

# NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 4, Spring 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD MANAGER



Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of our Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board Newsletter!

It's been a busy time across the region since our last published edition. You will see an array of activity has taken place, including another hugely successful National Safeguarding Week in November 2023. This issue also highlights news and updates on important areas of safeguarding policy, practice and training, as well as news and good practice highlights from teams and services from our partner agencies across the region.

We are always keen to promote stories and examples of the excellent work taking place across the region, so please do continue to send in any news or information you would like us to highlight to [cysur@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cysur@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

Julie Breckon, Strategic Regional Safeguarding Manager for Children and Adults at Risk

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# NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2023

National Safeguarding Week took place this year from 13th to 19th November 2023, with the regional theme of “Safeguarding in Rural Communities”. Under this heading a programme was designed that aimed to respond to some of the challenges that emerge in rural areas such as those found in Mid and West Wales.

Throughout the week both in-person and online events were held, in the form of conferences and webinars that sought to raise awareness and highlight issues that currently affect children and adults at risk. The regional program was also supported by national events taking place across the whole of Wales. This included the launch of new multi-agency training standards framework being led by Social Care Wales and a Thematic Review of Child Practice Reviews event hosted by the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB) Wales in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University.

## **Regional Conference: Safeguarding in Rural Communities with a focus on Mental Health**

The flagship event for the week was a regional Conference, an in-person event hosted by Powys Local Authority and held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

Presentations focussed on the themes of Safeguarding Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and Young people in Wales, the work of the Infant and Parent Foundation and a talk from the Older Peoples Commissioner of Wales Office. Workshops included Child Sexual Abuse Recovery across the Life Course, a review of ‘The Man Box’ and an update on current Powys staff wellbeing initiatives.

Delegates noted it was a wonderful day and welcomed the opportunity to meet in person to network, participate in interactive workshops and meet new colleagues.



Attendees at Regional Conference hosted by Powys at the Royal Welsh Showground

# NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2023

Mid and West Wales held the following additional regional events during the week:

Dyfed Powys Police hosted a very successful multi-agency **Counter Terrorism Policing webinar** led by Jane Carter, Prevent Manager. The session offered an outline of what PREVENT is, the emerging ideologies which vulnerable people can become exposed to and what Dyfed Powys Police do to support people through Channel.



Attendees at Regional Conference hosted by Powys at the Royal Welsh Showground

A **VAWDASV Strategy Launch webinar** offered an outline of the new strategy and also shared information in relation to regional work around Perpetrator Intervention, IDVA Service provision, regional awareness raising campaigns and the findings of a thematic review of our regional Domestic Homicide Reviews. The webinar also offered delegates an opportunity to hear from Survivors, Practitioners, and Providers who shared their experiences.



Presenters at Regional Conference hosted by Powys at the Royal Welsh Showground

The webinar, **'Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending'** provided participants with an overview of the key themes and messages contained within the new practice resource "Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending: A whole-family safeguarding guide". It took participants through the detail of the resource, to support professionals working with families with the delicate task of both assessing risk while providing emotional and practical support.

A webinar focussed on **Suicide Prevention in Young People**, was hosted by Pembrokeshire

County Council and delivered by POPYRUS (Prevention of Young Suicide). This aimed to consider the attitudes, myths, and stigma that surround suicide, explore the 'signs' that may indicate someone is having thoughts of suicide and support a safety plan with someone thinking of suicide.

Ceredigion County Council ran a live Zoom Seminar **"Safeguarding our farming communities and their families"**. Delivered by Tir Dewi charity this focussed on the risks facing our farming communities, and how best we can support them and their families.

## Presentations and Resources

To extend learning opportunities the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board created webpages for regional events that ran throughout the week, and used these for sharing speaker's presentations, training resources, videos and links from the events. These will remain accessible from our National Safeguarding Week 2023 page available at: <https://cysur.wales/national-safeguarding-week-2023/> It is intended that these pages will continue to be a source of further guidance and support for learning in their respective subject areas.


# NEW 10 STEP GUIDE TO SHARING INFORMATION TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

A new resource has been produced by the Information Commissioners Office for organisations and practitioners to use as guidance on information sharing.

This 10 step guide outlines key data protection considerations when sharing personal information for child safeguarding purposes. It aims to help you feel confident about sharing information when you need to safeguard a child or young person at risk of harm. The guide is aimed at people who are involved in safeguarding children: at all levels, and in all sectors in the UK.




