

THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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



Contents

Introduction	1
Objectives of a Regional Safeguarding Board	2
Board Structure	3
(a) Membership	6
(b) Action taken to achieve our outcomes	8
(c) Extent to which we have implemented our strategic annual plans	10 21
(d) How we have collaborated with other bodies engaged in activities relating to the Boards' objectives	
(e) Requests made to qualifying persons under S.137(1) and whether they were complied with	24
(f) Achievements we have made during the year	25
(g) To what extent have agencies contributed to the Boards' effectiveness	31
(h) An assessment of how the Board uses its resources	41
(i) Underlying themes in the way the Safeguarding Boards have exercised their functions	43
(j) When and How children and adults have had an opportunity to participate in the Boards' work	49
(k) Applications for Adult Protection & Support Orders	53

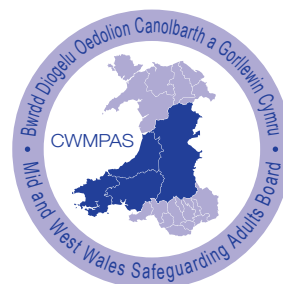
(l) Information or learning the Boards have disseminated and training recommended or provided	54
(m) How the Safeguarding Boards have implemented advice from Welsh Government and National Independent Safeguarding Board	57
Collectively what difference are we making	58
Glossary of Terms	59

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 in March 2019 as part of our joint Annual Strategic Plan. As we proceed to publication, we remain in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which has significantly impacted upon all public services in the latter part of this reporting period in March 2020. We are pleased to report the challenges faced by all statutory partners of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board, as a result of this, have not adversely affected the delivery of our primary objectives and strategic priorities this year. A full report on the impact of the pandemic, and how we, as multi-agency partners, have overcome some of the challenges in the delivery of safeguarding services across Mid and West Wales, will be provided in next year's annual report.

2019-20 has been a successful year for the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards. The work undertaken in recent years to strategically combine the business and workstreams of the two Boards is now fully consolidated into one overarching strategic

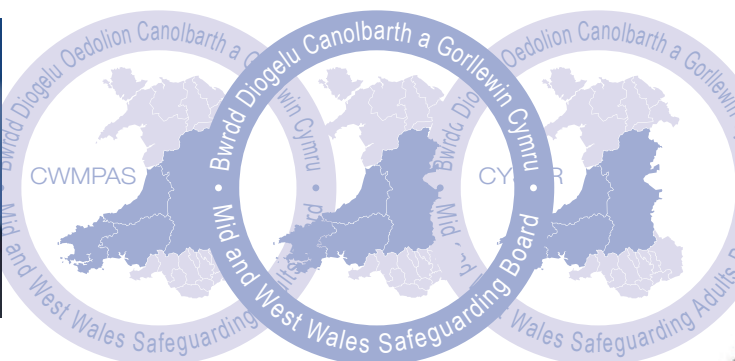


partnership, with fully combined priorities and a clear focus on safeguarding people. Clear and measurable all-age achievements and outcomes have been achieved as a result of this, with notable successes evident in regional work to support victims of Domestic Abuse, better information sharing across agencies and frameworks to support practitioners and managers to learn lessons from practice. The regional Training and Policies and Procedures Sub-Groups have delivered on their work plans, and the Local Operation Groups across the region continue to evolve and develop to support the Regional Executive Board and sub-groups to deliver against their priorities.

We would like to thank the members of the Mid and West Wales Boards and sub-groups for their engagement, commitment and progress made in the last year. CYSUR and CWMPAS are progressing well and we look forward to working with the Boards next year to continue to improve and enhance practice across the region to protect children and adults at risk from abuse.



Jonathan Griffiths (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 –
 - have needs for care and support (whether or not a Local Authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 - are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
 - to **prevent** those adults within its area from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

Guidance on the functions of Safeguarding Boards

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

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

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



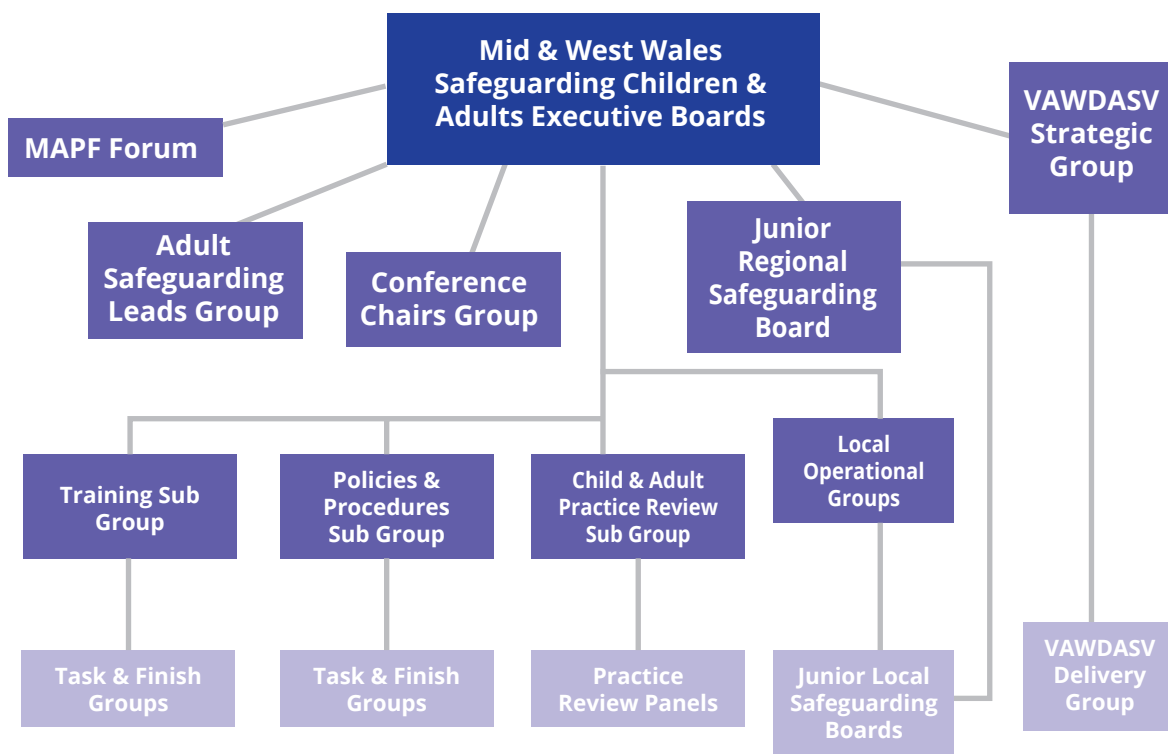
Board Structure

The Mid 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.

Mid & West Wales Board Structure



Executive Boards:

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



Executive Board meeting in Powys (October 2019)

Local Operational Groups:

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

acknowledge examples of good safeguarding practice; in addition, they will professionally challenge and hold agencies to account when safeguarding practice falls below expected standards.



A Ceredigion LOG meeting attended by the local Junior Board, Ser Saff

Regional Practice Review Sub-Groups:

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

analyse information and identify any practice themes and lessons to learn. The report is then published as a Child/Adult Practice Review on the Boards’ [website](#).



Multi-agency Child Practice Review Learning Event

Regional Policies & Procedures Sub-Group:

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

continue to work towards the development of existing local protocols into regional policies and procedures to help promote a more consistent response to safeguarding practice across the region.

Regional Training Sub-Group:

The Training Sub-Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. It seeks to support and guide the delivery of safeguarding training and learning across the four Local Authority areas and partner agency organisations. The Training Sub-Group works closely with partners' training departments to ensure and promote the quality and consistency of safeguarding training and delivery. The group can commission specialist, bespoke safeguarding training across the region and works closely

with other sub-groups such as the APR/CPR Sub-Groups to ensure any learning outcomes that have been identified as result of Child/Adult Practice Reviews are disseminated to staff.

Other bespoke regional forums and groups support and are closely aligned to the Boards' annual strategic plan and priorities, and include the regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF), a regional multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Leads Group and 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 Regional Strategy and Plan, Safer Lives, Healthier Families. The development of a new VAWDASV Delivery Group this year supports the Strategic Group on the progression and implementation of regional priorities, as well as maintaining key links with specialist providers. Safeguarding Leads Group and regional group for Child Protection Conference Chairs.

CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

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

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



(a) membership

CWMPAS (Safeguarding Adults Executive Board)

Jonathan Griffiths (Chair)

Director of Social Care & Housing, Pembrokeshire County Council

Anthony Griffiths

(Vice-Chair)
Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Jake Morgan

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Sian Howys

Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Alison Bulman

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Sian Passey

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

Avril Bracey

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

Donna Pritchard

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

Jason Bennett

Head of Adult Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Michael Gray

Head of Adult 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

Alison Davies

Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Powys Teaching 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

Virginia Hewitt

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

Nikki Harvey

Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran

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

Chris Harrison

Regional representative for
Heads of Commissioning

CYSUR (Safeguarding Children Executive Board)

Jake Morgan (Chair)

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Sian Passey (Vice-Chair)

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

Jonathan Griffiths

Director of Social Care & Housing,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Sian Howys

Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Alison Bulman

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Anthony Griffiths

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed-Powys Police

Stefan Smith

Head of Children's Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Darren Mutter

Head of Children's Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Jan Coles

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

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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, PTHB

Dr Damitha Ratnasinghe

Named Doctor, Child Protection, HDUHB

Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

Julie Breckon

Regional Safeguarding Board Manager

Rebecca Reynolds

Business Development Officer

Stuart Hicks

Business Co-ordinator

(b) Action taken to achieve our outcomes

Review and Updated Structure of Regional VAWDASV Arrangements

Since January 2017, arrangements for the delivery of the requirements of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Act (Wales) 2015 have been incorporated into the governance and structure of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards. A regional Strategic Group has since been responsible and accountable for the development and subsequent publication of the Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Safer Lives, Healthier Families Regional Strategy and 5-year delivery plan. In October 2019, following a comprehensive review of arrangements, a new Mid and West Wales VAWDASV structure has been implemented across the region. A new Delivery Group has been formed to implement the practical aspects of the regional

plan, enabling a greater clarity of focus and allowing the regional Strategic Group to focus on the overarching strategic aspects of the plan. The regional governance review has strengthened the membership and collaboration with key stakeholders, and the new structure is supported by a number of supplementary key regional sub-groups, including a Survivor Engagement and Communication Group, an Early Intervention and Prevention Group and a VAWDASV Commissioning Group. Current arrangements further support opportunities to identify potential joint work streams and enable a better use of resources. Partnership working has improved and the Regional Advisor's relationship with the Regional Partnership Board and Local Criminal Justice Board has been strengthened.

Revised Regional Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Process

Following a comprehensive review of regional MARAC arrangements, it was identified that a high number of inappropriate referrals were being received with considerable time and resource implications. In response, a new regional pilot model for assessing risk in relation to Domestic Abuse Incidents was introduced in November 2019. The new streamlined process has continued to ensure the robust screening and scrutiny of all cases of concern, supported by a new daily discussion process. This has helped to ensure all victims of domestic abuse

receive a timely, measured and proportionate response, and only those most in need and identified as high risk proceed to a full MARAC discussion. The process is managed and overseen by Dyfed-Powys Police Secondary Risk Assessment Unit (SRAU). An interim evaluation undertaken on 31st March this year identified a 73% decrease in the need for full MARAC case discussions. Further investment in IT equipment (from a capital grant obtained as part of the regional VAWDASV work) has enabled meetings and discussions to take place virtually, which has further improved efficiency and the management of resources.

