

THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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



Cwmni Actiefyddu Cymunedol
Cymru
Wales
Community Rehabilitation Company



Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales



Heddlu Police
DYFED-POWYS



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board



Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board



Gwasanaeth Prawf
Cenedlaethol
National Probation
Service



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Introduction

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



This Annual Report outlines the progress we have made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of our joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2020-21. As we proceed to publication, we find ourselves responding to a recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic, which has significantly impacted upon all public services throughout the duration of this year.

We are proud as Board Chairs not only of the dedication of our Boards and their partners to respond swiftly and effectively to the various risks and challenges experienced as a result of the pandemic, but also of the outstanding achievements that have been made this year in spite of the challenges faced. We have operated on a business as usual basis throughout the year, meeting all statutory obligations, and have advanced a number of key workstreams aligned with our Board priorities as identified in the

Annual Strategic Plan. Furthermore, we have embraced the challenges posed to improve efficiency in our working practice, utilising digital solutions and technology to continue to collaborate as a regional multi-agency partnership.

The unprecedented challenges this year have demonstrated the paramount importance of the Regional Safeguarding Boards in ensuring a multi-agency response to challenges in the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. We would like to thank the members of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding 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 continue to safeguard children and adults in Mid and West Wales.



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:

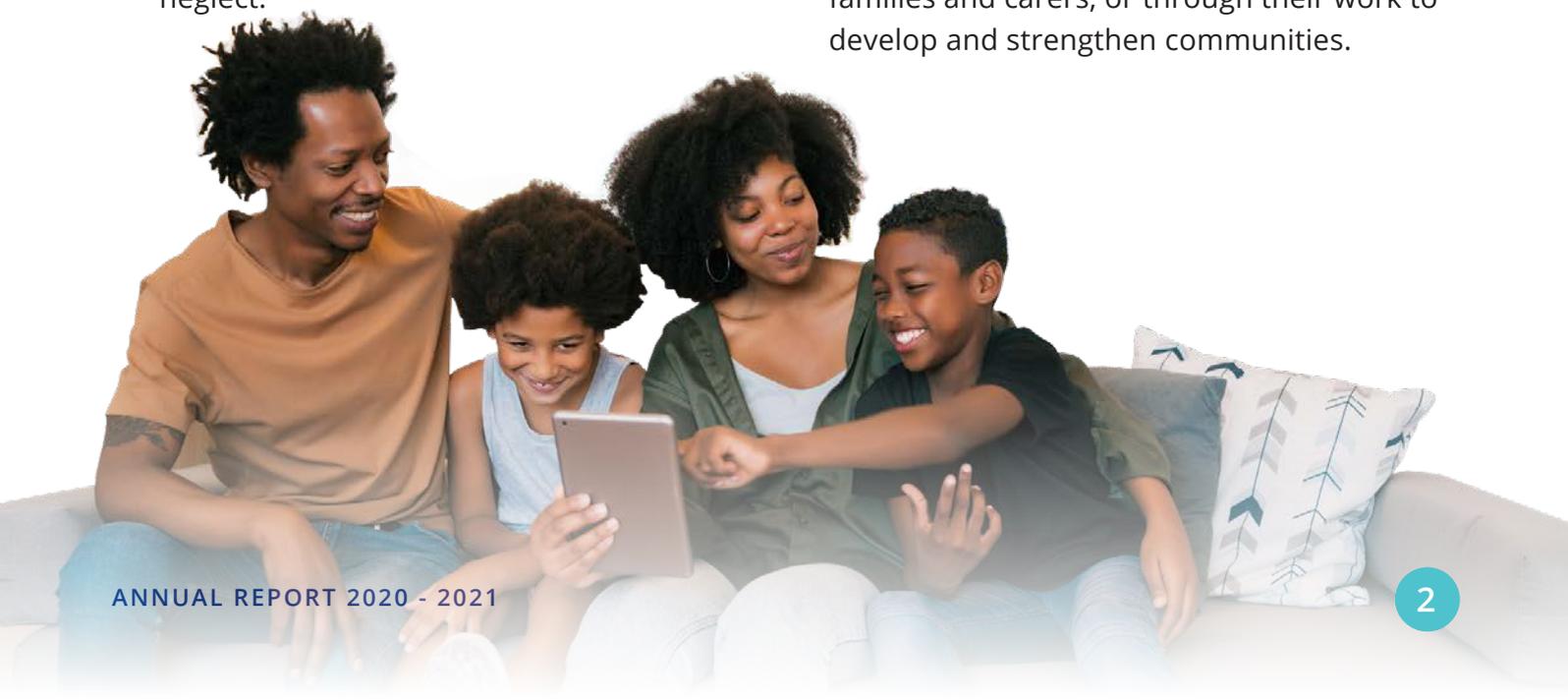
- to **protect** adults within its area who –
 1. have needs for care and support (whether or not a Local Authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 2. are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- to **prevent** those adults within its area from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

Guidance on the functions of Safeguarding Boards

The focus for Safeguarding Boards is twofold. It is both the **protection** of children and adults who are in need of care and support from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and the **prevention** of children and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. These two objectives should inform the priorities of Safeguarding Boards when they are considering their work programmes and annual plans, and reviewing their performance.

Keeping children and adults who may have needs for care and support safe is everyone's responsibility. This means feeling safe and being safe with those with whom they live and who support and care for them, as well as being safe in environments outside the home where they may live, travel, play, learn, work or undertake sport, cultural, leisure and other activities. This responsibility lies primarily within the family or with carers and within the wider community.

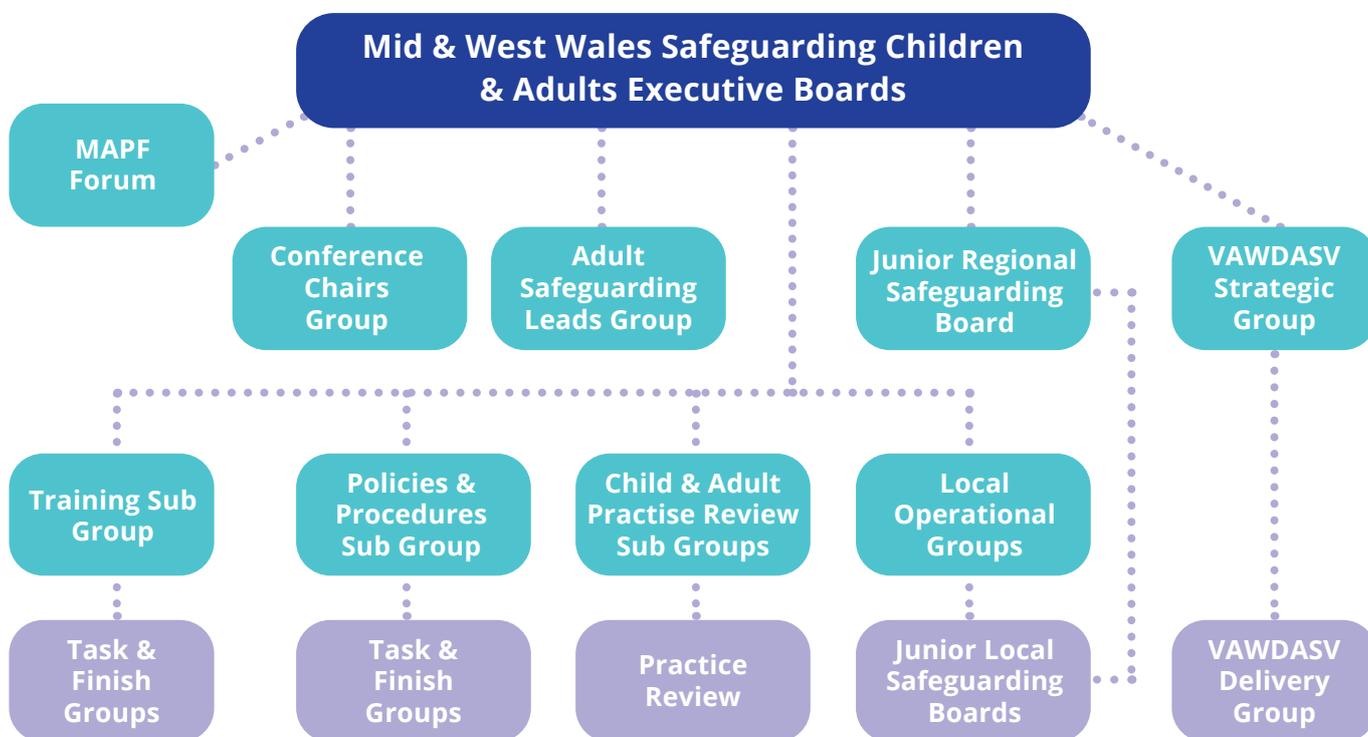
Many organisations have responsibility for safeguarding children and adults through the services they provide directly to them, through the help and support provided to families and carers, or through their work to develop and strengthen communities.



Board Structure

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards serve the communities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys, working collaboratively and in partnership within a multi-agency setting. The Boards’ aim is to raise awareness of safeguarding issues with members of the public and provide support, advice and guidance to professionals working in our local communities who deliver a range of voluntary and statutory services. Mid and West Wales is covered by two sister Safeguarding Boards:

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



Executive Boards:

The Executive Boards for CYSUR and CWMPAS work together as an overarching regional Board to monitor and improve regional safeguarding activity across Mid and West Wales. The Executive Boards consist of senior managers from all key statutory partners and agencies (see section A). The Executive Boards’ aim is to provide leadership and guidance to all its constituent agencies through the delivery of a series of strategic priorities for safeguarding activity and practice. The two Executive Boards support, guide and take advice from the regional sub-groups.



Executive Board meeting held this year using Microsoft Teams

Local Operational Groups:

Each of the four Local Authorities within Mid and West Wales host Local Operational Groups (LOGs). The purpose, membership and structure of these LOGs mirror that of the Executive Boards. However, the primary objective of LOGs is to monitor and analyse safeguarding practice locally, rather than regionally. Membership consists of the 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.



Feedback from
Development Day:

*LOGs and sub groups are effective
in disseminating practice-related
issues through agencies*



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](#).

Regional Multi-agency Professional Forum (MAPF):

The Regional Board also has an established Regional Multi-agency Professional Forum (MAPF), which supports and oversees multi-agency learning from identified cases that have not met the threshold for a concise or extended Child or Adult Practice Reviews. Responsibility for managing and overseeing MAPFs sits with LOGs, however any themes and regional learning is captured and shared via the regional forum.

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 and bespoke safeguarding training across the region. It 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 VAWDASV Delivery Group supports the Strategic Group on the progression and implementation of regional priorities, as well as maintaining key links with specialist providers.



COVID-19 Operational Group

In order to ensure an efficient and consistent response to the COVID-19 pandemic across safeguarding services in Mid and West Wales, a COVID-19 Operational Group was established in March 2020 to specifically address key issues relating to the pandemic. Membership is made up of Executive Board members and Senior Operational Managers across the multi-agency partnership. Meetings were initially held weekly at the outset, and the frequency of these meetings has been subject to ongoing review and amendment in line with the severity of risk and demand upon services. This group agreed, developed and implemented a number of policies and procedures, to ensure safeguarding practice across all Board agencies was consistent, and that risks posed by COVID-19 to the community as well as to services were responded to in a timely and effective manner. This group remains in place at the time of writing, operating at a reduced frequency in proportion to the current risk level and demand being experienced in Mid and West Wales.

CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

The CYSUR Board continues to commission Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its regional Junior Safeguarding Board.

The group continues to advise the Executive Boards on safeguarding matters and issues from a young 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

Jayne Butler (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

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



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

Jayne Butler

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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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

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)

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 and 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

Development and Implementation of COVID-19 Regional Arrangements

As previously referenced, a considerable amount of time and resources in the preceding year has been redirected to support the multi-agency safeguarding response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, a number of interim regional arrangements have been developed and implemented to support this work. This includes temporary changes to the Boards' structure, including the implementation of a COVID-19 Operational Group, which has met regularly throughout the pandemic, and the development and publication of a number of COVID-19 specific strategies, protocols and policies.

