MID AND WEST WALES REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5, Summer 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD MANAGER



Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of our Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board Newsletter.

You will see a lot of activity has taken place across the region since our last published edition, including a number of new initiatives, good news stories, the development of several poster campaigns, training and workshops and more. This issue also highlights updates on important areas of safeguarding policy, practice and training, as well as news and good practice 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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

REGIONAL

⇒ New Published Child & Adult Practice Reviews

⇒ Good News Stories from Powys Teaching Health Board

⇒ Powys "Bursting With…" Anti-Vaping Campaign

⇒ New 7 Minute Briefing: Use of Bodymaps in safeguarding

⇒ Carmarthenshire Consent Poster Campaign

⇒ VAWDASV Updates (Communications and Regional Advisory Panel)

REGIONAL

⇒ DHR Thematic Review

NATIONAL

⇒ Wales Safeguarding Procedures Updates

⇒ Practical resources - link between domestic abuse and suicide

⇒ Reporting concerns of modern slavery in the social care sector

⇒ New suicide awareness training module

⇒ NSPCC - Listen Up Speak Up Workshops

WALES SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES UPDATES



The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are now 4 years post launch and implementation and they are familiar to and used across all organisations and agencies in Wales. Since their last newsletter in 2023 the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board have developed a resources section within the procedures where useful links and information are now stored. This includes links to the Social Care Wales National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Standards and Framework and materials/toolkit from the Information Commissioners Office, on Sharing Information to Safeguard Children.

In Development

⇒ **Section 5 Wales Safeguarding Procedures**: Review and amendments have taken place to Section 5 of the procedures relating to **Allegations Against Practitioners/Those in Positions of Trust** This review has been informed by feedback from LADO's and Designated Officers for Safeguarding and is due out for consultation via Regional Safeguarding Boards imminently .

⇒ **National Recommendations – Practice Reviews**: Following the recommendations from a recent child practice review, the procedures have been reviewed and amended s made to strengthen and support the involvement of those with parental responsibility in children's safeguarding processes. The changes take account of those non-resident parents who must be involved (where safe to do so) in the processes.

⇒ **Practice Guides**: Final amendments are in the process of being made to the Child Sexual Abuse Practice Guide and this new guide will be included in the procedures when finalised A review of the current Safeguarding Children from Child Criminal Exploitation Practice Guide and Child Sexual Exploitation practice guides are being undertaken with the likely future inclusion of a toolkit and supplementary resources to support this area of practice.. It is acknowledged there are no current practice guides to support Adult Safeguarding practice and work is underway to identify a list of proposed practice guides for development in 2024/25.

If you wish to contact the Wales Safeguarding Procedures project team with any queries, questions or issues you can contact them at info@safeguarding.wales

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 recently published practice reviews in Mid and West Wales, available on our website:

Hybrid Practice Review, comprising CYSUR 4 2020 and CWMPAS 2 2020.

⇒ CPR report and 7 minute briefing:

https://cysur.wales/child-practice-reviews/cysur-4-2020-extended-child-practice-review/

⇒ APR report and 7 minute briefing:

https://cysur.wales/adult-practice-reviews/cwmpas-2-2020-extended-adult-practice-review/

CYSUR 3 2021 Concise Child Practice Review

⇒ CPR report and 7 minute briefing:

https://cysur.wales/child-practice-reviews/cysur-3-2021-concise-child-practice-review/

Good News Stories from the Clinical Nurse Specialist for Looked After Children, Powys Teaching Health Board



In Powys Teaching Health Board, Rosie Cox and Helen Wear have been actively involved in the resettlement programme for Powys' unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. They have identified the need to support them with GP registration, preliminary blood screening, and the immunisations they require. Paperwork has been developed by them to support carers and GP's of the requirements as stipulated by Welsh Government Guidelines.

They are also developing a pack to support these vulnerable children around healthy lifestyle choices, meal planning/budgeting and sleep support.