Full Implementation of Operation Encompass

Following an early successful pilot in Pembrokeshire in 2018 and subsequent trials in various parts of the region, Operation Encompass has been fully implemented across the entire Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board footprint. This decision was endorsed by the Regional Executive Board in January 2020, following substantial regional work undertaken by Dyfed-Powys Police. This model is now supported by all schools in the region and the four Local Authority area Statutory Directors of Education. Operation Encompass was initially launched to address a shortcoming in the early sharing of information with schools following an incident of domestic abuse occurring within the home. Its purpose is to safeguard and support

those children and young people who have witnessed and/or been present at the time of a domestic abuse incident by ensuring schools are informed the following morning. A previous evaluation of its impact has demonstrated this approach to be highly valued by teachers and head teachers, who acknowledged it has helped support a better understanding of children's emotional needs and wellbeing. All of the four Local Authorities across Mid and West Wales, in partnership with Dyfed-Powys Police, have adapted their respective structures and processes to enable schools to be informed by telephone about any domestic incidents occurring in the home the previous night promptly, before the start of the school day.



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

1 Better Engagement

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

What we said we would do:

- Strengthen our engagement with children and adults at risk and our regional groups and forums
- Strengthen our relationship with other existing regional forums and community groups
- Develop a safeguarding toolkit for affiliated and non-affiliated community groups and sports and leisure clubs
- Further develop and improve the Board website and public-facing and professional information

What improvements we have made:

Direct engagement with adults at risk in relation to its work remains a key priority for the Regional Safeguarding Board. An established strategy and overarching model to support this is yet to be developed, however, this has remained a key action for all Local Operational Groups as part of their targeted work plan during the year. A number of bespoke pieces of work have taken place at a local and agency-specific level to support the Board's vision and aspirations in this area. An example of

Vulnerable groups

Dyfed-Powys Police are also seeking to improve their responses to identified vulnerable groups. They have begun to use surveys for victims of sexual assaults, and to seek and incorporate the "Lived Experiences" of victims of Domestic Abuse

this includes a Safeguarding Framework that seeks to obtain qualitative feedback from adults who have been subject to the safeguarding process or an enquiry, which is under development in Ceredigion and overseen by their Local Operational Group. The model will seek to receive feedback from service users' experiences, utilising the Signs of Safety model of engagement. The information will be evaluated and used to consider how practice can be improved and further developed.

into officer training programmes. Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) Community Involvement team have developed a staff charter to improve responses to specific groups of vulnerable service users, with a focus on the learning disabled and those who are hearing impaired.

Engagement with adults

There is a need to make better use of existing adult forums across the region as a pathway to directly access the voice of adults at risk, in order to support and develop this work into a broader strategic regional approach.

Collaboration with regional partnerships

Strong links have been maintained with the West Wales Regional Partnership Board. Plans to undertake some collaborative work with adults at risk as part of its wider citizen engagement work in 2019-20 have not progressed due to some challenges within the partnership. This will be revisited and reviewed in the coming year.

Junior Safeguarding Board

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children Board continues to support a Regional Junior Safeguarding Board (CADW), facilitated by Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru. This Group has been in place for several years and is well established within the region. The appointment of a new Business Development Officer within the Regional Safeguarding Board in the last year and a new participation worker at TGP have helped to strengthen the Board's relationship with the Junior Board. Consolidating and developing this work will continue to be a priority in 2020-21.

regularly input and attend Local Operational Groups to share their concerns and experiences of safeguarding practice.



CADW members at the Executive Board, January 2020

CADW representatives have continued to attend and participate in Executive Board meetings frequently, and local Junior Boards

The voluntary sector

A draft toolkit to support community groups, the voluntary sector and non-affiliated sports and leisure clubs with safeguarding practice has been developed. This key piece of work will be completed and launched in the coming year. This will provide a suite of resources and advice to support safe practice for community groups, as well as parents and carers of children who attend such groups and activities.

Promotion of Board work

The Boards have sought to raise awareness of their work via a variety of channels. Further resources have been invested in improving the content of the Boards' website, via the commissioning of a local web-design company to upgrade and re-design the existing website. This has resulted in a much improved layout and presentation. Considerable work has been undertaken in the last year to update and develop its content, which includes a new resource hub with information for the public

and professionals, and the creation of new VAWDASV and Exploitation pages. The Boards' website also contains links to other relevant sites and useful forums, including the [National Independent Safeguarding Board](#). Widespread promotional activity took place across the region as part of National Safeguarding Week 2019. This year, the Boards made better and improved use of their social media platforms to disseminate key messages to the public and professionals.

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

- Agencies and Board Partners have implemented processes at a local level to capture the voice of service users and vulnerable groups
- The voice of children and young people directly influences the Board and its work
- An improved website design and content supports practitioners in safeguarding work, and continues to help raise awareness of citizens' responsibilities within communities and encourage them to report concerns in respect of people who may be at risk.

What we still need to do:

- Further develop local work undertaken in respect of engagement, particularly with adults at risk, into a broader strategic regional framework and approach
- Further consolidate existing links with other regional partnerships and extend this to include Public Service Boards
- Complete and launch the toolkit for non-affiliated sports and leisure clubs

2 Increased Knowledge

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

What we said we would do:

- Further develop our regional MAPF work
- Strengthen our Child and Adult Practice Review process, to include sharing thematic lessons and the development of tools to support the process
- Deliver against our regional training strategy action plan
- Support the application of more consistent thresholds across the region for those at risk, including domestic abuse referrals
- Continue to promote suicide prevention work and awareness

What improvements we have made:

Learning Lessons From Practice

Robust processes are in place to support learning lessons from practice within the Boards' structures, and this is now part of our core business in Mid and West Wales.

The commissioning of an independent trainer previously to support the facilitation of learning events has resulted in the successful commencement and completion of several MAPFs (Multi Agency Professional Forums) across the region this year. Identified local learning continues to be monitored and captured via Local Operational Groups. The multi-agency regional MAPF forum provides support to multi-agency managers undertaking reviews, and captures and shares any regional themes and messages. An updated practice guidance document and toolkit has been completed and disseminated this year to support this work, which provides a clear framework and model for consistent delivery across the region.

Practice Review Sub-Groups

The Regional Child and Adult Practice Sub-Groups continue to function to a high standard. The numbers of referrals into both groups have continued to increase, and several Practice Reviews have been commenced and completed in the last year. A comprehensive practice toolkit has been developed by a task and finish group to consolidate this process and support this work across the region.

7 Minute Briefings

The development of a template for 7-minute briefings supports the sharing of key messages and learning to a wider audience, including frontline practitioners. This template has been formally accepted by the Boards and is now used to share key messages on a variety of themes, as well as being adopted as a tool to summarise and share learning from completed Practice Reviews.



Progress against Training Strategy Action Plan

The [Mid and West Wales All Age Regional Training strategy](#), completed last year, provides a framework to support partner agencies to discharge their collective responsibilities as Safeguarding Board members, as outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. This has laid the foundations for continuing aspirational and collaborative multi-agency

work. The accompanying 3-year action plan continues to be progressed via the regional Training Sub-Group. A number of key actions from this plan have been completed this year, including the development of an electronic regional application form and booking process for bespoke regional training events, and the development of an evaluation tool to help assess the impact and outcomes of training..

Implementation of Regional Threshold Document for Safeguarding Adults

The Regional [Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance](#) is now a widely used document across all agencies and is fully embedded into practice. A number of awareness raising sessions have been delivered to care management teams and commissioned providers including care and nursing homes

across the region. The principal outcome of this work is the identified improvement in the quality of referrals received, with the number of inappropriate referrals received having decreased. An improved and streamlined process for the management of domestic abuse referrals for adults at risk has added further value to this work.

Suicide and Self-Harm

Understanding risk factors associated with suicide in respect of children and young adults has continued to be a key priority for the Board in the last year. The Mid and South West Wales Regional Suicide and Self-Harm Forum has continued to implement its regional prevention strategy, which mirrors the objectives of the national 'Talk to me 2' strategy. Examples of work undertaken in the last year include installing signage for Samaritans helplines in suicide hotspot areas. A successful event was held in November 2019 in Carmarthenshire to raise the profile of young people's mental health. The event was well attended by all partners, and priorities for the mental health and wellbeing of children and young

people were identified. Work has also been undertaken with schoolteachers and education staff. This includes the delivery of accredited suicide prevention training in some secondary schools and pupil referral units. Ceredigion is a pilot project area for the Welsh Government's CAMHS In-Reach to Schools Project, in which a team of mental health consultants has been established to work alongside teachers to better support children and young people with mental health difficulties. Additional money obtained through the project has allowed staff from Year 6 to Year 13 to be trained in issues of mental health. Training has also been delivered by a team of outside providers on anxiety, eating disorders, low mood, self-harm and suicide.

Safeguarding Training Module for Young People

In Pembrokeshire, a Young Persons Safeguarding Training Module has been developed in partnership with the Junior Safeguardians to be delivered to young people of secondary school age. This module mirrors the Tier One module 'Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults' but has

been adapted to be appropriate for the target audience of young people aged 11 to 16 yrs. The module comes with a script, films and participation activities so that it can be delivered by any teacher or youth worker working with young people. The training helps young people identify safeguarding concerns in others, and equips them with skills to support and seek help appropriately.

Understanding Trauma

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) has produced a refreshed and updated Traumatic Events Protocol for Schools. This protocol is designed to effect proportionate early action following a crisis or emergency, in order to significantly reduce the severity of traumatic stress and the risk of long-

term health and emotional consequences for pupils and staff alike. The protocol is accompanied by specific training delivered by Educational Psychologists for identified senior managers in all schools in Pembrokeshire who are allocated the role of Traumatic Events Coordinator (TEC).

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

- The numbers of Practice Reviews and MAPFs taking place across the region has increased significantly, and methods for sharing lessons with practitioners has been strengthened
- The publication of improved regional guidance for adults at risk, supports a more consistent application of thresholds, and has improved the quality of referrals and reports received
- Work streams to raise awareness of risk factors associated with suicide have been strengthened across agencies

What we still need to do:

- Develop a consistent model and method to regularly and routinely share lessons from practice with managers and practitioners
- Complete and implement the outstanding actions from our [Mid and West Wales All Age Regional Training strategy](#) and 3 year action plan in the coming year
- Review and improve the format of regional action-plans for Child and Adult Practice Reviews
- Improve the timeliness for the completion and closure for regional action plans for Child and Adult Practice Reviews

3 Systematic Learning

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

What we said we would do:

Improve our response to and understanding of those most at risk in our area with a particular focus upon

- An improved and strengthened workforce
- Domestic Abuse and implementation of key actions from the regional VAWDASV Strategy and Delivery Plan
- Improved information sharing
- Strengthened commissioning processes and contracts with providers
- Undertake regional audits in respect of advocacy and preventable pressure sores

What improvements we have made:

Strengthening the Workforce

Action has been taken to strengthen the workforce in potential vulnerable areas across the region. Strategies to support improved recruitment and retention have been progressed via the West Wales Regional Partnership Board, who are leading on this work stream following the recommendations of a Workforce Development Deep Dive Audit, undertaken across Local Authority Children's Services teams on behalf of the Regional Safeguarding Board. Although the audit identified a generally reassuring picture in relation to recruitment patterns in

Children's Services, a proactive approach is in place and the four Local Authorities have internal recruitment strategies in place to monitor patterns and trends. In the last year, attention has been refocused on risk and vulnerabilities identified within the care and nursing home sector and domiciliary care. These are areas identified to have specific challenges in relation to staff recruitment and retention. Reviews and audits have been undertaken in these areas to better understand trends and future risk, and this will be subject to further work in the coming year.