Appropriate information sharing is central to effectively safeguarding children from harm and promoting their wellbeing. Regional child and adult case reviews frequently identify gaps in information sharing as a factor contributing to failures to protect the children involved.

Access the resource online at: [A 10 step guide to sharing information to safeguard children | ICO](https://ico.org.uk/datasharing)



**Sharing information could change her life.**

If you think a child is at risk, you can share information to protect them from harm. Remember to:

 **Think.**  **Check.**  **Share.**

[ico.org.uk/datasharing](https://ico.org.uk/datasharing)

# CARE LEAVERS PACKAGE FROM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S TEAM POWYS TEACHING HEALTH BOARD

For looked after children in Powys and those placed out of Powys, the Looked After Children's Team in Powys Teaching Health Board strive to be excellent health care providers. They do this by working with them to raise their aspirations, to achieve their potential and ensure that their voice is heard throughout the duration of their journey through care.

To encourage their care leavers to be confident, and to help them to be able to access health, they have put together a care leavers package which includes sign posting to health services such as sexual health, dental services and mental health services.



LAC Team Care Leavers Pack

The team know that transition into adulthood is not always easy, and for care leavers the transition can be more complex. They have put these packs together so that children looked after are supported into adulthood in a seamless manner and provided with progressive and ongoing interventions.

They continue to grow and develop as a service with the children and the young people at the forefront of care and vision.

# PUBLISHED CHILD & ADULT PRACTICE REVIEWS



The prime purpose of practice reviews is to identify multi-agency learning and to make recommendations to improve safeguarding practice. Please find below a recently published practice review available on the Adult Practice Review [page of our website](#).

## Adult Practice Review CWMPAS 5 2018

This review concerned a young woman who was a 22-year-old, residential learner who was found deceased in her residence attic room at the residential College in England where she resided during term time. The cause of her death was recorded as a 'case of suicide'.

The report can be accessed [here](#), and will also be made available on the Published Adult Practice Reviews webpage: <https://cysur.wales/adult-practice-reviews/published-adult-practice-reviews/>

# COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING WALES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

[Complex Safeguarding Wales](#) is a website that has been developed by researchers at CASCADE: the Children's Research and Development Centre. It is based on a research project which examined how children were criminally exploited in Wales, with specific reference to drug dealing and the county lines model of drug supply.

It's aim is to provide information about what child criminal exploitation is, what signs to look for and how parents can access help and support. Complex Safeguarding Wales also provides parents with an overview of the relevant policy for education, housing, police and children's services and what to do if your child goes missing. Each section finishes with practical guidance based on what young people, parents and professionals told us.

Findings from the research project have also led to the development of a co-produced child criminal exploitation toolkit and assessment tool (available on request). These tools are aimed at enhancing practitioner and community responses to child criminal exploitation.

For more information and to request a copy of the child criminal exploitation toolkit and assessment tool, please contact Dr Nina Maxwell via email at [MaxwellN2@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:MaxwellN2@Cardiff.ac.uk) or by phone on 029 2251 0944.



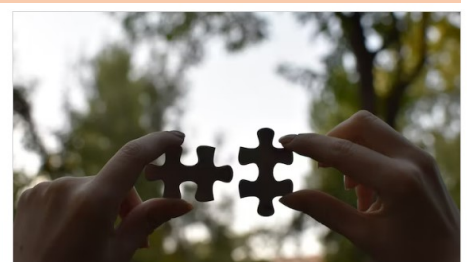
## [Child criminal exploitation](#)

Find out more about child criminal exploitation.



## [Information for parents](#)

Advice for parents concerned that their children are experiencing child criminal exploitation.



## [Support services](#)

Information about support services for child criminal exploitation.

# LAUNCH OF PEMBROKESHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

Last December saw the launch of the Pembrokeshire Domestic Abuse Service, a partnership between Calan DVS and Threshold DAS. These two organisations were successfully awarded the contract to deliver VAWDASV Housing Related Support (Accommodation and Community Based) back in September 2023 and have since been putting in place the infrastructure to deliver these services to the highest standards possible.