Development and Implementation of a COVID-19 Operational Group

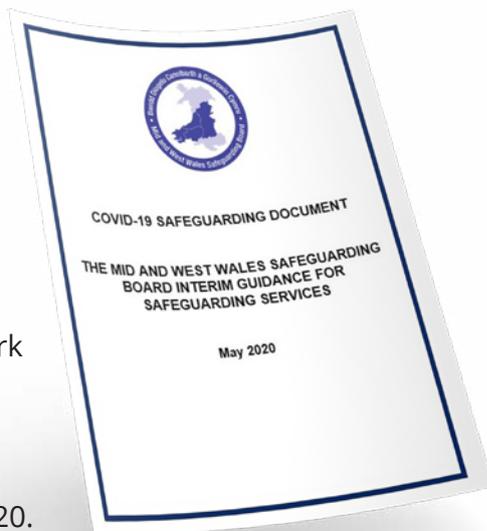
The COVID-19 Operational Group was introduced at the onset of the pandemic, to provide a bespoke forum for addressing the various challenges posed by COVID-19. The first meeting took place on 16th March 2020, and a total of 18 meetings have taken place to date. The first meeting took place on 16th March 2020, and eighteen meetings have taken place to date. The meetings were initially set up as an emergency response to the potential implications for critical multi-agency safeguarding services to deliver a consistent and collaborative regional response to business critical statutory services. This quickly broadened and developed into a forum for partners to collectively analyse and respond to any identified increased risk to service users, share best practice and discuss and troubleshoot complex case scenarios.

“ Feedback shared during the Development Day ”
Organisational barriers were removed to achieve a collective aim

Initially, the Operational Group's work focused on partners of The Regional Safeguarding Boards developing business continuity plans for key statutory safeguarding services. All agencies unanimously supported a **business as usual approach**, and the development of creative ways to continue to deliver key services. This included the development and sharing of a number of different risk assessment tools and Pyramid of Need protocols, which aided the assessment of those identified to be at high risk and in most need. Further creative methods to meet statutory obligations were developed and shared, including the use of technology and virtual methods to see families and undertake assessments. The Operational Group were able to oversee, analyse and respond to a rapidly evolving and changing situation in a focused, timely and collaborative manner, particularly in the weeks and months immediately following the national lockdown and at the height of the pandemic. Such issues included the availability and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and its potential implications on staff and service users, as well as associated challenges in care homes, nursing homes and domiciliary care provision. The need to ensure the continued delivery of key frontline statutory services for children and adults at risk was pivotal to this work.

Development of Interim COVID-19 Policies for Children and Adults at Risk

The Regional Multi-Agency Safeguarding Leads for Children and Adults collaborated quickly to formulate a number of regional interim policies in a very short timescale, to support a regional approach to the most vulnerable identified groups. This has included guidance for undertaking DoLS assessments, Section 47 investigations, LAC reviews and Child Protection Conferences, updated Data Protection Guidance and a safeguarding framework to support multi-disciplinary meetings. These all remain operational documents at the time of publication and were published as one overarching menu of policies on the Boards' website under its regional COVID-19 arrangements in August 2020.

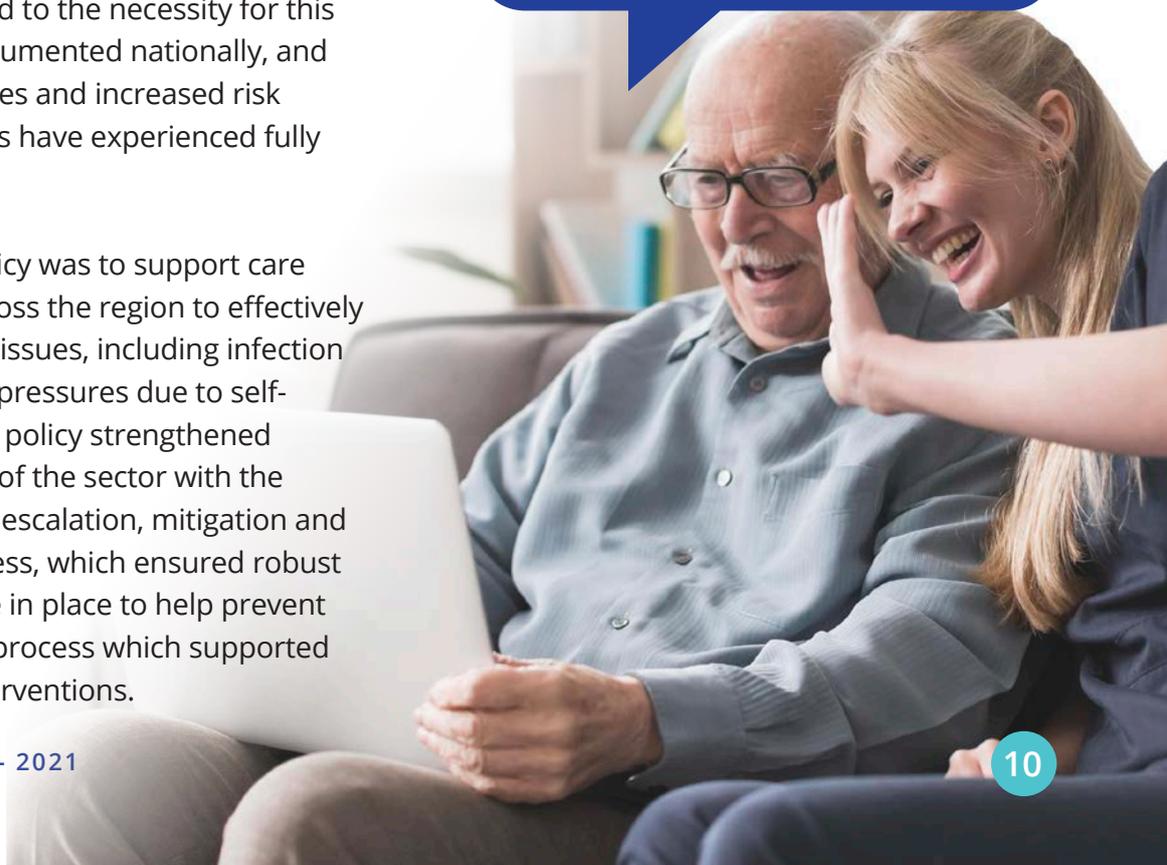


Development and Publication of a COVID Regional Escalation Process and Risk Management Policy for Care Homes and Nursing Homes

A key piece of work overseen by the COVID-19 Operational Group, in collaboration and partnership with the West Wales and Powys Regional Partnership Boards, was the development and publication of a Regional Escalation and Risk Management Policy for Care and Nursing Homes. The background to the necessity for this work has been well documented nationally, and the associated challenges and increased risk care and nursing homes have experienced fully acknowledged.

The purpose of this policy was to support care and nursing homes across the region to effectively manage some of these issues, including infection outbreaks and staffing pressures due to self-isolation absences. The policy strengthened multi-agency oversight of the sector with the development of a clear escalation, mitigation and risk management process, which ensured robust contingency plans were in place to help prevent avoidable deaths via a process which supported timely, appropriate interventions.

“ Feedback from an Executive Board member:
The development of a single point of access for care homes has been a great help in terms of reassurance ”



Development and Implementation of a COVID-19 Threshold Document

The unique set of circumstances, bespoke scenarios and challenges that have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic have given rise to discussion and debate across the Mid and West Wales region as to when and at what point certain situations and case examples should be considered under safeguarding arrangements as opposed to other frameworks, such as Public Health, Environmental Health and Regional Commissioning arrangements.

PREVENTION No harm or risk thereof Low risk of harm	PREVENTION Possible harm or risk thereof Moderate risk of harm	REQUIRES CONSULTATION WITH:	PROTECTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One off occurrence of lack of access to PPE, all reasonable steps taken One off occurrence of inappropriate waste management, all reasonable steps taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One off occurrence of not wearing PPE that could cause risk but does not currently One off occurrence of inappropriate waste management that could cause risk but does not currently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUBLIC HEALTH WALES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONING TEAMS CARE MANAGEMENT TEAMS CIW/HIW <p>All issues in respect of infection control or access to use of PPE will be dealt with via the appropriate Public Health/ Environmental Health / Commissioning/ Care Management Teams/CIW/HIW</p> <p>The examples below may trigger Enforcement action, Regional Care Home Escalation Procedures, Complaints process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricted/lack of PPE that may have caused harm. Inappropriate waste management that may have caused harm lack of and/or inappropriate use of PPE across a service Continued lack of timely response to PPE issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REQUIRES CONSULTATION WITH DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSON/ TEAM IN YOUR ORGANISATION POLICE (potentially) <p>Safeguarding procedures will only be triggered in situations where an adult at risk (as defined in SSWBA) has knowingly been put at risk, abused, or neglected by an individual or organisation</p> <p>The examples below may trigger the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, Regional Care Home Escalation Procedures, Police procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowingly restricting access to care or medical treatment for someone who lacks capacity to make that decision that has caused harm or likely to have caused harm Continued and Persistent disregard and failure to follow official advice and guidance and regulations in respect of COVID 19.
Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board 2020			
COVID-19 Threshold Document			

A regional Threshold Guidance Document specific to COVID-19 has been developed and published to provide guidance to staff when such complex and sometimes finely balanced scenarios emerge that require sensible and proportionate professional judgement to be exercised. This work has been led by the Regional Adult Safeguarding leads group in consultation with multi-agency partners, who agreed safeguarding procedures would only be triggered when deliberate intent to knowingly cause harm was clearly evidenced.

Continued Implementation of the Regional VAWDASV Strategy

As required by Welsh Government, under the VAWDASV Act 2015, the Mid and West Wales region published the Safe Lives, Healthier Families VAWDASV Strategy in November 2018. The Regional Strategy and Annual Delivery Plans are overseen by the Regional Adviser and VAWDASV Strategic Board who are accountable to the Regional Safeguarding Executive Board.



As already outlined throughout 2020-21, the region had to make significant changes to the intended annual delivery plan as a result of the pandemic, which includes regional VAWDASV work. It has however, also enabled us to be innovative, creative and exploit opportunities in addressing barriers to service delivery that are specific to Mid and West Wales.

The key pieces of work completed in respect of VAWDASV within 2020-21 include:

- Continuing work on the development of a Survivor Engagement Framework across Mid and West Wales, including undertaking a comprehensive analysis of existing good practice
- Collaboration with Education Safeguarding Leads to ensure vulnerable children and families had access to IT and other essential equipment throughout lockdown. This ensured safeguarding processes and access to specialist support was maintained.
- Delivery of three specialist Domestic Abuse perpetrator interventions across the region. This included piloting virtual delivery options and a stalking specific intervention developed with Professor Jane Monckton-Smith.
- Work to establish a consistent regional response to Child to Parent Abuse (CPA), including a regional policy, regional training and a regional access to support document.
- Scoping a regional pilot of the IRISi programme across GP clusters across Carmarthenshire in response to regional Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). This will improve earlier identification of Domestic Abuse and links between primary care and specialist VAWDASV support provision.
- Work to establish a regional VAWDASV Service Specification that will shape and inform region-wide VAWDASV commissioning activity. This will support innovative and holistic provision of VAWDASV support.
- Secured over one million pound of additional funding in the 2020-21 financial year. This enabled us to increase the capacity across VAWDASV specialist services to meet the increased demand for VAWDASV services as a result of the pandemic.

Feedback from an Executive Board member:
There is a strong alignment of workstreams between the VAWDASV Board and our Executive Board

Over the coming year we will explore opportunities for close working between the VAWDASV strategic board and the Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to help ensure that the principles of the strategy are embedded within our work programme and to facilitate shared learning around key areas such as commissioning and prevention.

Further information on the VAWSAV in Mid and West Wales can be obtained via the following link:
<https://www.cysur.wales/vawdasv/>



(c) Extent To Which We Have Implemented Our Strategic Annual Plans

1. Effective Engagement and Communication:

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

What we said we would do:

- Strengthen our engagement with children and adults at risk and our regional groups and forums
- Improve communication with practitioners
- Promote targeted enhanced communication with the public, including public awareness raising campaigns

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. Although this has remained a key action for all Local Operational Groups as part of their targeted work plan during the year, attention has been refocused to responding to the immediate and acute safeguarding needs of adults at risk resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Safeguarding Framework that seeks to obtain qualitative feedback from adults who have been subject to the safeguarding process or an enquiry, developed in Ceredigion last year, has been shared and promoted across the region via the regional Adult Safeguarding Leads group, and will be further considered and progressed in the coming year. 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.