VAWDASV

Overall, good progress with the VAWDASV regional action plan has been made. The broad focus of the strategy throughout the year has been on

- Reflect upon and review the strategy
- Data and evidence collection to support the regional strategy
- Continuing consultation with survivors

Some workstreams have not progressed as quickly as anticipated and this has been primarily because of staff vacancies in key posts and poor engagement in some areas from key stakeholders.

The full review of governance and reporting lines has supported the development of an improved structure that has helped to ensure survivors have their voices heard and inform policy and practice improvements. An Engagement and Communications Task and Finish Group has been developed, the outcome of which will be a regional survivor engagement framework. Work to develop a regional set of outcome indicators aligned to national performance measures has not been completed due to a delay nationally; a regional framework developed will therefore remain draft until national work has been completed and approved by the National Advisor.

Information Sharing

A regional [Information Sharing Protocol](#) to support more robust and prompt information sharing across agencies when there are identified safeguarding concerns was launched as part of National Safeguarding Week. This critical piece of work is considered one of the Board's key achievements this year and will be commented upon further under section (f).

Developments within Regional Commissioning

Regional Commissioning Services have undertaken further work to strengthen safeguarding contracts with providers, and a regional Pre Placement Agreement (PPA) for Care Homes for Older People is at an advanced stage in its development. The draft has been agreed by commissioners, and once the accompanying schedules have been drafted, it will be shared more widely with partners for views and input before a final version of the agreement is produced. The consultation draft is expected to be ready for circulation in the coming year. The new PPA will result in more robust safeguarding provisions for providers.

Audits

A regional audit led by Hywel Dda University Health Board has been undertaken in respect of pressure sores monitoring. This has provided assurance that robust mechanisms are in place to identify and act upon any concerning trends or poor practice. A planned regional audit on the use of advocacy as part of the adult safeguarding enquiry process did not progress as planned in the latter part of the year due to challenges associated with COVID-19. The need for this will be reconsidered as part of next year's work plan and audit schedules.

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

- We have clear plans in place to support robust staff recruitment and retention practice and we understand our areas of weakness and vulnerabilities
- We have advanced and clear plans in place to support the VAWDASV 2015 (Wales) legislation and this work is now firmly embedded into the Regional Safeguarding Boards' structures
- Strong and effective safeguarding practice in regional commissioning work is evolving and has been strengthened

What we still need to do:

- Redeliver training in relation to information sharing to a wider audience, targeting front door and duty services across the region

4 Strong Leadership

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

What we said we would do:

- Continue to drive the regional and national strategic agenda in respect of:
 - Improved regional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) Services
 - Stronger legislation and statutory guidance for children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE)
 - More robust requirements and guidance for undertaking DBS Checks
- Launch and implement the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures

What improvements we have made:

The Boards have continued to influence the national strategic agenda for children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE) in Wales, and for the provision of medical forensic services for children who have been sexually assaulted via the Sexual Assault and Referral Centres (SARC).

Electively Home Educated (EHE) Children

The publication in 2019 of draft statutory guidance for EHE children is considered one of the Boards' key long-term achievements, after several years of work in this region to highlight the need for stronger legislation in Wales for this group of children. At the time of publication, we are aware the Welsh Government have pended the formal publication of this guidance within the term of this government, citing challenges

in respect of COVID-19 as the reason for this. Work will continue in the coming year to support the need to publish this critical, much needed national guidance. The publication of further Child Practice Reviews within the Mid and West Wales region in the coming year with a strong elective home education theme, will add further weight to support the need to strengthen safeguarding arrangements for children who are educated at home in Wales.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)

A lack of appropriate provision in Mid and West Wales of forensic services for children who have been sexually assaulted was a key driver for the regional Executive Boards throughout 2018-19. Specific concerns and shortfalls were identified within the context of the availability of sufficiently trained clinical medical doctors to undertake forensic examinations, and the distance children are required to travel for these examinations. Regional Health and Police representatives put forward the Boards' views to the South, Mid and West Wales SARC collaborative,

and the Chair of the CYSUR Board held discussions with senior Welsh Government officials, the Chief Executive of NHS Wales and the Chief Executive of the local Health Board, to highlight this significant shortfall in provision. Work to develop a more appropriate model that is proportionate to the citizens and communities of Mid and West Wales has continued throughout 2019/20. As a result, an improved paediatric model, which provides clearer pathways for children who are victims of rape or sexual assault, has been agreed and is under development.

DBS Checks

Discussion and formal communication between the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and Welsh Government on the need to strengthen guidance and requirements for employers undertaking DBS checks for staff who may come into contact with children and adults who may be at risk, has continued. A previous internal audit undertaken by the regional

Health Boards identified shortfalls and deficits in requirements, particularly when existing employees transfer internally or move roles within organisations. Welsh Government have advised this is a complex area to address. A working group has been established and an update on the progress on this work is expected in the autumn of 2020.

Wales Safeguarding Procedures

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures were launched in accordance with national requirements as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2019. The Mid and West Wales Boards were very well represented at the official launch event at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff on the 11th November. Since then, regional promotional materials including 7 minute briefings have been shared with practitioners and managers. This has been supported by the

development of a dedicated page on the Boards' website and a social media campaign to raise awareness. The regional Training Sub-Group has overseen the development and planning of multi-agency training events for staff in the interim period. Several multi-agency events are planned to take place in the coming year. The new Wales Safeguarding Procedures are now embedded into everyday safeguarding practice and widely used by multi-agency staff across the region.

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

- Referral pathways and forensic services for children who have been sexually assaulted in Mid and West Wales have improved
- The Wales Safeguarding Procedures have been successfully launched and are now being used by multi-agency practitioners across the region, supporting personal outcome focussed practice

What we still need to do:

- Continue to engage with Welsh Government and advocate for the need to strengthen key national safeguarding legislation, policy and guidance when shortfalls and gaps are identified
- Develop and deliver multi-agency training sessions to support the publication and launch of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures

THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



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

Welsh Government

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board Manager has continued to work closely with Welsh Government (WG) in the last year, via attendance at regular briefing meetings with Government officials to discuss the Boards' work. The Boards have supported the development and subsequent launch of the National Safeguarding Procedures, with the Regional Board Manager and a senior Adult Safeguarding Service Manager both represented on the National Project Board. Further support is provided to the development of new legislation via regional representation on the National Strategic Board for the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sport Wales

Collaborative work is underway on a project to complete a toolkit for non-affiliated sports and leisure groups and clubs. This is an area that has been highlighted with potential increased safeguarding risks to children, particularly due to clubs not being required to comply with any national requirements and guidelines, as is the case for regulated sport in Wales. A draft toolkit has been developed and is under review, which will be completed and consulted upon in the coming year. As well as being used to support safeguarding practice for unregulated groups in the Mid and West Wales region. It is hoped this work will lay the foundations for national work and guidance supported and promoted by Sports Wales.



Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFR)

Although the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service are not statutory partners or formal members of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board, positive links have been formed between the two regional partnerships in areas of mutual interest. The MAWWF Safeguarding Manager has collaborated and supported work underway to develop a regional policy and framework to manage self-neglect, and periodically attends Local Operational Groups to provide updates and for relevant specific agenda items.



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 Board has 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.

Regional West Wales Partnership Board

Strong links and communication established with the West Wales Partnership Board have been consolidated this year. They continue to lead on plans for maintaining a strong and healthy workforce, following a previous deep dive and review undertaken by the Regional Safeguarding Boards in potential vulnerable areas across the workforce.



Social Care Wales

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board has engaged and worked with Social Care Wales, who have undertaken a review of multi-agency arrangements for the delivery of safeguarding training across Wales. Previous work undertaken in Mid and West Wales and the development of a regional multi-agency training strategy has contributed significantly to the development of a national multi-agency training framework. The Boards have also supported the development of national training materials to support the rollout of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and a number of multi-agency consultation events and subsequent train the trainer events were attended by a number of professionals from across the region.



Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

We have worked with the CIW providing information for the various inspections that have been undertaken across the region in the last year. The Regional Board Chairs, Senior Managers and Regional Board Manager have been interviewed and provided feedback on safeguarding practice, successes and continuing challenges across the region.



Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

The CYSUR Board has continued to support the work of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse via promotion of relevant information and events on the Boards' website and the dissemination of bulletins to regional partners.



Community Safety Partnerships

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have worked with Community Safety Partnerships in the region, and a protocol to support the interface between the Practice Review process and the Domestic Homicide Review process is fully embedded into the Boards' structures. As such, any lessons arising from regional DHRs are reported into the Regional Adult Practice Review Sub-Group and disseminated to staff as appropriate.



Barnardos Cymru – Gwella Project

The Gwella project came to the end of its four-year term in March 2020. The aim of the project is to evidence that increased earlier support reduces the need for intervention in later adolescence, when vulnerabilities may become apparent through increased risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or displaying sexually harmful behaviour.

A small number of families within the Carmarthenshire area have benefitted from and received therapeutic input from a Gwella project worker as part of this project. Work has included supporting relationships and the stability of placements, supporting proposed rehabilitation plans, life journey work and using the principles of Theraplay. The Regional Boards will welcome a national evaluation of the outcome of this project due in autumn 2020.



National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards' relationship with the new members of the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB), mid-way through its second term at the time of publication, is continuing to develop and evolve. Although contact, discussion and dialogue in-between Board meetings is much less frequent than with the previous Board, members regularly attend and contribute to Regional Executive Board meetings, and the appointed Mid and West Wales representative made a helpful and constructive contribution to the Boards' annual Development Day in February 2020. The Boards have supported a national review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements currently being led by the NISB, and a number of senior multi-agency managers from across the region participated in structured interviews with Lead Researcher Michelle McManus from Liverpool John Moores University as part of this work.



(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 requests this year.



(f) Achievements we have made during the year

Completion and Publication of Regional Strategies and Policies

A number of key projects were completed in 2019-20, culminating in the publication of three key regional policies and pathways.

- [Sec 46 \(Use of Police Powers\) Protocol](#)
- [A Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents Policy and Procedure \(for Regional Youth Justice Services\)](#)
- [A Regional Suicide Prevention Pathway](#)

All of these projects have been completed by separate task and finish groups led by different agencies including Dyfed-Powys Police, the Regional Youth Justice Service and Pembrokeshire's Regional Education Safeguarding Lead. All provide guidance to staff, and seek to support and improve professional safeguarding practice, closely aligned to the Boards' strategic priorities.

Executive Board Development Day

Executive members of both CWMPAS and CYSUR Boards came together in February 2020 to reflect on progress made in the last year, and to develop our strategic priorities for the coming year 2020-21. The day enabled constructive discussion between

agencies, which resulted in the identification of a number of key priorities for the coming year. The Board also noted the significant progress made in the previous year and the positive impact this has had.

It was agreed that engagement with practitioners and the general public would be a key priority in the year 2020-21, as would strengthening the workforce, identifying and managing risk, thematic learning and national leadership, visibility and challenge. Consideration has since been given to the impact of COVID-19 on the Boards' ability to deliver against the Plan; however, the Boards remain committed to progressing key areas identified as far as is practicable in the current climate. The full outcome of the day and the Board priorities for the year going forward can be seen in the [Board Annual Strategic Plan](#) for 2020-21.



Executive Board Development day 2020

Feedback from an Executive Board Member:

"I can see well-developed multi-agency partnerships around this room"
"A culture of healthy debate exists within the Board"
"We're tackling work around lessons learned head-on"

Local, Regional & National Collaboration for National Safeguarding Week (NSGW19)

In November 2019 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. A national focus was placed on the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures as an overarching theme. Regionally, themes of co-sleeping and self-neglect were a key focus of the week, with a social media and website campaign created and led by the Boards during the week to raise awareness of these pertinent topics.