Pembrokeshire DAS are dedicated to ensuring that all service-users are empowered to exercise maximum choice/control over their lives and the support they receive. The trauma-informed service will be led by the needs and wishes of victims/survivors whilst keeping safety and understanding of risk paramount. The service will support victims, survivors and perpetrators (community only) with varying levels of need including those with higher and more complex needs.

Pembrokeshire DAS, as a partnership, will also deliver a wide range of additional specialist DVA support services, programmes and interventions which will further support those accessing accommodation and community support.

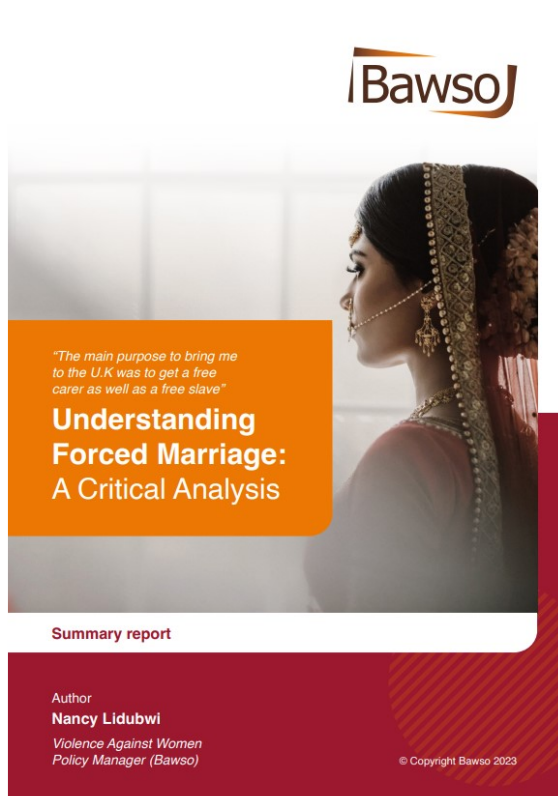
The launch event was a great success with over 50 people in attendance. During the event attendees heard from Calan's CEO, Michelle Whelan, Threshold's CEO, Vicky Pedicini, Johanna Robinson, National Advisor, Joy James and Helen Goodridge from Pembrokeshire Council, Katie Davies Regional Manager, Ann Williams, Live Fear Free Helpline Manager and Sarah Taylor, Survivor and Campaigner.

The day was not only about launching the new service, but also to build a foundation in Pembrokeshire to work collaboratively with other organisations ensuring that the partnership is able to provide a full holistic circle of support for those who access the services.

To find out more about the Pembrokeshire Domestic Abuse Service click here <https://www.calandvs.org.uk/en/two-specialist-domestic-abuse-agencies-awarded-pembrokeshire-domestic-abuse-contract/>



## UNDERSTANDING FORCED MARRIAGE AND HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE



Bawso has published and launched a new summary report which focusses on forced marriage and honour-based violence within BME communities in Wales. Launched at an event at the University of South Wales, it reports that 'women and girls are at increased risk of experiencing domestic violence (DV), forced marriage, so-called Honour-Based Abuse (HBA), and other forms of violence compared to men on a ratio of one to four.

Globally, approximately 736 million women (representing 1 in 3 women and girls) experience physical or sexual violence in their entire lifetime which is perpetrated by an intimate partner (UN Women, 2020).

In 2016, it was estimated that 15.4 million people were living in forced marriages, of which, 88% were women and girls (APIGBV, 2017)'

The report is based on research which sought to gain an in-depth understanding of the ideologies behind forced marriage and Honour Based Violence, to identify individuals behind 'multiple perpetration', and understand the role that culture and religion play in amplifying forced marriages and HBV against women.

The full summary report is available on the BAWSO website: [Understanding-Forced-Marriage English-Welsh-October-2023.pdf \(bawso.org.uk\)](https://www.bawso.org.uk/Understanding-Forced-Marriage-English-Welsh-October-2023.pdf)

## CAN YOU HELP? LLAMAU YOUTH HOMELESS HELPLINE VOLUNTEERS

Llamau's Freephone helpline provides information and advocacy to young people across Wales who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Their aim is to ensure young people understand their rights and feel empowered to access the support they need when they need it. This is a role that can be done from home, volunteers will:

- ◆ **Respond to helpline calls**
- ◆ **Listen to young people in a non-judgmental and empathetic way**
- ◆ **Provide tailored information, signpost/refer to appropriate services and offer advocacy when appropriate**
- ◆ **Maintain confidentiality at all times whilst also considering safeguarding issues**
- ◆ **Record accurate information**
- ◆ **Participate in training, supervision and debrief sessions**

For more information please visit the Volunteering Wales website or contact Louise at the Volunteer Centre [volunteering@pavs.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@pavs.org.uk), mobile number 07790 809768.