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Engagement with Regional Groups and Forums

The strong and effective links already in place with the West Wales Regional Partnership Board have been consolidated this year. Joint areas of mutual interest between the respective regional collaboratives, such as supporting a strong and resilient workforce across the social care and health sector, have gained additional prominence through the pandemic because of the additional vulnerabilities this has highlighted.

This has been particularly significant in the care, nursing home and domiciliary care sectors; these areas having already been identified as particularly fragile, experiencing major staffing and recruitment challenges. Joint terms of reference between the two regional collaboratives

have been agreed for a joint lessons learned exercise to be undertaken in the coming year on what can be learned within the Mid and West Wales region from the pandemic. The finding of the Welsh Government-led John Bolton review will be considered as part of this work.

Further work has been undertaken on establishing clearer communication channels with the respective regional Public Service Boards. The Probation Service has led a mapping exercise on common and joint areas of interest. Systems are now in place to share and highlight any relevant information to the Regional Safeguarding Board from these partnerships and forums.

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 Business Development Officer within the Regional Safeguarding Boards leads this work on behalf of the Regional Board, working alongside the TGP workers who coordinate the regional meetings. Consolidating and developing this work will continue to be a priority in 2021-22.



Drawing of a CADW Zoom meeting by one of its dedicated members

CADW meetings have continued to take place regularly via zoom throughout lockdown. To the young people's credit, they have demonstrated remarkable creativity and resilience throughout this extremely challenging period, maintaining a clear focus and continuing to deliver against their work plan. Please see section J for more detail on the young people's work this year.

A key piece of work this year has been the development of a training video/animation that, when complete, will be incorporated into multi-agency practitioner safeguarding training. This piece of work has been commissioned to them by the Regional Training Sub Group. Representatives have continued to attend and participate in Executive Board meetings virtually, and local Junior Boards regularly input and attend Local Operational Groups to share their concerns and experiences of safeguarding practice.

Improved communication with practitioners

A proforma for a Board newsletter has been developed within the Business Unit and approved by the Executive Board, and will be launched in the coming year. A bespoke practitioner distribution list will be created to include local voluntary partnerships and groups,



and it is intended this will be widely circulated across the whole region directly to practitioners in Mid and West Wales. Routine distribution of 7 minute briefings on safeguarding issues, policy, legislation, and key messages from published Practice Reviews have also contributed to our improved reach and communication with practitioners.

Some themes and messages that have been disseminated this year include awareness raising on scams and domestic abuse in response to increased concerns during the national lockdown for adults at risk. Other messages widely disseminated include information on radicalisation, county lines, female genital mutilation (FGM) and contextual safeguarding.

Feedback from Development Day
7 minute briefings are well received. We can have high confidence that information is received and understood

The Boards have sought to raise awareness of their work with practitioners via a variety of channels. Further resources have been invested in improving the content of the Boards' website, and the Resource Hub developed last year has been further populated with information for the public and professionals. This includes a page specifically dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic and practitioner resources for child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Boards' website also contains links to other relevant sites and useful forums, including the [National Independent Safeguarding Board](#).



A specific page dedicated to the [Children in Wales Bill](#) (Abolition of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment) has been developed to help support and prepare practitioners ahead of the change in law in Wales in March 2022

Promote targeted enhanced communication with the public, including public awareness raising campaigns

Throughout the year, a number of specific campaigns using the Boards' various social media platforms have been successfully run, linked to specific safeguarding themes including promoting national identified days of significance and campaigns.

Examples include:

- Stalking Awareness Day
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- CSA Stop it
- Now Campaign
- Get Safe Online Campaign
- Home Shouldn't Be a Place of Fear Campaign
- World Suicide Prevention Day
- World Mental Health Day
- VAWDASV 16 Days of Activism
- Safer Sleep Week

As a direct response to concerns in respect of a significant drop in the numbers of referrals received from the public following the national lockdown, a radio advert was commissioned and developed to encourage reporting from members of the public who may have concerns for a child or adult's welfare. This was aired across all local radio stations within the region and promoted a business as usual response message from all Board partners.

The underlying message provided assurance that all reports of concerns received in respect of any child or adult who may be at risk would be responded to in the usual way, and the challenges associated with the lockdown and social distancing measures put in place had not in any way compromised the quality of intervention from agencies.

Widespread promotional activity also took place across the region as part of National Safeguarding Week 2020, linked specifically to the Boards' regional theme of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The restrictions placed on all Boards due to social distancing requirements provided an opportunity to make better use of social media platforms to disseminate key messages to the public and professionals.

As such, an extremely successful daily campaign was run throughout National Safeguarding Week, promoting a different theme each day linked to positive mental health, including the benefits of nature and sleep. As a result, CYSUR's Facebook page achieved a record reach of 8,000 users for its most popular post.



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

- The voice of children and young people continues to directly influences the Boards' priorities
- Practitioners are now more informed in relation to the Boards and their work
- Increased social media promotion in relation to key safeguarding messages has enhanced and improved public awareness of children and adults who may be at risk

What we still need to do:

- Further develop local work undertaken in respect of engagement with adults at risk into a broader strategic regional framework

2. Thematic Learning and Developing Best Practice:

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

What we said we would do:

- Strengthen our regional Practice Review and MAPF processes
- Review and improve the formation our Practice Review Action Plans
- Increase the number of MAPFs undertaken across the region
- Share learning and thematic lessons
- Continue to deliver against our regional Training Strategy and commission multi-agency training

What improvements we have made:

Strengthen our regional Practice Review and MAPF processes

Robust mechanisms are in place to support the Practice Review processes within the Boards' structures, and this is now part of our core business in Mid and West Wales. 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 in the last year.

A comprehensive review of the regional MAPF process and forum has been undertaken. The purpose of the forum is to promote and support a continuous programme of active learning across the Mid and West Wales region, maintain oversight of case learning events and dissemination, as well as exploration of learning from audits, inspections, reviews and research. Following this process review, a decision was taken to amalgamate this work into the regional Practice Review Sub-Groups to strengthen regional oversight of their commencement and completion.

Review and improve the formation of our Practice Review Action Plans

In the last year, due to some challenges in respect of the tracking and monitoring of learning points arising from Practice Reviews, a new action plan template has been developed and implemented.

The purpose of this redesign is twofold: (i) to streamline and refocus the monitoring of actions from an administrative point of view, thus ensuring any learning outcomes are easier for agencies to report against, (ii) to create a plan which emphasises ownership and accountability of actions to ensure progress is made.

CYSUR X 20XX (Area Concise/Extended Child/Adult Practice Review)												
Brief description of the case Action Plan approved 31st January 20XX Click here to view the report												
LEARNING POINT	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	TIMESCALE	AGENCY RAG				OVERALL RAG	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	DATE OF COMPLETION	QA MONITORING
					Cared	Services	Permits	Protop				
1. Learning Point	1. Recommendation	1.1 Action	LOGs	Mar-21	On Track	Not Started	Underway	Not Started	Not Started or On Hold			
		1.2 Action	LOGs	Jun-21	Complete	Not Started	Underway	Not Started	Not Started or On Hold			
		1.3 Action	LOGs	Mar-21	Complete	Not Started	Underway	On Track	Not Started or On Hold			
		1.4 Action	LOGs	Jun-21	Complete	Not Started	Underway	Not Started	Not Started or On Hold			
2. Learning Point	2. Recommendation	2.1 Action	Health Boards	Mar-21	Underway		Underway	Underway				
		2.2 Action	Health Boards	Jun-21	Underway		Underway	Underway				
		3.1 Action	Regional Training Sub Group	Mar-21	Complete			Complete				

CYSUR Action Plan Template

This new style of plan has received positive feedback within the region, and has also been shared as good practice example with the national Single Unified Safeguarding Review Training and Learning Group, and is being considered for use as a template for a national proforma to aid this work.

Increase the number of MAPFs undertaken across the region

The Regional Safeguarding Boards approved the formation of a regional MAPF group in October 2017. Since then, the forum has met twice a year and until recently, was attended by multi-agency regional safeguarding leads covering both adults and children. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary to have a 12 month hiatus in meetings. Although a culture of sharing good practice exists across the region, the pace of MAPFs has slowed down, with some areas in the region struggling to meet regionally agreed targets this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent need to focus on other priorities, has significantly contributed to this, however pressure on resources and time has also added to this challenge. Irrespective of this, the pace has picked up in recent months and a number of MAPFs have progressed and concluded. The amalgamation of this forum into the CPR/APR Sub-Groups as outlined above has improved regional monitoring and oversight of progress, and a clear plan is now in place to progress any delayed and pending MAPFs.

Share learning and thematic lessons

In the last year, the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board commissioned an independent consultant to undertake a thematic review of the key themes and messages that have arisen from national reviews, as well as CPR/APRs and MAPFs within the Mid and West Wales region. A number of common themes emerged from this work, including the need for better information sharing across agencies, evidence of disguised compliance and the need for practitioners to demonstrate professional curiosity in case work. The messages and lessons from this work were disseminated via a number of multi-agency



**Guest speaker
Barbara J Firth**

Barbara has been an independent trainer and consultant for over 30 years. During that time she has worked extensively with inter-professional groups at all levels in order to develop policy, practice and systems in services for children and adults.

Barbara has been involved with case reviews since 1997 as an independent overview author, an advisor to Review Panels and as a guide and consultant to reviewers. She helped to develop the Welsh Child Protection and Adult

Thematic Review Training flyer featuring Barbara Firth

practitioners’ and managers’ seminars held across the region as part of National Safeguarding Week activities and beyond in November 2020 and early 2021. The findings and feedback from staff were presented to Executive Board members, and relevant themes have featured in this year’s annual strategic plan.

Some local bespoke practitioner and manager seminars have been delivered on virtual platforms to multi-agency audiences following the publication of Practice Reviews, with one event in Powys delivered to 120 practitioners from several disciplines and agencies. System and processes in place within the Boards’ structures ensure any key themes are automatically shared in a timely way by the regional Policies and Procedures and Training Sub-Groups. Mechanisms exist within the Boards’ structures to ensure any reviews published by other Boards, and any relevant associated national research, are shared promptly with partners.

Progress against the Regional Training Strategy and multi-agency training

The [Mid and West Wales All Age Regional Training](#) strategy continues to provide 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. Although regional task and finish groups that implement this plan were suspended last year due to the impact of the pandemic, the strategy continues to be an active document and a focus for the regional Sub-Group. A number of multi-agency training events have been successfully delivered this year, and information in respect of these events will be elaborated upon under section L.



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

- Methods for sharing lessons with practitioners have been strengthened, and practitioner learning has been broadened and enriched
- Processes to support the regional MAPF process have been strengthened
- Agency reporting against practice review action plans has improved due to improved formation

What we still need to do:

- Complete any outstanding MAPFs
- Recommence regional training task and finish groups to complete outstanding actions against the [Mid and West Wales All Age Regional Training Strategy Delivery Plan](#)

3. Strengthening the Workforce and Managing Risk:

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

What we said we would do:

- Devise and implement strategies across agencies that increase retention of the workforce
- Ensure effective recruitment strategies and career pathways are in place to secure skilled safeguarding staff
- Ensure entry pathways for safeguarding roles enable the recruitment of skilled staff, with particular focus on “grow-your-own” initiatives and staff sponsorship schemes
- Support stability across all agencies at Board level that can withstand periods of instability
- Ensure timely identification of risk in relation to staffing levels at a local and regional level in respect of care and nursing homes and domiciliary care provision
- Devise a regional dashboard tool to monitor services and support identification and escalation of risk
- Support practitioner professional development via clear policy guidance and development opportunities
- Recognise excellent safeguarding practice

What improvements we have made:

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 workstream, and with whom the Regional Safeguarding Boards have strong links. All four Local Authorities within the region have internal recruitment strategies in place to support a long-term sustainable model of recruitment and retention for social care staff.

