strategy and accompanying delivery plan has been completed and published, directly informed by survivors with lived experience of domestic abuse in the Mid and West Wales area.

Developing creative solutions to some of the significant workforce challenges the social care and the public sector workforce is experiencing has continued to be a key focus of the Boards' work this year, both within a regional and national context. A review of the social care workforce across the region has been undertaken, and we will be implementing actions in the coming year to improve recruitment and retention of staff locally alongside ongoing national work.

The commitment of our multi-agency partners to work together collaboratively to make a difference and to improve the lives children and adults at risk in Mid and West Wales is stronger than ever. We would like to thank the members of the Boards and sub-groups for their continued engagement, commitment and progress made in 2022-23, and we look forward to building upon this in the coming year.



Michael Gray (CWMPAS Chair)
Director of Social Care and Housing
Pembrokeshire County Council



Jake Morgan (CYSUR Chair)
Director of Community Services
Carmarthenshire 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 stated 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 –
 1. have needs for care and support (whether or not a Local Authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 2. 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.

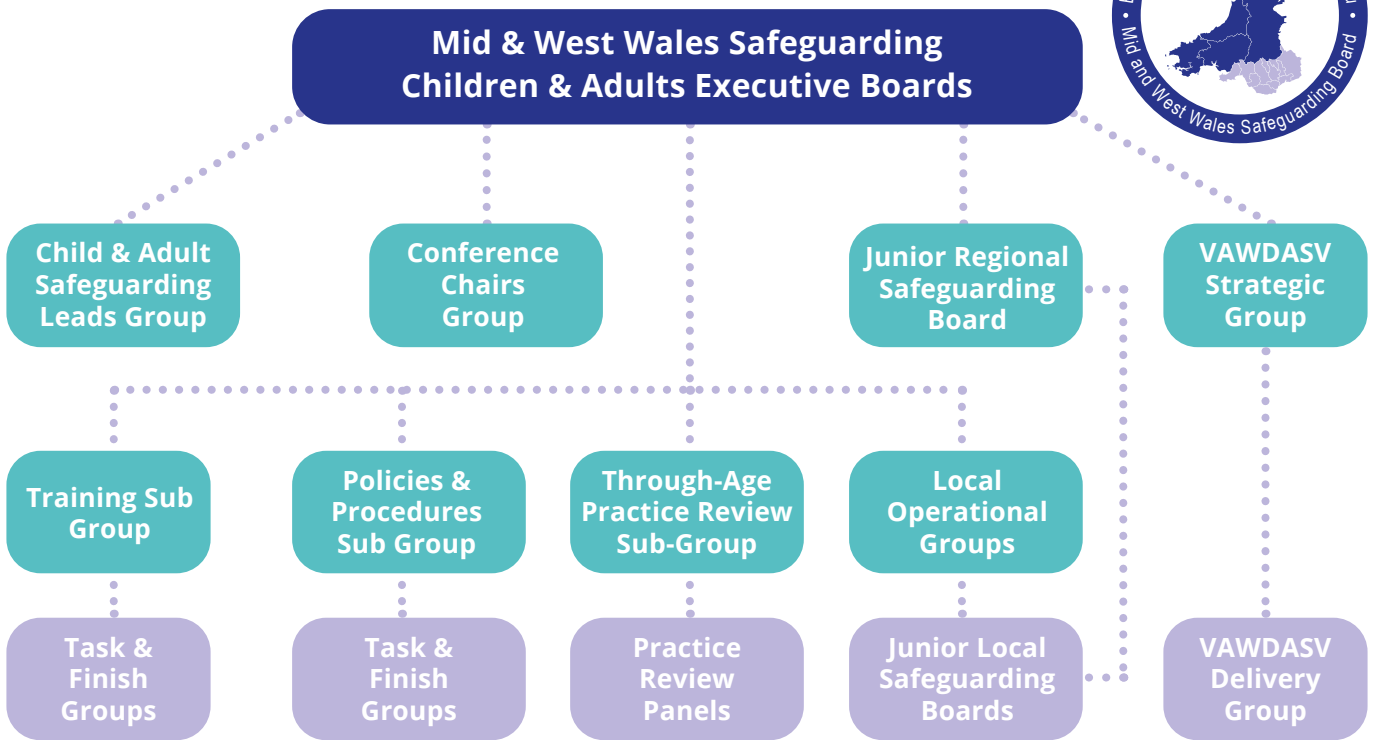
Many organisations have responsibility for safeguarding children and adults through the services they provide directly to them, through the help and support provided to families and carers, or through their work to develop and strengthen communities.



Board Structure

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards serve the communities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys, working collaboratively and in partnership within a multi-agency setting. The Boards’ aim is 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 and West Wales is covered by two sister Safeguarding Boards:

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



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 and West Wales. The Executive Boards consist of senior managers from all key statutory partners and agencies (see Section A). The Executive Boards’ 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.



Hybrid Executive Board meeting held this year held in person and via Microsoft Teams

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 Heads of Children's and Adults' Services, who chair the groups, and senior and middle managers from local statutory agencies, including Health, Police and Probation.

LOGs seek to improve practice locally by discussing local safeguarding activity in an open and transparent environment, sharing and analysing 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.

Through-Age Practice Review Sub-Group:

The Through-Age Practice Review Sub-Group considers 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 Practice Review Sub-Group considers information against defined criteria within '[Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 3 – Adult Practice Reviews](#)' and '[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 Adult Practice Review (APR) or Child Practice Review (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 Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF):

Multi-agency learning is undertaken via a Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) from identified cases that have not met the threshold for a full concise or extended Child or Adult Practice Review. The Regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) was closed in 2022 and has now been incorporated into the Through-Age Practice Review Sub-Group, to help achieve consistency in decision-making. Responsibility for managing and overseeing MAPFs, as well as receiving referrals for new MAPFs, now sit with the Practice Review Sub-Group, although a link to regional LOGs remains in place.

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 via the development of regional safeguarding policy and procedure. The Boards now have a significant number of multi-agency through-age policies to support practitioners in their practice, which are published on the Boards' [website](#) once ratified.

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 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 Practice Review Sub-Group, to ensure any learning outcomes identified in Child/Adult Practice Reviews are disseminated to staff, and any identified specialist training is commissioned.

Other bespoke regional forums and groups support and are closely aligned to the Boards' annual strategic plan and priorities. These include regional multi-agency Adult and Children's Safeguarding Leads Groups, and a regional group for Child Protection Conference Chairs.

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

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 forward the requirements of the [VAWDASV Act](#), including the implementation of the new Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-27 (see section B).

The VAWDASV Delivery Group supports the Strategic Group on the progression and implementation of regional priorities, as well as maintaining key links with specialist providers.

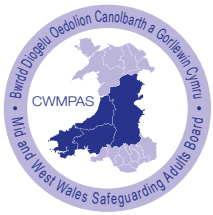
CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

The CYSUR Board continues to commission Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its regional Junior Safeguarding Board. The group continues to advise the Executive Boards on safeguarding matters and issues from a young persons' 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)

Michael Gray (Chair)

Director of Social Care & Housing,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Jayne Butler (Vice-Chair)

Det Superintendent, Dyfed Powys Police

Jake Morgan

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Audrey Somerton-Edwards

Interim Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Nina Davies

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Sharon Daniel

Deputy Director of Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Avril Bracey

Head of Adult Social Care
Carmarthenshire County Council

Donna Pritchard

Deputy Director of Social Services and
Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal,
Ceredigion County Council

Mel Laidler

Head of Adult Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Sharon Frewin

Head of Adult Services,
Powys County Council

Christine Harley

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service



CYSUR (Safeguarding Children Executive Board)

Jake Morgan (Chair)

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Vice-Chair of CYSUR

Vacant at time of publication

Sharon Daniel

Deputy Director of Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Michael Gray

Director of Social Care & Housing,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Audrey Somerton-Edwards

Interim Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Nina Davies

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Jayne Butler

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Jan Coles

Head of Children's Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Donna Pritchard

Deputy Director of Social Services and
Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal,
Ceredigion County Council

Darren Mutter

Head of Children's Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Sharon Powell

Head of Children's Services,
Powys County Council

Christine Harley

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service

Mandy Rayani

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

Mandy Nichols-Davies

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

Jayne Wheeler-Sexton

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

Claire Roche

Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Debbie Pachu

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



Mandy Rayani

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

Mandy Nichols-Davies

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

Jayne Wheeler-Sexton

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Claire Roche

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Powys Teaching Health Board

Debbie Pachu

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

Regional Directors of Education

Rotating membership from Pembrokeshire,
Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys

Dr Ingrid Prosser

Named Doctor, Child Protection,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Dr Damitha Ratnasinghe

Named Doctor, Child Protection,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

Julie Breckon

Regional Safeguarding Board Manager

Rebecca Reynolds

Practice Review Business Manager

Theresa Welch

Business Development Officer

Stuart Hicks

Business Co-ordinator

(b) Action taken to achieve our outcomes

Commissioned Review and Analysis of Children and Adult Safeguarding Workforce Risk Factors

Independent consultants have been commissioned by the Boards this year to review and identify workforce risk factors in children's and adults' social care teams across the region. The work was jointly commissioned by the Regional Safeguarding Boards and the West Wales Regional Partnership Board as a collaborative endeavour. This followed previous work carried out in 2018 by the Regional Safeguarding Board.


In the main, key messages and findings from the review mirror the acknowledged national picture in relation to the significant challenges all social care and wider public sector services are experiencing in the recruitment and retention of staff into key positions. This remains one of the biggest risk factors to the safe delivery of services to the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities. Although the picture is variable across our region, themes identified include

high vacancy levels and difficulties recruiting to key safeguarding positions. Vacancies generally are noted to be higher in Mid and West Wales than in 2018. Challenges continue in securing a sufficient supply of social workers at all stages of their careers, especially in roles which involve specialist skills, alongside increasing demand for services and rising workload levels.

A number of recommendations were made, and these will be considered and progressed where appropriate in the coming year. They include strategies to reduce the delays in the recruitment process via the development of bespoke HR processes, local agreements and restrictions regarding the use of agency workers, and consideration to agree regionally consistent pay. Work with Welsh Government and Social Care Wales to develop a whole-Wales approach to workforce challenges continues alongside bespoke targeted regional actions.

Commissioned Review of Multi-Agency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

This year has seen the progression of a key workstream for the region and its multi-agency partners, namely, to review how we responded collaboratively to the COVID-19 pandemic and what lessons we can learn should we find ourselves in a similar situation in future. In collaboration with the West Wales Partnership Board, an independent consultant has been commissioned to undertake a review of the multi-agency response, with a focus on older people residing in care and nursing homes.



“ Feedback shared during the Board Development Day on the COVID-19 regional response:

The region has come closer, pushing aside inconsistency

.....
Turning crisis into opportunity ”

The review has endeavoured to seek assurance that the needs of vulnerable groups were appropriately met, identify any improvements and/or unmet needs, and capture the perspective and experience of those delivering critical services within the identified cohort. The conclusions and recommendations of this work are in the process of being analysed and will feature in the Boards' Strategic Annual Plan for 2023-24 whilst ensuring that any work complements the national review which will also consider these areas.

New Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy 2023-2027



As required by Welsh Government under the VAWDASV Act 2015, the Mid and West Wales region published the Safe Lives, Healthier Relationships VAWDASV Strategy in November 2018. The Regional Strategy and annual delivery plans are overseen by the Regional Adviser and VAWDASV Strategic Board, who are accountable to the Regional Safeguarding Executive Boards. This strategy has been a huge success in the Mid and West Wales region, and the previous year saw the completion of a number of projects linked to our regional priorities. A comprehensive review and update of the existing strategy, alongside the completion of a new four-year delivery plan, has been completed this year.

[Building Happier, Safer, Stronger Lives, Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-2027](#) has been completed, approved and published. This is a reflection of the experiences of key stakeholders alongside survivors' voices and individual experiences regarding the services they have received, and how these can be improved. It has been developed within the national context and the [Welsh Government's National Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026](#).

VAWDASV remains extremely prevalent in this region, and the last two years have seen an increase of 40% in reports in respect of sexual violence and abuse, as well as a 22% increase in reported domestic abuse incidents. Irrespective of this concerning context,, the Mid and West Wales region is immensely proud of the progress made in the preceding 5 years and the development of services both for survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Of those consulted as part of the development of the new strategy, 84% reported an improvement in partnership working, 89% reported an improvement in community awareness around violence and abuse, and 76% reported the strategy had resulted in a greater emphasis on early intervention and prevention.

The new strategy will build upon existing successes and continue to strengthen preventative and support services for children and young people, survivors and perpetrators, and will continue to raise awareness of violence against women within our communities.



(c) Extent to which we have implemented our strategic annual plan

The extent to which we have implemented our [strategic annual plan for 2022-23](#) is clearly evidenced throughout all sections of this report. Progress, achievements and outcomes against our core workstreams can, however, be summarised as follows.

1. Effective Engagement and Communication:

To Improve Engagement and Consultation with Children, Adults at Risk, Vulnerable Groups, Professionals and Partnerships.

What improvements we have made:

Our Junior Board CADW successfully completed their training animation this year to support multi-agency safeguarding training for practitioners and managers. A successful launch took place in November 2022 supported by the Children’s Commissioner for Wales as part of National Safeguarding Week.

Further work has been undertaken to review the Junior Board’s focus, terms of reference and their branding. Further information and recommendations in respect of this work will be provided to the Executive Boards in the coming year. The group continue to attend regional Executive Board meetings regularly to inform the Boards on what safeguarding work and issues should be a priority for children and young people across our region.

Communication with practitioners and the general public has been strengthened further this year with the implementation of a quarterly [Board newsletter](#). Work to develop and populate the Boards’ website has also been undertaken, and new webpages created. In addition, the training sections and the resource hub have been further populated with an array of tools and useful resources to support practitioners in their work. A comprehensive distribution list for the Board newsletter has been established across the region with multi-agency partners to ensure as wide a reach as possible to frontline practitioners.



Targeted social media campaigns have been promoted throughout the year to raise awareness and promote campaigns and messages on key safeguarding matters including VAWDASV (e.g. VAWDASV and older people, availability of perpetrator programmes and sexual violence), Look Closer (focusing on child exploitation), safe sleep, mental health, and Safer Internet Day.

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

- Multi-agency training across the region is strengthened and directly informed by the voices and lived experiences of children and young people in Mid and West Wales.
- The voice of children and young people continue to inform and influence the work of the Boards.
- Direct lines of communication with practitioners on key safeguarding information, practice and messages has been strengthened.



2. Thematic Learning and Developing Best Practice:

To Ensure a Thematic Approach to Learning and Evaluate the Continued Impact of Board Work over Time, Allowing Key Themes Identified to Inform Strategic Priorities. To Continue to Develop and Share Best Practice.

What improvements we have made:

Significant work has been undertaken this year to further develop our practice review work, and systems and processes in this area have been strengthened. The regional Child and Adult Practice Review Sub-Groups have been merged into one all-age forum, and as a result, all referrals for reviews and MAPFs are now jointly considered by one multi-agency group. This has enabled an all-age approach to be applied to cases considered for a review, as well as any practice lessons that may be identified. This aligns with and mirrors all-age structures already in place for all of the Boards' other sub-groups, including the regional Training and Policies & Procedures Sub-Groups and Local Operational Groups. Proformas and templates have been updated and refined to support the new process.

We have provided significant support and input to the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review work across Wales. In particular, Mid and West Wales is leading on the development of the national training framework to support implementation of this project.

A full review and update of the Regional Boards' Quality Assurance and Performance Framework has been completed and reviewed, and will be implemented for the collation and presentation of data in respect of 1st April 2023 onwards. Data collated and analysed as part of this framework now aligns with updated national performance indicators.

Considerable time and investment has been dedicated to support multi-agency safeguarding training this year. A whole training package to support professional curiosity has been developed and implemented across all agencies of the Board.

Delivery has primarily been on an all-age basis to practitioners with a great deal of success and excellent feedback received. The training package includes whole and half-day sessions that can be tailored to need, and are supplemented by a suite of practitioner resources.