Extract from the NSGW19 Programme

National Safeguarding Week 2019 – Mid & West Wales Programme		
Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board Programme for National Safeguarding Week 2019		
NATIONAL	REGIONAL	LOCAL
Thursday 14 th November 2019		
Launch of All Wales Protection Procedures Rhyd Rugby Club, Rhyd Launch event with Welsh Minister TBC, outlining changes in new Procedures and demonstrating the new Procedures App.	MAWWSB Regional Safeguarding Conference Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest 9.30am – 3.00pm Celebrating Signs of Safety across the Mid and West Wales Region With guest speakers including Eileen Munro, Bev Edwards and Marina van't Slot	Ceredigion 1. "Tea and a chat" event facilitated by Sŵr Saff Ceredigion at the Bandstand, Aberaeron, 3.00pm – 6pm. The event will raise awareness of the dangers of sexting and will feature a DJ set, guitar performance and T-shirt making. Powys 1. Training for Powys Teaching Health Board staff including: - PTHB's Level 3 Adult Safeguarding Module - Scams (delivered by Trading Standards) - Cyber Safety (Police) 2. Best interests Assessor Legal update Training hosted by Powys County Council for multi-agency safeguarding staff across Powys.
Friday 15 th November 2019		
Foysys Signs of Safety Multi-Agency Partner Workshops – Powys County Hall, Llandindod Wells (Identical events taking place in Brecon on 22 nd November and Westpool on 9 th December)		
REGIONAL		LOCAL
Activities taking place after the week: across ALL themes		
Information Sharing Protocol Launch Police HQ, Llanusnmor, Monday 19 th November 2pm – 5pm Guest speakers Dai Durrig and Rob Brook to address multi-agency safeguarding and data protection staff on the sharing of information relating to children and vulnerable adults at risk Hywel Dda University Health Board wide action: All-age Learning Event to take place on 22 nd November on the theme of self-neglect		Foysys 1. Launch of Powys Teaching Health Board's Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Policy and Procedure 2. "Tea and a chat" event facilitated by East Carrots in Bath Wells 4pm – 6pm around the theme of sexting.



Regional Conference

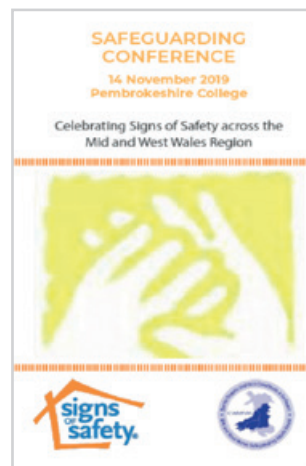
The Regional Safeguarding Board Conference, 'Celebrating Signs of Safety across the Mid and West Wales Region', was a great success, with excellent feedback and evaluations received. The event was an opportunity to celebrate and demonstrate the ways in which each local area in our region has embedded and utilised good Signs of Safety (SoS) practice in their work, ranging from child protection conferences to substance misuse. Each local area was allocated two slots in which they could share their experiences in using the model.

as well as the context and purpose of the Signs of Safety model. The ethos and impact of this work was discussed in depth, with Andrew Turnell also providing a video presentation discussing this work.

CYSUR Chair feedback:
 "This conference has left me with an overwhelming optimism about where we are and where we're going"

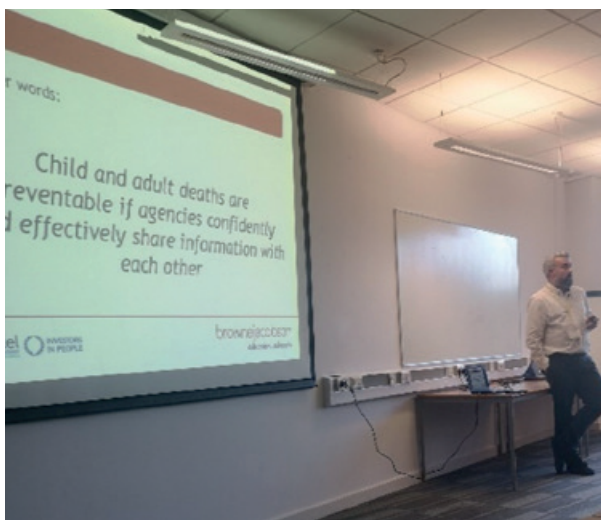
CYSUR were thrilled this year to secure Professor Eileen Munro as keynote speaker, who gave an in-depth overview of her background in social work,

Delegate feedback from the Conference:
 "Great to have a conference which celebrates real frontline practice"
 "Excellent conference – really inspirational and motivating"
 "Fascinating to hear how SoS has been used across different settings"
 "How fantastic to have Professor Munro as a guest speaker"
 "Great to see the four counties working together"



Information Sharing Protocol Launch

National Safeguarding Week 2019 also supported the formal launch of the new regional [Information Sharing Protocol](#) held in Police HQ, Carmarthenshire. Barrister Dai Durbridge, who has extensive knowledge of data protection within a safeguarding context, delivered a presentation to multi-agency staff which emphasised the importance of ensuring key safeguarding information is available to agencies supporting children and adults at risk. The ethos of the Protocol, namely, to act as a framework in which to share information securely, as opposed to a barrier, was at the centre of the event, with feedback indicating that staff felt much more confident and comfortable with sharing information securely following the event. Also speaking at the launch was Robert Brain, Data Protection Officer in Carmarthenshire County Council, who led on the development of the Protocol.



Information Sharing Protocol Launch
2019, Police HQ Carmarthenshire

Feedback from attendees at the ISP Launch:

“Very informative – it will change the way I share information for the better”

“A good opportunity to reflect on and challenge our practice – a reminder of why sharing information in safeguarding is so important”

“I will have more confidence when sharing information with a wide range of partner agencies in order to safeguard a child/vulnerable person”

The Boards enjoyed an active contribution from their junior counterpart in the form of Pembrokeshire’s Junior Safeguardians Conference, in which delegates received a new module, ‘Keeping Children, Young People and Adults Safe in Pembrokeshire’, and completed a workshop with Fearless centred on County Lines. Young people from secondary schools across Pembrokeshire attended the event, and considered the risks and indicators of children being criminally exploited. Feedback received after the event demonstrated that it was again very well received and attended.



Young people from across Pembrokeshire attending a County Lines workshop

Other highlights included:

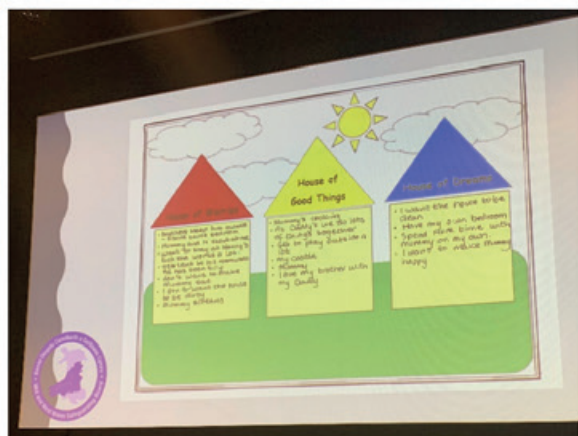
- ‘Conversation Café’ held in Pembrokeshire County Council to launch the social media campaign and raise awareness of key issues and of the functions of the Boards
- Modern Slavery training course of senior officers in Dyfed-Powys Police/CPS
- Cybercrime awareness raising event within DPP
- Hywel Dda’s Autumn Newsletter included articles on co-sleeping, self-neglect and information sharing, in keeping with regional themes
- Formal launch of the NHS Safeguarding App
- Launch of new safeguarding training and competency booklets in Hywel Dda University Health Board and Powys Teaching Health Board
- Regional Fraud and Cybercrime Roadshow held across Police Force area
- Online economic safety messaging disseminated online
- Schools Liaison Officers visited schools to highlight the risks associated with sexting and cyberbullying
- Posters raising awareness of DoLS, information sharing and self-neglect displayed in hospitals across Powys, with safe sleeping posters displayed in birth centres
- Twice-daily messaging shared on Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians’ social media accounts on themes pertinent to young people
- Launch of Powys Teaching Health Board’s DoLS Policy and Procedure
- ‘Tea and a chat’ events facilitated by Ceredigion and Powys’ Junior Boards on the theme of sexting
- Pizza and bowling evening held by the Pembrokeshire Safeguardians with key decision makers in Pembrokeshire County Council, to strengthen links and break down barriers
- Training in Powys Teaching Health Board on adult safeguarding, scams and online safety
- All-age self-neglect Learning Event held by Hywel Dda



Some collective photos from National Safeguarding Week 2019



Highlights from the National Safeguarding Week Regional Signs of Safety Conference



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



Hywel Dda University Health Board

Hywel Dda University Health Board have continued to make a strong and active contribution to the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards' work and the ongoing development of safeguarding practice at a regional and local level. Hywel Dda representatives are routinely represented and contribute to the Executive Boards, Local Operational Group and sub-groups, and have engaged and supported numerous Child and Adult Practice Reviews. The Assistant Director of Nursing Assurance and Safeguarding Corporate Nursing is the Vice Chair of the CYSUR Executive Board. Hywel Dda continue to play an active role in the Boards' various sub-groups and Task and Finish groups, and have actively contributed to the development of regional strategies and policies.

Hywel Dda continues to present local safeguarding performance data to all Local Operational Group meetings, which enables and supports the monitoring of safeguarding practice and the identification of themes and trends. A quarterly report is now submitted containing detailed analysis of admissions to hospital following self-harm, forming a key part of the Regional Performance Framework and supporting the Boards' ongoing work on suicide prevention. The LAC Lead Nurse actively reports to the regional Corporate Parenting Panels, providing assurance in relation to the Health Board's Corporate Parenting responsibilities for Looked After Children.

Hywel Dda have placed a focus this year on identifying and analysing themes in safeguarding practice. Frequent audits are conducted on the quality of children's MARFs, and quarterly thematic breakdowns of referrals to adult safeguarding have identified discharges from hospital as a recurring theme. An Acute Hospital Discharge Improvement Plan is continuously monitored in an effort to ensure unsafe discharges from hospital do not occur.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Hywel Dda University Health Board have achieved approval and implemented a new CSE Standard Operation Procedure to place an alert for 'Risk of Child Exploitation' (CSE) when appropriate to a child's electronic health record.

Colleagues from Hywel Dda have also played an active role in the development and use of 7-minute briefings, a new agreed method for communicating key messages in a succinct form to staff across agencies in the region. Hywel Dda have developed their own briefings, which have been shared regionally on topics including the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures and VAWDASV.



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.

Powys Teaching Health Board staff work in close partnership with their multi-agency partners in all areas of the safeguarding agenda including MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements), MACSE (Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation), PRUDIC (Procedural Response to Unexpected Deaths in Childhood), Corporate Parenting, Practice Reviews and Audits etc. PTHB are key members of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Health Collaborative, tasked with developing a long-term model and pathways for children and adults who have experienced rape or sexual assault. The Health Board are also represented on task groups being led by Welsh Government, including Liberty Protection Safeguards and the Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment Bill.

The voice of patients is continually listened and responded to within PTHB, who collate and present feedback into an annual report.

The views of Looked After Children (LAC) are captured during statutory health reviews. The Health Board also strive to promote thematic learning, with the Safeguarding Team meeting to consider national reviews and share thematic learning from these via newsletter, training, update polices, supervision and team meetings.