Recruitment practice, grow your own initiatives and links to Universities

Grow your own initiatives and schemes are in place across the region. Powys County Council, for example, have invested heavily in this area in an effort to offset against recruitment challenges in recent years. This has been successful in recruiting additional social work trainees. For example, 11 staff were offered a sponsored Open University degree in 2020 across Children and Adult Services. In 2021, 12 places will be offered, and those selected will be paid a support worker salary and have course fees paid. The progress and efforts made were acknowledged as part of a recent inspection in Powys from CIW.

Attention within the Mid and West Wales region has in previous years been focused on risks identified within the care and nursing home and domiciliary care sector, areas already known to be vulnerable and fragile, particularly in relation to staff recruitment and retention. Considerable work has been undertaken regionally in this area in recent years, led by the regional commissioning partnerships. This includes the development of a regional dashboard tool to monitor services and support identification and escalation of risk, and is supported by robust contingency plans that can be implemented swiftly in the event of a residential or nursing home failure, thus ensuring residents and adults in need of care and support or who may be at risk are safeguarded and protected. The further development of a regional escalating concerns framework helps to provide timely intervention and support to residential settings that may be struggling to maintain high standards of care.

“ Feedback from Powys’ CIW Inspection: *The Local Authority’s investment in the professional development of its workforce... is delivering positive results for children and families* ”

In the last year, the unexpected impact of the global pandemic has brought additional unexpected challenges in this area. It is well documented that care homes have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and such settings have a higher proportion of people at risk of serious complications from infections. Clearly, the pandemic has continued to place specific pressures on care homes, with impacts on the wider health and social care system. As a result, a regional COVID-19 Recovery plan has been developed by the regional commissioning collaboratives. In the spirit of collaborative multi-agency working, the plan has focused on issues where a consistent regional approach is identified as needed. Part of this plan is focused on maintaining a sustainable workforce, with a particular focus upon the development of a regional workforce strategy. To enhance sector stability and resilience, an initial assessment of market stability in relation to care homes has also been undertaken. This has initially prioritised care homes for older people, as it is recognised these experienced the greatest impact during the pandemic. In summary, effective plans are in place across the region to support and sustain a long-term healthy workforce and to deal with and monitor additional challenges in at-risk areas, which have come under additional pressure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Support practitioner professional development via clear policy guidance and development opportunities

Following on from a regional audit and review undertaken into regional section 47 practice last year, a follow-up multi-agency professional development day was held. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, the event was held virtually using Microsoft Teams. The event was facilitated by an independent consultant, with operational managers from all statutory agencies and members of the Board taking part. The aim of the day was to provide an opportunity to consider Welsh Government legislation and guidance, relevant



sections of the Children Act 1989 and regional CYSUR policies and procedures in relation to Section 47 processes. This was in light of the apparent significant discrepancies in the regional performance framework indicators, in relation to Section 47 thresholds and practice across the region. There was also an opportunity for participants to consider best practice, understand the importance of effective risk assessments and to apply local knowledge and practice in discussing and debating several 'real' case examples. The day was very successful, with good interaction from those who joined the session.

The technology enabled everyone to participate remotely, and the breakout sessions allowed for small group discussions to take place centred on how participants would respond to several case scenarios. These were submitted by a range of practitioners prior to the event, and helpfully covered a full range of concerns representative of different levels of needs as identified in the regional threshold guidance. The outcome and conclusions of the day corresponded with the findings of the previous review and audit, and presented a continuing reassuring picture of professional practice across the region.

This did not indicate a huge or disproportionate disparity in approach or practice. It was evident that those participants who took part in the development day were clear on what constitutes 'significant harm', understood the roles of different agencies in contributing to assessing risks and what to do if they felt concerns were not being appropriately addressed. There was nothing to suggest any of the agencies from different regions were operating outside of the agreed procedures, or demonstrating decision-making or practice that was unsafe or not proportionate. Due to the success of this event, the Boards have agreed to hold similar thematic events relevant to practice on an annual basis.

The regional Policies and Procedures Sub-Group has had a very successful year, with a number of protocols and policies developed to support practitioners to undertake their roles. In addition to the completion of numerous policies (please see section F for further information), significant development work and consultation has been progressed in respect of the regional high-risk behaviours and self-neglect work. This will be completed in the coming year with a plan to formally launch this work as part of National Safeguarding Week 2021.

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.
- Responses to additional workforce challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic have been timely, proportionate and collaborative, ensuring adequate safeguards for the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Reassurance is provided that professional practice in relation to children at risk is safe, and those at risk are protected and safeguarded appropriately.

What we still need to do:

- Develop an annual multi-agency staff award ceremony that identifies and acknowledges excellent safeguarding practice and achievement.

4. Leadership, Visibility and Challenge:

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

What we said we would do:

- Make better use of digital technology and solutions
- Implement the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in a way that is regionally consistent and compliant
- Support Local Operational Groups to escalate risk
- Continue to work and collaborate with the Welsh Government, National Independent Safeguarding Board and other forums on issues of national importance

What improvements we have made:

Better use of digital technology and solutions

Social distancing requirements introduced as part of the global pandemic in March 2020, although challenging, have also created opportunities for latitude and creativity in the way the regional Boards conduct their day-to-day business. The geographical size of the Mid and Wales region has presented long-standing challenges for partner organisations, within the context of demands on time and distances required to travel to attend regional meetings.

Although video conference facilities have been utilised for many years to enable colleagues to attend their local meeting venues, the restrictions associated with the pandemic have led to a complete virtual delivery and facilitation of all regional meetings. This includes all executive Board meetings, COVID Operational meetings, Board Sub-Groups, Local Operational Groups, Practice Review Panel meetings, and task and finish groups. It is now the collective view of partner agencies that the benefits of utilising this method of working far outweigh any associated challenges or drawbacks.

As well as significant benefits to time management and work-life balance, the speed at which this technology has enabled the region and its partners to respond to the urgency of the pandemic has been widely acknowledged, and can be clearly evidenced in the Boards' work and output this year. It is likely this way of working will continue for much of the Boards' day-to-day business and many of its workstreams, which will continue to contribute to a more efficient and effective delivery of safeguarding work across the region in the coming year.



Feedback from Development Day:

Virtual meetings can improve connectivity and opportunities for information sharing and learning. Staff can be more focused on the meetings without the added pressure of travel



Implement the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in a way that is regionally consistent and compliant

Considerable time and resources have been invested in implementing the Wales Safeguarding Procedures this year. A number of multi-agency workshops have been delivered across the region, overseen by a bespoke regional task and finish group. The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are now embedded into everyday safeguarding practice and widely used by multi-agency staff across the region. The task and finish group has supported and overseen a regionally consistent interpretation and implementation of the Procedures. Please refer to section L for more information in relation to training and learning.



Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss the delivery of Wales Safeguarding Procedures training across the region

Continue to work and collaborate with the Welsh Government, National Independent Safeguarding Board and other forums on issues of national importance

The Boards' priority in the last year has inevitably been the response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Although all agencies have been responsible and accountable for their individual plans and responses, the Regional Boards have led and guided agencies where a collective, collaborative response on issues of mutual significance has been needed. The chairs of the respective CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards and the Regional Board Manager has attended and participated in numerous formal meetings and forums, including the Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board in response to the many urgent and unforeseen challenges associated with the pandemic. These forums have provided an opportunity for the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board to share and promote some good practice and creative examples of the work undertaken in this region, including the risk escalation protocol for care and nursing homes.

Electively Home Educated (EHE) Children

The publication in 2019 of draft statutory guidance for EHE children by the Welsh Government was 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. The Mid and West Wales Regional Board were however profoundly disappointed at the Welsh Government's subsequent decision to formally suspend publication of this guidance in 2020, citing challenges in respect of COVID-19 as the reason for this. As a Regional Safeguarding Children Board, we have welcomed the Children's Commissioner for Wales' decision to use her statutory powers to review the Welsh Government's actions in relation to this policy matter. Whilst accepting the challenges and demands that have been placed on Welsh Government as a result of the pandemic, it is our collective view that this is an issue that should remain on the agenda, in spite of the additional challenge of COVID-19. Indeed, we see this as an issue that goes to the very centre of children's human rights in Wales and is one that should not be delayed any longer. The significant rise in the numbers of electively home educated children

across the region throughout the pandemic, and associated concerns around isolation and visibility of children to professionals, adds weight to this position. Work will continue in the coming year to support the need to publish this critical, much needed national guidance. The publication of a further Child Practice Review, CYSUR 6 2018, within the Mid and West Wales region in November 2020, with a strong elective home education theme, further supports the need to strengthen safeguarding arrangements for this group of children in Wales.

Scarcity of secure accommodation beds in Wales

Following the publication of Extended Child Practice Review CYSUR 2 2018, the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board has sought to highlight and raise the issue of the shortage and scarcity of secure accommodation beds in Wales. The circumstances relate to the tragic death of an 18-year-old young woman who had received extensive involvement from several agencies throughout her childhood, and in the months prior to her death, had been on the child protection register and Looked After. The review highlighted a number of complex issues professionals face when supporting young people with multiple and complex needs. As well as identifying several areas of good practice, significant shortfalls in both the availability and provision of appropriate secure accommodation placements and appropriate alternatives to this in Wales were highlighted in the review findings.

As such, and as a direct response to the learning identified, the Boards entered into discussions and formal correspondence with senior Welsh Government officials, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, and the chair of the National Independent Safeguarding Board on this matter. Although some assurance has been provided on initiatives underway nationally to address this issue, some frustration remains that progress on securing this provision has been too slow, and that faster progress is needed to address this unacceptable gap in provision. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board will keep a watching brief on progress in this area as appropriate in the coming year, and continue to advocate where appropriate for better provision for this highly vulnerable group of children.

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

- Best use of technology has enabled Board partners to meet the needs of its most vulnerable citizens and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in a timely and collaborative way
- Improved efficiencies and increased output as a result of less travel time
- The Wales Safeguarding Procedures have been successfully implemented on a multi-agency basis increasing practitioner knowledge and skills for responding to reports for children and adults at risk

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 a regional risk register to escalate high level multi-agency risk to the Executive Board
- Induct new members to the Boards and provide information in relation to their role via a new members' pack



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

Welsh Government

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have 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. This year, this has included additional meetings related to the COVID-19 pandemic, at which the Board Chairs and the Regional Board Manager have represented the region.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The contribution the Mid and West Wales Board has made to problem-solving national issues associated with the pandemic, for example, access to PPE and practice in relation to hospital discharges to care homes, has been referenced throughout various sections of this report. Further issues identified within this region, which have been reported to Government officials include the need to promote a clear understanding of the appropriateness of the use of do not resuscitate notices (DNRs) amongst medical practitioners, as well as the need to enhance and improve the understanding of the responsibility of Registered Individuals (RIs) in care and nursing homes in relation to the pandemic.

The Boards have also made a significant contribution to the Single Unified Safeguarding Review project, aimed at developing one all-encompassing safeguarding review process to replace Child and Adult Practice Reviews, DHRs and Mental Health reviews. A number of groups have been established to complete this piece of work, and Board members are represented on several of these. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board continues to be a member of the Strategic Implementation Group for the Children in Wales Bill, also known as the Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment (Wales) Bill. As a Board, we have supported and worked closely with a PR company commissioned to this project to assist in promoting awareness of the forthcoming change in legislation within the region, and with other Safeguarding Boards in Wales, including the promotion of a forthcoming summer advertising campaign, targeting holidaymakers who may visit Wales this year.

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Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Chair of CYSUR, Jake Morgan, continues to liaise with the Children's Commissioner for Wales on any appropriate matters in relation to the wellbeing and safeguarding of children in the Mid and West Wales region. As already outlined, constructive discussion and dialogue has taken place in respect of areas of mutual interest, including electively home educated children, following the Commissioners decision to undertake a formal review into the Welsh Government's failure to take action to enact statutory guidance and fulfil previous commitments in this policy area. Other

areas that have featured in discussion and dialogue with the Children’s Commissioner include the shortage of secure accommodation for highly vulnerable children in Wales following the publication of Extended Child Practice Review CYSUR 2 2018, which identified this deficit and shortfall across Wales and in the UK.

Sport Wales

Collaborative work undertaken previously on a project to complete a toolkit for non-affiliated sports and leisure groups and clubs has been paused during the pandemic. This is an area that has been highlighted previously 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 previously developed will be completed and consulted upon in the coming year, which will be utilised 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 Sport 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 Boards, positive links continue between the two regional partnerships in areas of mutual interest. The MAWWFR Safeguarding Manager has collaborated and supported work underway to develop a regional policy and framework to manage high risk behaviours and self-neglect, and has arranged consultation internally in relation to this work.