Following the successful publication and launch last year of the national [training standards](#) led by Social Care Wales, this region has continued to provide considerable support to the next phase of this national project, as well as to the development of the national training framework. A national launch and publication of phase two of this work that will align with the national standards is scheduled for later this year.



A full review, monitoring and tracking process has been developed and introduced to support the continuing development of multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures. A number of policies due for review have been updated this year, and robust systems are in place to support better oversight and review of existing policies.

Work has continued to support the region's suicide prevention work, and a 12 month pilot rapid response model has been introduced this year where suicide is suspected as the cause of death. This ensures timely and robust multi-agency support is provided and is available to siblings, communities and peers who have been affected by the death of a child or adult where suicide is a suspected.

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

- Practice themes and lessons identified as part of the merged practice review process are now captured more widely and consistently on an all-age basis.
- The Boards' understanding and oversight of safeguarding practice for children and adults is more robust, and is strengthened as a result of improved data and analysis.
- Practitioners' ability to be more professionally curious when undertaking assessments for children and adults at risk is enhanced via improved professional development, support and training.
- Individuals at increased risk of suicide and self-harm receive greater support at an earlier stage, facilitating greater prevention of suicide and self-harm amongst children and adults in the region.



3. Strengthening the Workforce and Managing Risk:

To Develop and Implement Strategic Initiatives, which will Enable Greater Retention of and Recruitment into the Social Care Workforce, and to Identify and Respond to Other Significant Risks in the Safeguarding Arena.

What improvements we have made:

This year has seen collaboration with the West Wales Regional Partnership Board to undertake a workforce review of the current risk factors, themes and trends experienced in the recruitment and retention of social workers in children's and adults' social care. This work has also considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working practices, and has considered what proportionate adjustments and changes need to be made moving forward to support a healthy workforce.

This year saw the Mid and West Wales region hold its first Safeguarding Awards Ceremony in May 2022. The event was supported by the Deputy Minister for Social Care, Julie Morgan. Practitioners across all agencies were rewarded for their dedication, commitment and standards of excellent practice throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

- Risk factors associated with workforce deficits and challenges across social care are better understood, enabling action to be implemented to mitigate identified risks.
- Practitioners feel more valued and recognised for the positive impact they have had on the lives of children and young people across Mid and West Wales.



4. Leadership, Visibility and Challenge:

To Continue to Provide Visible Leadership and Influence the National Agenda in relation to Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Priorities, and to Enable Constructive Challenge and Active Engagement from all Agencies in our Partnership.

What improvements we have made:

A full review and update of the existing Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence regional strategy has been completed this year, alongside a full needs assessment. A supporting action plan has been completed and will be implemented in the coming year.

A new members' induction pack has been developed for Board members which clearly outlines their roles and responsibilities. A risk register has also been developed and approved, which will complement the updated quality assurance and performance framework referenced above.

The Boards have continued to proactively promote and influence the development of key national legislation policy and guidance. This includes ongoing work in respect of the [National Action Plan for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse](#), and the and the abolition of the defence of reasonable punishment via the [Children \(Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment\) \(Wales\) Act 2020](#).

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards have made a significant contribution to the development of national work to better safeguard some of our most vulnerable and at risk groups. Collaboration has taken place with Public Health Wales on the need for better information for parents and practitioners on safe sleep and associated increased risk factors linked to co-sleeping. The result is Public Health Wales have agreed to undertake a national rapid review to identify any obvious lessons or changes that need to be made to practice.

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

- Survivors of Domestic Abuse will receive better intervention from practitioners as a result of a clear regional objectives and strategy to support them in the delivery of services and multi-agency support.
- The quality and output of regional Executive Board meetings will be enhanced and new Board members will be better equipped to fulfil their duties as a result of clear guidance.
- National safeguarding legislation, guidance and policy is strengthened via our influence and direct contribution to national workstreams and initiatives to better protect vulnerable and at risk groups.

5. COVID-19 Response and Recovery:

To Monitor the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Respond to any Issues Arising and Coordinate a Regional Multi-Agency Approach to Recovery.

What improvements we have made:

Although the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, the impact this continues to have on the delivery of services is monitored by the Boards via structures and processes that enable issues to be highlighted on an exception basis where appropriate. Safe hospital discharge processes, for example, were highlighted as an area of concern this year. As a result, the regional Adult Safeguarding Leads undertook a bespoke piece of targeted work to provide assurance that practice in this area was safe and robust.

A full review of the impact of COVID-19 across the multi-agency partnership and how we responded to our most vulnerable groups has been undertaken this year. The action we need to take to support best practice is in the process of being evaluated and will inform next year's work plan.

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

- Board work plans will be better informed moving forward, and practitioners will be better supported through the complex practice challenges arising as a result of the pandemic and its lasting impact

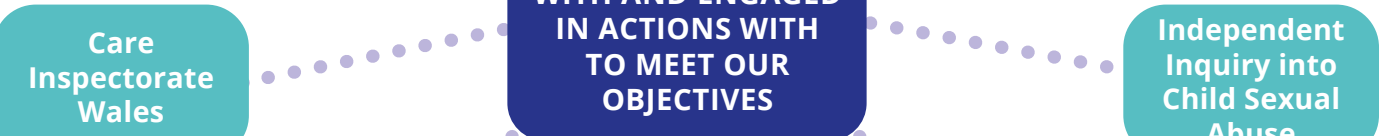
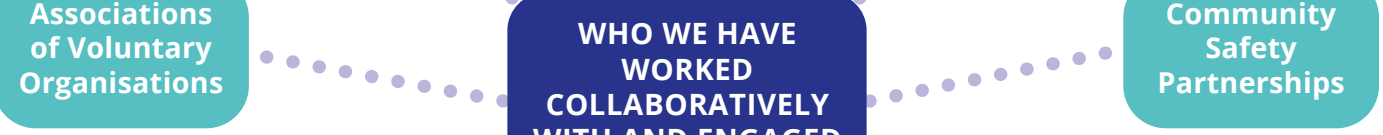
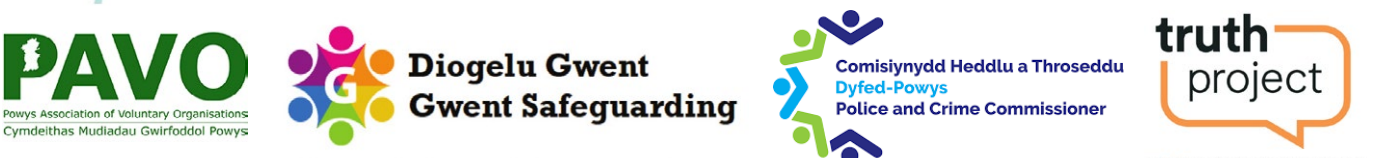


What do we still need to do?

- Consider how we can better engage with adults at risk and how they can inform and contribute to the Boards and their work.
- Review and update our regional training strategy to complement and align with the Multi-Agency Training Framework led by Social Care Wales following publication.
- Complete work to develop regional policy and guidance to support Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for Managing Allegations against Practitioners and those in a Position of Trust.
- Implement our Regional Risk Register to support the identification and escalation of multi-agency risk to the Safeguarding Boards.
- Implement any actions and recommendations from the reviews undertaken in relation to workforce challenges and our response to vulnerable and high-risk service users during the COVID-19 pandemic

“ Words used by Board members to describe the strengths of our Boards:
Communicating, celebrating success and sharing innovation
.....
Trusting, effective working relationships ”





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

Welsh Government

The Boards have continued to work closely with Welsh Government and to make a significant contribution to the Single Unified Safeguarding Review project. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have been commissioned by Welsh Government this year to lead on and develop the national training framework to support the new review model once implemented, to include Domestic Homicide Reviews, Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews and Mental Health Homicide Reviews, alongside Child and Adult Practice Reviews.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to attend regular briefing meetings with Government officials to discuss the Boards' work. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to support the implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020, and we remain members of the Strategic Implementation group on behalf of other Safeguarding Boards in Wales.

Although the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse has now formally ceased, the Boards have continued to implement the principles of this plan by continuing to promote and share resources with frontline practitioners. National consultation events were facilitated by Children in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government in early 2023, to review the effectiveness of this plan. These events have been supported and attended by multi-agency managers across the region.

Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Boards have continued to work with the Children's Commissioner's Office, and have established contact and communication with the newly appointed Children's Commissioner for Wales. Briefings and meetings have taken place as appropriate throughout the year with the Chair of CYSUR, Jake Morgan, on matters of mutual interest and of regional and national importance.

This has included practice issues associated with published and ongoing Child Practice Reviews, and ongoing communication in relation to statutory guidance for children who are electively home educated (subsequently published in May 2023).

The Children's Commissioner supported the Boards' flagship event during National Safeguarding Week to promote a safeguarding training resource and animation developed by the Board junior group, CADW. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards look forward to working with the new Children's Commissioner throughout the remainder of her tenure on issues of mutual interest and importance to support the safeguarding of children in our communities.

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Boards' existing positive relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner has been strengthened this year via the invitation to be a member of the Regional Safeguarding Executive Boards.



The introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in January 2023 and the intention to include the undertaking of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, as well as Domestic Homicide Reviews, in the forthcoming SUSR guidance will support and enable closer working relationship in these areas of mutual interest.

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 and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to work collaboratively with other regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales to plan National Safeguarding Week, developing regional themes to distribute the work and share good practice.

This year there has been a particular focus on collaborating with all other Regional Safeguarding Boards on the development of the national training framework to support the development and implementation of SUSR. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to be represented on the National Project Board for the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and play a very active part in their implementation and continuing development.

Regional West Wales Partnership Board

Strong links and communication established with the West Wales Partnership Board have been consolidated this year.

Two successful collaborative projects have been undertaken this year in on areas of mutual interest and importance in relation to workforce and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This work will provide information via themes and trends in relation to recruitment and retention of staff, as well as insight into learning available from the regional response to COVID-19 and lessons learned.



Social Care Wales

Following the successful launch last year during National Safeguarding Week of the Safeguarding Standards to support the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training across Wales, work has continued this year to support the development of a national training framework to accompany and support the standards.



The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to be represented on the national development group leading on this work, and remain actively engaged in this project.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

The Boards have responded to and provided information when requested by CIW, and in the latter part of the year, supported requests for information and support in relation to the forthcoming rapid review into child safeguarding practice across Wales.



The Boards have supported and provided information in respect of ongoing inspections where appropriate, and CIW are routinely offered a designated slot at all regional Executive Board meetings. Analysis and discussion has continued to take place in various forums with CIW and Welsh Government regarding the recruitment and retention crisis across the social care and public sector workforce in Wales.

It is acknowledged progress is being made, with agreement at a national level in some areas, however, existing challenges within the sector remain and further targeted work is needed to secure, retain and protect a skilled, competent workforce long-term.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

Following the publication earlier this year of the full Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), the CYSUR Board has shared the report via promotion of relevant information on the Boards' website and the dissemination of bulletins to regional partners, as well as the promotion of dissemination events hosted via Welsh Government.



The Boards await and will welcome further communication from the Welsh Government on how the outcomes of this enquiry, alongside the evaluation of the National Action Plan in relation to Child Sexual Abuse, will be taken forward in Wales.

Community Safety Partnerships

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to maintain strong links with Community Safety Partnerships in the region. This year, dialogue and work has focused primarily upon the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) project, and constructive discussions continue to take place about what a future model in the region to support the SUSR will look like.



Proportionate communication takes place and is communicated into the Boards' various forums in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews and any relevant learning in need of dissemination.

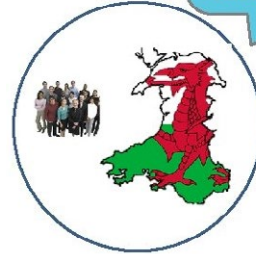
National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to enjoy a constructive relationship with the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB), and members regularly attend and contribute to Regional Executive Board meetings. Discussions and dialogue with Welsh Government and the NISB continue to take place regularly via Board Manager Meetings, as well as supplementary meetings with Board Chairs.

National Independent Safeguarding Board



Works alongside Safeguarding Boards to **secure consistent improvements in safeguarding policy and practice** throughout Wales



- Gives support and advice
- Reports on effectiveness
- Makes recommendations

The Boards have continued to support the national review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements currently being led by the NISB, via attendance at various meetings and events hosted by researcher Michelle McManus from Liverpool John Moores University. Focus this year has been specifically on the development of a national performance framework to support multi-agency safeguarding practice and activity, in respect of which the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have played a full and active part.

Public Health Wales

We have worked closely with our colleagues in Public Health Wales this year on a number of ongoing aspirational projects to better safeguard vulnerable service users and those at increased risk.



The Regional Safeguarding Board Manager and other Board members directly contributed to the review and update of the [national PRUDiC guidance](#) published in April 2023. Work has taken place to advocate for better information and messaging for parents in relation to safe sleep, due to the number of PRUDiC related deaths in the region and across Wales. A national rapid review is to take place in the coming year in relation to this led by Public Health Wales.

An agreement in principle has been made between the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and Public Health Wales to support the development of a practice guide to accompany the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in relation to fabricated and induced illness. Progression of this work is however dependent upon further advice needed from Welsh Government on how they intend to take this work forward.



(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 and West Wales Safeguarding Boards made no such specific requests this year, however, a formal complaint was lodged by the CWMPAS Board to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office in respect of a Coroner and his conduct. The matter was in relation to an Inquest linked to an ongoing Adult Practice Review. Following a full investigation, the complaint was upheld.



(f) Achievements we have made during the year

On 13th May 2022, the first Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards' Safeguarding Awards Ceremony took place in The Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen. This event originated from an action on the Boards' Annual Plan, arising as a result of discussion around how we as Boards can find new opportunities to celebrate and share the excellent practice across agencies in the partnership. There was a strong desire to recognise and thank dedicated safeguarding practitioners across the Board area, whose outstanding practice has greatly improved the experience of children and adults at risk in the region, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Award nominations were invited from all partner agencies across the region, and 30 nominations were received in total. Awards were categorised as follows:

- Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk During COVID Restrictions
- Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Children During COVID Restrictions
- Innovation and Creativity Leading to Improved Safeguarding Practice for Children and Adults at Risk
- Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk
- Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Children
- Participatory Practice Leading to Co-production in the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk
- Loyal and Dedicated Service to the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk



The Boards were delighted to welcome Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Social Services, as Guest Speaker for the Awards Ceremony. Board Chairs Jake Morgan and Jonathan Griffiths provided the Opening Address and presented awards alongside the Deputy Minister. The Boards are immensely grateful to Welsh Government for offering this support to our event, and for joining us in celebration of the incredible practitioners working to support children and adults across the region. We held our second MAWWSB Awards Ceremony in June 2023 and look forward to sharing the success of this event in next year's Annual Report.



Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards' Safeguarding Awards Ceremony 2022, winners

Some collective photos from the MAWSS Award Ceremony 2022



Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk winner, Cathy Richards, Carmarthenshire County Council



Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk during COVID Restrictions winners, Ian Randell and Alison Watkins, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire County Council



Innovation and Creativity leading to Improved Safeguarding Practice for Children or Adults at Risk winners, INTACT Team, Dyfed Powys Police



Participatory Practice leading to Co-production in the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk winners Dr Sion James and Dr Catherine Burrell, Hywel Dda University Health Board



Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Children during COVID Restrictions winner, Kizzie Garner-Hughes, Ceredigion County Council



Innovation and Creativity leading to Improved Safeguarding Practice for Children or Adults at Risk, Highly Commended, Powys Child Exploitation Team, Powys County Council



Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Children winner, Shevaughn Williams, Pembrokeshire Youth Service



Loyal and Dedicated Service to the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk winner, Raquel Bennett, Powys Teaching Health Board

⋮ Congratulations everyone! ⋮

Launch and Implementation of “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring”

It gives us pleasure to share the outcome of 18 months of dedicated work undertaken by our Junior Board, which culminated in the launch and implementation of an animation to support safeguarding training, “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring”. This originated from a regional Child Practice Review surrounding the tragic death of a child, where it was recommended the voice of the child and children’s lived experience needed to directly inform multi-agency safeguarding training.

Led by the regional Training Sub-Group, a brief was shared with the Junior Board, CADW, inviting them to produce a piece of work which could be utilised in regional safeguarding training across agencies in the partnership. CADW were asked to share their views about how safeguarding practitioners could more effectively support them, and were free to choose the format of the resource they produced.