Training has also been a priority within the Health Board this year, with a creative approach taken to enable training to continue despite restrictions on physical gatherings in the latter part of the year. Blended learning has been utilised widely within PTHB, including adult safeguarding training, and a post-training pack has been developed to include resources such as 7-minute briefings.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys Teaching Health Board have developed a new Training and Competency Passport, which places a focus on achieving and being able to demonstrate key skills to be used in safeguarding practice. The Passport also allows staff to reflect on the skills and knowledge they have developed through training, as well as creating a more efficient way of measuring objectives achieved.



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. The National Safeguarding Team designated professionals are members of

all Regional Safeguarding Boards (adult and children) across Wales. The Designated Nurses have consistently contributed to Board work by providing independent expertise at all levels to support agencies across the region. The PHW representative on the Executive Boards provides significant support to the ongoing development of the Child Practice Review process in Mid and West Wales and to the Board Business Unit, and has chaired and driven the development of the regional Child Practice Review Sub-Group.



Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)

The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) are represented at the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Executive Boards, and participate in sub-groups and Local Operational Groups as and when needed. They continue to support the wider safeguarding strategic agenda across the region. They are members of the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Regional Steering Group and support the ongoing VAWDASV work across the region. Activity during 2019-20 to prevent, protect and support individuals and their families within the Safeguarding Board region has included the assurance that all WAST staff undertaking duties on behalf of the Trust within the Board region have fulfilled their safeguarding responsibilities.

policies and procedures as appropriate. Although there has not been any learning/ required actions specific to WAST staff, identified generic themes are disseminated throughout the Trust. WAST utilises 7 minute briefings, bulletins, the Safeguarding hub and Trust intranet site to further disseminate learning.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust have implemented a new and fully automated safeguarding referral system and process called Doc Works, with the pilot phase complete and phase two due to take place in the coming year.

Learning from regional Practice Reviews is incorporated into WAST Safeguarding training,



Dyfed-Powys Police

Dyfed-Powys Police (DPP) continue to actively contribute to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards. This is evident through routine officer attendance and participation at all Board levels, including the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and all sub- groups. Significant support continues to be provided to the regional Practice Review Sub-Group, and DPP officers have undertaken the role of Panel Chair for a number of ongoing and completed Child and Adult Practice Reviews. The DPP Superintendent Board representative continues to hold the position of Vice Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Senior Officers from Dyfed-Powys Police have worked very closely and collaboratively with partners and agencies at all levels of the Boards’ work, and have led on the development and implementation of numerous projects already referenced, including Operation Encompass and the Section 46 Protocol, which provides a clear process for when and how Police officers can exercise their powers of protection under this legislation in partnership with the Local Authority.

DPP also continue to prioritise its response to Domestic Abuse (DA), working closely with all statutory and third sector agencies. This has led to improvements to secondary risk assessments of DA, the introduction of multi-agency daily discussions and improved referrals into the MARAC process. DPP has also played a key role within the Wales SARC review project, engaging closely with the Local Health Boards, NHS Wales, and New Pathways.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

The development of a Secondary Risk Assessment Unit in the last year supports DPP strategic aims to better respond to wider forms of identified vulnerability. This dovetails to the Boards’ ‘Right Help at the Right Time’ response to those people in need of safeguarding, care and support.



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.

All Local Operational Groups have engagement and representation with their local Youth Justice Service Managers who input into the local safeguarding agenda.

This year, YJS have further supported the Safeguarding Boards through leading on the development of the new Critical Safeguarding & Public Protection Incidents Policy, which has enabled greater integration with LA processes and learning lessons from practice.

Best practice within YJS is shared through quarterly Service Managers meetings and frequent discussions between the various Youth Justice Teams.



The National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) have now merged into one body, which is represented on the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and some sub-groups. Staff and cases from the CRC have been absorbed

into the NPS, and child and adult safeguarding training has been delivered to all staff. This new structure enables increased efficiency of offender management and improving resilience. The Regional Executive Board has been provided with a detailed overview of the changes to NPS and looks forward to continued multi-agency collaboration with the service, who note achievements in the last year including the development of a new risk assessment, ARMS, and widespread auditing of the new unified caseload.



Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire County Council's Statutory Director of Communities chairs the CYSUR Board and has fulfilled this role for a number of years, providing consistent strategic leadership to the Executive Board and its Local Operational Groups and sub-groups. Carmarthenshire Adult Services have led a number of key Board projects this year, including the ongoing development of a regional Self-Neglect Protocol and numerous other workstreams to support best practice within adult safeguarding. They have also represented CWMPAS on a number of national groups, including the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Strategic group, the Wales Safeguarding Arrangements review group and the Mental Capacity Act/DoLS group.

with young people, and a local Leaving Care Group to support and enable the voice of children and young people to directly influence safeguarding practice and shape service delivery.

Carmarthenshire have undertaken a review of their LOG in the last year via an independently facilitated Development Day, with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its local safeguarding arrangements. The outcome is a revised, sharper, and more focussed and streamlined all-age agenda, which is now in place. Carmarthenshire Children's Services are working to support and enable increased engagement

The Head of Service for Mental Health and Learning Difficulties continues to chair the Regional Suicide & Self Harm Group and the Adult Practice Review Sub-Group. The strategic and operational lead for Adult Safeguarding leads the Regional Adult Safeguarding Leads Group, which is striving to improve and establish consistent adult safeguarding practice across the Mid and West Wales region, and chairs the VAWDASV Delivery Group as part of the revised regional structure.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Carmarthenshire County Council are leading on the development of a regional protocol and framework to manage and support adults who self-neglect. A draft document has been completed. This will be finalised and launched in the coming year.



Pembrokeshire County Council

Pembrokeshire County Council is the regional host authority for the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and facilitates the Regional Safeguarding Board Business Unit. The current Statutory Director of Social Services is the Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Pembrokeshire continues to benefit from an Integrated Safeguarding Team, combining both children and adult safeguarding strategic work into one unified service. Pembrokeshire have reviewed the structure of their LOG meetings in the last year and developed a rotating agenda format. This supports and enables more in-depth discussion and analysis of key issues and performance data.

Regionally, Pembrokeshire continue to play a full and active role in the Boards' various sub-groups and workstreams, and have led on the development of Toolkits for Practice Reviews and MAPF work in the last year. The Senior Safeguarding Manager leads and chairs the Regional MAPF forum and newly developed regional Child Protection Conference Chairs Group. She along with other Senior Managers in Pembrokeshire have undertaken the role of

Lead Reviewer and Panel Chair in relation to ongoing practice reviews across the region. This is acknowledged and noted as a considerable time and resource commitment from Pembrokeshire.

Pembrokeshire hosted the regional conference as part of arrangements for National Safeguarding Week in 2019, supporting and showcasing numerous projects across the whole of the Mid and West Wales region and excellent work in relation to Signs of Safety Practice and intervention with families.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

A review has been undertaken of the structure and format of Pembrokeshire's Local Operational Group. The development of a streamlined, sharper and more focussed agenda has set a high standard which is now being replicated by other Local Operational Groups across the region.





Powys County Council

Powys County Council have made a steady and consistent contribution to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board and its workstreams at all levels in the last year and significant improvements in terms of Powys engagement in this area are noted. New senior permanent appointments within Children’s Services have enabled consistent engagement in regional meetings and sub-groups. Considerable efforts have been made to improve the structure and format of the Powys Local Operational Group with an agenda and format now in place that reflects the Board’s strategic priorities and regional terms of reference. Attendance at Executive Board meetings has improved and the Board has been provided with regular updates on Powys continuing improvement plans and its ongoing recruitment strategies. The Statutory Director and Head of Children’s Service made a full and constructive contribution to the Boards’ annual development day in February 2020. Very successful staff events and workshops, which have included themes on exploitation, have been held in Powys this year, which has further supported and promoted some of the Boards’ strategic objectives. The Head of Children’s Services is leading on the implementation of the Regional Child Sexual Abuse Plan on behalf of the Board, which is a national Welsh Government requirement.

The appointment of a new Child Exploitation Manager further supports this work as well as enhancing and improving safeguarding practice. She has taken over the chairing of all Child Exploitation strategy meetings to help ensure support effective multi-agency safety planning for the most vulnerable children.

The Boards note Powys have developed a robust workforce strategy to improve staff recruitment and retention in vulnerable parts of the service. Previous serious shortfalls in this area are known to be a significant contributory factor to the authority’s difficulties and challenges, particularly within Children’s Services.



Powys’ Head of Children’s Services at a LOG meeting with the Junior Eat Carrots group

Powys Adult Services has continued to make a full and active contribution to the Safeguarding Adults Board and its work. Attendance and engagement in the CWMPAS Executive Board and its sub-groups has been regular and consistent, with a high level of participation and input from the senior Adult Safeguarding Lead in various Board workstreams. Adults’ Services also remain committed to developing and implementing good practice, and changes have been made at the front door to improve screening of referrals to ensure information and advice is provided appropriately.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

To support Powys County Council recruitment strategies and improvements, all recruitment to Children’s Services in Powys includes an interview with a panel made up of young people who have experienced the care system.



Ceredigion County Council

Ceredigion County Council continue to contribute to the Regional Safeguarding Boards at all levels. Senior officers have attended and engaged in all Executive Board meetings, and there is appropriate consistent representation at all the identified Regional sub-groups.

Ceredigion are in the process of developing a through-age safeguarding service and new integrated service delivery model, Porth Ceredigion. This reflects the spirit and ethos of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 and the all-age approach to Safeguarding People. Further updates in respect of this will be provided to Boards in the coming year.

Two Child Practice Reviews have been completed and published in Ceredigion within the last year. These reviews have demonstrated excellent collaboration and analysis of practice, which has resulted in a great deal of constructive discussion and opportunities for learning. The Safeguarding Boards have begun monitoring the actions arising from these reviews in order to enable this learning to inform safeguarding practice across the region. This work has displayed and strengthened the strong culture of multi-agency working across Mid and West Wales. Ceredigion continue to provide significant support to the regional Practice Review and MAPF processes, and the Senior Safeguarding Manager has undertaken the role of panel chair in a very complex Child Practice Review and assisted another Local Authority in the region by leading on a MAPF, to provide an extra layer of independent oversight and scrutiny in a particularly complex case.

Ceredigion continue to play a key role in the development of numerous projects for the Boards, and are currently leading on the ongoing development of a new Sensory Impairment Protocol, which is anticipated to be completed within the coming year. After having played a key role in the development of the Regional Threshold Document for Safeguarding Adults at Risk, Ceredigion have successfully embedded this into practice, and achieved a more consistent and effective approach in managing provider concerns as a result. The Safeguarding Manger for adults continues to play a full and active part in all regional meetings and sub-groups in the ongoing regional development of adult safeguarding practice.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

In response to a rise in instances of parental conflict, a Parental Conflict Workshop with an emphasis on conflict resolution, the legal process, domestic abuse and how this affects children has been developed.

Regional Directors of Education Representative

All regional education partners have a consistent framework for quality assuring safeguarding in schools, via a yearly self-evaluation process and an external audit every three years. Any themes that arise from safeguarding health checks, such as site security, training, policy alignment and consistency of practice, are shared with Head Teachers and Governors.

Education is represented on all Local Operational Groups and Board sub-groups. 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.

A change has occurred this year in senior representation of Education, following the departure of the previous Statutory Director of Education (Pembrokeshire). The Boards benefitted greatly from the Director's consistent attendance and work to support regional priorities. A new method of representation has been agreed whereby the Directors of Education in each locality now attend the Executive Board on a rotating basis.

Education staff are represented at all Regional sub-groups and provide a full and active contribution to Board workstreams. Notably, Education have led on the development of both the Elective Home Education (EHE) Protocol and worked closely with CAHMS to develop the new Suicide Prevention Assessment Tool (SPAT) Protocol, which will ensure an area-wide approach to improving referral pathways and training of frontline staff.