She continues to periodically attend Local Operational Groups to provide updates and for relevant specific agenda items, and has contributed where relevant to the regional Adult Safeguarding Leads meetings.

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. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to be represented on the national project board for the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and play a very active part in their implementation and continuing development.

Regional West Wales Partnership Board

Strong links and communication established with the West Wales Partnership Board have been consolidated this year, who continue to progress key workstreams centred on strengthening and supporting the workforce, which aligns to the Boards' strategic priority in this area.



A joined-up approach is being taken with the West Wales Partnership Board concerning the pandemic, with joint work planned on a review of lessons learned during the response to and recovery from COVID-19. This work will provide a helpful insight into learning available from the regional response, as well as strengthen the collaborative relationship in place with the Partnership Board.

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. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board is represented on the national development group leading on the development of national multi-agency training standards.



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, including the COVID-19 related assurance checks.



Enhanced dialogue and correspondence this year has inevitably been pandemic focused, and the Board chairs have formally responded to and provided information and assurance in relation to a number of issues concerning professional standards and practice for people living in care homes. This includes reports of reduced access to primary care in some areas, cohorting of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in some establishments, and practice in relation to the verification of deaths in care homes.

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, as well as the promotion of dissemination events hosted via Welsh Government



Community Safety Partnerships

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to maintain strong links with Community Safety Partnerships in the region. This year dialogue, discussion and work has been focused upon an area of mutual interest: the Single Unified Safeguarding Review project. The Boards' Education Safeguarding Representative in Pembrokeshire has worked collaboratively with Carmarthenshire's Community Safety Partnership manager on the development of a number of role profiles to support this national work.



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.

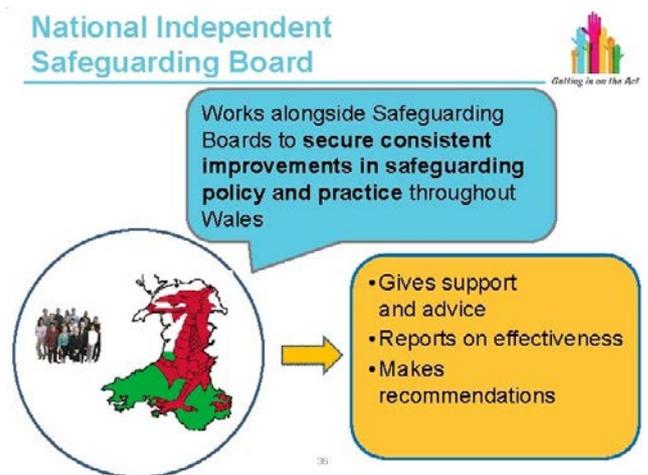


The Regional Boards have promoted and disseminated various information in the last year in respect of this project, including the national evaluation. An event to support and promote this work, delivered by Sophie Hallet from Cascade research facility and Cardiff University, was hosted by Powys during the year, and was made available to all Board partner agencies across the region.

National Independent Safeguarding Board

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

National Independent Safeguarding Board



The Boards have supported a national review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements currently being led by the NISB, via attendance at various meetings and events hosted by researcher Michelle McManus from Liverpool John Moores University, who is now leading phase 2 of this work on behalf of the NISB.

“ Feedback from Development Day: The National Independent Safeguarding Board have continued to have a presence in our meetings, and vice versa ”

(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

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The coordinated multi-agency response to the wide range of risks posed to safeguarding services and the public throughout COVID-19 has been a testament to the good practice and collaboration already established within the Boards. The Boards were able to immediately convene an Operational COVID-19 Group to identify, respond to and continuously monitor key issues and challenges upon the onset of the pandemic, developing policies, procedures and best practice guidance to ensure a consistent and effective approach across Mid and West Wales.



Feedback from Development Day:

The regional response to COVID-19 has reinforced the focus on the importance of safeguarding and the need to safeguard - who needed to be core, who is most vulnerable



The Boards were also able to operate at a largely business as usual level through the entirety of COVID-19, fulfilling all its statutory obligations at every stage of the pandemic, and only suspending a small number of task and finish groups and non-urgent workstreams even at the peak of risk and demand. The achievements made this year despite the unprecedented challenges faced are a source of great pride within the Boards, whose function as a multi-agency collaboration has been of paramount importance in the safeguarding response to COVID-19 over the last year.

Achievements specific to the COVID-19 response include the development of the following policies, procedures and guidance:

- COVID-19 Interim Position for the Management of Child Protection Case Conferences
- COVID-19 Interim Arrangements for Management of LAC Reviews
- Regional Section 47 and Statutory Visits Interim Process During COVID-19
- COVID-19 – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Guidance
- Data Protection Guidance for Home-Working during the COVID-19 response
- COVID-19 Threshold Document



Completion and Publication of Regional Strategies and Policies

A number of key projects were completed in 2020-21, culminating in the publication of numerous key regional policies and pathways.

“ Feedback from an Executive Board member: *The Policies and Procedures Sub-Group continues to be of a high standard, and makes a positive impact to practice* ”

- Recording of Meetings by Parents and Service Users Policy
- Procedure for the Management of Suspected Injuries in Non-Mobile Children
- Child Protection Medical – Tests: Information for Parents
- Child Protection Medical – Information for Parents
- Multi-Agency Pre-Birth Pathway
- Regional Complaints Policy

All of these projects have been completed within the Boards’ various groups and sub groups, including the Regional Conference Chairs group. Extensive support has been provided by all partner agencies to the development of these policies, with a number of these projects led by Hywel Dda University Health Board. All resources provide guidance to staff, and seek to support and improve professional safeguarding practice, closely aligned to the Boards’ strategic priorities.

Virtual Executive Board Development Day

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately preventing CYSUR and CWMPAS from holding the usual Development Day, which occurs every year, the Boards were able to meet virtually to reflect on progress made in 20-21, and to develop our strategic priorities for 2021-22. The day enabled constructive discussion between agencies, and highlighted the significant progress made against the previous Annual Plan despite the considerable resource implication of responding to COVID-19.



The positive impact of this work was also evident through conducting this multi-agency review exercise, which resulted in the identification of a number of key priorities for the coming year, to build upon the excellent work already completed, and begin to consider new areas of development. In light of this desire to build upon existing work undertaken, the Boards have retained their key strategic priorities of better engagement and communication, strengthening the workforce and managing risk, thematic learning, and leadership, visibility and challenge. An additional priority has also been agreed this year, namely, to prioritise the response to and recovery from COVID-19 across our region.

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 2021-22](#).

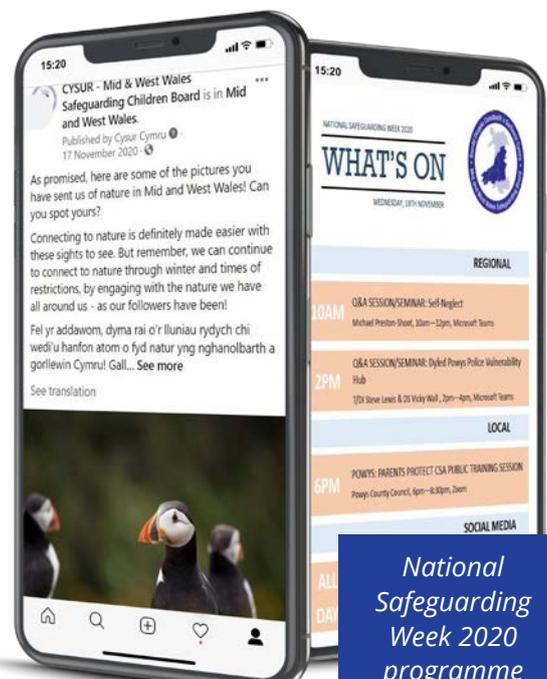
Facilitation of Remote Child Practice Review Learning Event

In December 2020, a remote learning event was held in respect of a now published Concise Child Practice Review, CYSUR 7 2018. This was a new challenge for the Boards, who have thus far held these events as large-scale face-to-face sessions. The support of **Pembrokeshire College** was instrumental to the success of the Boards' first remote learning event, in providing a venue for the reviewer, chair, and Business Unit staff to host the virtual session, which attendees dialled into via Microsoft Teams. IT support was also made available throughout the day to assist with any difficulties, and the College's own counsellor was available after the event for any attendees who required support, in light of the emotional and challenging subject matter discussed.

This event was noted to have been highly successful, receiving excellent feedback from attendees, and its structure and format has now formed the basis of regional guidance for undertaking remote learning events for Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, a key process to have in place whilst restrictions continued to prohibit face-to-face events throughout the year.

Local, Regional & National Collaboration for National Safeguarding Week (NSGW20)

In November 2020 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. The theme of mental health and wellbeing was agreed in Mid and West Wales, with a social media and website campaign created and led by the Boards during the week highlighting the cornerstones to positive mental wellbeing and how these can be worked towards. Themes such as nature, leisure and sleep were covered each day, with messages reaching as many as 8,000 social media users during the week.



NSGW social media campaign

National Safeguarding Week 2020 programme extract

Regional Conferences

National Safeguarding Week activities were able to proceed virtually this year, with Microsoft Teams being utilised to deliver a number of workshops to practitioners across the region. Workshops were held during the week on the theme of self-neglect and thematic learning from Practice Reviews. These webinars were facilitated by Michael Preston-Shoot and Barbara Firth respectively. The virtual manner of these events enabled a wide audience to be reached, as did the flexibility of multiple sessions. Both of these sets of workshops continued beyond the week to include additional sessions in early 2021 to meet the high demand experienced. Feedback given by practitioners during the events was also noted and reviewed to inform future practice and priorities.

Dyfed Powys Police Vulnerability Hub Q&A Session

The Boards' Police colleagues facilitated a virtual event during National Safeguarding Week 2020, providing an in-depth overview of the Vulnerability Hub and offering a platform for attendees to ask questions about its development and operation. The session was delivered by DS Victoria Wall and T/DI Steve Lewis, both of whom are based in the Vulnerability Hub.

The Vulnerability Hub is a valuable asset to Dyfed Powys Police, and more widely to Mid and West Wales, and this event was an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of how the Hub is used and the role it plays in early intervention and prevention within the safeguarding arena.



Guest speakers:
Detective Sergeant Victoria Wall & Temporary Detective Inspector Steve Lewis

DS Victoria Wall
 Is a Detective Sergeant at Dyfed-Powys Police's Vulnerability Hub. Her current role is as the Offender Management Supervisor for the Force, providing a central function of support for four Divisional Offender Management Teams. Her portfolios include the management of Registered Sex Offenders and Violent Offenders, Domestic Offenders, CSJ perpetrators and those individuals subject to serious crime prevention orders.

DS Wall's previous roles include neighbourhood-policing duties in Carmarthen, Cross Hands and Llwynhendy, a child abuse and adult abuse Investigator and the Management of Sexual and Violent Offenders Department.

T/DI Steve Lewis
 Is a Temporary Detective Inspector in Dyfed Powys Police's new Vulnerability Hub.

Steve has held multiple roles in the investigation of criminality against children and vulnerable adults, which includes time as a Detective Sergeant in the Central Referral Role and as part of Major Crime Team and supported murder investigations throughout the force.

Dyfed Powys Police Vulnerability Hub Q&A session flyer



Junior Safeguarding Board Activities

The Boards enjoyed an active contribution from their junior counterpart once again this year, despite being prevented from undertaking the usual in-person activities.

Pembrokeshire's Junior Safeguardians designed an [online safeguarding module](#) that could be shared with secondary schools, FE colleges and other youth organisations. The group were allocated funding and worked with Garrett Creative to produce a Keeping Children, Young People and Adults Safe in Pembrokeshire online resource supported by a resource list. This information was promoted on Wythnos Nesaf, Pembrokeshire's Education newsletter, and through various networks. The group plan to do a formal launch in the coming year to keep promoting the use of the resource.