They decided to develop an animation, and to invite a professional animator to develop a product fully designed and scripted by the young people. Curious Ostrich and Space to Create were employed following approval of the Junior Board’s Animation Task and

Finish Group, as animator and artist for the animation. Next, the young people conducted surveys in local groups to obtain some further views from children and young people beyond the Task and Finish Group. The findings from this work, together with learning obtained from completed Child Practice Reviews in which children’s views were shared in contribution to the review process, were considered by the Task and Finish Group as a basis to the message to be delivered via the finished product.

Young people in the Task and Finish Group also shared and considered their own experiences and perspectives of how they have been supported by professionals in the past. The young people utilised these sources to devise a script, and designed characters to feature in the animation.

Three regional workshops were then held with the animator and artist, in which the young people produced materials and recorded the animation in stop-frame motion. Imagery and sound in the animation were created by the young people with careful consideration of how to illustrate the message conveyed in their script.



Once the animation was approved by the young people at a premiere in their 2021 Residential, the completed product was presented to the Executive Board. The product received excellent feedback and the young people were thanked for their remarkable work and dedication to the project.

The launch of the animation held during National Safeguarding Week 2022 provided a well-deserved opportunity to celebrate and promote the finished work. The launch was held at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli and was extremely well attended by all agencies in the region.

The young people attended and premiered both the animation and a supplementary video directed by one of CADW's young people, in which the young people discuss the experience of making the animation and explain how and where they wish for the product to be shared.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales, Rocio Cifuentes, attended the event as Guest Speaker, and remarked on the outstanding quality and value of the resource, which she expressed a desire to share more widely across Wales. The animation was met with immeasurable praise from all attendees, who collectively expressed their intention to embed the resource fully within agency training.

The coming year will see the Junior Board attend the Executive Board meeting, to receive updates from agencies as to how they have taken forward and promoted this work, and to consider the next steps in terms of utilising this valuable product.

The Boards would like to extend their sincere thanks to the young people, who continue to demonstrate outstanding dedication and valuable contribution to safeguarding work across Mid and West Wales.



Images from the "The Do's and Don'ts of Caring" Launch Event, November 2022

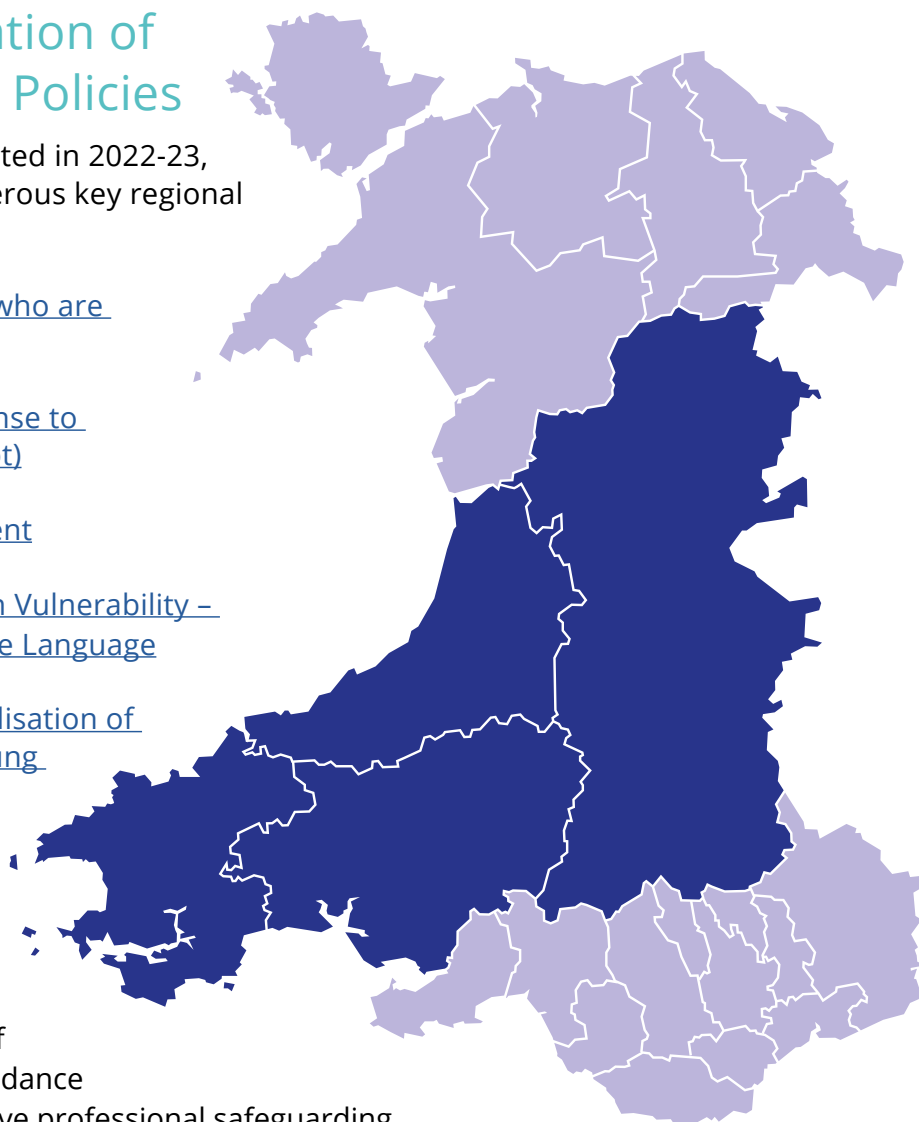


Completion and Publication of Regional Strategies and Policies

A number of key projects were completed in 2022-23, culminating in the publication of numerous key regional policies and pathways that include:

- [Guidance on Working with People who are Difficult to Engage](#)
- [Interim Protocol for a Rapid Response to Incidents of Suspected Suicide \(Pilot\)](#)
- [Child Exploitation Strategy Document](#)
- [Child and Adolescent Young Person Vulnerability – Guidance on the Use of Appropriate Language](#)
- [Reducing the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young Adults: Practice Guidance](#)

All of these projects have been completed within the Boards' various groups and sub groups. Extensive support has been provided by all partner agencies to the development of these policies. All resources provide guidance to staff, and seek to support and improve professional safeguarding practice, closely aligned to the Boards' strategic priorities.



Executive Board Development Day

On 13th January 2023, the Executive Board came together to hold their Annual Development Day in Llandovery. This standing annual event provides an essential opportunity for colleagues to consider as a collaborative the outcomes and successes of the previous year's Annual Plan, and to use this reflection to look forward to the key aims to be included in the plan for the coming year.

This year, the Boards elected to agree new strategic objectives to replace those which had formed the focus of the Annual Plans over the last three years. The motive for this change was to devise new objectives which better reflect the key priorities within the safeguarding arena in a post-COVID world, and to allow for reflection not just of the specific actions to be taken forward in the coming year, but more broadly in terms of the key areas of focus and priority in the years to come.

In addition to reflecting upon the work undertaken in the previous year, the Boards undertook an exercise of "blue-sky thinking" during the day. The focus of this discussion was on "the ideal Safeguarding Board" and allowed for consideration of how we can be innovative and creative in our activity, to utilise the strong partnerships within the Boards in order to strive towards best practice in regional safeguarding.



The outcome of this discussion was very fruitful, with in-depth analysis of the areas which would most benefit from targeted activity and work in the coming year.

The strategic priorities which were agreed by the Boards were:

- 1 Develop a culture of collaboration and innovation across the partnership, which promotes a safe, skilled and resilient workforce.
- 2 Measure, evidence and understand the impact of this Board’s work on professional practice, and how this improves outcomes for children and adults at risk.
- 3 Undertake systemic analysis of organisational performance and change to better understand its impact on children and adults at risk.
- 4 Continue to influence and contribute to the national strategic agenda to support improvements in safeguarding legislation, guidance and policy.

“ Feedback from Executive Board members at the Development Day:

A key priority is for the Board to encourage joint working and an oversight of recruitment opportunities to develop a more resilient workforce. ”

The work to be undertaken this year in respect of these priorities will be reported against in next year’s Annual Report. To view the full Annual Plan for the coming year, please click [here](#).



Facilitation of Practice Review and Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) Learning Events

The Boards continue to oversee numerous ongoing Child and Adult Practice Reviews, with Local Operational Groups also managing ongoing Multi-Agency Professional Forums (MAPFs). This year, four Practice Review Learning Events have been held (two Child Practice Reviews, one Adult Practice Review, and one Hybrid Practice Review), and three MAPF Learning Events have been held across the four localities in the region.

Learning Events have mostly been undertaken in person this year, with one event held virtually due to agencies from outside of the region attending.

A variety of models have been used, each with a broad objective of exploring good practice and learning evident in the review timeline, centred on the experiences and perspectives of the professionals who worked with the family. A positive, well-established culture of learning in a safe, non-blame space is at the heart of regional review processes and is the foundation of all Learning Events held in Mid and West Wales. As a result, professionals have contributed richly to discussions, and provided excellent feedback in respect of all events.



“ Learning Event Attendee feedback:

It was a constructive working environment, in which we all felt listened to.

.....

The learning event definitely met its objectives...I found it amazing. I will be able to ensure that the individual's voice is heard. ”

Local, Regional & National Collaboration for National Safeguarding Week (NSGW22)

In November 2022 the Board Business Unit, in collaboration with the four Local Operational Groups, coordinated and supported a regional programme of events to support National Safeguarding Week. Events and communications during the week were centred on the theme of “Moving On from the COVID-19 Pandemic”, exploring some of the challenges that exist in the safeguarding arena in a post-COVID world.

A hybrid approach was taken to the week, with an in-person flagship conference celebrating the CADW animation launch, and several virtual events facilitated across the region, focussing on themes such as domestic abuse, neglect of older people in care homes, and children’s wellbeing post-pandemic.



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

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Hywel Dda University Health Board is a consistent member of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards of CYSUR and CWMPAS, continuing to provide representation at Executive Board level, as well as on multiple Board subgroups and each county's Local Operational Group.



The Assistant Director of Nursing Assurance and Safeguarding Corporate Nursing continues to hold the role of Vice Chair of the CYSUR Executive Board.

Hywel Dda remain committed to regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, both as panel members and by offering Chairing roles to regional reviews. They have implemented an internal model of holding “pre-learning events” to support and prepare staff identified to attend Learning Events for regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs.

Numerous Hywel Dda colleagues have contributed richly to regional and national safeguarding work and forums once again this year.

For example, the Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children collaborated in drafting the Regional Guideline for Working with Uncooperative Families. The Lead Nurse for Looked After Children is an active member of Corporate Parenting panels and MACE meetings, as well as the NHS Wales LAC Steering group.

In addition, the Lead VAWDASV and Safeguarding Practitioner has worked in partnership with specialist providers to engage with GP clusters to promote regional learning across Primary Care.

The UHB actively contribute to the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and subgroups. The Head of Safeguarding is the Vice Chair of the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and UHB lead alongside a Designated Nurse at the NHS Wales Network VAWDASV Steering Group.

Hywel Dda have led the pilot of a Once for NHS Wales Safeguarding Management System on behalf of NHS Wales, supporting an improved quality of data collection systems and analysis across Wales.

To celebrate NHS Wales Safeguarding Network 10th Anniversary, a conference was held on the theme of “NHS Wales Safeguarding Together: Then, Now, Next” at City Hall, Cardiff on 8th March 2023. Hywel Dda University Health Board were shortlisted to display five posters out of ten that were displayed at the conference.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Hywel Dda University Health Board have worked collaboratively with a manager of a Residential Home to develop and Standard Operating Procedure for looked after children who attend the sexual health clinic.

The shortlisted posters displayed focused on the following five topics:

- 1 Strengthening SCAMHS for CYP with Safeguarding Needs & Children Looked After
- 2 Health Assessment Framework
- 3 Safeguarding in Pregnancy Database
- 4 Role for VAWDASV
- 5 Frailty – Quality Improvement Safeguarding



Posters developed by Hywel Dda University Health Board for the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network 10th Anniversary Conference

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB)

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) continue to contribute fully 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.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Health Board staff work in close partnership with their multi-agency partners in all areas of the safeguarding agenda including VAWDASV, MARAC, MAPPA, MACE, PRUDIC, Corporate Parenting, Practice Reviews, DHRs and multi-agency audits. PTHB remains an active partner in the NHS Wales National Safeguarding Network, engaging in its sub-groups, work-streams and task and finish groups.

Safer sleep has been a key focus within Powys Teaching Health Board this year. With the support of the Women and Children’s Directorate, PTHB’s Safer Sleep Standard Operating Procedure has been developed by the Safeguarding Team, in response to a number of unexpected child deaths over the last 18 months within the county which have featured risk factors relating to safer sleep, alongside links to regional Child Practice Reviews.

A task and finish group was formed, including colleagues from Midwifery, Health Visiting and Safeguarding, with the decision was made to produce a detailed document to support practitioners and ensure that clear, consistent, tailored advice was being provided to parents and carers.

A short presentation was been developed and recorded to support the launch of the standard operating procedure and has been shared widely across the Health Board, including team meetings



Testimonial 1 - Midwife:

I love the QR codes on the red books as I feel I can get parents to scan and have the links open on their phones. Makes the start of the conversation easy. I also really like the laminated sheet because it is again a good prompt with extra resources to signpost the families to - this will be even better when they are in the postnatal pathways.





with General Practices and colleagues employed by the local authority and domestic abuse services. This will help support unsafe sleeping practices and environments are recognised by all practitioners supporting families and carers with young babies.

PTHB midwifery documentation has also been updated to include a page within the postnatal pathways specifically focused on safer sleep. This supports midwives' practice and provides evidence that these important messages are being shared with parents and carers in the early postnatal period. Lullaby Trust QR codes have also been embedded into the postnatal pathway and used within a poster presentation that can be displayed in healthcare settings.

Stickers with the QR codes have been added within each Child Health record, giving parents and carers have easy access to information, advice and support.

“ Testimonial 2 - Health Visitor:

I have found them really helpful and have shared the QR codes at visits. One Dad has opened and read it whilst I have been at the visit and initiated discussion particularly on co-sleeping. Having the laminated card in my diary is really helpful.

I have always discussed the Lullaby Trust App and show them this on my own personal phone. In addition, the printed information that you sent out to bases is good as I can photocopy some of these and use them if appropriate. It is great for consistency for delivering the same messages. ”



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys Teaching Health Board identified an opportunity to develop a care leavers' health pack for young people who leave care/turn 18. The health pack was to provide young people with health links to useful websites, information regarding sexual health, mental health and emotional support, and keyring condoms.

Other key achievements within Powys Teaching Health Board include:

- Development of a new LAC Database
- Auditing of Was Not Brought/No Access Visits
- Development of a DoLS Tracker
- Rollout of Mental Capacity Act Competency Framework and supporting information

Public Health Wales (National Safeguarding Team)

Public Health Wales' National Safeguarding Team works closely with Welsh Government, Health Boards and NHS Trusts to improve safeguarding across NHS Wales. From a regional perspective, the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards have a very positive relationship with key members of the National Safeguarding Team, including the Designated Doctors and Paediatricians who contribute and lead on national safeguarding workstreams. The Designated Nurse attends and contributes to Regional Executive Board meetings and Practice Review Sub-Group meetings.



Dr Aideen Naughton attended and made a full contribution to the Executive Boards' Development Day in January this year. During the pandemic, a decision was taken to scale back their input and contribution to some of the Boards' broader work, including practice reviews. The position going forward nationally remains unclear at the present time, regarding what future role they will play in Regional Safeguarding Boards.

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)

The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) are represented at the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Executive Board, and participate in sub-groups and Local Operational Groups as and when needed. WAST have consistent involvement with all PRUDiCs, MAPFs and Professional strategy meetings.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services
NHS Trust

Despite the increase in demand on the service and staff due to operational pressures and incidences of industrial action, WAST Safeguarding Team have noted a continued increase in concerns identified and safeguarding reports submitted by WAST staff. On average during the reporting period, they achieved over 90% compliance with submission of written referrals to Local Authorities within 24 hours across Wales.