Many of Powys local unaccompanied children travel in groups at night and sleep during the day, when they arrive in the UK most are unable to settle and frequently suffer from nightmares. Those who have spent time in detention centres or makeshift camps also experience disturbed sleep. They experience difficulties in falling and staying asleep at night, in waking in the morning and staying awake during the day. This contributes to poor concentration and a lack of emotional stability.

Rosie and Helen identified a children's charity in London that provides sleep packs for the children and collaboratively with Childrens services collected 40 packs for distribution in Powys.

A Sleep Pack is a pouch that contains: a night shirt, a plug-in night light, a lavender bag, a specially created 'Sweet Dreams' card, an eye mask, ear plugs, tissues, and a stress ball.

Feedback from Childrens Services SW

"These sleep packs will be valuable in the process of ensuring the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that we are supporting, giving them the essentials that they need along with a sense of worth and dignity."



Sleep Pack for Distribution

POWYS "BURSTING WITH…" ANTI-VAPING CAMPAIGN

Recent figures from the School Health Research Network (SHRN) suggest there has been an increase in the number of children and young people who are currently using e-cigarettes/vapes. In the UK, the proportion of 11–17-year-olds that are currently vaping has increased from 4% in 2020 to 7% in 2022.

An anti-vaping campaign has been jointly launched by Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council. The campaign will be seen across Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council social media accounts and operational premises, secondary schools and bus stops in Powys.

This campaign has created a number of informative posters which are available to print, download and share to raise awareness of vaping more widely. A document library contains digital assets including images formatted for social media (X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) and animated images that are suitable for posting as Facebook Stories and Instagram Reels.

A word document on the main page contains suggested social media posts. There are also posters suitable for printing in A4 and A3. In Powys, they also have a range of physical assets available, including banners, postcards, and posters. To request physical assets, please email healthprotection@powys.gov.uk

Communication assets can be downloaded from their asset library here.

For more information on the campaign or for support quitting vaping visit: Vaping - Powys Teaching Health Board (Shown below).



Are you under 18 and vaping?

Click here to access more information and support.



Are you over 18 and vaping?

Click here to access more information and support.



Is your child or a young person that you are working with vaping?

Click here to access more information and support.



Guidance on vaping/e-cigarettes for schools and colleges in Powys

Don't Smoke? Don't start vaping!

POWYS "BURSTING WITH…" ANTI-VAPING CAMPAIGN



NEW 7 MINUTE BREIFING: USE OF BODYMAPS IN SAFEGUARDING

Hywel Dda Health Board have developed a helpful tool in the form of a 7 minute briefing to assist practitioners with management of skin care where the presence of pressure and or moisture damage, bruising or injuries may be present. This can often be a feature of older people who require care in a hospital and specialist care or nursing provision.

A body map is a tool used to record visual damage to skin integrity. The Body Map should accurately reflect the type, presentation and position of any visible damage to skin integrity at the point of a patient admission, during the hospital stay/ whilst in the receipt of care or at a point of discharge from a facility. The Body Map should accompany the individual during their progression through the Health and Care System.

In addition to enabling effective communication, the body map aids practitioners with decision-making and evaluating evidence when there is a safeguarding concern raised. They can be utilised like a journal to record all relevant details. Body maps can be shared with multidisciplinary/multiagency professionals as an essential part of information-sharing regarding individuals. Body maps evidence details at an identified point in time. Body maps can also be used to inform Safeguarding enquiries, Multi Agency forums and Adult/ Child practice reviews.



The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board – January 2024. Adapted from Hywel Dda University Health Board, Use of Body Maps in Safeguarding, 7 Minute Briefing.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE THEMATIC REVIEW

Following the completed thematic review of DHRs across the region, the (Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) VAWDASV strategic group have developed this briefing document to capture and share learning.