# SAFER RECRUITMENT, SAFER EMPLOYMENT EVENTS



Disclosure Barring Service (DBS), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board and Carmarthenshire/Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO) are pleased to bring you a series of joint events to help support your organisation to deliver safe and effective safeguarding practice. These events will be supported and delivered by senior staff from the DBS Service, WCVA, the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board, alongside learning and development leaders from the regions Local Authority Training Departments.

The events are primarily aimed at third sector and independent sector organisations but statutory organisations can be accommodated subject to demand.

Each event will be one day and will consist of three workshops focussed on:

- ⇒ **Good practice in relation to Safeguarding Policies and Procedures**
- ⇒ **Safe Recruitment and the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service)**
- ⇒ **The National Safeguarding Standards Training Standards**

The event will be repeated across Powys, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. Each event is free to attend and a light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

To book a place in your region, visit our website to find your local event and email your local learning and development team who will confirm your places by email.

<https://cysur.wales/training/safer-recruitment-safer-employment/>

## SIBLING SEXUAL ABUSE AND BEHAVIOUR



Child sexual abuse takes many forms, but research suggests that a significant amount of sexual abuse is carried out by people known to the child, including by family members.

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse have produced a free guide to support professionals in their understanding of this area. The guide is split into two: Part A covers the identification and understanding of sibling sexual behaviour and Part B covers the professional response.

Copies of the guide can be accessed in both English and Welsh on their website at <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/practice-resources/sibling-sexual-abuse/>



## GROWING THEIR OWN SOCIAL WORKERS: 'I'M LEARNING SO MUCH'



In May last year colleagues across Powys County Council were invited to consider a career in social work. Social Services was opening the opportunity to all employees to study for a master's degree, to start their social work career. There was significant interest, and two candidates were selected. One, Morgan Manwaring, was already employed in Children's Services and the other was working at the time as a teaching assistant. Freyja Duggan, a special needs teaching assistant at Ysgol Penmaes, seized the opportunity after the head teacher sent the information to all the staff at the school.

Freyja started the MA in Social Work at Cardiff University in September alongside working in the Family Time team in Children's Services one day a week. She loves the course and the work. Freyja said: "I'm learning so much, and everyone is massively supportive."

Freyja follows in the footsteps of two previous master's students, Jess Worthington and Sam Davies who successfully graduated from Cardiff University and are now fully qualified social workers in busy Children's Services teams. They join nine others who have been supported by Adults' and Children's Services to obtain their Social Work degrees this year from the Open University. All agree that the journey is both challenging and rewarding but worth it in the end to pursue a career that will make a real difference to people's lives.

Powys Social Services has an ongoing programme of supporting candidates both at the Open University and at Cardiff University and more information is available from the Social Services Practice Development Team: [practice.development@powys.gov.uk](mailto:practice.development@powys.gov.uk)

All their newly qualified social workers have been successful in getting social work posts and are already contributing hugely to the high-quality service offered to the people of Powys.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE AND OLDER ADULTS - HIDDEN HARMS



Hidden Harms (Welsh)

Hidden Harms Animation, now available in Welsh

In partnership with Dewis Choice, Norfolk Safeguarding Adult Board in England produced an animation, 'Hidden Harms', to highlight the unique challenges that older adults face when domestic abuse occurs. This has now been translated into Welsh to support its use as a resource in Mid and West Wales.

The animation can be viewed on Youtube using the links below.

English: [Hidden Harms \(English\) - YouTube](#)

Welsh [Hidden Harms \(Welsh\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

# RISK, RESPONSE AND REVIEW: MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF CHILD PRACTICE REVIEWS IN WALES

Child Practice Reviews (CPRs) are undertaken in circumstances of a significant incident where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected. The purpose of a child practice review is to generate professional and organisational learning and promote improvement in future inter-agency child protection practice.

During National Safeguarding Week this year, Manchester Met University, with support from the University of Liverpool, shared the newly published report commissioned by the National Independent Safeguarding Board Wales (NISB): National Thematic Analysis of Child Practice Reviews in Wales, 2023.