During industrial action, the Safeguarding Team were required to support operational shifts and activity whilst still maintaining core safeguarding responsibilities. The Team has been expanded during the year, with three safeguarding specialists recruited.

WAST Patient Engagement and Community Involvement (PECI) team have worked with children and older people in formulating a charter for both groups which provides staff and volunteer workers with the expectations of these individuals who use the service. They have also worked closely with the deaf community, learning disability groups and currently with carers on how WAST can support them in accessing the service.

WAST work closely with PECI to ensure safeguarding principles are embedded into any work that they develop, and PECI will seek support following disclosures that are received during their face to face engagements.

In addition, the Safeguarding Team work very closely with WAST Putting Things Right team when they have received complaints and adverse incidents where safeguarding is a component. There is regular safeguarding attendance at WAST Serious Case Incident Forum on a bi-weekly basis.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*During this reporting year, the **Welsh Ambulance Service Trust** Safeguarding Team undertook an audit in relation to the submission of safeguarding reports (pan-Wales) for children and young people who have contact with the service for self-harm/suicide ideation. The outcome of this audit will help inform learning for the organisation details of which we can include in the next reporting period.*



Dyfed-Powys Police

Dyfed-Powys Police (DPP) continue to make a rich and active contribution to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards. The DPP Superintendent Board representative continues to hold the position of Vice Chair of the CWMPAS Board, and DPP officers are represented at all Board levels, including the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and all sub-groups. Panel Chairs for numerous Child and Adult Practice Reviews in the region continue to be provided by Dyfed-Powys Police, and the newly merged Through-Age Practice Review Sub Group is chaired by a DPP Detective Chief Inspector.



The force continues to support regional events, meetings and training via the provision of estate. This year, the Boards' Safeguarding Awards Ceremony was hosted at DPP facilities in the region, and the Boards are immensely grateful to Dyfed-Powys Police for their hospitality and support. Dyfed-Powys Police have collaborated with Hywel Dda University Health Board this year to improve the response to service users experiencing mental health crises. There is now a service which allows staff in the police control room to send a distressed caller directly through to a mental health practitioner who can provide instant advice and guidance. This ensure the vulnerable individual engages with a qualified mental health practitioner quickly and can receive the assessment, help and support they need immediately. The collaborative work between these two agencies has also enabled a mental health practitioner to be co-located within the Police Vulnerability Hub.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Dyfed Powys Police have received a number of inputs from victims of offences, offering an insight into lived experience. These have related to domestic abuse, stalking and murder.

Each of these inputs has enabled staff in the organisation to gain an insight into the suffering, the barriers to police engagement and the trauma from living with domestic abuse informing an improved police response to such incidents and crimes.

Domestic abuse continues to be a key priority area within Dyfed-Powys Police. This year, a pilot has been introduced to respond to domestic abuse remotely where it is deemed appropriate and agreeable to the victim. The aims of this pilot are to improve the timeliness of the response to survivors of DA, reduce the impact of the report, and provide increased time to engage with the survivor. This will elicit better quality information so officers can identify and manage risk appropriately, which will lead to improved safeguarding outcomes.

The force has also convened a forum to engage with those who have previously reported sexual abuse and domestic abuse to provide feedback on access to and the delivery of service by the force. The feedback was shared with lead officers to consider utilising this in change processes. Dyfed-Powys Police has been engaging with the regional BAWSO officer, with the aim to develop consultation processes to ensure that all minority groups in the region have a voice. DPP are currently using some of the case studies from BAWSO and sharing these with officers so they better understand the impact of culture on barriers to reporting crime, and improve the service to make it more accessible. The force have also been working to increase awareness of commissioned services and third sector organisations who can assist those who do not want to engage with police, in an effort to ensure they have advice and support and their safeguarding is enhanced.

In terms of perpetrator-focused initiatives, a robust framework has been implemented which DPP can use to identify the highest risk offenders, acting as a prompt to review and assess the measures undertaken to manage the offender and safeguard the community.

Dyfed-Powys Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) contribute 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 continues to represent 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.



Youth Justice Services are themselves a multi-agency partnership, with statutory input from Police, Probation, Education, Health and Social Services. They also work closely with substance misuse and wider youth services.

During the previous year, YJS have developed a regional report from all four Youth Justice Services to assist and support the work of the Boards. This includes data regarding involvement with children and young people who are Looked After and/or have other vulnerable characteristics. This has allowed Police, Children’s Services and other partners to cross-reference with their own data and build a better intelligence picture of specific issues, challenges and resource implications in terms of keeping children and young people safe.

The National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service (NPS) is represented on the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and some sub-groups. Their attendance and engagement in local groups has been inconsistent this year due to significant workforce pressures, however plans have been agreed to improve this. Work has also taken place this year to incorporate NPS into some of the Boards’ wider work and sub-groups including policy and training.



The NPS have provided significant support to regional VAWDASV work, helping to secure additional funding to facilitate key workstreams on perpetrator interventions. The increased focus on safeguarding within the context of VAWDASV has increased the volume of requests for safeguarding checks, and this additional demand has been serviced via the agreement of an additional admin resource through the Public Protection Team to be co-located in Police HQ. The NPS has also welcomed 28 new trainees this year, as well as new PSO staff in the Probation Delivery unit. A key achievement within the organisation this year is the launch of the new HMPPS policy framework on safeguarding. NPS have ensured that all managers are aware of this new framework and its implications.



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.



Adults' Services are also leading on work to achieve greater clarity and consistency in adult safeguarding practice, with a particular focus on Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, in relation to Managing Safeguarding Allegations/Concerns about Practitioners and those in Positions of Trust.

The Regional VAWDASV Advisor and Coordinator posts are hosted by Carmarthenshire Local Authority, and these roles are integral to the development and delivery of the VAWDASV Strategy and its objectives. The regional VAWDASV Delivery Group is chaired by a Senior Manager within Carmarthenshire Adults' Services.

Both Children's and Adults' Services within Carmarthenshire have provided extensive support to several regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews during the year, in both panel chair and reviewer roles. These processes have benefited greatly from the expertise and dedication of the individuals giving their time to these roles, and the Boards are extremely grateful to all regional colleagues who support regional review mechanisms in this manner.

Carmarthenshire Children's Services have this year moved to all children's case conferences being offered as face-to-face meetings post-pandemic, with the option of hybrid being available. Such meetings were held remotely during the pandemic, however, the majority of meetings in March were held face-to-face and the hybrid option was not required.

Anecdotally, professionals have reflected on the difference face-to-face meetings have made on the discussions and debates that take place in the conference. Children's Services within Carmarthenshire aim to make further improvements to the meeting so that it can be a vehicle of change for children at risk of significant harm.

The regional Review of the Multi-Agency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has been led by Carmarthenshire, and will enable the region to reflect upon the multi-agency response to the pandemic in terms of safeguarding children and adults at risk.

The Local Operational Group remains a focus for Carmarthenshire going forward into the next year, with the intention to identify opportunities to review and improve the structure of this forum.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Carmarthenshire Adults' Services have been instrumental in the development and pilot of the regional Protocol for a Rapid Response to Incidents of Suspected Suicide, which seeks to holistically assess the wider impact of instances of suspected suicide with peer groups and communities. The pilot phase of this work remains ongoing at the time of writing, with positive feedback received thus far on the implementation of the process across all areas of the region. The Head of Service within Carmarthenshire Adults' Services continues to champion key workstreams and forums within the area of suicide prevention.

Pembrokeshire County Council

Pembrokeshire County Council is the regional host authority for the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards, and facilitates the Regional Safeguarding Boards Business Unit. The Director of Social Services and Housing is the Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Pembrokeshire continues to benefit from an Integrated Safeguarding Team, combining both children and adult safeguarding strategic work into one unified service.



Numerous Child Practice Review in the region have enjoyed a rich contribution from Pembrokeshire in terms of the provision of independent reviewers, and Pembrokeshire continue to be actively engaged in groups and forums at all levels of the Boards' structure.

Pembrokeshire's Local Operational Group is a model of good practice across the region within the context of its structure, chairing and agenda model and as a result benefits from strong commitment and buy-in from regional partners. This has been used a blueprint for other LOGs across the region who have followed Pembrokeshire's example. The result is an effective and integrated meeting, with excellent attendance and strong commitment and contributions from all agencies.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

In response to the shortage of placements for Young People Looked After (YPLA), Pembrokeshire County Council have developed a place of safety model for young people awaiting placements who are identified as high-risk.

Collaborative working is also evident in Pembrokeshire in respect of resettlement schemes, including Homes for Ukraine and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). A robust safeguarding checks process is in place and the model is recognised by Welsh Government as good practice example within national statutory guidance.

A schedule of whole-authority safeguarding self-evaluation risk assessments has taken place this year, which has shown a near-100% completion rate of the mandatory e-learning POD course on 'safeguarding children and adults' across the department.



Powys County Council

Powys County Council have continued to make a steady and consistent contribution to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and their workstreams at all levels in the last year. Powys Children's Services Senior Manager continues to chair the Regional Training Sub-Group, and Powys Children's and Adults' Services have each provided valuable contributions to ongoing practice reviews this year by way of chair and reviewer roles.



Powys' Child Exploitation Strategy has acted as the foundation for the [Regional Child Exploitation Strategy](#) implemented this year across Mid and West Wales. Powys Children's Services chaired the task and finish group and presented the strategy at the Executive Board for approval.

Within the context of the preventative safeguarding agenda, this reporting year has seen the creation of an Integrated Family Centre in Welshpool. The refurbishment of the building situated in the heart of a Flying Start catchment was funded by Welsh Government Flying Start Capital funding. The Flying Start team, who include Health Visitors and Speech and Language professionals, will move from the Maesydre Offices in Welshpool to the site. They will be joined by Powys County Council's Children's Early Help Team and Youth Services.

The council's Adults' Services staff, along with colleagues from agencies such as Montgomeryshire Family Centre, will also share the office space within the building, supporting an integrated multi-agency all-age approach.

The Welshpool Integrated Family Centre opened on 10th October 2022 will be a "one stop shop" providing services and support to children, young people and their families. The centre will provide activities such as parent and toddler groups, baby massage, information and advice, Incredible Years Parenting Training programmes, health advice, family support and counselling. The Centre was officially opened in February 2023 by the Deputy Minister. In terms of Adults' Services, a key focus this year has been in the area of Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs. Significant developments have been achieved in progressing MAPFs this year, facilitating the identification and dissemination of learning in respect of key identified areas relevant to the local area.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Through their Grow Our Own Social Worker development programme, Powys County Council appointed five newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) into the service during the Summer/Autumn 2022.

They have also increased the number of wellbeing worker positions within some teams to establish if this is a more effective way of working. 2023 will see seven NQSWs come into Children's Services, with nine projected for 2024 and eleven projected in 2025, helping to mitigate ongoing workforce challenges.



Ceredigion County Council



Safeguarding Boards at all levels. Senior officers have attended and engaged in all Executive Board meetings, and there is appropriate consistent representation at all identified regional sub-groups. Ceredigion have also provided valuable support to an ongoing Adult Practice Review this year by providing a second reviewer. Ceredigion continued its development this year of a Through-Age Wellbeing Model, and the completion and implementation of the 7-year implementation strategy. As a result, Ceredigion are also implementing a Through-Age Safeguarding Team, working with the whole family in a proportionate way to safeguard people, and to ensure that families receive targeted support as early as possible.

There has been a review of Ceredigion's current structure this year, two years following the embedding of the Through Age Well-Being Model. Some changes have been made in order to strengthen the Quality Assurance Team in order to develop the Quality Assurance Framework work, and to align the substance misuse team with the Mental Well-Being Team. Early Intervention/Prevention services and resources have been strengthened with the further development and increasing of capacity, which are being used for both children/young people and adults. The Through Age Well-Being strategy has informed how Early Intervention/Prevention services will be developed in order to prevent people needing statutory services.

Managing staffing levels have been a challenge in the organisation due to challenges with recruitment and retention, which is noted to be a national issue. This was a particular issue for the Planned Care Children's Team and due to this, the Local Authority commissioned a Managed Team to support work with children and their families. The involvement from this team is under review at the present time. There has been a number of different initiatives undertaken in relation to recruitment campaigns.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Ceredigion County Council's Safeguarding Adults Team have developed a Quality Assurance questionnaire which concentrates on what has changed for people as the result of safeguarding intervention. This face to face work with people will progress in the coming year.

Notably, Ceredigion are working with Aberystwyth University in relation to the development of a social work training course which could in the future support local training and recruitment. The Local Authority are recruiting a number of trainee social workers in order to build on sustainability of the workforce moving forward.



Regional Directors of Education

All education services related to the Boards collaborate well. There are strong relationships with other partners including Health, Police, Youth Services, Probation Services, and Youth Offending Teams. Each education directorate shares information related to their own risks in order to provide support to one another. Education Services from across the region continue to engage at all levels of the Board structure. There is an Education representative on the panel of all Child Practice Reviews in the region, and in the planning groups for all Child MAPFs. All Local Operational Groups and Board sub-groups enjoy continued attendance from Education representatives.

All Executive Board meetings this year have been attended by at least one Statutory Director of Education from the region. Pembrokeshire Education Services, who previously held the role of overarching regional Education representative at the Executive Board, have been represented at all meetings this year, with other localities also attending meetings during the year. Agreement is to be reached in the coming year on the long-term representation of Education Services at Executive Board level, in terms of whether Education representation at Executive Board level is to be rolling across all four localities, or assigned to a designated Statutory Director as a regional lead for the service.

Assurance on safeguarding practice is provided via the submission of an annual Section 175 report to the Regional Executive Board, which is a comprehensive assessment of all safeguarding systems processes within Education across the region.

Regional Further Education (FE)

The Further Education (FE) colleges within the region have supported the work of the Boards and have been fully compliant in the adoption of its policies. They have also offered support to the Boards through the use of venues for meetings, and participated in all Board activities and events. They have this year been involved in a number of Rapid Response meetings following the commencement of the regional pilot.

FE colleagues are represented on the sub-groups of the Boards by the Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding at Pembrokeshire College, who is the regional designated Board link for FE Colleges. The FE Lead has also led on the continued regional response to Welsh Government guidance, Keeping Learners Safe guidance, and co-chairs the Welsh Government's Safeguarding in Education Group. They have recently joined the Welsh Government's Safeguarding in Education Group's task and finish group to consider the IICSA recommendations and represent the Boards, and continue to provide key input into the ongoing work around transition planning and suicide. The Designated Senior Safeguarding Leads from Pembrokeshire College and Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion have been commissioned by Welsh Government to write four Keeping Learners Safe training modules for further education and work-based learning staff and Corporation Board members, which will be live on Hwb from August 2023, and provide consistency of training to the sectors responsible for post-16 education.

FE colleges across the region have continued their partnership work related to the mental health and wellbeing of learners, and have been successful in four mental health bids worth over two million pounds to Welsh Government, which has secured substantive support for learners and staff in the FE Colleges in the Boards' region. Resources from all the projects have been uploaded on Welsh Government's Hwb site. Refresher safeguarding training has continued to be delivered

across the regional colleges remotely and in person this year, consistent with the updated safeguarding modules. Within all the FE Colleges, strong and proactive safeguarding teams have been enhanced and further developed this year, which have played a pivotal role in multi-agency working. They are also providing post-16 support to the work of the Local Authorities' Liberty Protection Safeguards implementation and are participating in the regional and local suicide prevention forums.

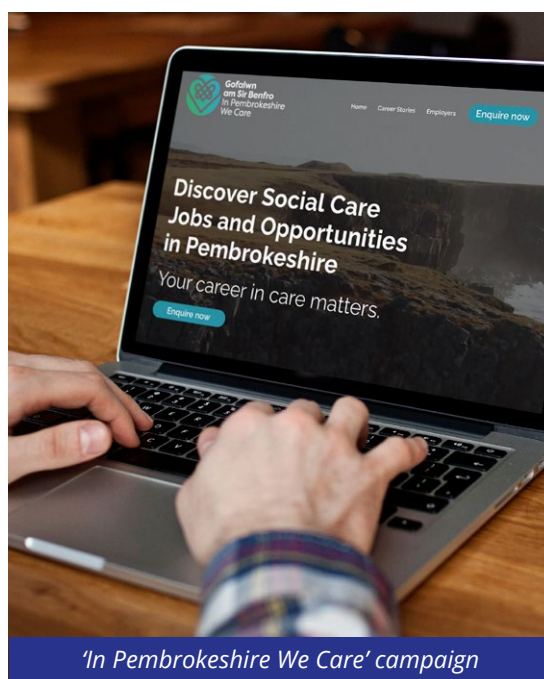
During the Autumn Term of 2022, the Colleges participated in an Estyn thematic inspection concerning peer on peer abuse. The Thematic Report from the inspection was published on the 7th June 2023 and contained seven recommendations for the sector. The DSLs will present the reports and local action plans at the respective LOGs.