TGP Cymru Awareness Days Calendar

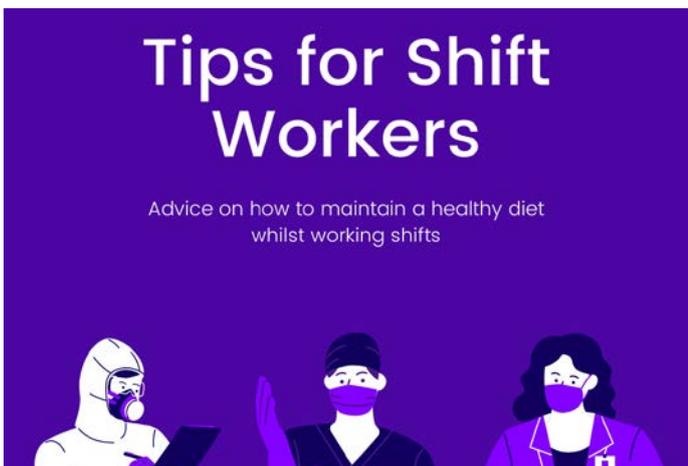
Ceredigion's Safe Stars marked National Safeguarding Week through the development and launch of a 2021 wall calendar. The calendar includes pictures of nature to promote messages of wellbeing during lockdown, and lists safeguarding awareness days relevant to children and young people, to promote campaigns of importance within the children's safeguarding arena. Physical copies of this were produced to share with the group members and staff, with the Business Unit staff also being kindly sent copies by the young people.

Other highlights included:

- **Trauma Informed Practice** webinar delivered by **Margot Sutherland** to a wide regional audience via Microsoft Teams
- **Parents Protect: CSA Public Training Session** facilitated by Powys County Council and delivered to the public via Zoom.
- **Mindfulness Session** held within Powys County Council, as part of their weekly virtual sessions.
- **Joined-up social media campaigning** across the Boards and their partner agencies, with local messaging focussing on a variety of themes including trauma, wellbeing and learning from Practice Reviews.
- **Youth-produced sexual imagery guidance** delivered through PSE sessions across Powys.
- **National Conferences** were widely promoted across the region, including:
 1. Parent Advocacy – Development Action Conference facilitated by the Parent Family and Allies Network
 2. Shaping the Future of Safeguarding in Wales – with presentations from Dr. Michelle McManus, Head of Criminal Justice, Liverpool John Moores University, and Amaladipa Remigio, Head of Public Protection, National Probation Service – Wales
 3. National Social Care Conference 2020 – two-day free event for all those working in the social care sector



Some collective photos from National Safeguarding Week 2020 and associated social media campaign



Guest speaker Professor Michael Preston- Shoot

Michael Preston-Shoot is Professor (Emeritus) Social Work at the University of Bedfordshire, England. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

His publications, research and training have concentrated on law and social work practice. His latest research has focused on adult safeguarding, completing with Suzy Braye and David Orr major studies for the Department of Health on governance of adult safeguarding and on effective practice with adults who self-neglect. He is currently Independent Chair of Lewisham and of Brent Safeguarding Adults Boards. He has authored safeguarding adult reviews, has researched reviews of self-neglect cases and has completed thematic reviews of safeguarding adult reviews commissioned and published by Safeguarding Adults Boards in London and in South West England.

He is currently working on projects focusing on homelessness and adult safeguarding, and on making safeguarding personal for commissioners and providers of health and social care.

Target Audience: Social Workers, Managers, Commissioners, Strategic Managers, Domiciliary Care Managers, Police Officers, Health Professionals, District Nurses, CPN's and Fire & Rescue Officers.

(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 Groups and regional 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. The Head of Safeguarding fulfils the role of Vice Chair of the regional Adult Practice Review Sub Group.

In addition to this overall contribution to our Boards, Hywel Dda's Named Doctor and Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children have led the development of a new regional procedure for management of injuries in non-mobile children. Hywel Dda's LAC Lead Nurse actively reports to the regional Corporate Parenting Panels, providing assurance of the timeliness and quality of health assessments for LAC, and is an active member of the three MACE groups.

Operational staff also attend CSE strategy meetings, and Hywel Dda as an organisation actively contributes to the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and associated work plan, with the LAC Lead Nurse leading the development of an NHS Wales LAC health assessment framework.

This year, Hywel Dda have also led the evaluation of the delivery of Ask and Act training in NHS Wales, as well as identifying and sharing where best practice and where consistency can be achieved on a "Once for Wales" basis. Hywel Dda have developed thorough and robust methods of engaging children, young people and adults at risk. This includes feedback from Looked After Children on the support provided through the new, dedicated post of a LAC Nurse for residential homes.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Hywel Dda University Health Board have created a new post of a LAC Nurse for Residential Homes, which is a unique post in NHS Wales. The LAC Nurse was innovative in establishing and maintaining contact with children and young people in these homes during the pandemic.

The Named Doctor for Safeguarding Children actively engages with parents and carers of children with complex needs to agree appropriate care and support plans, and more broadly, Hywel Dda have established a Voices of Children and Young People multi-agency group to enable feedback and engagement. Additionally, the Health Board is working in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police, Dyfed Powys Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue

to develop a 'blue light' children's rights charter informed by children and young people across the Dyfed Powys footprint. A thematic breakdown of referrals to adult safeguarding about Health Board services is provided quarterly to the UHB Strategic Safeguarding Working Group. Discharge from hospital has been a recurrent theme over the last 12 months. Acute services have an Acute Hospital Discharge Improvement Plan, which is monitored through the Acute Service Safeguarding Delivery Group.

The NHS Wales Safeguarding Maturity Matrix identifies being Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) informed as a key area for Health Boards and Trusts within Wales. The electronic safeguarding children module allows ACEs and their impact to be identified from the narrative of the MARF. A process of delivering presentations to inform the Health Board Strategic Safeguarding Working Group of multi-agency and health recommendations from Child Practice Reviews, Adult Practice Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews locally and from across Wales is embedded into practice.



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.



Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

PTHB remains an active partner in the NHS Wales National Safeguarding Network, engaging in its sub-groups, arising workstreams and task and finish groups. Notably, a member of PTHB Safeguarding Team jointly wrote the National Safeguarding Children Level 2 eLearning, in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. PTHB fulfils its statutory responsibility as a member of the Powys Youth Justice Board, as well as continuing to second a CAMHS nurse into the Youth Justice Service.

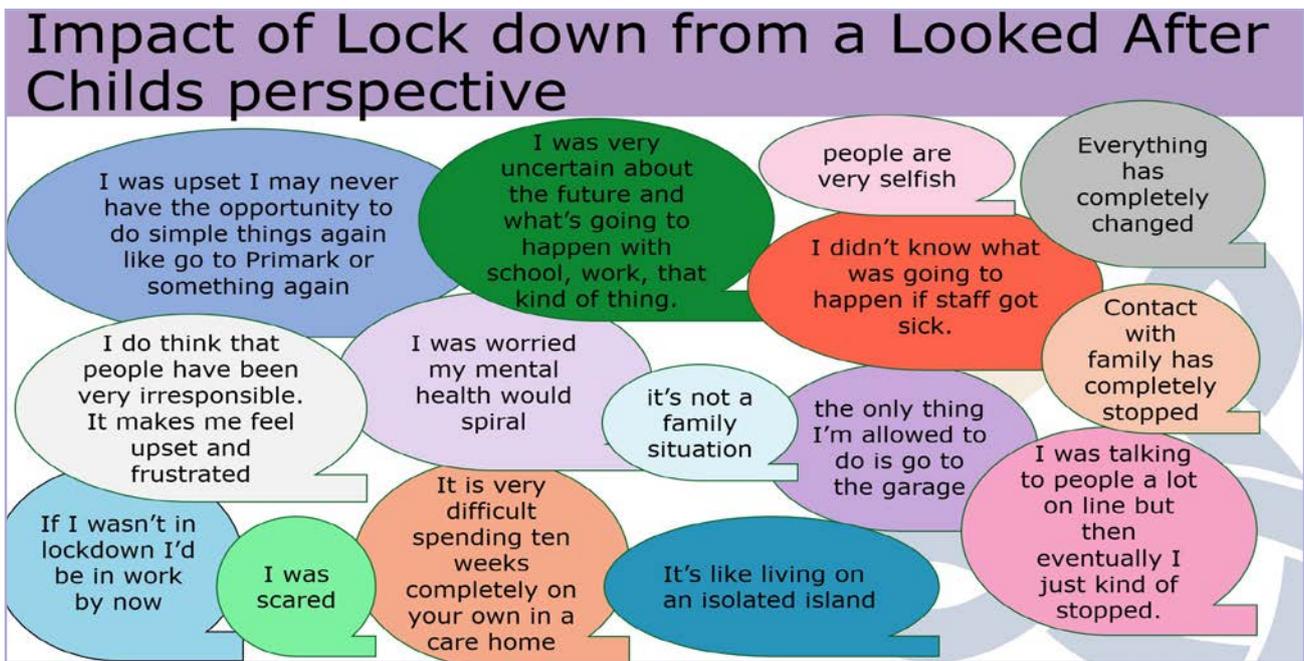


Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys Teaching Health Board have developed and made available a Mental Capacity Act training pack for both modular and face-to-face training. 10 sessions have been delivered in 2020-21 and a Q&A session has been trialled utilising the modular training. A DoLS training pack has also been developed and recorded.

The safeguarding team have developed safeguarding training and resources in the last 12 months. This has included modular training, which has enabled staff to access training in a different way, and to gain competencies in safeguarding. A newsletter was also launched in May 2020 to disseminate key messages to safeguarding staff on a range of topics. Additionally, Safeguarding Briefings have been issued monthly since October 2020 to share all safeguarding information and resources received in the previous month in one convenient bulletin.

Powys Teaching Health Board's newsletter included a conversational interview undertaken by a LAC Nurse with a young person in relation to the pandemic. The graphic overleaf captures the views, reflections and feelings of this Looked After Child.



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's 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, and a Public Health Wales representative attends numerous Board sub-groups, as well as contributing to this year's Virtual Development Day and attending national groups to progress the Single Unified Safeguarding Review workstreams.

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)

The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) are represented at the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Executive Board, and participate in sub-groups and Local Operational Groups as and when needed. 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 Mid and West Wales. A key priority within WAST this year has been the implementation of the Doc Works automated referral system and process, Phase 2 of which commenced in July 2020. Over 65% of required WAST staff are registered to use the new digital system to submit safeguarding reports.

A significant recruitment drive has also taken place within WAST this year, resulting in a 63% increase in demand for staff training.

WAST quality assure their practice through identifying and sharing themes from complaints and concerns within the organisation, and safeguarding concerns are included in the Annual Safeguarding Report to the Board. Learning is identified and appropriate actions taken. Peer reviews and monthly audits of referrals are also undertaken.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

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

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, and the Police Safeguarding Lead has chaired the MAWWSB COVID meetings convened at the beginning of the pandemic.



Heddlu Police
DYFED-POWYS

In 2020, the Police launched the Vulnerability Hub as the first phase of a project to engender better working relationships with partner organisations, in order to discharge their statutory responsibilities. DPP have successfully introduced daily discussions, which seeks to provide a fast time assessment of risk to Victims of Domestic Abuse, diminishing the delay for the cases to be discussed at MARAC.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

The focus on coercive and controlling behaviour has led to the increased recognition of stalking behaviours. This has been evident in an increase in prosecutions and the use of civil orders such as the granting of the regions first full Stalking Protection Order.

This provides a forum for agencies to research and share information quickly so there is early engagement with victims and more dynamic and responsive risk management plans put in place. The Daily Discussion programme of work has reduced the delay in cases being heard at MARAC from monthly to three times a week. This has enhanced the victim engagement and safety planning process.

DPP have also brought together the various strands of Offender Management into the Vulnerability Hub, so there is a better understanding across disciplines and organisations regarding the opportunities available to those involved in crime who may benefit from additional monitoring and support to divert them from criminal activity.

Specialist Domestic Abuse officers, the SRAU and offender management supervisors have received training from Professor Jayne Monckton-Smith regarding the “8 steps to homicide”. This shifts the force of risk from violence to coercive and controlling behaviour.

DPP also continue to prioritise its response to Domestic Abuse (DA), working closely with all statutory and third sector agencies. Dyfed Powys Police have trained 80 additional frontline staff to provide enhanced support for cases of CCE. These act as a single point of contact for the tactical response. Dyfed Powys have also developed and trained a team (INTACT) the cover the four local authority areas to develop pathways and deliver on early interventions.