The review was an analysis of 15 domestic homicide reviews undertaken by the community safety partnerships in Mid and West Wales with the aim of :

- Enhancing an understanding of the themes and learning from DHRs in the region.
- Informing the development and implementation of the regional VAWDASV strategy and delivery plan.

Key findings of the Thematic Review

Sex



Victims:
13 female victims.
2 male victims.

Perpetrators:
Of the **13** homicide cases:
13 perpetrators were **male.**
1 was **female.**

Sexuality

The **victim in one case identified as a lesbian** – importance of recording this information to improve understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse within same sex relationships but also to improve agency/system responses.

Ethnicity

Where recorded, all victims and perpetrators identified as **White Welsh/British.**

Children

There were **8 children** linked to 5 of the Reviews.

Age

19 YOUNGEST ↓ **87** OLDEST ↑

Victims:
The youngest victim was **19 years of age** and the oldest **87 years of age.**

7 victims over the age of 65 years - this equates to **47%** of the total victims compared to **over 65's** accounting for **21%** of the Welsh population (Census 2021)

2 of the victims were **over the age of 80 years** and both were murdered by family members.

Perpetrators:
Age of perpetrators ranged from **19 to 81 years.**

Perpetrators between the ages of **25-40 years** and **41-55 years** accounted for the largest number of cases (4 each).

2 perpetrators **over the age of 80 years.**

Cause of death

Stabbing accounted for **33% of the deaths** in Mid and West Wales.

Blunt Force Trauma and Strangulation/Suffocation accounted for **three deaths respectively.**

The **3 deaths** from suffocation/strangulation were all **females over the age of 65 years.**

Home remains the most dangerous place for **women** with **93% of deaths happening in their own homes.**

[1] Home Office DHR guidance para 18 states that *where a victim took their own life and the circumstances give rise to concern for example it emerges that there was coercive and controlling behaviour in the relationship a review should be undertaken even if a suspect if not charged with an offence or they are tried and acquitted.*

[2] In respect of the 2 male victims, one was a familial homicide and the other a suicide.

[3] In one familial homicide there were 2 perpetrators – 1 male and 1 female.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE THEMATIC REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Relationship to the victim

The perpetrator was the victims' :
Intimate partner in **9 cases (69%)**

Son/Daughter in **3 cases.**

Grandson in **1 case.**

Brother in **1 case.**

Criminal Justice Outcomes*

Perpetrators were:
Guilty of murder in **7 cases.**

Guilty of manslaughter in **3 cases.**

Acquitted in **1 case.**

*No criminal justice outcomes in **4 cases** – suicides and homicide/suicides.

Victim Vulnerabilities (known in 9 of the cases)

In a **third of the cases** the victim had been a previous victim of domestic abuse.

Anxiety/Depression was a factor in **4 of the cases.**

Self-harm/suicidal ideation a factor in **2 of the cases.**

Agency contact with subjects of the Reviews

Health (Primary and Secondary) in **8 of the cases.**

Mental Health Services in **5 of the cases.**

Children's Services in **5 of the cases.**

Police in **3 of the cases.**

Specialist VAWDASV Services in **1 of the cases.**

Factors identified relating to Perpetrators

(known for 11 of the cases)

Mental Health a factor in **64% of cases.**

Alcohol/Substance Use also a factor in **64% of cases.**

A history of domestic abuse in **54% of cases** including coercive and controlling behaviours, threats towards and assaults on parents/partners and attitudes/behaviours towards women.

Themes (from 9 of the reviews)

Coercive and Controlling Behaviours present in **77% of DHRs.**

Older People's experiences of domestic abuse – **53% of DHRs** involving **victims over the age of 55 years.**

Familial homicide in **4 cases** – **3 cases** of Matricide.

The critical role of Health in identifying and responding to domestic abuse.

Children as victims of domestic abuse.

Significance of Care Dynamics.

Importance of community based responses to VAW-DASV.

The impact of Covid 19.