Regional Commissioning Representative

The Mid and West Wales Commissioning Partnership is represented on the Executive Boards and links with the Powys Commissioning Partnership for regional collaboration. Commissioning Teams have worked collaboratively across the region with Health Boards, Public Health Wales, CIW and other partners to support the in-house and commissioned sector providers to mitigate the significant impact of COVID-19.

Commissioning Services have worked proactively with the sector to support a number of the Boards' key objectives, in particular, strengthening the workforce and managing risk. The fragility of the market, primarily linked to workforce issues, poses a key issue in terms of meeting service demands. Collaborative work undertaken within the region has been instrumental in managing and attempting to mitigate this risk. Commissioning Services have worked collaboratively to publish the Market Stability Report for West Wales, which has identified key risks across all regulated activities (adults and children), with recommendations to mitigate market failure and develop alternative services linked to the Population Needs Assessment. From a safeguarding perspective, this is key to avoid such risks as inappropriate placements, unregulated placements, and mitigation to market failure.

Local initiatives include the development and implementation of the ['In Pembrokeshire We Care' campaign](#), to support recruitment and workforce capacity to ensure population needs are met. Domiciliary care has been recommissioned in Carmarthenshire, with focus on outcomes and terms and conditions. Recruitment and retention initiatives have also been undertaken by the sector. Some positive signs have been seen in the last year in terms of the commissioning landscape, such as a decline in waiting lists and greater market stability; however, caution and collaboration continue to be employed across the sector to continue to manage and respond to risk within this area. Key achievements in the commissioning sector this year include ongoing quality and provider performance oversight, as well as improving terms and conditions for the commissioned domiciliary care workforce to support workforce challenges.



'In Pembrokeshire We Care' campaign

(h) An assessment of how the Boards use their resources

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

This year has seen the Boards incur significant additional expenditure and costs to fund legal counsel in respect of a judicial review application made against the CYSUR Board. Further potential legal costs in relation to other bespoke legal actions are pending at the time of publication and consideration is needed as to how any similar future costs should be funded.

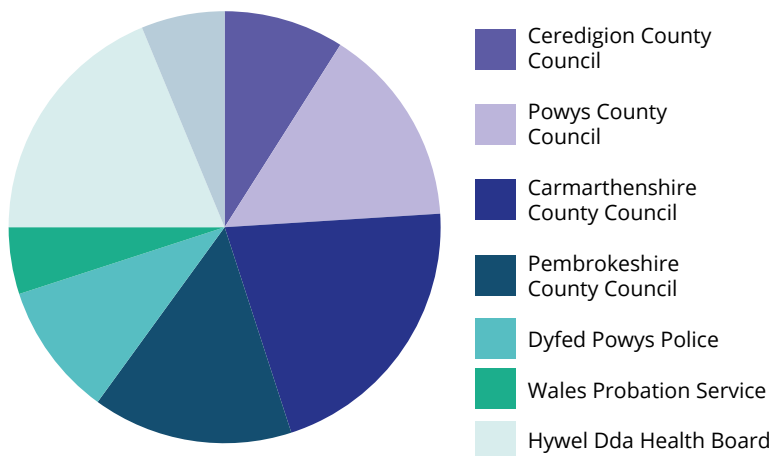
Resources used to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding Boards are not confined or restricted to financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The Regional Safeguarding Board Chairs, Executive Board Members, Sub-Group Chairs and members provide a significant amount of their time to support the Boards

and their work. This is often in addition to their professional roles and day-to-day responsibilities.

The variable and diverse nature of the Boards' work makes this difficult to report on within a quantifiable and measurable resource context, and is not always overtly visible to other professionals and agencies outside of the Board. The process, management and publication of Child and Adult Practice Reviews, the development of regional protocols and policies, as well as projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise are just some examples of Board work.

All statutory partners of the Mid and 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 Boards this year excluding grant funding was £170,956, which is significantly lower than most of the Regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales.

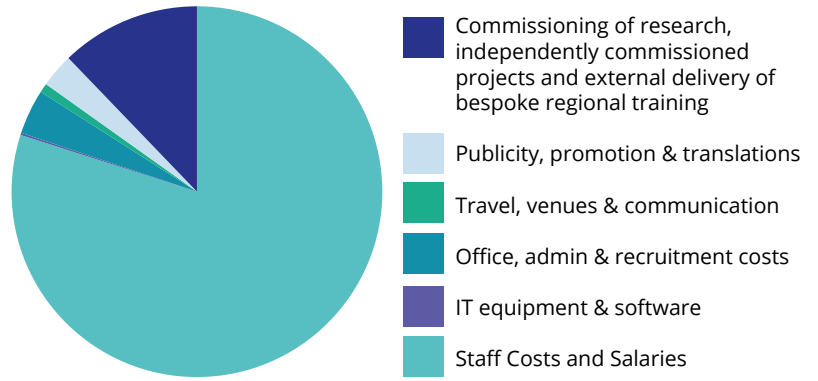
Income 2022 - 2023



In 2022-23, the majority of the Boards' expenditure was dedicated to general running costs, including staffing the Business Unit (80%).

The commissioning of services and training constituted 12% of Board expenditure, which is a reflection of the increased output from the Training Sub-Group in the delivery of the Training Strategy and accompanying 3-year Delivery Plan.

Expenditure 2022 - 2023



Admin and IT costs totalled 4% this year, with publicity, promotion and translation costs totalling 3%, reflecting the increased generation of resources and content for practitioners and the general public. Travel, venues and communication constituted just 1% of expenditure, with marginal IT costs of less than 1% in the year. The breakdown of expenditure this year aligns with previous years, with the exception of the legal costs referenced above, and is reflective of the outputs of the Boards and their functions.



(i) Underlying themes in the way the Safeguarding Boards have exercised their functions

Single Unified Safeguarding Review

Working alongside Welsh Government colleagues to support the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review model to learn lessons from reviews, including Child Practice Reviews (CPRs), Adult Practice Reviews (APRs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has continued to be a key theme of the Boards' work and priorities this year. Work has continued to support updating the existing national model in Wales and the drafting of new statutory guidance.

The CYSUR Board Chair, Regional Board Manager, Practice Review Business Manager and other sub-group members have continued to contribute to national task and finish groups to progress this work. This sits alongside extensive investment committed locally to strengthen our regional work and to amalgamate our CPR and APR sub-structures and sub-groups into one all-age sub-group.

Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Practice Development

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards are fortunate to have a strong and committed group of multi-agency senior managers and strategic leads who have continued to work together collaboratively this year to strengthen and improve safeguarding practice and intervention across the region for adults at risk. The group meets regularly with a focus to establish consistent practice across the four local authority areas of Mid and West Wales.

Projects the group have collaborated on this year include work to strengthen the approach taken in respect of Safeguarding Allegations/Concerns about Practitioners and those Positions of Trust. This work has aimed to support practice where there are gaps, and more clarity is needed regarding Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. This work has supported a national workstream being led by the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, and will help influence updates to section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in the coming year.

The multi-agency group have also worked together to further develop a bespoke safeguarding training package for Dyfed Powys Police delivered to support their Specialist Child Abuse Investigators: Development Programme (SCAIDP) training course for police officers. Other projects the group have collaborated on include work to implement a rapid review model for the prevention of suicide (more information contained below), and the development of the [Multi-Agency Practice Guidance for Dealing with Cases of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence to Safeguard Adults with Care and Support Needs](#).



Serious Violence Duty 2023

Along with strengthened relationships with the Police and Crime Commissioner, this year has seen the Boards commit to support the implementation of Serious Violence Duty which commenced on 31st January 2023, placing a duty on specified local authorities along with other agencies to work together to reduce incidents of violence, including knife and gun crime, and to prevent loss of life.

This work is in its early stages, however, the Regional Safeguarding Boards have committed to work closely with multi-agency partners and Crest Advisory, who have been commissioned by the Home Office to work with partners to support implementation, and are in the process of completing a strategic needs assessment across the region.

National Action Plan for Responding to and Tackling Child Sexual Abuse

Although the three-year national action plan formally ceased in 2022, implementation of the key messages and resources developed to support the plan has continued this year.

An array of related information, training and resources remain available to staff on the Boards' and agencies' intranets and websites, and via promotion in staff briefings and newsletters. This includes information in relation to CSA and exploitation, and the "it's time we talked about it" campaign.

Education Safeguarding Leads have continued to work closely with schools to promote awareness, which has included the promotion of various relevant resources and access to training packages, such as the [Lucy Faithfull Foundation's 'What's the Problem?'](#) booklet, a guide for parents of children and young people who have got in trouble online.

The VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Delivery Groups have continued to undertake significant work in relation to the promotion of information to children, parents and carers on healthy relationships.

This includes work with Curriculum Leads across the region in respect of the

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and ensuring that topics around VAWDASV are delivered consistently and with confidence.

Partners from the Mid and West Wales region have attended and supported national events and workshops facilitated by Children in Wales to support the national evaluation of the plan alongside the publication of the full ICSSA enquiry, and the Boards remain committed to supporting and implementing the next phase of this work.



Professional Curiosity

The need for professionals to exercise more robust and better professional curiosity when intervening into the lives of children or adults who may be at risk of harm has been a theme in a number of CPRs/APRs and MAPFs across the region. This is not unique to the Mid and West Wales region, and we are aware this consistently features in reviews in other Boards in Wales, and in UK-wide published safeguarding reviews.

As such, considerable investment has been dedicated by the Regional Training Sub-Group to the development of a bespoke all-age multi-agency training package and accompanying practitioner resources. Please see Section L for more information on the rollout of this training.



Rapid Response Model Pilot

Following significant planning and work undertaken in the previous year, a 12-month pilot of a rapid response model in respect of suspected suicides for both children and adults has been implemented. The purpose is to provide targeted, rapid support to family members, peers and the community when incidents of suicide occur and this forms part of the Boards' broader mental health, suicide and self-harm work.

The outcome of the pilot will be formally evaluated in the coming year, including its impact from a support and prevention perspective.



Safe Sleep

Continuing and rising numbers of preventable deaths related to babies co-sleeping with parents have continued to feature in the Process for Reviewing Unexpected Deaths in Children (PRUDiCs) across the region this year, as well as Child Practice Reviews. We are aware this trend is not unique to the Mid and West Wales region and features in other Boards in Wales.

Health partners have communicated concerns to the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, and as a direct result, Public Health Wales have agreed to undertake a rapid review of safe sleep related PRUDiCs across Wales in the coming year.

This will establish if there is any immediate action needed or clear lessons to learn. Localised literature including a standard operating procedure has been developed by health partners, and this has been shared and promoted widely with partners across the region. Identifying ways in which agencies can work together with parents to better avoid highly preventable deaths will be a key workstream for the Boards this year as part of a published Child Practice Review action plan.

High-Risk Behaviours for Adults at Risk (Including Hoarding and Self-Neglect)

Current legislation in Wales provides a robust and comprehensive framework for agencies to provide early intervention for adults who exhibit high-risk behaviours, including those who hoard and self-neglect.

Irrespective of this, a disproportionately high number of cases feature in referrals into the Boards for Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, where sadly adults have either died or suffered serious harm where concerns of this nature are known and understood by professionals, who often feel powerless to effectively intervene to prevent harm or reduce risk.

Following the implementation of a regional protocol to support this hugely complex and challenging area of work last year, work has continued this year led by the Adult Safeguarding Leads to implement the model consistently.

Numbers who meet the criteria to be considered by the model are lower than expected and this will be further reviewed in the coming year. It is hoped the framework will help improve practitioners' understanding of the legislation in Wales, alongside an enhanced and improved understanding of how mental capacity legislation can be implemented to support adults in a more creative, solution focused multi-agency approach.



Legal Challenges

This year, the Boards have been subject to two legal challenges. The first concerned a Judicial Review undertaken on application from a family member of a deceased child, in respect of a document produced in respect of the child by a Local Safeguarding Children Board, prior to the Boards' conception. CYSUR were named as defendants in this application, with the applicant asserting that CYSUR had inherited the document at the conception of the Regional Safeguarding Board. The Judicial Review considered whether CYSUR had the power to release the document, which it had not created and did not have ownership of or access to, to the applicant.

CYSUR obtained legal representation for the duration of these proceedings at significant cost to the Boards, funded using a significant portion of Board reserves. The judgment issued confirmed CYSUR's position that it did not have the power to release the document, citing the fact that it did not create, issue or hold the document in question. Furthermore, the legislation which provided for the creation of Regional Safeguarding Boards did not stipulate that Boards were to inherit any duties held by the now defunct Local Safeguarding Boards.

The second legal proceedings in which CYSUR was engaged in concerned an Inquest undertaken in respect of another child from the same local area. The Coroner in those proceedings requested information, and subsequently a submission from CYSUR, to consider whether CYSUR should be made an Interested Party to those proceedings at the request of the family. The Inquest would consider inter-agency arrangements between local services, and the family requested that CYSUR should be made an Interested Party to consider how effectively it "discharges its statutory oversight duties".

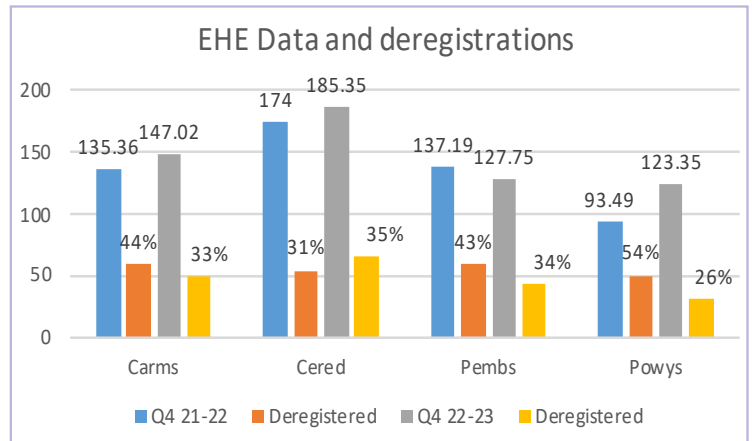
As a result, CYSUR was required to seek legal representation to explain that its functions did not extend to such operational matters, which are dealt with by the relevant Local Authority. Furthermore and for this reason, CYSUR had no involvement with the child prior to their tragic death. The Coroner upheld CYSUR's position on the grounds that it did not have a sufficient interest in proceedings to be afforded Interested Party status. These proceedings were ongoing at the end of the reporting year and have since concluded with the aforementioned outcome, i.e. that CYSUR should not become an Interested Party.

Safeguarding People

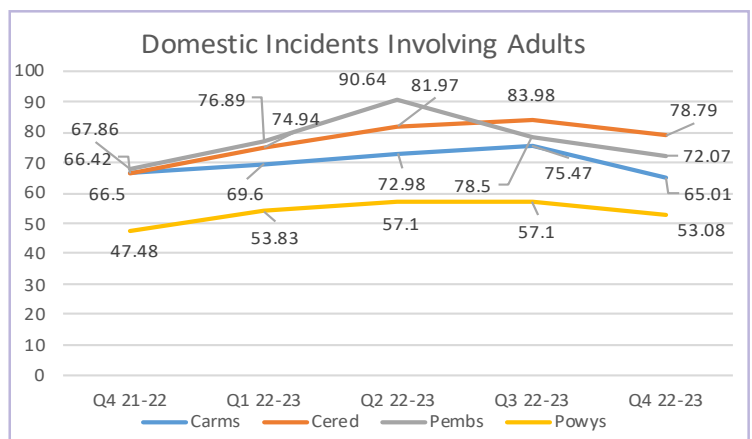
- Supporting effective challenge and professional accountability in the delivery of safeguarding practice

The Boards' Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework, which includes a comprehensive dataset alongside a local and thematic regional audit schedule, has been comprehensively reviewed and updated this year. This will aid the Boards' understanding of professional safeguarding practice, and data now aligns with the new updated Welsh Government performance indicators.