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.



The four regional Youth Justice services have strong representation across a range of regional partnerships, and at a national level through YOT Managers Cymru. This includes the Regional Criminal Justice Board, MAPPA Strategic Board, Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Steering Group and more recently, membership of the Serious Violence & Organised Crime (SVOC) Steering Group. These strong regional partnership links facilitate better intelligence and a more agile response to emerging threats such as CSE and County Lines.

Feedback from young people is a part of YJS' ASSET Plus assessment framework. Interventions are sequenced to meet young people's needs. The assessment framework includes an understanding of the young person's family relationships and living arrangement and by definition engagement with parents and carers.

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. The NPS have attended the COVID-19 Operational Group and met with police colleagues daily in the four local authority areas. They have developed a link with the Vulnerability Hub in Dyfed Powys Police HQ, and all transfers into Dyfed Powys are managed through this Hub with NPS staff based at the Hub to strengthen those links.



This year, a Homelessness Taskforce has been established, providing housing for prison releases. Work has been conducted with Local Authority housing departments to ensure safeguarding issues addressed in terms of checks on addresses and decisions on suitability.

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 development of a regional COVID-19 Threshold Document to ensure consistency in the approach to COVID-19 associated risks within safeguarding services across Mid and West Wales. Carmarthenshire Adult Services have also continued to drive progress towards launching a regional protocol to encompass high-risk behaviours, including self-neglect. This complex piece of work is near completion and will be ratified in the coming year.

Carmarthenshire Adult Services is represented in a number of regional and national forums. For example, the Carmarthenshire Adult Safeguarding Lead represented the Boards at the Wales Safeguarding Procedures review group, as well as both regional and national groups focused on the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Carmarthenshire Adult Services' Safeguarding Lead also chairs the All Wales Adult Safeguarding Leads group.

A successful APSO application has also been made this year within Carmarthenshire Adult Services. Extensive development work has been undertaken within the Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group (LOG) this year, to increase effectiveness of monitoring and to become more proactive in driving developments in safeguarding practice.

Carmarthenshire County Council developed a training video for the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures, with a focus on adult safeguarding. This resource will be published on the Board website and accessible to safeguarding staff across Mid and West Wales as a helpful training resource covering high-level guidance on the new Procedures and their impact to safeguarding practice.

During the pandemic, new systems for reporting were introduced; monitoring of social work and preventative team visits was carried out on a weekly basis in order for any gaps or issues in terms of service availability be highlighted and responded to. All teams also RAG rated cases to ensure that visits were targeted to the most vulnerable.

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 Children's Services has included young people in its Corporate Parenting Panel to inform Councillors, Directors and other agencies of their experiences of being involved with the department. Echo Group, which is a young people's Leaving Care Group organised by Carmarthenshire Children's Services and Voices from Care, continues to provide advice to the Department on their experiences of Safeguarding so that their experience can inform and enhance the Department's practice. Children and young people are also spoken to in the Schools Health Check, and these views are used to inform practice.

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.



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 the regional Child Protection Conferencing Strategy at the start of the pandemic. The Senior Safeguarding Manager (currently seconded to the Education directorate) leads and chairs the Regional Child Practice Review Sub-Group, and has contributed to a number of regional reviews, most recently in the capacity of Second Reviewer. This is acknowledged and noted as a considerable time and resource commitment from Pembrokeshire.

The amalgamation of the MAPF forum into the Practice Review Sub-Groups, as well as work underway to join both the Child and Adult Practice Review Sub-Groups as one through-age forum, are other workstreams being led by Pembrokeshire's Senior Safeguarding Manager. Pembrokeshire once again contributed significantly to regional National Safeguarding Week activity this year, with their Junior Safeguardians launching interactive online safeguarding training for young people aged 11-25 (see Section F).



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Pembrokeshire have successfully held a multi-agency Learning Event in respect of a local MAPF this year, despite the limitations of COVID-19. This was extremely positively received with excellent multi-agency feedback.

In addition, Pembrokeshire's Child Protecting Conferencing team developed a training video providing an overview of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures from a children's safeguarding perspective, which has been made available on the CYSUR website as a free virtual training resource.

Powys County Council

Powys County Council have continued to make a steady and consistent contribution to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board and its workstreams at all levels in the last year.



Greater stability at a senior level within Children's Services have enabled consistent engagement in regional meetings and sub-groups. Notably, a Powys Children's Services Senior Manager now chairs the Regional Training Sub-Group, leading the forum in the facilitation and delivery of regional training offers, in addition to development within the training arena as a whole. This Senior Manager is providing further support to the region in chairing a regional Child Practice Review.

Powys Children's Services have led a regional review of the terms of reference for MACE meetings, which is a key piece of work agreed regionally to be of high importance and value. These meetings have now developed an increased strategic focus, and have expanded to reflect the interconnection between wider forms of exploitation.

Powys have further built upon their commendable work in the previous year on creating a strong and robust workforce, with their “Grow Your Own” social workers’ programme successfully recruiting additional social work trainees. (see Section C). An additional post has been created this year at a more senior level, with the newly appointed Practice Development Manager placing a focus on quality assurance and other practice development areas within Powys.

Powys have also successfully transitioned to a Signs of Safety model for Child Protection Conferences this year, led by a multi-agency task and finish group throughout lockdown. A clear policy and standard agenda was developed, which culminated in an online virtual training event for all agencies, attended by approximately 130 staff. Feedback since the introduction has been highly positive.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys Children’s Services have strived to develop a Community of Practice, which brings staff together to learn and develop skills relating to child exploitation awareness and response. This year, sessions have been delivered by Dr Beckett, the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, Dr Hallet, NSPCC and PACE. Topics have included victim blaming, internet safety and supporting non-abusing parents.

This year, Powys have built upon their considerable achievements in the previous year, despite being faced with the complex challenges brought by COVID-19. New ways of working have been embraced within Powys Adults’ Services, with daily online safeguarding screening meetings now being held to determine how to best deal with incoming enquiries. This screening call has become increasingly multi-disciplinary in nature, with the team manager for mental health attends these screening meetings, in light of the interface between mental health and adults at risk.

Powys also worked proactively to contact individuals that were known to Adults’ Services to ensure that their welfare was maintained and that their needs were currently being met. In quarter 1, 2275 individuals were contacted. Of those, 1210 were signposted to third sector organisations for support, and 87 were flagged to Welsh Government as in need of a food parcel. Across Children and Adults’ Services, Powys have promoted support for people who may have concerns around abuse, neglect and domestic violence. Working with Communications colleagues, they arranged for information to be published in the local press and created social media posts to support the safeguarding and domestic abuse campaign.

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 Wellbeing Model, including a Through-Age Safeguarding Service. This reflects the spirit and ethos of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 and the all-age approach to Safeguarding People. This year, Ceredigion have made progress in developing an overarching strategy, as well as the functions and structures in each part of the model. As a long-term, full-scale transformation across the service, this work remains ongoing, however, Ceredigion have already been able to evidence the development of

good practice in terms of through-age work and further development of early intervention and prevention support. The through-age approach has also been applied to the aligning of the Professional Concerns Process (Part 5; National Safeguarding Procedures) across Children’s and Adults’ Safeguarding processes in Ceredigion, which has increased consistency in local processes.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

A Quality Assurance Qualitative Feedback Questionnaire has been developed by the Adult Safeguarding Team in conjunction with Swansea University Research to Practice Team. This will be implemented in the return to greater easing of restrictions, to enable face-to-face interviews to take place as a means of increasing meaningfulness and overall value.

An additional post has been created in Ceredigion this year, placed in the Mental Wellbeing Service but working with children/families in instances where children are on the edge of coming in to care. The focus of this role is on liaising with health services (including mental health), education, social care, third sector and voluntary agencies.



Regional Directors of Education

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. Education staff are represented at all Regional sub-groups and provide a full and active contribution to Board workstreams.



Feedback from Development Day:

Closer working between Education and Social Services during the COVID-19 response has allowed coordinated prevention work to be undertaken



At present, each local Statutory Director of Education attends the Executive Board on a rotating basis. This measure was taken immediately following the departure of the previous Statutory Director in Pembrokeshire, who was the regional representative at the Board in the previous year. A good working relationship has been developed with all local Education colleagues, with a mutual interest in building on this in the coming year.

Education have been an active contributor to the COVID-19 Operational Group this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has evidenced the significant role that education plays in safeguarding, and highlighted the value of strengthening links with the service, particularly in respect of prevention and early intervention. As a result, one of the Boards’ key aims in the coming year is to build upon the collaboration already taking place with regional Education colleagues.

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, and have this year provided technical support to facilitate an extremely successful virtual learning event for a Concise Child Practice Review, CYSUR 7 2018.

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. The FE Lead has also led on the continued regional response to Welsh Government guidance, Keeping Learners Safe 270/2021, and co-chairs the Welsh Government's Safeguarding in Education Group. They have recently joined the Single Unified Review Group to represent the Boards, and continue to provide key input into the ongoing work around transition planning and suicide.

FE colleges across the region have continued their partnership work related to the mental health and wellbeing of learners, and have been successful in two mental health builds worth over one million pounds to Welsh Government, which has secured substantive support for learners and staff in the FE Colleges in the Boards' region. Resources from the 2019/20 project have been uploaded on Welsh Government's Hwb site.

Refresher safeguarding training has been delivered across the regional colleges remotely this year, consistent with the updated safeguarding modules, and new safeguarding training has been written by Pembrokeshire College's Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding for FE College's Corporation Boards. Within all the FE Colleges, strong and proactive safeguarding teams have been established and further developed this year, which have played a pivotal role in multi-agency working. They are also providing post 16 support to the work of the Local Authorities Liberty Protection Safeguards implementation.

Regional Commissioning Representative

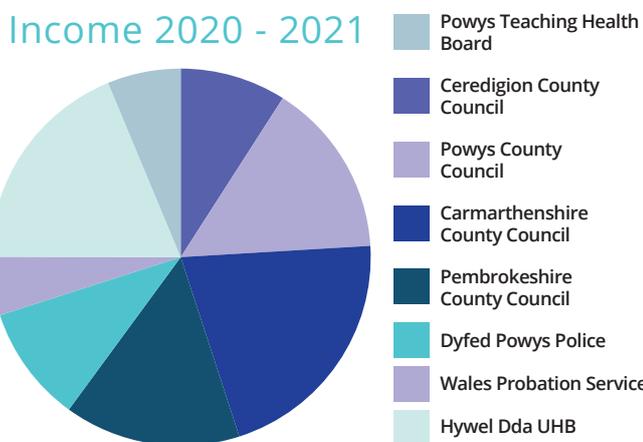
The Mid and West Wales Commissioning Partnership is represented on the Executive Boards and links with the Powys Commissioning Partnership for regional collaboration. Commissioning have been commendably strong as a service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Their input to the Boards' ordinary duties and workstreams, in addition to their notable contribution to the COVID-19 Operational Group, has been highly valuable and greatly appreciated by the Boards.

A key piece of work undertaken this year, as already acknowledged, is the Risk Management and Escalation Policy. This resource builds upon the existing Escalating Concerns Policy developed last year, with a focus on provider performance, analysis of further risk escalation related to COVID-19, and implementation of escalation protocols and processes to mitigate risk.

The coordinated whole system approach to risk ensured a consistency in approach and a combined ownership of the COVID-19 challenge. Further work will be undertaken in the coming year to develop a policy approach for domiciliary care.

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

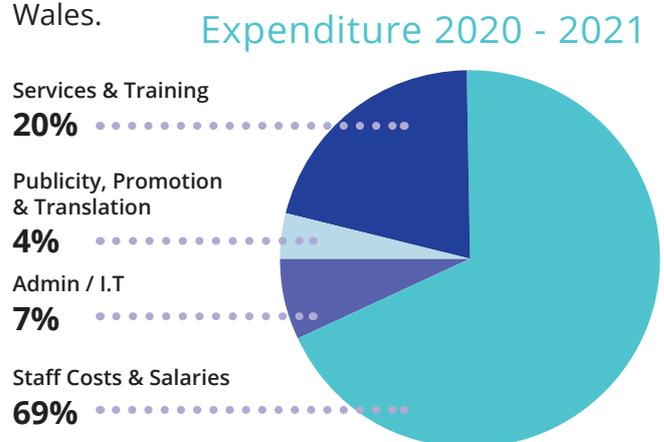
The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The graphs and charts below illustrate how the Boards have made use of their financial resources within the context of income, expenditure 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 this year was £148,120, which is the lowest across Wales.