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 supported the work of the Boards through providing venues for events and meetings. They 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. She has made a significant contribution to the Boards and their work and has undertaken the role of both reviewer and panel chair for completed and ongoing Child Practice Reviews, and has been part of the task and finish group for the development of the new completed Practice Review Toolkit. The FE Lead has also led on the regional response to a Welsh Government consultation on new guidance, "Keeping Learners Safe", and continues to provide key input into the ongoing work around transition planning.

FE colleges across the region have increased counselling provision this year in line with demand. Refresher safeguarding training has been delivered across the regional colleges this year, consistent with the updated safeguarding module. Within Pembrokeshire College FE, a strong and proactive safeguarding team has been established and developed this year, and grant funding has been obtained for mental health services utilised to commission the Big White Wall, a 24/7 365 days per year external counselling service for learners and staff.

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. In the last year, regional work has supported the development of the Regional Escalating Concerns Protocol through review and consideration of the three local protocols previously in place across the partnership. The intention is to arrive at a single consistent approach to Escalating Concerns for the region, which also reflects the learning from recent APRs.

A regional task and finish group was convened in February 2020 to develop a more consistent approach to quality assurance. A Quality Assurance Toolkit has been developed which will be piloted and progressed in the coming year.

The regional Pre Placement Agreement (PPA) for Care Homes for Older People is at an advanced stage in its development. The draft terms and conditions have been agreed by commissioners and once the accompanying schedules have been drafted, the agreement will be shared more widely with partners for wider views and input before a final version of the agreement is produced. The consultation draft is expected to be ready for circulation in the coming year. The new PPA will result in more robust safeguarding provisions, and draw on learning from recent APRs. Monitoring, review and reporting arrangements are also enhanced through this agreement.

These various workstreams demonstrate the ongoing commitment from our regional Commissioning services to continually develop and improve practice, and to play a pivotal role in the key work of the Safeguarding Boards.



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

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

It is acknowledged that resources used to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding 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 identified 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 obviously visible to other professionals and agencies. The process, management and publication of Child and Adult Practice Reviews, the development of regional protocols and

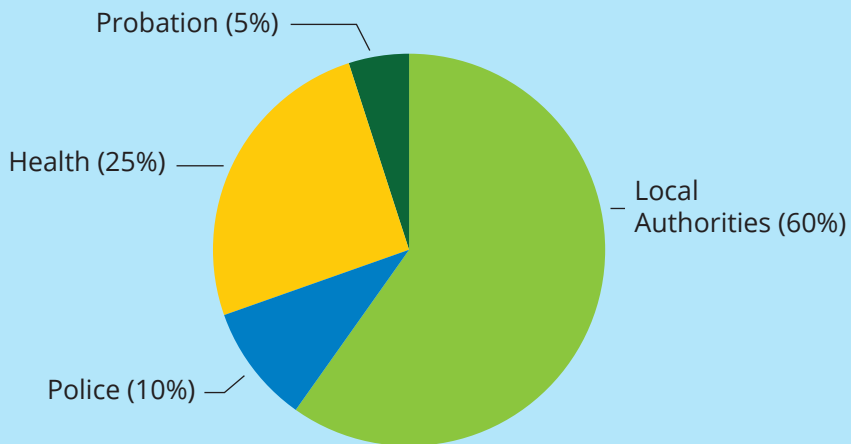
policies, as well as projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise are just some examples of Board work.

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 was £148,120, which is the lowest across Wales.

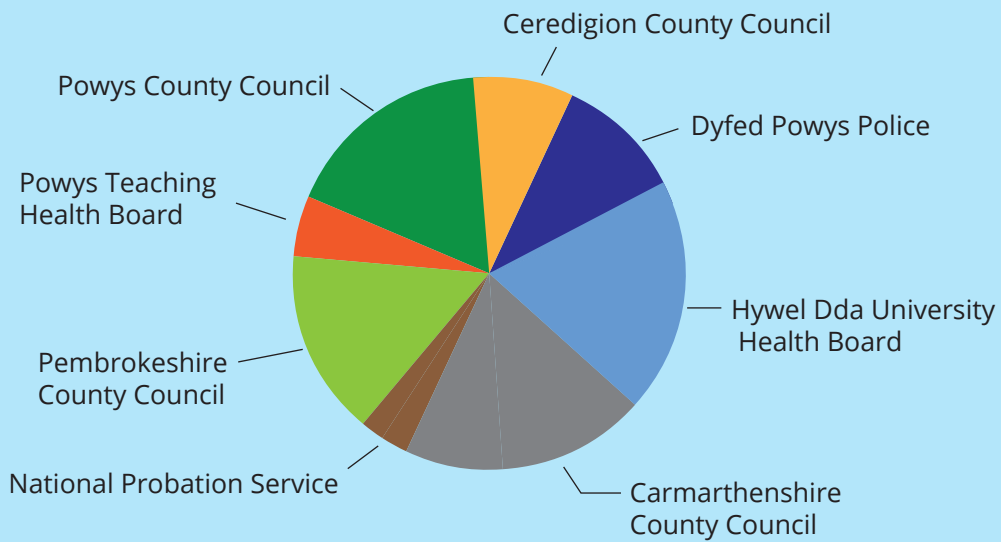
In 2019-20, the majority of the Boards' expenditure went on general running costs, including staffing the Business Unit (69%). The commissioning of services and training also made up a sizeable amount of Board expenditure (27%), which is a reflection of the increased output from the Training Sub-Group in the delivery of the regional 3-year plan. Travel and the hiring of venues across the vast regional footprint is relatively lower than recent years, however remains an ongoing expenditure within the Safeguarding Boards along with admin/IT expenses.



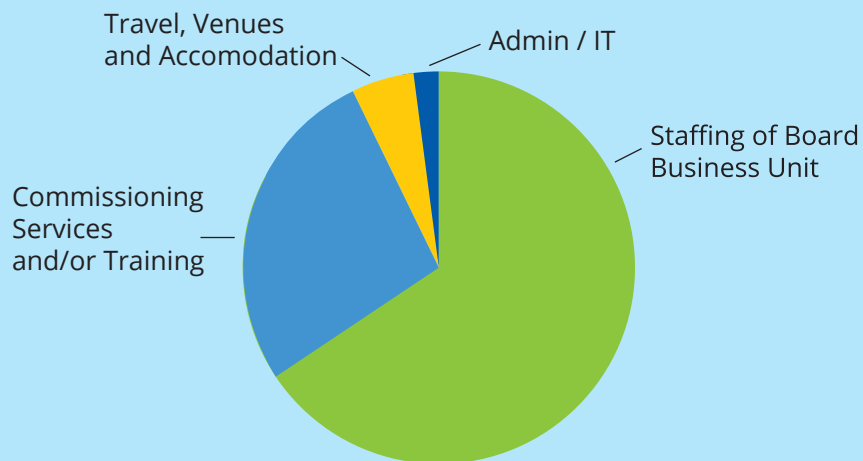
Partner contributions



Income 2019-20



Expenditure 2019-20



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

Embracing the Prevention Agenda

In accordance with Regional Safeguarding Boards' key functions and responsibilities to protect and prevent people within their area from experiencing harm and suffering abuse and neglect, a number of actions and events have occurred and projects completed to support its outcomes in this area. The Boards' continuing development and maturity have enabled them to support and promote a number of agency-specific projects, which seek to prevent children and adults in the area from suffering and experiencing harm. Examples of this are provided below.

Vulnerability Hub – Dyfed-Powys Police:

The creation of a vulnerability desk within Dyfed-Powys Police in April 2019, for victims of Domestic Abuse, has led to the development of a much broader force-wide response to vulnerability, which now includes people who have identified mental health problems and those identified to be at risk of exploitation. Plans are in place to merge a number of services to support this work in the coming year, which include the Central Referral Unit (Children and Adult Safeguarding), The Public Protection Hub (Offender Management – MAPPA & IOM), the Mental Health Triage Team and the Neighbourhood Policing Crime and Harm Reduction Unit (responding to lower level community and individual vulnerability) into a broader vulnerability hub.

Promoting and supporting the Early Action Together Programme:

In 2018, funding was secured from the Home Office Police Transformation Fund to run the

Early Action Together programme, its aim being to "Transform the Policing of vulnerability in Wales to a multi-agency, ACE (Adverse Childhood experiences) informed approach that enables early intervention and root cause prevention". The Regional Safeguarding Board has formed links with the Regional Coordinators for this project in Mid and West Wales, and helped promote this work across the region. The programme has worked closely with Local Authority Departments and other support services in relation to Early Help. In October 2019, a pilot was commenced with Carmarthenshire County Council Team around the Family; this involved the delivery of training to the Llanelli Neighbourhood Policing Team in relation to this model, and the Families First Funded programmes in the area. PCSOs from Llanelli have linked closely with Local Authority prevention teams to pilot a pathway for providing Early Help to children and their families in their locality. In Powys, the Neighbourhood Policing Team have attended the recently formed Integrated Point of Access Panels in the north and south of the county, which are multi-agency meetings to discuss children and families in need of support who fall below the statutory service threshold. In Pembrokeshire, an awareness session was arranged in November 2019 by Pembrokeshire's Team Around the Family (TAF) manager for Pembrokeshire's Neighbourhood Policing Teams. While in Ceredigion, the programme funded a post to assist with the transformation of their frontline services to support close working practices with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and more robust arrangements for the swift sharing of information for vulnerable young people.

Supporting and Promoting National Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Work:

It is now widely recognised that ACEs are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and wellbeing. These experiences range from direct physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of the child, to environmental experiences such as parental separation, parental substance misuse, domestic violence, parental mental illness, or the incarceration of a parent or guardian. The Safeguarding Board has supported national prevention work in relation to this project and in November 2019, the national co-coordinator for the ACEs Programme attended and presented to the Regional Training Sub-Group. A training package and toolkit was provided and disseminated to group members and Learning and Development managers across the region for consideration and dissemination to staff as appropriate.

Supporting Families to Stay Together:

The First Minister, Mark Drakeford, and Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Julie Morgan, visited the region in January 2020. Carmarthenshire Council's work and strategies to continue to steadily reduce its population of looked after children has been recognised nationally and it now has the lowest numbers of children in care per 10,000 population in Wales. This has been achieved via a series of

strategic initiatives and models of intervention with families. One of the changes made in recent years has been to align teams working across Children's Services and Education, and to bring staff with specialist skills together to provide a whole team around a family in need, as opposed to attaching a single social worker to an individual case. Prevention and early years intervention is a key feature of the approach, and in the last six months, the service reported it has supported 18,000 families with a range of community-based services to build resilience and prevent the need for families to have contact with the statutory social care system. Mr Drakeford said he was keen to share his learning from Carmarthenshire with other authorities in Wales to reduce the number of children being taken into the care system and keeping more families together.

Feedback from First Minister, Mark Drakeford
"Carmarthenshire Council is doing some great work to keep families together and avoid children going into care. As First Minister, I want to build on the work happening here, understand why it is having an impact and to share the good practice throughout Wales so we can help to keep more families together."



Tackling Exploitation:

A number of initiatives have been led by the Board in the last year to tackle child and wider forms of exploitation. In accordance with Welsh Government requirements, a regional child abuse action plan has been developed via a specialist task and finish group. This is closely aligned to identified national actions, which seek to promote awareness of child sexual exploitation amongst practitioners and members of the public, and to support and equip professionals to better support and respond to incidents of sexual abuse and exploitation. The regional Board is in the process of developing a regional exploitation strategy, and a full update on progress on this project will be provided in next year's annual report.