New data linked to practice areas of common interest in the region including professional concerns, those in a position of trust and escalating concerns has also been introduced. This will support the Regional Executive Boards' robust helicopter view of high-level multi-agency safeguarding practice across the region, via the scrutiny of quarterly overview reports containing analysis of key regional and local trends. This supports the Boards in their commitment to effective challenge and holding agencies to account when safeguarding practice and service delivery falls below expected standards.



Graph showing the number of electively home educated children this year in our region.



Graph showing the number of domestic incidents involving adults this year in our region.

Practice Reviews and MAPFs

A number of Practice Reviews remain ongoing, and three have concluded during the year. This is alongside an active MAPF programme with several ongoing and concluded this year. Themes identified for consideration as a result of these reviews include:

- The need for training and awareness raising for multi-agency practitioners in relation to professional curiosity and disguised compliance
- The need for improved training and awareness for practitioners in relation to mental capacity legislation
- Suicide prevention
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Deaths related to safe sleep
- The need for better information sharing between agencies



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

Regional Animation Project

The primary objective of the combined CADW Junior Board this year has been the completion and launch of "The Do's and Don'ts of Caring". The completed animation and accompanying video are an outstanding package of resources which reflect the dedication and talent of the young people who sit on the CADW Board. This resource is an invaluable addition to safeguarding training across the region.

CADW Residential 2022

After two years of holding "Residentials with a Twist", virtual get-togethers arranged in light of COVID-19 restrictions, the CADW Board were thrilled to come together face-to-face once again in 2022 for an in-person Residential in Brecon, Powys.

CADW membership has fallen through the past year as some young people have moved onto new adventures such as college, University and employment. The Boards wish to thank both the departing and continuing CADW members for the significant contribution and achievements they have made to date.

It was also felt that the virtual nature of the group became less desirable as time went on, however, the workshops held as part of the animation project saw CADW welcome new members from different areas of the region.

Nevertheless, in light of the size of the groups decreasing in some areas this year, and in recognition of the changes in membership since the conception of CADW, this year's Residential was a chance to gather some motivation for the Junior Board and get young people's opinions on how the group should move forward.

Nine young people attended the Residential this year, enjoying indoor climbing and abseiling at the indoor activity centre in which they stayed, before conducting their Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Terms of Reference were reviewed and there was a discussion about what issues



they would concentrate on for the next year. The young people then watched the premiere of “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring” animation, and discussed what questions they could ask professionals during the round table discussions at the launch event taking place during National Safeguarding Week (please see section L).

A young person from Ceredigion interviewed the other young people about making the animation and how they felt about it, utilising this footage to develop a sister video to the animation itself. Both videos are shared together, so that the young persons’ reflections complement and expand upon the content in the animation produced.

The Residential also facilitated the handover of management of the group to a new officer due to a change in staff at TGP Cymru. The departing and newly appointed officers attending the Residential together allowed for a smooth transition and a continuation of the progress made in the group to date. The Boards look forward to working with the new Participation Officer in the coming year on new CADW priorities and workstreams following the review of the implementation of “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring”.



Powys Ambassadors of Youth Safeguarding (PAYS) have experienced a decreased level of membership this year, with just one active member during the reporting period. This young person has nevertheless been a key member of the regional CADW Board, providing an invaluable input into numerous stages of the animation project concluding this year, and attending this year’s Residential.

PAYS ensure activity and information from CADW is fed back into Powys’ Local Operational Group and Junior Start Well Board. A recruitment drive is planned for the coming year within PAYS, and it is hoped that this year’s Residential will see attendance from new members recruited into Powys during the coming months.



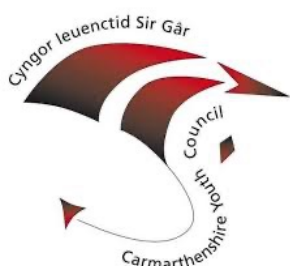
Image from CADW Residential 2022



Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' and Ceredigion Youth Service have experienced similar membership challenges during the year, with several long-standing members moving on to pastures new after numerous years of dedicated engagement with both the local and regional groups.

As a result, Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' currently only have one active member, despite having historically comprised the largest proportion of CADW membership in recent years. Nevertheless, the remaining 'Sêr Saff' member has continued to make an immeasurable contribution to the work of CADW this year. They have utilised their outstanding cinematic and editorial skills to produce an accompanying resource to "The Do's and Don'ts of Caring", after working with other CADW members to produce this piece of work during the Residential. Feedback at the launch event for this resource was that the accompanying video greatly enriches the messages of the animation, and a strong desire was shared to promote both resources as a package. A condensed version of this video was produced to facilitate even wider sharing at multi-agency meetings and training.

Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' have also seen a change of Participation Officer this year, who is commencing in role with a focus on recruitment. At the time of writing, events are scheduled for summer 2023 which are aimed to promote CADW and attract new membership to ensure continued stability and regional representation within the Junior Board.



Carmarthenshire Council do not commission a local Junior Board and young people's safeguarding matters and issues are captured via **Carmarthenshire Youth Council (CYC)**, who continue to run the Children's Rights Community Ambassadors scheme. Their main role as Ambassadors is to promote the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), act as a voice for local young people and pass on their opinions to the Children's Rights Commissioner in Wales.

CYC focused on Domestic Abuse as their priority issue for the past year and set up a new sub-group to focus on this topic. The group have received training on and information about domestic abuse, with a particular focus on challenging myths and understanding services who can offer support. The group are currently developing a script for a drama about a young person whose parent is experiencing abuse, which continues to progress at the time of writing.

This year, CYC are taking part in the accredited Local Councillor Shadowing Award. This provides a unique opportunity for the young people to engage with councillors face to face, and to gain knowledge and skills which will facilitate their involvement in the democratic process and help them to influence decision-making. The Youth Council have also engaged actively with numerous consultations on topics such as mental health and wellbeing, child poverty, and the impact of COVID-19.



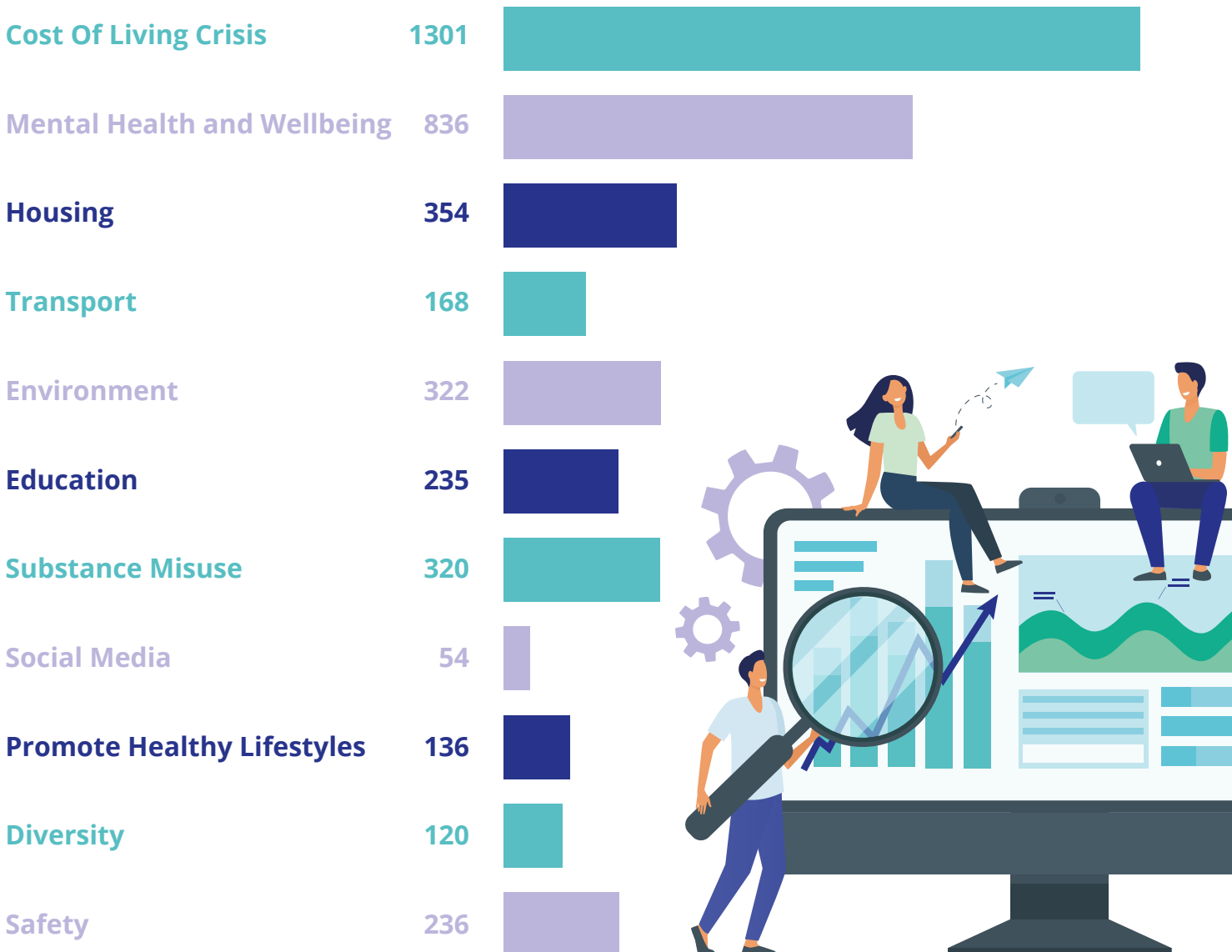


Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians have been working hard to re-establish themselves since the pandemic, and have been slowly moving forward in planning what they would like to achieve in 2023-2024. Throughout this time, they have still maintained strong links with a range of services in Pembrokeshire County Council who ensure that children and young people have a voice and influence services who support them.

The Junior Safeguardians, in collaboration with Pembrokeshire Youth and Social Care departments of Pembrokeshire County Council, hosted Pembrokeshire Spotlight Awards held on 11th November 2022 at Merlin Theatre, Pembrokeshire College. Young people were involved in the design of the event, shortlisting the nominations and getting involved on the evening.

A key workstream undertaken this year was a collaboration between the Junior Safeguardians and Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly, who jointly produced the “What Matters to You” consultation.

4,082 young people took part in the consultation, and the results are shown below:



(k) Applications for Adult Protection & Support Orders

There have been no applications for an Adult Protection & Support Order (APSOs) in Mid and West Wales during 2022-23, and there has only been one application in this region since the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Boards are aware this trend mirrors activity in other areas and welcomes any observations from Welsh Government as to the likely reasons for this.



(I) Information or learning the Boards have disseminated and training recommended or provided

Website

The Boards' website continues to act as a central hub of useful information, including how to report a concern and as a repository for regional policies and procedures and Practice Review reports.

The Business Unit has further worked to develop the training page of the website this year, with an increased emphasis on disseminating details of workshops, seminars and training events occurring throughout the region.

The training section has also been extended to include a new area hosting the safeguarding training resources that were developed by our Junior Board, CADW, and officially launched during National Safeguarding Week 2022, with support and attendance from the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

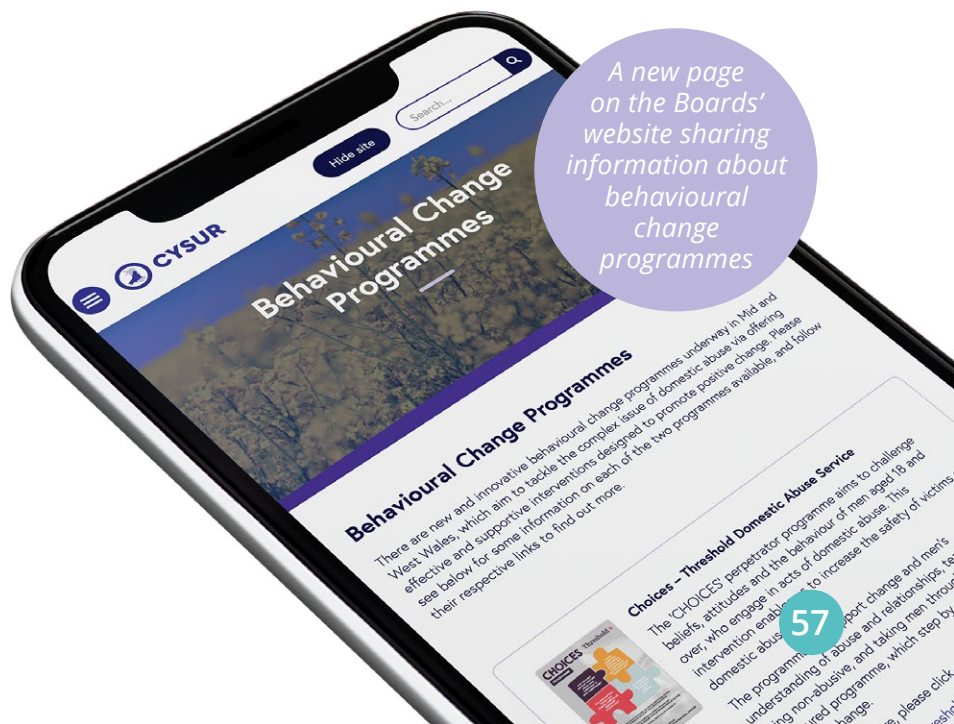
New pages have been added to support VAWDASV work taking place across the region. This includes pages highlighting new and innovative behavioural change programmes underway in Mid and West Wales, details of local services and support available for survivors of domestic abuse, information relating to the new Survivor Advisory Panel for Mid and West Wales, and details of Safe Video Link Evidence Facilities.

The resource hub for practitioners has been extended to include new pages dedicated to key topics such as missing children and safer sleep.

A brand new search facility has also made retrieval of safeguarding information far more effective and added to the overall usability of the website.



13,869
Page views of
CYSUR's website
this year
(6.5% higher than the
previous year)



A new page on the Boards' website sharing information about behavioural change programmes

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 work.

The Boards' multi-agency Regional Training Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan continues to provide a framework that both supports the commissioning and delivery of bespoke multi-agency training linked to the Boards' strategic priorities, as well as providing assurance on the quality and availability of safeguarding training to practitioners and managers across the partnership.

The Boards are assured all agencies provide good quality safeguarding training to their staff, and this has continued throughout the period. A wealth of safeguarding training has been delivered across Mid and West Wales this year, in face to face and virtual formats as follows.

Professional Curiosity Training Package

A Professional Curiosity Task and Finish Group was established to review and explore how the use of "Professional Curiosity" can support practitioners to develop the communication and observational skills required to work more effectively with individuals and families.

A high-quality suite of Professional Curiosity Training and Resources has been developed, which aims to raise awareness of the underpinning principles of "Professional Curiosity" and how it can be embedded within practice to continue to raise the standards of work undertaken with individuals and families by safeguarding professionals. It includes three key elements:

- 1 A Through-Age Multi-Agency Training Package, which includes options for both a full-day and half-day training session.
- 2 A Resource Pack which can be accessed virtually at any time by practitioners across the region, providing an introduction to professional curiosity, including a detailed overview of how to exercise professional curiosity and judgement, supported by case studies.
- 3 A Training Video in which the Lead LAC Nurse from Hywel Dda University Health Board explains what it means to be professionally curious, and the questions which practitioners can ask themselves and the families they work with to exercise professional curiosity in practice.