The report sets out the findings of a review of 33 CPRs from 2013 – 2021. It contains recommendations to support practitioners, leaders and policymakers to maximise effective working across all agencies involved with children and families.

A briefing report and copy of the full report can be downloaded from the National Independent Safeguarding Boards website at <https://safeguardingboard.wales/2023/10/02/risk-response-and-review-multi-agency-safeguarding/>

## Risk, Response and Review: Multi-Agency Safeguarding

A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF CHILD PRACTICE REVIEWS IN WALES 2023

BRIEFING REPORT  
AUGUST 2023



Report: Multi-Agency Safeguarding A Thematic Analysis of Child Practice Reviews in Wales

## SOCIAL WORK WEEK - MONDAY 18 MARCH TO FRIDAY 22 MARCH



## Gofal Cymdeithasol Cymru Social Care Wales



Social Work Week takes place from Monday 18 to Friday 22 March. It brings people together to celebrate social work and is for everyone with an interest in social work in Wales.

This year, during the week, Social Care Wales will be hosting a series of events focusing on collaboration, well-being and areas of practice improvement. On Tuesday 19 March they'll also be celebrating World Social Work Day by sharing inspiring video messages from social work leaders.

They have got an exciting programme of events for the week, covering a range of topics from well-being to neurodiversity. These events involve ADSS Cymru, BASW Cymru, Cardiff University and many other contributors.

You can see what's on and book your place at <https://socialcare.wales/social-work-week-2024>

If you have any questions, please email [iwqueries@socialcare.wales](mailto:iwqueries@socialcare.wales)

# KEY MESSAGES FROM RESEARCH ON 'HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR IN ONLINE CONTEXTS'



## Key messages from research on harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts

Sarah Brown,  
University of the Sunshine Coast and  
University of the West of England  
Jasmin Tregidga,  
Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse  
October 2023  
[www.csacentre.org.uk](http://www.csacentre.org.uk)

Report: *Key messages from research on harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts*

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse have published their latest paper, '[Key messages from research on harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts](#)'. This is their second paper exploring sexual abuse in online contexts and follows the 'key messages from research on child sexual abuse by adults in online contexts' that was published previously. Both papers are now live on the brand new CSA Centre website.

Understanding the contexts and impacts of sexual abuse online and through digital communication must be part of the skills set for all professionals working with children and families as well as those designing protection, safety and solutions. When working with children that have sexually harmed in an online context, professionals need to have a detailed understanding of the child's broader behaviours - both online and offline - and to try to understand the reasons for them in order to intervene. Bringing together the most up-to-date research into quick-read accessible overviews, this key resource is designed to help professionals, guiding confident and evidence-informed professional practice.

The full report can be accessed at the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse at: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/key-messages/harmful-sexual-behaviour-in-online-contexts/>

## SUICIDE AND SELF HARM PREVENTION CYMRU

**SSHP Cymru | Training Hub**  
Suicide and Self harm Prevention



The Suicide and Self harm Prevention Training Hub is a platform for anyone looking for training and development opportunities that can help them, their communities, or their workforces, to develop their awareness, understanding and skills in relation to the management and prevention of suicide and self harm.

It has been designed to help professionals to understand what is provided by a range of training providers who design and deliver training programmes to raise awareness and understanding, and to develop skills, regarding suicide and self harm management and prevention.

The resource will help you find:

- freely available online learning opportunities
- training and development programmes for yourself, your teams and colleagues
- headline information to help you to become more familiar with the issues related to suicide and self harm management and prevention

To access the website visit: <https://sshp.wales/en/>

# UPCOMING AWARENESS DAYS

Please find upcoming awareness day dates for your diaries. Remember to follow us on social media for links and resources that support each of these days.

## March

1st March	Self-Harm Awareness Day
8th March	International Women's Day
11th -17th March	Safer Sleep Week
13th March	Young Carers Action Day
18th March	National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day
19th March	World Social Work Day

## April

2nd April	World Autism Day
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## May

13th -19th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
13th -17th May	Hoarding Awareness Week
25th May	International Missing Children Day

## OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

### FACEBOOK



@CYSURCYMRU

### INSTAGRAM



@CYSURCYMRU

### TWITTER



@CYSURCYMRU

@CWMPASCYMRU

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