In June 2019, Powys hosted a multi-agency exploitation event with over 100 staff in attendance. Its purpose was to give participants opportunities to explore creative approaches to working with teenagers and families in their communities to keep them safe. Keynote presenters at this event included Dr Sophie Hallet, Lecturer, Social Policy, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University and national leading academic and researcher into Child Sexual Exploitation and Dr Sam Clutton, current Senior Policy Manager, Children's Safeguarding, Welsh Government. The event hosted workshops with themes including human trafficking and modern slavery.

The theme of exploitation was further promoted during a presentation to Executive Board members in April 2019 from Dyfed-Powys Police on County Lines. Assurance was provided on the police approach, particularly in relation to specific groups of children and adults who are known to be particularly vulnerable and potential targets for organised gangs in the region. Further work in raising awareness across the region has been promoted via a number of Police led workshops, which has included schools and education staff across the region.



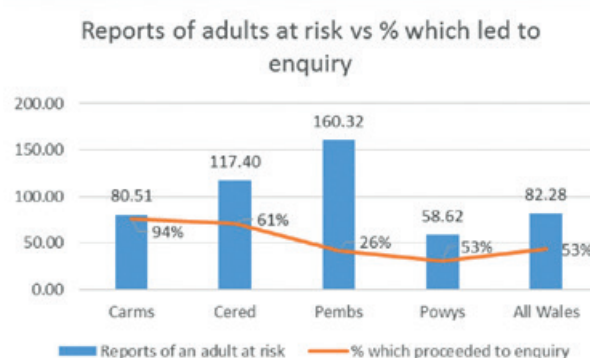
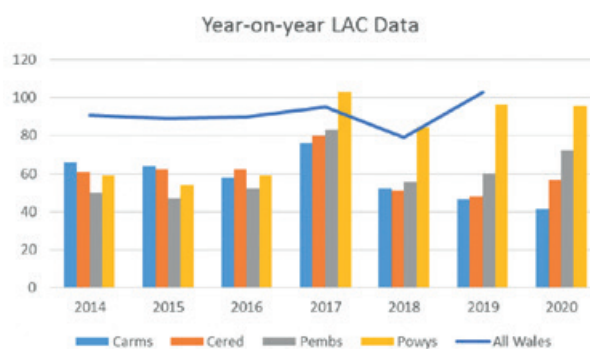
Safeguarding People

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 continued to aid the Boards' understanding of professional safeguarding practice. Further work undertaken in the last year to improve the presentation and analysis of data, helps to ensure the Regional Executive Board has a robust helicopter view of high-level multi-agency safeguarding practice across the region. The continuing development of this framework and the provision of good quality performance data will support the Boards in their commitment to effectively challenge and hold agencies to account when safeguarding practice and service

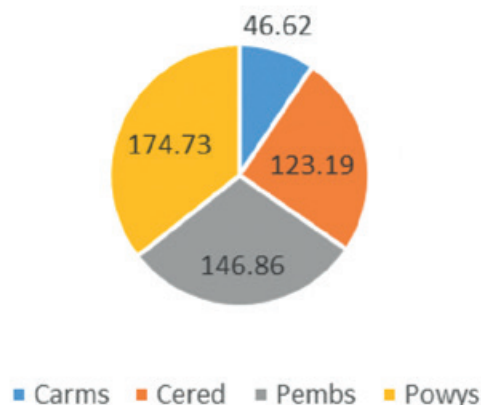
Regional Audit and Deep Dive into Regional Section 47 Practice

A comprehensive regional deep dive audit and thematic review was commissioned and undertaken by an independent consultant, Jamie Pope, to better understand differing trends and practice in relation to the number of Sec 47 enquiries and investigations being undertaken. The opportunity was also utilised to review the impact and use of the Regional Threshold document "The Right Help at the Right Time" in decision-making. The methodology for the review consisted of a number of randomly selected cases that were assessed against a bespoke audit tool, supplemented with a desktop review of the case file, structured onsite interviews with practitioners and managers, and separate interviews with key senior managers from other agencies. Overall, the review concluded practice across the Mid and West Wales region was safe and robust. Differences in practice were identified to be as a result of different structures and partnership



arrangements in place across the four areas which affected how services at the front door were being delivered, further influenced by the different stages each of the four LAs were at with the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014. Differing IT systems and challenges in some parts of the region also resulted in different recording practices and methods.

Section 47s 19/20



This however did not impact negatively on the overall outcome with the auditor reporting “I believe the audit found evidence that overall the identified needs of the individuals concerned were all assessed and subject to proportionate and measured intervention plans, whether that be under the auspice of a Child Protection Plan or a Care & Wellbeing Support Plan”.

Further assurance was provided that the regional threshold document was a familiar and well understood document used widely across the partnership by practitioners.

Further examples of good practice highlighted in the report include evidence of experienced, committed frontline practitioners, managers and senior managers who were implementing a proactive approach to the management of risk. Evidence was found of good multi-agency and partnership working across the region, and of each area having dedicated suitably experienced and qualified decision-makers, supported by effective systems and processes to monitor and track progress of cases/referrals. Areas identified for further consideration included recommendations to

- Explore the use of convening more strategy meetings with multiple agencies present, rather than a strategy discussion.

- Promote and raise awareness of the regional [Resolution of Professional Differences Protocol](#).
- Explore greater use of virtual technology to overcome geographical challenges to create opportunities to increase the number of multi-agency meetings taking place.

Other themes identified this year through Board workstreams include practitioner and staff understanding of mental capacity and the correlation to MAPF and APR referrals, suicide, and substance and alcohol related co-sleeping PRUDiCs.

Feedback from auditor Jamie Pope

“I found good evidence across all sites that the regionally agreed threshold guidance was a familiar document to its workforces and that it was used to generate debate and aid decision-making early on in the life of a case/point of contact.”



Practice Reviews

A number of Practice Reviews have concluded during the year. Themes identified for consideration as a result of these reviews include:

- The need for training and awareness raising for Local Authority licensing departments and personal license holders on the dangers and potential safeguarding implications of selling excess alcohol to adults in charge of young children and babies.
- The need to review and strengthen the Health Board's Failure to Attend Antenatal Care/ Follow-up Non-Attendees' policy.
- To consider a regional and national campaign in relation to the risk factors associated with co-sleeping and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

- The need for a Transition Protocol for Young People aged 14-25.
- For the Regional Mid and West Fostering Framework Group to enhance the recruitment of foster carers to improve the choice of foster care and 'When I Am Ready' placements to meet the needs of complex and challenging young people.



Practitioners at a Child Practice Review Learning Event held this year

Shared Learning

A strengthened regional practice review process and an evolving Regional MAPF Framework to support and aid multi-agency learning will further support the identification of common regional themes and trends in the coming year.

Solution Focussed Practice

All of the four Local Authorities across the region have implemented the Signs of Safety (SoS) model of practice to varying degrees. SoS is a more inclusive, person-centred, solution-focused approach to safeguarding and seeks to enhance and encourage a greater degree of participation by the service user. The core principles of the model complement the spirit and ethos of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, which seeks to put service user participation at the heart of professional intervention with children, their families and adults at risk. Signs of Safety, with a focus on practitioners, was the theme of the Regional Conference during National Safeguarding Week in November 2019 already highlighted under section (f).

Feedback from a Learning Event held this year:

- “I have learned to be more professionally curious”
- “I am so pleased to have had an opportunity to contribute to the report”
- “A very informative and thoughtful Learning Event. Organised and delivered to a high standard”

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

Executive Board attendance

Young members of the CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board attended an Executive Board meeting once again in January 2020. The young attendees delivered a presentation on their key achievements over the last year, before entering into discussion with the Executive Board members on a number of themes of importance to both the Boards and the young people.

The topic of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was discussed at length. The young attendees felt that children and young people should be further engaged in discussions around CSE, with promotional messages directed at them as opposed to adults and professionals. The Junior Board felt that engagement with young people should be delivered by other young people to deliver a more effective message and make young people feel more confident to engage. Sex education was also discussed at the meeting, with the young people feeling there are limited

opportunities for them to engage in these discussions. Whilst sex education is taught in school, they felt that it is difficult to discuss these issues with teachers who they already have an ongoing relationship with. They further expressed that they have experienced dismissal of feelings they experience as being "of-age".



CADW attending the Executive Board in January 2020

CADW projects and young person priorities

CADW have undertaken several key pieces of work this year addressing the safeguarding issues that are of the greatest concern to them. The young people approached these pieces of work in a way that felt most accessible and engaging, exploring the innovative ways in which they can address contentious issues and serious problems faced by their peers. Links with the Junior Board have strengthened considerably in the last year, with the Board Business Unit enjoying the opportunity to attend CADW meetings and events.



A virtual CADW meeting held during lockdown

The latter part of the year has inevitably seen a decrease in such activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, CADW have utilised innovative means to stay in touch. A regional Zoom meeting was held to allow all local groups to update each other on their recent work and the running of their groups during lockdown, both discussing the effective ways of continuing to meet as a group and highlighting the benefit to their wellbeing of having this forum to connect with their peers during a time of isolation.

CADW have once again undertaken a range of key projects over the year on issues that are pertinent and relevant to them. A notable example of a piece of work that aligns with Board priorities is CADW's Wellbeing Survey. The survey was distributed to 600 children in total, primarily across schools but also in person during the Young People's Festival. 588 out of 600 surveys were returned, achieving a substantial 98% return rate. The survey asked young people to rank a list of things that gave them positive and negative

feelings. The results are on the following page. CADW have also progressed workstreams around advocacy once again this year. In August, the group visited Techniquest to continue their work on the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy (NASA). This built upon last year's work in which the young people talked about advocacy and what was important to them. A short film is currently being produced and discussions were held as to whether an advocacy app would be an effective solution for young people.

The Annual Residential Event was a great success once again this year. The weekend comprised of a number of key workshops, including a Hywel Dda workshop on sexual health and a Choices workshop on substance misuse. These events received excellent feedback and were praised for their relevance to the young people. An excellent balance was struck at the event between these more serious workshops and more light-hearted events, such as a social media quiz, archery and other activities at Heatherton World of Activities, and a make-your-own-pizza supper. The young people thoroughly enjoyed the event and it was held as a great success by all in attendance, noting this as a key established annual event within the CADW Junior Board.

In November 2019, CADW engaged thoroughly with National Safeguarding Week. They opted to focus on the theme of sexting, by holding a series of events throughout the week in Ceredigion and Powys called "Say No to Sexting" in which children and young people could come and chat about the issue of sexting with their peers.



The surveys provided to young people in schools and at the Young People's Festival

Upon review of the results, the young people concluded that the following were the most important things to children and young people across Mid and West Wales are:

- Having positive, healthy relationships with friendship groups and family
- Accessing support in both school and at home with schoolwork in order to tackle anxiety and stress.
- The opportunity to express themselves through a variety of activities. For example art, cooking, exercise, music and being around animals.
- Being nice to people and having that reciprocated, as well as being able to talk to people who have a positive impact on their lives. The young people also analysed and considered the age and geographical demographics of their respondents.

The spirit and ethos of this project aligns notably with a key priority of the Safeguarding Boards, namely, engagement with children and young people. This piece of work was discussed in depth at the January Executive Board, praising the young people for this thorough and effective piece of work.