Professional Curiosity Training Attendee feedback:

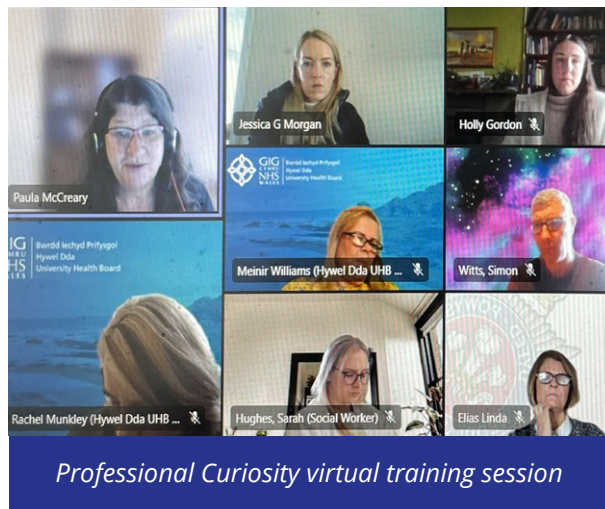
The interactive sessions were extremely useful as they were multi-agency.

The case studies were great to look at scenarios from a multi-agency aspect.

This suite of training provides numerous avenues through which professionals can access information on this topic, which continues to feature in ongoing and completed Child and Adult Practice Reviews regionally and nationally. Feedback received from pilot training sessions using these resources was excellent and there was an overwhelming consensus the all-age approach worked very well. The Professional Curiosity training has now been copyrighted to MAWWSB and is available to be incorporated into basic safeguarding awareness training.

Delivery of this training has rolled out as follows:

- Ceredigion Local Authority offered dates for training for the half day session, from November to the beginning of April, which were well attended. There is currently some tweaking of the material being undertaken to contextualise it. There is an intention to add more dates as required, and potentially include multi-agency training at a later date.
- Powys Local Authority held its first half day course in December 2022, which was delivered as multi-agency and invitations were extended to health colleagues, police, and housing. Further dates were then delivered by health colleagues in January 2023.
- Dyfed Powys Police are currently exploring the potential of incorporating the training into their existing Vulnerability Training.
- Pembrokeshire Children’s Services commissioned a bespoke session on professional curiosity, with a further four sessions scheduled by the end of April 2023.
- Carmarthenshire are planning to deliver in-house training. They have delivered four sessions to date and are exploring possible future collaboration with Pembrokeshire Local Authority.
- Plans for further development are to map the training to the competencies in the national training standards, identifying staff groups to target for different levels.



National Safeguarding Week

National Safeguarding Week took place this year from 14th to 18th November 2022, with the theme of “Moving on and Recovering from the Pandemic”. Under this broad heading, a programme was designed that aimed to respond to some of the challenges children and adults at risk face on their journey of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the week six key events were held, including conferences and webinars

that sought to highlight issues that currently affect children and adults at risk. The regional programme was supported by national events taking place across the whole of Wales. This included the launch of new multi-agency training standards being led by Social Care Wales, and an event hosted by the National Independent Safeguarding Board in collaboration with the Violence Prevention Unit on shaping the future of safeguarding in Wales.



Images from the launch of ‘The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring’ in November 2022

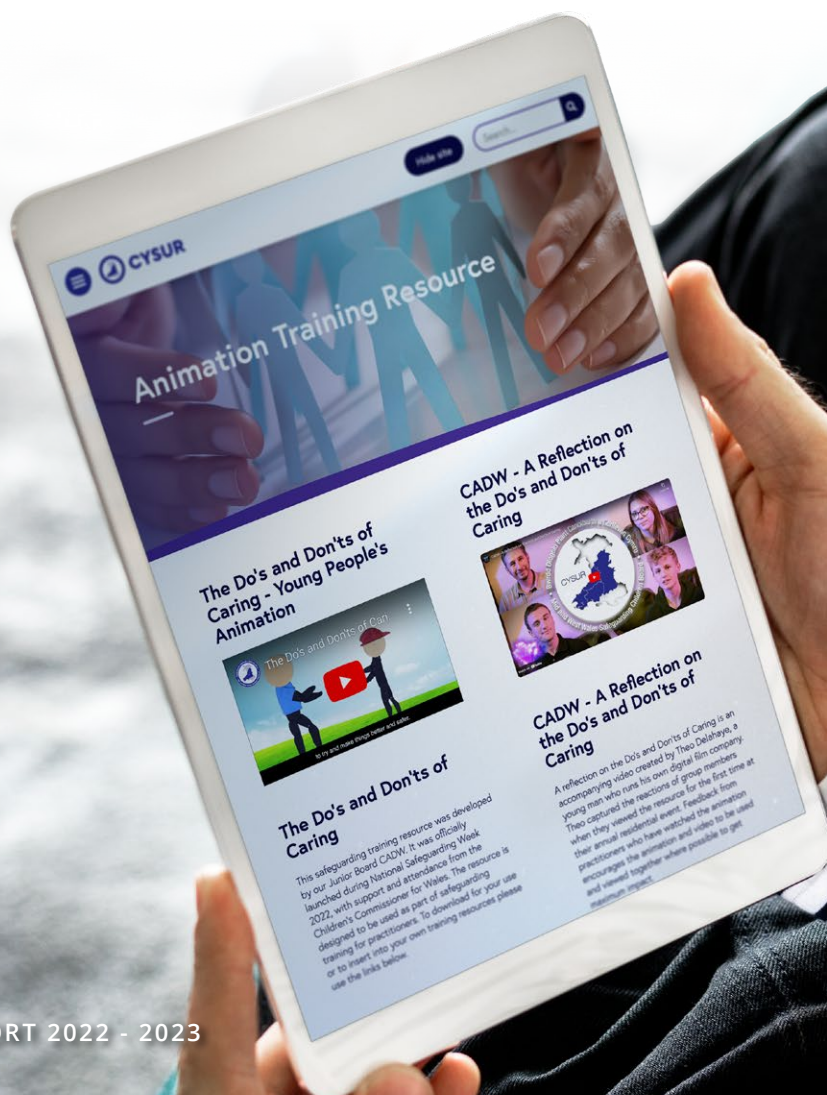
'The Do's and Don'ts of Safeguarding': Training Resource

The flagship event for the week was a launch and celebration of a safeguarding training resource for professionals, which took place at Parc-y-Scarlets Stadium in Llanelli. The video animation was created by children and young people from our Junior Board and is designed to be used as part of safeguarding training for practitioners. In addition, 'A reflection on the Do's and Don'ts of Caring', an accompanying video, was created by a former Junior Board member, who had captured the reactions of group members when they first viewed the resource at their annual residential event.

The keynote address was delivered by the new Children's Commissioner, Ms Rocio Cifuentes, who commended the children and young people on their excellent work, and underscored the importance of sharing this resource more widely in support of disseminating its key messages.

Feedback from practitioners at the animation launch praised both achievements and encouraged the animation and video to be used and viewed together to get maximum impact. It also focused on what practitioners will do differently after watching the video (e.g. avoid note taking, incorporate resource in meetings), how they will make sure young people are heard in meetings (e.g. co-chairing LAC reviews, pupil bodies having a voice) and how they will adapt training to incorporate the contents of the video and its accompanying film (e.g. include in school based training, staff meetings). The group have since worked on a fully bilingual version of the resource to make it even more widely accessible.

All versions of the animation and its accompanying video can be downloaded or accessed from the [animation page of our website](#).





Dyfed Powys Police Domestic Abuse Conference

Dyfed Powys Police hosted a very successful multi-agency Domestic Abuse Conference at Police HQ, where speakers included those with lived experience of domestic abuse. The programme also included a closer look at domestic abuse and dementia, a discussion of older people and domestic abuse and the impact of domestic abuse on children.

The feedback noted how the guest speakers were incredibly impactful, and that it was a very informative conference. People also commented on how it good it was to be back together face to face, and that they will be taking a lot of learning back to their teams.

“ Dyfed Powys Police Domestic Abuse Conference, Attendee feedback:

This was an extremely informative and powerful conference. Great balance between training from specialist services and personal accounts from our extraordinary speakers.

The lived experiences of survivors very much felt at the centre of the event today, and leaves me feeling positive that these experiences will go forward to inform our practice.

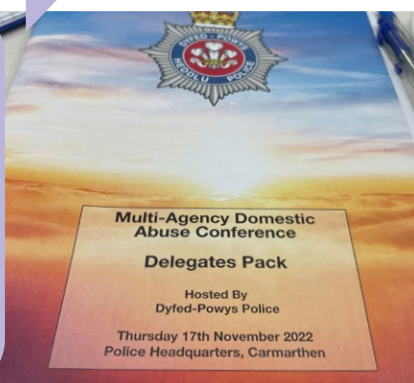
Thank you. ”



“ Dyfed Powys Police Domestic Abuse Conference, Attendee feedback:

Absolutely first class. The venue, speakers – including content and delivery. Very powerful and emotive.

Thank you. ”



Microsoft Teams Live Seminars

A series of successful Microsoft Teams Live Seminars were held throughout safeguarding week, which received excellent feedback and were very well attended. Dedicated webpages were also created to share speakers’ presentations, videos and images from the events, as well as training resources for use during and after the sessions.

Microsoft Teams Live Seminars were as follows:

Safeguarding Children living with Foster Carers, Adopters and Special Guardians: Learning from Case Reviews 2007-2019.

Facilitated by Professor Hedy Cleaver and Wendy Rose OBE, this webinar sought disseminate the key themes and messages from the Corum BAFF publication, based on a UK-wide study of 52 case reviews concerning 98 children who had experienced serious harm while living with foster carers, adopters or special guardians.

Feedback from ‘Learning from Case Reviews 2007-2019’ virtual event led by Professor Hedy Cleaver, and Wendy Rose OBE

“Thank you Wendy and Hedy! Very informative and insightful!”

“Thank you for this morning. It's been very interesting and given me lots to consider!”

“Relevant, excellent and thought provoking, thank you!”



Operation Jasmine. This regional webinar, run in collaboration with the Regional Partnership Board, offered an overview of the key themes and messages that arose from “In Search Of Accountability: a review of the neglect of older people living in care homes” investigated as Operation Jasmine.

Its key facilitators were Margaret Flynn, who was commissioned by the First Minister to review the events associated with Operation Jasmine and Margaret Rooney, Deputy Chief Inspector of Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

“ Operation Jasmine Event Attendee feedback:
It was very enlightening, thought provoking and empowering. It was a brilliant example of what practitioners should be looking out for and to encourage professional curiosity. Well done and thank you. I will be using the results in my future training sessions. ”

A panel offering a local health perspective and input from a family member directly affected by the events associated with Operation Jasmine also supported its delivery. The webinar was attended by 88 participants from across the region. The following are examples of what attendees specified they will now do differently in light of the messages shared:

“ *Review when we discuss overall care home concerns with families. Ensure families are involved in discussions.* **”**

“ *We already have safeguarding as a standing item on the agenda of all meetings but will specifically reference care home practice issues within that now.* **”**

“ *To challenge when safeguarding becomes too process-focused to remind of the individual at the centre.* **”**

Presentations, a recorded interview with a family member and a copy of the full report, were made available to participants on a dedicated webpage after the session.



Think Family — See the Adult, See the Child. This webinar drew on learning from safeguarding adult reviews and serious case reviews (now child safeguarding practice reviews) in England, and Child Practice Reviews in Wales. It sought to identify why practitioners and managers must always “think family” and see both the adult and the child. Highlighting the core components of this approach to practice, it gave participants the opportunity to discuss what enables and what obstructs “thinking family” in their work experience.

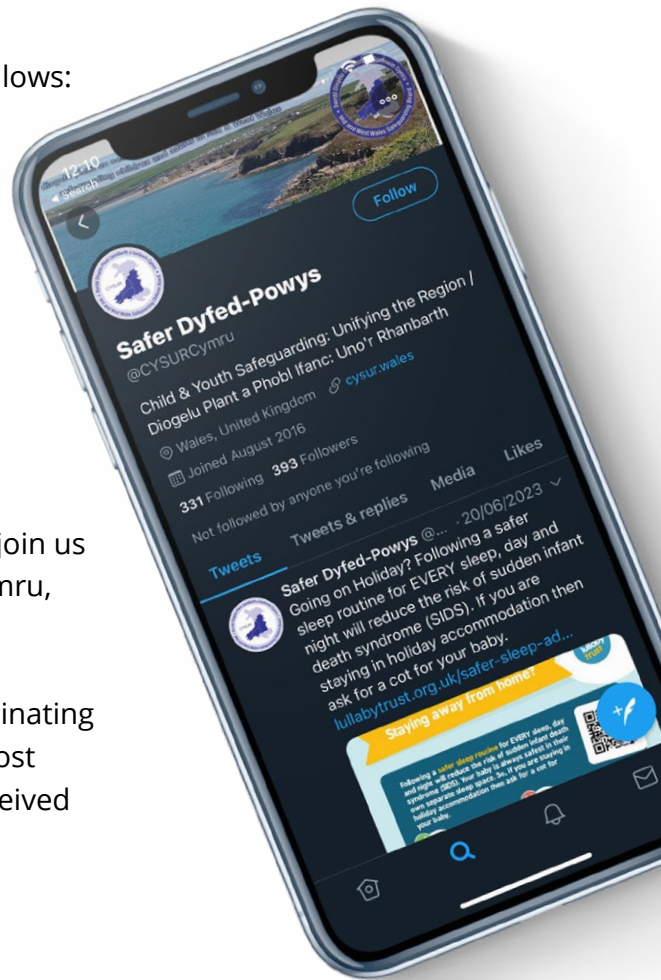
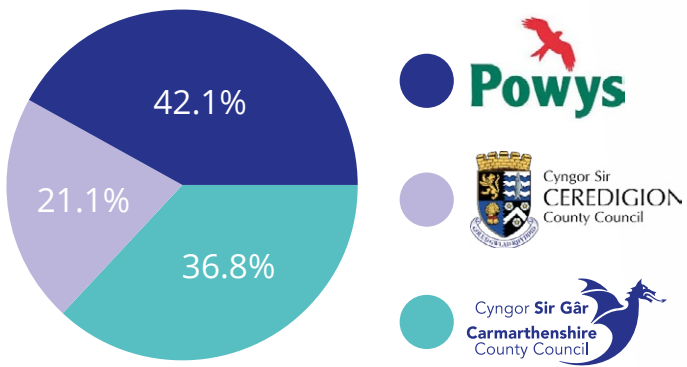
The facilitator, Michael Preston-Shoot, is a Professor (Emeritus) Social Work at the University of Bedfordshire, England. Michael is also Independent Chair of Lewisham and Brent Safeguarding Adults Boards, and has undertaken wider thematic research examining patterns and trends in safeguarding practice. The webinar proved very popular and was attended by 131 participants from across the region. When attendees were asked to rate the extent to which the content of the course would influence their practice going forward, an average score of 85% was given.

Promoting Positive Mental Health and Well-Being of Children and Young People since the COVID-19 Pandemic, in collaboration with CAMHS Schools In-Reach Team.

This webinar aimed to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic precautions and regulations may have affected children and young people, with an emphasis on their emotional growth and development. It was designed to share strategies to promote positive mental health and well-being, and to share details of the national rollout of the School In-Reach Service.

This presentation was delivered by the Powys CAMHS School In-Reach Service, but theoretical content and strategies was applicable to all areas of Wales. The event was facilitated by Gail Morris and Stephen Lloyd from the Powys CAMHS School In-Reach Team.

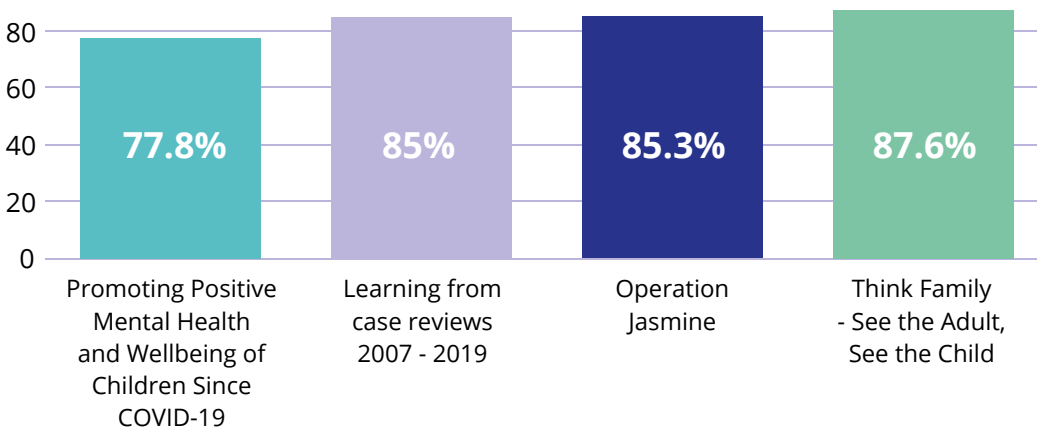
This event was delivered as an after school session. 93 delegates were present from three county councils as follows:



Throughout the week, delegates were invited to follow and join us on social media - Twitter @CYSURCymru and @CWMPASCymru, Facebook @CYSURCymru and Instagram @cysurcymru.