Family and Friends – importance of information and pathways to raise concerns.

Relocation to Mid and West Wales in **44% of DHRs**

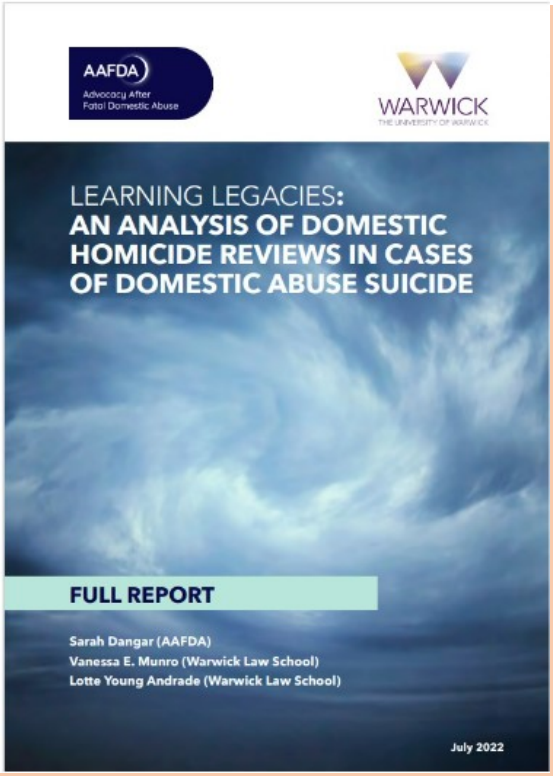
Suicide – importance of identifying where domestic abuse may be a factor and implementing DHR notification procedures.

Risk and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

In the **13 cases** where this information is known – **none of the victims** had been discussed at MARAC.

Only one of the victims had been assessed as High Risk and this had been in relation to a previous partner (it is not documented whether this was case was discussed at MARAC).

PRACTICAL RESOURCES TO HELP PROFESSIONALS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE LINK BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SUICIDE



Last March saw the launch of 'Learning Legacies: An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Cases of Domestic Abuse Suicide', a collaboration between AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse) and the University of Warwick.

From the very start, the team were committed to ensuring that the report had a wide reach and that its learning is able to support professionals working in domestic abuse, Domestic Homicide Reviews and suicide prevention. They are now delighted to launch a series of practical resources to help professionals to better understand the link between domestic abuse and suicide, and to improve the response to suicide after domestic abuse.

You can access the report, policy briefs, a practitioner toolkit and a short animation here: [Learning Legacies: An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Cases of Domestic Abuse Suicide - AAFDA]

REPORTING CONCERNS OF MODERN SLAVERY IN THE SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

Welsh Government has produced a webpage on identifying and reporting concerns of modern slavery in the social care sector. This new page covers the following:

- ⇒ What is modern slavery?
- ⇒ What are the signs of modern slavery?
- ⇒ Common misunderstandings and misconceptions
- ⇒ What you can do if you suspect care workers are being exploited, If you are an international worker and want to question your working conditions
- ⇒ Social care providers employing (or wanting to employ) international workers
- ⇒ Whistleblowing
- ⇒ Further information

The page can be accessed at : https://www.gov.wales/modern-slavery-and-labour-abuse-social-care



VAWDASV UPDATES

The Regional VAWDASV group are continuing to roll-out communications campaigns across the region in relation to Older People and Children & Young People, delivering sessions and materials to community groups, schools, colleges, youth groups and sports clubs, with a focus on raising awareness of VAWDASV, and improving understanding of Healthy Relationships, Consent, and supporting individuals to challenge unhealthy and misogynistic attitudes and beliefs.



They are in the process of developing a campaign which will include a Podcast, to encourage those working within communities across Mid & West Wales, including mobile banking, mobile post office and library services, and home-care services, to become VAWDASV Ambassadors, to ensure that where communities have lost their services and amenities, there are individuals who will have the skills and confidence to respond to VAWDASV.