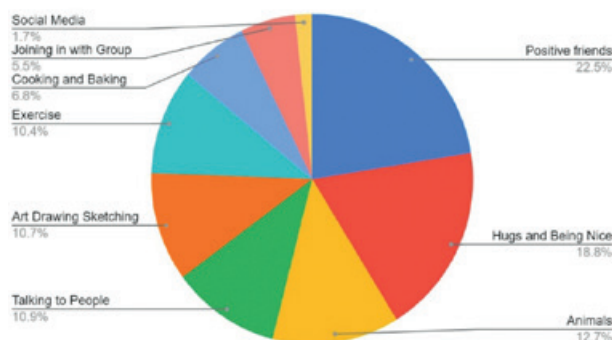
Members of the **Powys 'Eat Carrots Be Safe from Elephants' Junior Safeguarding and Participation Group** have

experienced a staff changeover this year, as Powys County Council have appointed an internal Participation Officer to run the group on a full-time basis. This Officer commenced in post in January, and has so far recruited four young people to join this new group. Also due to commence in the coming year is an apprentice to aid in the running of this forum.



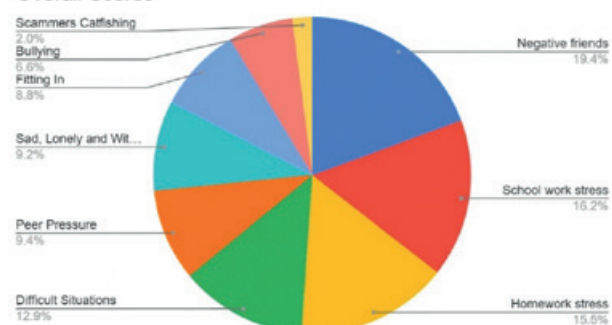
Positive Factors Impacting Young People's Lives

Overall Scores



Negative Factors Impacting Young People's Lives

Overall Scores



A significant amount of collaboration has occurred between the new Participation Officer and TGP Cymru, who previously ran this group. So far, an introductory meeting has taken place to allow the new young people to get to know each other and their new Participation Officer, and the group have attended the regional Zoom meeting for CADW. Eat Carrots are at the beginning of an exciting part of their development as a group, and the Board looks forward to collaborating with them and seeing what the new group achieves in the coming year.

Ceredigion ‘Sêr Saff’ and Ceredigion Youth Service

played a pivotal role in key CADW projects during 2019-20. They have ensured that the young people sit at the heart of their work, encouraging members to utilise their own talents and abilities to contribute to group work. The annual Play Day was held once again in July 2019 at Aberaeron Square Field. All four local groups attended, as did the Board Business Unit. This event was utilised as an opportunity to obtain responses from young people to the regional CADW Wellbeing Survey, with children and young people in attendance filling these out and returning them on the day. A bell tent was used for

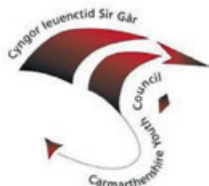


a regional CADW meeting, for each local group to update their regional counterparts on key pieces of work. The young people also enjoyed a number of fun activities on the day, and utilised the skills and talents of their young people – including a DJ set from one of the Sêr Saff!



CADW at the Play Day

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), and act as a voice for local young people and pass on their opinions to the Children’s Rights Commissioner in Wales. This year, their mission was to focus on cyberbullying, by discussing the impact to young people and how they can be helped in overcoming these issues. The rights that young people are able to access in the community was also discussed, with the group feeling empowered and proud of this work.

which services for children and young people are run. They will have opportunities to undertake training, take part in interviews of new members of CAFCASS staff and attend FJYPB meetings held every 3 months.

In August, seven CYC members sat in the Young people Interviewing Panel to recruit youth workers for Carmarthenshire County Council Youth Support Services. This demonstrated excellent progress towards a better process of engagement with young people and strengthening links with Junior Boards.

As part of their Summer Residential, CYC received training on Participation and Children’s Rights provided by Mike Mainwaring, Children in Wales. Discussions were held around participation of children and young people and how much influence they can have on decision-making led by adults – a key theme that is an ongoing priority of the Safeguarding Boards.

Two of CYC’s members have this year been accepted onto the Family Justice Young People’s Board (CAFCASS Cymru). FJYPB supports the work of the Family Justice Board by enabling young people to have a direct say in the way in



Junior Board feedback:
 “Having had our voice and recommendations heard made us feel more empowered that we are able to influence and have our say on services that affect us.”
 Carmarthenshire Youth Council

Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians hosted a junior safeguarding conference as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2019.



The Conference welcomed pupils from all secondary schools in the area, as well as independent schools. The event consisted of two main elements; delivery of the new safeguarding module created for young people, and a session delivered by Fearless on the theme of County Lines.

Feedback from Junior Conference attendees:
“Informed, motivated and inspired”

The 50 attendees at the conference were all asked to complete a feedback form afterwards, the results of which were collated by the young people. From the selection of words given to describe their feelings following the conference, the most popular choices were ‘informed’, ‘motivated’ and ‘inspired’, consistent with feedback received at the previous year’s conference. All feedback was assessed and considerations made as to what improvements could be made next year. Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians undertook a wide variety of other activities as part of NSGW, including a ‘Breaking Down Barriers’ session in which they bowled and ate pizza with decision-makers in Pembrokeshire County Council, to strengthen links and promote communication.

The Great Council Bake-Off was run by Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians once again this year, where young people from different local groups each baked a cake with the help of a volunteer from local agencies. Ian Westley (Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire County Council), Stephen Crabb MP (Preseli Pembrokeshire) and Paul Davies AM (Preseli Pembrokeshire) returned as judges for the event. The Bake-Off was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed once again by all participants.



The winner of the 2019 Bake-Off receiving his prize

With regards to adults being provided with an opportunity to participate in the work of the board, a communication and survivor engagement strategy and group is under development as part of the regional VAWDASV work as previously outlined. Developing and implementing a strategy for adults to compliment this framework and wider work in this area is a priority for the year going forward.

(k) Applications for adult protection & support orders

No applications for Adult Protection & Support Orders (APSOs) were made in Mid and West Wales during 2019-20. The Board is 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 acts as a central hub of useful information, including how to report a concern and available training provided in the region. All Practice Review reports are published on the Board website for a period of 12 weeks, as per legislation, after which point they are removed but remain available on request.

The website is also used as a conduit to promote safeguarding events and to share learning and good practice. Improvements to the layout and content of the Board website, including the development of a resource hub, exploitation section and the introduction of 7-minute briefings has helped support this.



- COVID-19
- 7 Minute Briefings
- VAWDASV
- About us
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- Resource Hub Dashboard
- National Safeguarding Week
- Contacts and Useful Links
- Regional Policies & Procedures
- National Protocols & Procedures



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.



Regional Multi-agency training event

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. Examples of agency safeguarding training that has taken place this year include

- **Hywel DDA Health Board's** named Doctor has delivered updated safeguarding training to GP's and senior clinicians on **Skills and Knowledge Framework for ACEs**.
- **Dyfed-Powys Police** commissioned **Safer Lives**, supported by Hafan Cymru to deliver **Domestic Abuse Matters Training**.
- A substantial amount of training has been delivered to education staff and officers across the region including **Signs of Safety** training to school governors, **whole day updated safeguarding training** to designated safeguarding persons in schools and **awareness raising of prevent** and potential student vulnerability in regional FE colleges.

- Unfortunately two of the Boards' big training events scheduled for March 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions. These were planned large multi-agency workshops and seminars arranged at multiple locations across the region in respect of self-neglect and a thematic review of lessons and messages from regional and national practice reviews. Both of these flagship events have been rescheduled to take place during National Safeguarding Week 2020 and will be delivered using virtual technology.

MAPF Training Attendee feedback:
 "Good to be able to review multi-agency practice in a room where everyone was respected and listened to"

Good progress has been made in relation to training requirements under **VAWDASV** legislation in relation to the National Training Framework, and we now have a centralised regional training plan to cover all relevant Local Authorities. This includes governance documents around policy and procedure and a centralised reporting framework for the delivery and monitoring of the Regional Training Plan to Welsh Government. The training plan focusses on Groups 1-3 and 6, with specific focus on Ask and Act delivery.



Carmarthenshire's Adult Safeguarding Lead facilitating a workshop at the Working Together to Safeguard Adults Conference

This is now underway across all areas of the region, however with the impact of Covid-19, Ask and Act delivery was ceased in the later stages of the year. In the interim, an independent consultant has been commissioned to create webinar and online training sessions to ensure we continue to deliver against the requirements of the National Training Framework.

Irrespective of the identified challenges, the Regional Training Sub-Group has supported the delivery of some additional multi-agency training events to practitioners and managers across the region. This includes the **Working with Children Who Have Experienced Developmental Trauma training**, delivered by the Gwella Project to support a trauma informed approach working with children and young people.

As part of the regional VAWDASV work, training events were delivered in each of the four Local Authorities this year by Dr Jane Monckton Smith, an expert in the field of perpetrators of domestic abuse. The training explained the **"8 Stages of Homicide"** identified by Dr Monckton Smith as being key elements of homicides of women by their partners, from a study of over

400 cases. This training also supported further work undertaken by Dr Monckton Smith with Dyfed-Powys Police to develop a new strategy for stalking incidents in Mid and West Wales which is informed by this research.

Delegates at the Gwella Training:

"This training has helped me identify what other tools to use in connecting with and helping children and young people"
"Excellent training – will use this in practice"

In February 2020, the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board supported the Welsh Government's **Working Together to Safeguard Adults Conference**, with a number of multi-agency practitioners and manager from across the region attending both venues in Wrexham and Cardiff. Senior managers from Adult Safeguarding Services across the region led and facilitated workshops on meeting the challenges of Adult Safeguarding practice.

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

Although no specific formal advice from Welsh Government Ministers has been issued to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards in the past year, the Chairs of the CYSUR and CWMPAS Executive Boards 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 includes the development of legislation,

policy and guidance. The Regional Safeguarding Board has implemented the National Action Plan for Child Sexual Abuse as directed by Welsh Government, and coordinated and submitted multi-agency feedback on a number of formal government consultations on national policy and statutory guidance development including the proposed statutory guidance for children who are electively home educated and the new Keeping Learners Safe guidance.



Collectively what difference are we making

The successful completion of a number of Board projects this year supports the delivery of robust safeguarding practice and services which has enabled the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards to meet their objectives as outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. The full implementation of Operation Encompass, progress in relation to the regional VAWDASV strategy and delivery plan and work to support safer and more robust information sharing are just some examples of this work.

A clear model for learning lessons from practice via the Regional Practice Review Sub-Groups and MAPF Forums is now firmly established within the Boards' structure and business. This includes a successful format for delivering practitioner learning events and the development of practice toolkits and an agreed proforma for 7-minute briefings.

The Boards' work directly supports professional practice. Examples include the completion and publication of three key regional policies and guidance documents, all of which provide guidance to staff delivering safeguarding services across the region

A robust Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Framework continues to provide the

Executive Board with a better understanding of safeguarding practice within a regional multi-agency context. A regional thematic deep dive audit and review into differing regional trends in relation to Section 47 practice has provided assurance that professional practice in this area is safe, robust and proportionate. The positive outcomes resulting from the publication of our Regional Adult Safeguarding Threshold Guidance in 2018/19 have been evidenced this year, with measurable and notable improvements to adult safeguarding practice across the region.

Securing Professor Eileen Munro as a keynote speaker at the Boards' annual regional conference as part of National Safeguarding Week has been one of the highlights of the Boards' work and activities this year. This was a hugely successful event with excellent stakeholder feedback, and enabled practitioners from all corner of the region to showcase the various ways the Signs of Safety model of intervention with families and solution-focussed practice is being delivered.

The CYSUR Board is particularly proud of its CADW Junior Safeguarding Board and the supporting local Junior Safeguarding Groups and youth partnerships across the region, and the excellent work and various projects completed throughout the year.



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