This proved useful for continuing the conversations, disseminating learning, and offering additional links and information. Almost 5.5k Twitter, Facebook and Instagram impressions were received throughout the period.

NSW 2022 Events and their Impact to Practice



Average scores given by event attendees to the question, "to what extent will what you have learnt influence your practice and help keep service users at risk safe?" on a scale of 1 to 10, per event held during National Safeguarding Week.

Fabricated and Induced Illness Training

A Microsoft Teams live webinar was held in September that sought to introduce delegates to the current thoughts about 'Fabricated and Induced Illness' and 'Perplexing Presentations'. This presentation was led by Dr Didi Ratnasinghe, Consultant Paediatrician and Named Doctor for Child Safeguarding at Hywel Dda UHB. Dr Didi has extensive experience of working with Fabricated and Induced Illness and its management.

The session was aimed at multi-agency frontline practitioners and managers, meeting the set learning outcomes for staff group D of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards All-Age Regional Training Strategy.

The presentation was a very useful session which drew attention to the debates about different approaches to FII as emphasised by British Association of Social Workers (BASW). Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss case studies illustrating the wide spectrum of manifestations and were encouraged to interactively participate via Q&A and challenging controversies.



Ongoing Training Projects

VAWDASV

The MWW VAWDASV Regional Training Subgroup, consistent of all four Local Authorities and both Health Boards, continues to meet and oversee the Regional Training Plan to deliver Groups 1-3 and 6 of the [National Training Framework](#). The region has committed to a joint delivery plan and reporting framework directly into Welsh Government for national oversight.

Centralised governance across the delivery ensures consistency and is supported by co-delivery with our commissioned specialist providers. This co-delivery is coordinated and funded centrally via the VAWDASV Subsidy Grant. We also support consistency with shared practice, resources and regional training packages across LAs, Health Boards and the Fire Service.

Developments in delivery have included a focus on innovative delivery models to reach staff within Education. We have also focused on Health colleagues and delivery of sessions with specialist providers on areas of practice to support the outcomes of Ask and Act. This year also saw investment in technology and development of virtual reality training resources which have been piloted across regional partners.

We have made and supported significant investment to meet the requirements of groups 4 and 5 within the specialist service providers and practitioners across the region. This was in conjunction with specialist training commissioned by Welsh Government and included regional delivery of Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA), Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and mediation training. We have also funded regional, multi-agency training on Non-Violent Resistance, Child to Parent Abuse and stalking-specific training from Professor Jane Monckton-Smith. Regional funding applications were also successful in supporting investment in Dyfed Powys Police force-wide training on stalking, risk assessment and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC chairing).

Other Agency Training

Carmarthenshire Local Authority

delivered training on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, VAWDASV Awareness, Channel awareness, High-Risk Behaviours, Liberty Protection Standards and the Mental Capacity Act. They also identified a number of key priorities in terms of future safeguarding training which include Professional Curiosity, Ask and Act and more Prevent/Channel training. They have plans to review the Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group and to consider management training around professional concerns and code of conduct.

Ceredigion Local Authority delivered an extensive programme during the year, including Professional Curiosity Training, which was delivered to all staff across the Through-Age Well-Being Model, and offered to partner agencies. The Statutory Director held workshops on Corporate Parenting and delivered Corporate Safeguarding training to Elected Members. Safeguarding Lead Practitioners (children's and adults') facilitated information training sessions for all newly elected members of the council. Elected Members also received training regarding PREVENT and VAWDASV. A significant amount of training was delivered in relation to ACEs and Trauma Induced Practice, with bespoke sessions being offered to their in-house Foster Carers. Training was also offered in relation to autism, concentrating on the lived experience of people who have autism.

Key safeguarding training delivered to staff within **Pembrokeshire County Council** included Understanding Trauma Informed Practice, Ask & Act, and VAWDASV legislation. Safeguarding & Substance Misuse Joint Working Protocol Workshops were delivered to independently address the needs of

both children and adults. Two versions of Professional Curiosity training were delivered, one all-age and one specific to staff working in Children's Services. Quarterly, courses were held for Safeguarding Children under the themes of Managing Allegations against Adults, Child Protection Processes & Procedures and Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Staff also engaged in a number of e-learning modules that are available to all Pembrokeshire County Council staff.

In **Powys Local Authority** training was delivered in Safeguarding Adults and All Wales Procedures – PAVO, Mental Capacity Act, Hoarding, and Self-Neglect. "What matters" outcome-focused training also continued throughout the period. Within children's safeguarding teams, Section 47 training was delivered virtually to support frontline social care workers to develop their skills in relation to safeguarding in social care to gain an understanding of the impact of changes to legislation. Professional Curiosity training was delivered by the Powys Teaching Health Board on four occasions, each receiving very positive feedback. A further four dates have been arranged for the next financial year. A joint Hydra exercise was also delivered by Dyfed Powys Police and Powys staff.

The **Powys Teaching Health Board** safeguarding team continued to add to their safeguarding training and throughout the year, delivered training in Safeguarding Children Level 3, Safeguarding Adults Level 3, Ask and Act, Mental Capacity Act, DoLS and multiple sessions on domestic abuse. They have plans for the forthcoming year to update the Level 3 training competency framework and to review and update their systems in regards to training.

The **Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST)** delivered a range of bespoke training including sessions on making digital reports for VAWDASV to Live Fear Free, and to the Regional Fire Service for fire safety and hoarding concerns, and making a report via WAST's digital process. They have also offered Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults training and Group 1 and 2 Ask and Act.

During the year, **Youth Justice Services** continued to follow the same training programme as other local authority colleagues working directly with children and young people. Specific additional training included AIM training to address sexually harmful behaviour, sector specific assessment training on use of ASSET Plus, Motivational Interviewing and other behaviour change approaches.

Hywel Dda University Health Board also continued to deliver a broad range of safeguarding training. The Named Doctor delivered Level 3 Clinical Recognition of Abuse and Neglect (Child Safeguarding) training and offered this to staff from Social Services and Police. Lucy Faithfull Training was commissioned during the period and the Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children and Named Doctor continued to deliver PRUDiC training. The adult safeguarding team delivered a number of useful presentations,

the first at the University Health Boards Dementia Awareness Day on Safeguarding and Dementia, and the second at a lunch and learn session during National Safeguarding Week on Safeguarding and the older person.

Training was rolled out to Adult Heads of Service and service leads on the use of the Safeguarding Management Function with the Once for Wales management system, including the development of electronic support documents/videos.

In **Further Education**, safeguarding induction and refresher training continued to be delivered to staff. The Colleges in the Safeguarding Board region continued to commission Dai Durbridge, a leading safeguarding lawyer, to deliver training to college staff covering the learning from CYSUR 7 2018 relating to peer on peer abuse.

During the period, **Dyfed Powys Police** implemented joint safeguarding training with the Local Authority to improve working together in response to children and vulnerable adults. Lunch and learn sessions were introduced to improve multi-agency understanding of domestic abuse. The force also established an immersive training programme for SIOs dealing with Organised Immigration Crime, and provided frontline staff with information and scripts to ensure an effective response to human trafficking.



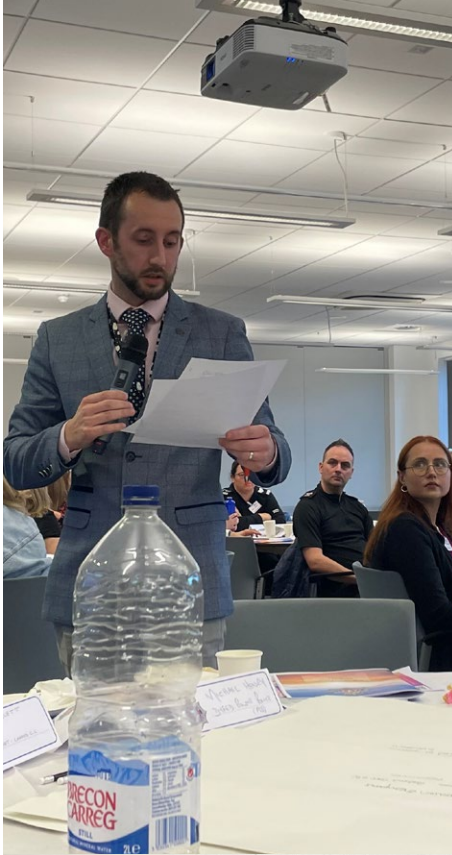


Some collective photos from National Safeguarding Week 2022



A Human Story – Honor (Swindon SAB)

- ▶ Repeated concerns about physical and financial abuse by Honor’s son
- ▶ When Honor was interviewed at home, this was always in the presence of her son and she denied abuse
- ▶ When interviewed away from home, on her own, she began to disclose
- ▶ SAR found that coercive and controlling behaviour was not well understood
- ▶ Intervention was framed through a lens of a stressed carer rather than through a lens of domestic abuse



| | |
|--|---|
| Physical abuse Visible physical injuries: bruising, broken bones, unexplained falls, pain, physical health conditions: - contusions/bruises - repeated urticarial rashes - scalding - hearing difficulties - limited mobility - chronic illness - poor overall health - poorly managed health conditions - self-harm | Financial abuse - Controlling the individual's finances and denying them access to their own financial information - Borrowing money and not paying it back - Exploiting an individual's care needs to access benefits or selling assets to benefit - Going shopping for an individual and buying shopping for themselves with the individual's money without their permission - Giving the individual an allowance or 'pocket money' - Placing someone in financial hardship or debt - Misuse of financial power of attorney |
| Psychological and emotional abuse - Verbal abuse: threats, criticism and put-downs - Suggestion of impending lack of capacity to make decisions and to witness - Making the older person feel like a burden - Propagating something 'embarrassing or shameful' because of the impact on themselves, placing guilt on the older person to meet their needs | Sexual abuse Any form of forced or unwanted sexual activity including: - rape, sexual assault, unwanted or inappropriate touch - exposure to sexual language or pornography - gynaecological problems - incontinence - anxiety - STIs |

Children's Commissioner for Wales
Ms Rocio Cifuentes

Aneurid gan Gwmilydd Plant Cymru
Ms Rocio Cifuentes

The Five Ways to Wellbeing

Five Ways to Wellbeing

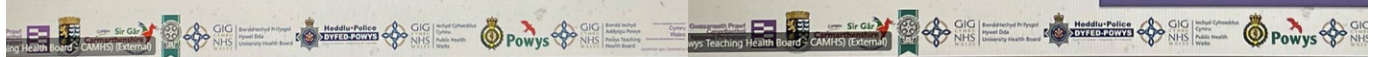


All Wales School In-Reach Services

- The programme aims to build the capacity (including skills, knowledge and confidence) in primary and secondary schools to support mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff. The project was aimed at achieving a service for support and supervision to children and young people who may have emotional health needs but do not meet criteria for CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), in order to enable schools to effectively respond to those needs.
- Delivery of this is through the principles of the three pillars:

All Wales School In-Reach Services

| | |
|--|--|
| Training for staff – A number of resources were utilised throughout the pilots in Wales including Youth Mental Health First Aid. | Rapid access to consultation – access to advice, signposting and strategies via email and ad hoc telephone or face to face consultation as required. |
|--|--|



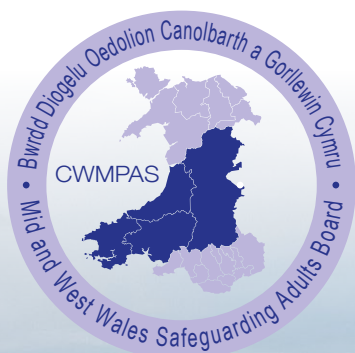
(m) How the Safeguarding Boards have implemented advice from Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Chairs of CYSUR and CWMPAS and the Regional Safeguarding Board Manager and team continue to work closely with senior WG officials and the National Independent Safeguarding Board on areas of mutual interest, and where it is identified improvements can be made to professional safeguarding practice. This year has focused upon implementing advice linked to the Ukraine Crisis and ongoing post-pandemic work.

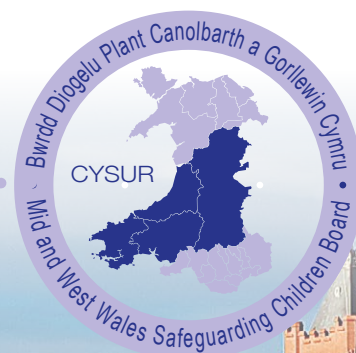
The Boards have supported requests from the NISB to provide information in relation to a second thematic review undertaken in relation to Child Practice Reviews. The Boards have continued to implement the National Action Plan for Child Sexual Abuse, although this is now formally closed. Significant support has been provided to the ongoing national work led by the NISB to develop a performance framework for safeguarding practice in Wales.

This year, the Boards have worked closely with Welsh Government on the ongoing development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review framework. Our Boards are represented on multiple sub-groups tasked with developing numerous aspects of the project, and are leading on the national training and development framework which will support the rollout of SUSR upon publication of the final statutory guidance. At the time of writing, the Boards await this publication, having contributed to the national consultation in respect of the draft statutory guidance which closed in June 2023.

The Boards remain actively engaged in all aspects of this project, with the view to ensuring the good practice established in respect of Child and Adult Practice Reviews will continue into the new framework once implemented.

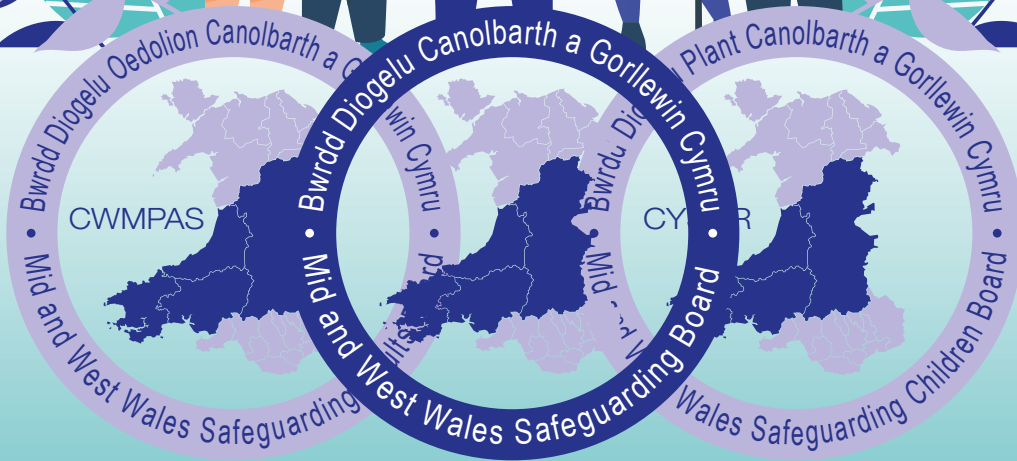


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Glossary

- **APR/CPR** – Adult Practice Review/Child Practice Review
- **MAPF** – 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
- **MARF** – Multi-Agency Referral Form
- **DHR** – Domestic Homicide Review
- **DA** – Domestic Abuse
- **SARC** – Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- **BAME** – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- **CSPPI** – Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents
- **YJB** – Youth Justice Board
- **UNCRC** – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **CSA/CSE** – Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation
- **CCE** – Child Criminal Exploitation
- **IRISi** – Social enterprise established to promote and improve the healthcare response to gender-based violence.
- **DSP** – Designated Safeguarding Person
- **SUSR** – Single Unified Safeguarding Review
- **IDVA** – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
- **ISVA** – Independent Sexual Violence Advisor



THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT

Produced by the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board

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