REGIONAL SURVIVOR ADVISORY PANEL

Did you know we have A Regional Survivor Panel made of people with Lived Experience of Domestic Abuse ?The Panel continues to grow membership and identify key areas of work they aim to prioritise and deliver on within the coming months. For 2024-2025 the panel will focus on themes such as Family Court Proceedings and Post Separation Abuse.

Panel members have undertaken work and made a number of recommendations to regional boards such as the local criminal justice board, regional VAWDASV Board and the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board.

Work in the coming months will focus on the development of specific training materials and awareness raising tools in relation to domestic abuse , as well as informing regional communication campaigns.

CARMARTHENSHIRE CONSENT POSTER CAMPAIGN

Carmarthenshire Local Authority have developed a poster campaign around consent. This includes a number of posters In English and Welsh which can be shared within your organisations. For more information please contact **melanie@camau.org.uk**

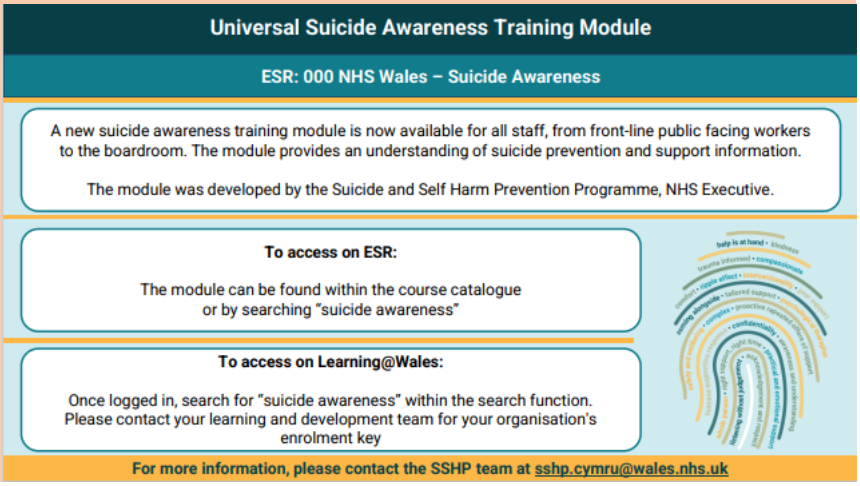


NEW SUICIDE AWARENESS TRAINING MODULE

A new suicide awareness training module is now available for all staff, from front-line public facing workers to the boardroom.

The module provides an understanding of suicide prevention and support information. The module was developed by the Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Programme, NHS Executive.

For more information please contact the SSHP Team at sshp.cymru@wales.nhs.uk



NSPCC - LISTEN UP SPEAK UP WORKSHOPS

The NSPCC believes everyone has a part to play in helping to keep children safe, from shop workers and café staff, to librarians, swimming pool attendants and passengers on public transport.

Their Listen Up Speak Up campaign is encouraging schools, businesses and community groups across Wales to take part in free workshops offering advice on what to do if you're concerned for a child's safety or wellbeing and who to contact for support.

The workshops are being offered face-to-face and online, and run through a series of real-life scenarios, giving practical advice about how to approach challenging situations where a child might be at risk.

They are determined to reach as many people and as many communities as possible and would love to hear from anyone interested in hosting one of their Listen Up Speak Up workshops.

To organise or attend a workshop, please email walescampaigns@nspcc.org.uk – they require a minimum of ten people at each face-to-face session. However, anyone can sign up to their free 10-minute online training by visiting www.nspcc.org.uk/speakup



YOUR STORIES

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

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.

July	
14th July	National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Honour Based Violence
24th July	The Big Listen – Samaritans Awareness Day
30th July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons
August	
12th August	International Youth Day
September	
10th September	World Suicide Prevention Day

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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@CWMPASCYMRU

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