In 2020-21, the majority of the Boards' expenditure was dedicated to general running costs, including staffing the Business Unit (69%). The commissioning of services and training also made up a sizeable amount of Board expenditure (21%), which is a reflection of the increased output from the Training Sub-Group in the delivery of the Training Strategy and accompanying 3-year Delivery Plan. Admin and IT costs totalled 7% this year, with publicity, promotion and translation costs increasing to 4%, reflecting the increased generation of resources and content for practitioners and the general public.

“ Feedback from Development Day: *The data report we receive every quarter is comprehensive and of a high quality* ”

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

The Multi-Agency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The timely, prompt and creative response by partners of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards to this national emergency have been adequately reflected throughout this report with many examples provided. As Boards, we are proud of the collaborative work undertaken both at a regional and national level. The response and recovery to the pandemic over the last 12 months has inevitably been one of the most significant underlying themes to the multi-agency work undertaken by partners, led by the Boards numerous sub-groups, working groups and bespoke task and finish groups.

The longer-term implications for mental health services for children and adults at risk, as a direct consequence of the national lock down, has been an area of focus and discussion at both Executive Board and Local Operational Group level, and will feature in the Boards' oversight of partner agency recovery plans in the coming year. Further information on ongoing work and projects across the region to support this work are evidenced below under Mental Health, Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention. The extremely effective use of technology and digital platforms to support and enable this work has already been covered under section C.

In addition to the above, and 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 other actions and events have occurred to support its outcomes in this area. The Boards' continuing development, maturity and existing governance structures have enabled them to support and complete a number of other regional and agency specific pieces of work in parallel with its response to the pandemic. Examples of this work are outlined below.



Tackling Exploitation

A number of initiatives have been led by the Board in the last year to tackle child exploitation. A comprehensive review and update of the Regional Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation meeting (MACE) terms of reference has taken place, and a new regional model developed and implemented. This work has been overseen by a regional task and finish group, and has taken into consideration the most up to date research into exploitation. The new model takes a strategic approach to this work and now considers children at risk of wider forms of exploitation, including criminal exploitation. A comprehensive dataset is in the process of being developed to further support and enhance this work. Work to develop a regional exploitation strategy remains ongoing, with publication of this work planned for the coming year.

The theme of exploitation was further promoted during a presentation to Executive Board members in the previous reporting year 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.

National Action Plan for Responding to and Tackling Child Sexual Abuse

In accordance with the requirements for all Regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales to oversee and implement this National Action Plan, extensive and comprehensive multi-agency work has taken place in the last year to support this. This includes work to support a public awareness campaign, and has included widely promoting the [Stop it Now! Campaign](#) in relation to child sexual abuse and associated resources across Board partner agencies, specifically targeting preventative services. Health Boards across the region have promoted an array of related information, training and resources to staff, including hospitals and community settings, fully utilising social media, intranet and websites, staff briefings and newsletters.

This has included information in relation to CSA and exploitation, the [Truth Project](#) and the [it's time we talked about it](#) campaign. Education Safeguarding Leads have worked closely with schools to promote awareness. This has included the promotion of various resources, and access to training packages, including the [Lucy Faithfull Foundation's](#) 'What's the Problem?' booklet, a guide for parents of children and young people who have got in trouble online; [Child Sexual Abuse prevention: what we all need to know](#) and [Parents Protect](#) sessions to support parents in protecting children from the risk of child sexual abuse.

The VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Delivery Groups have undertaken significant work in relation to the promotion of information to children, parents and carers on healthy relationships. This includes work with Curriculum Leads across the region to begin preparing for the implementation of the new Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and ensuring that topics around VAWDASV are delivered consistently and with confidence. The region has submitted a bid in

partnership with Inspiring Minds to deliver regional provision of the ‘Healing Together’ programme. This programme is specifically aimed at working with children and young people who have experienced or witnessed VAWDASV and their families. It is a trauma informed approach and works on emotional awareness.

The Health Boards have participated in several social media campaigns centred on CSA, SV and healthy/unhealthy relationships, including the national [This Is Not OK campaign](#). A bespoke intranet page for Harmful Sexual Behaviours has been developed with links to the online Barnados HSB Training, along with resources for professionals, parents and carers.

Within Education, a bespoke safeguarding training programme has been developed by the Junior Safeguardians for young people aged 11-25 in Pembrokeshire. This is an interactive online training resource with a script and supporting materials for facilitators. This training covers healthy relationships, consent and child sexual abuse. The training is free to access, and has been promoted to all schools and education staff. A refreshed promotion is planned for September 2021.

Further significant work has been undertaken across Mid and West Wales to support practitioner learning on Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Online Abuse. Examples include the wide promotion and sharing of resources developed by Welsh Government in relation to this issues, as well as the wide promotion of the “keeping safe online” updates which includes the [‘Step up, speak up’ toolkit](#). We have made available a 7-Minute Briefing on Harmful Sexual Behaviour, which has been widely promoted regionally and placed on the Regional Safeguarding Boards’ website, which can be accessed by both practitioners and the public.

Numerous other pieces of work undertaken by our Health Boards and Education Safeguarding Leads include the delivery of three sessions by Sarah Walton, Stop it Now! Wales Project Worker on Understanding Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Professionals Protect, and Digital Resilience, with community and primary care staff specifically targeted for this training. In, Ceredigion many of the secondary Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSPs) have been supported and encouraged to attend Police training in relation to County Lines and child criminal exploitation.



Mental Health, Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention

Mental health, self-harm and suicide continues to remain a high priority for the Board and its partner agencies, and substantial work continues to take place across the region. A regional coordinator was appointed last year to help implement the national Talk to me 2 Strategy Suicide Prevention Strategy, which will be significant in the coming year in driving forward this collaborative agenda. A new National Coordinator is leading on a number of initiatives including real-time surveillance data, which is welcomed in light of concerns about potential increased rates of suicide and self-harm during COVID.

Support for survivors and bereavement services for people impacted by these issues is also an ongoing priority. Funding is available across the region, particularly for third sector organisations, on this issue. A report published last year has highlighted the increased risk to young people during this period, particularly age 18-24, who experience suicidal thoughts at a rate double that of the general population.

Early intervention and prevention is therefore deemed critical in terms of the support needed, and this continues to be promoted across the region. Examples of what is happening to support this work regionally includes the West Wales Delivery Group (Hywel Dda footprint), which continues to meet regularly with good multi-agency attendance. A number of projects are in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people through COVID-19 pandemic; Children's Services, Education and the Youth Service have been regularly in touch with vulnerable children, and wellbeing resources have been shared with pupils and staff.



The Healthy School teams in Carmarthenshire have shared a matrix of information for families and schools. The use of digital communication is also being maximised. Carmarthenshire County Council has introduced an enhanced mental health pathway in collaboration with health and the third sector, to respond to the anticipated increase in referrals during COVID-19. Following the successful running project to improve mental health and wellbeing in Llanelli, this project is now being rolled out across Carmarthenshire and was shortlisted for a Social Care Accolade. A group to develop a collaborative early intervention strategy to respond to the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people has also been established.

This group is currently chaired by the Head of Adult Social care. The focus of this group and its work includes the introduction of Emotional Literacy Support Assistants in schools to support trauma informed practice and manage anxiety, and to boost existing staffing capacity via grant funding to help deliver interventions directly to pupils, including increased counselling capacity. West Wales Action for Mental Health (WWAMH) have delivered suicide awareness sessions and mental health awareness sessions to community groups and organisations across West Wales via Zoom. Area 43 have been providing an online counselling service to help increase access to counselling in rural areas. Additional funds were provided from the WG grant to support this project. The DPJ Foundation and Tir Dewi have continued to grow and develop and provide mental health support to the rural farming communities of West Wales, including Ceredigion. The DPJ Foundation has delivered Mental Health First Aid to farming groups in West Wales, and this includes a section on suicide awareness.

The Powys Mental Health Partnership secured separate WG funding last year for a Coordinator post to examine the needs in Powys in respect of suicide and self-harm. During COVID-19, partnership work with the local Police Inspector and others has focused on examining cases and trends over the last five years, linking with coroner data in addition to public data. In terms of work specific to Ceredigion, the (CAMHS) Children and Young People's Schools in Reach pilot service has been running in Ceredigion for some time, and provides support to pupils and teachers, including group sessions and training on mental health. The Amethyst Project has been delivering drama workshops for young people around self-harm and mental health with the Small World Theatre in Cardigan. The aim is to improve understanding around mental health, support young people and listen to their stories and experiences.

Time to Change Wales Champions have also been delivering mental health awareness talks in Ceredigion on request, and Mind Aberystwyth have delivered Active Monitoring (currently a six-week telephone course) to help with anxiety, depression and managing mental health at a primary and community level. Clynfyw Care Farm held the Mynydd i'r Mor Mountains to Sea Project in support of the DPJ Foundation and to raise awareness about rural mental health. This took place over five days, involving over 100 people walking and paddling, culminating in the formation of a human flotilla on the sea, which was very powerful. In Pembrokeshire, a multi-agency adults and childrens services Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention group has been established and includes the development of an E-Learning package for all council staff, elected members and volunteers. In partnership with the Samaritans, the group sourced police funding to have signs with the Samaritans' number and a supportive message put up in key locations in Pembrokeshire. Signs have been erected on some bridges, including the Cleddau Bridge, as well as other known sites of high suicide risk.

The [Young Persons Safeguarding Training Module](#), in partnership with the Junior Safeguarding Board, is a bespoke training course that 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 years. 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 to seek help, helping to keep each other safe.



A working agreement is in place for Pembrokeshire College to call a strategy meeting when there is an unexpected death of a college student over the age of 18 years. These meetings are structured similar to a PRUDIC meeting (held for children under the age of 18), and the college is supported by multi-agency partners to plan a coordinated response to the family in their loss, and identify and support any other young people who may have become vulnerable.

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, 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).

The Suicide Prevention Action Team group (SPAT) is a partnership between Health and Pembrokeshire Local Authority, and was established in the summer of 2008. It has continued to meet on a termly basis since then. The group's aim is to deliver training and guidance for those working with children and young people, to provide an agreed Suicide Prevention Referral Pathway Tool and an associated training package.

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

Current legislation in Wales provides a robust and comprehensive framework for agencies to provide early intervention for adults who exhibit high-risk behaviours, including those who hoard and self-neglect. Irrespective of this, a disproportionately high number of cases feature in referrals into the Board for Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, where sadly adults have either died or suffered serious harm where concerns of this nature are known and understood by professionals who often feel powerless to effectively intervene to prevent harm or reduce risk.



This hugely complex and challenging area of work has been a key workstream in the last year for the regional multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Leads Group, who have developed a regional multi-agency protocol and framework to support service users who fall into this category. It is hoped the framework will help improve practitioners' understanding of the legislation in Wales, alongside an enhanced and improved understanding of how mental capacity legislation can be implemented to support adults in a more creative, solution focused multi-agency approach. A draft protocol has been approved which will be launched and implemented as part of National Safeguarding Week activities in November 2021.

Accommodation for Those with Complex Needs

In the last year, work has commenced across the region regarding accommodating those with complex needs. The work has been led via a specialist task and finish group chaired by Carmarthenshire's Head of Adults and Social Care. Identified issues are in relation to an identified gap in resources within the criminal justice system for adults with varying degrees of mental health needs, who also present behaviours that could be harmful to others. Examples include adults with a learning disability and/or autism, who also present challenging and risky behaviour in the community. It has been identified often care and support needs for these individuals are unclear, but the package of support needed is often significant in light of the risk posed, and a lack of resources and specialist residential provision within the criminal justice system often filters through to social care via requests for costly and expensive care packages.

It is considered that social care services are being utilised in these instances as a means of monitoring high-risk offenders in the community. This raises further questions and challenges within the context of human rights and equality for these individuals. The task and finish group established has focused on the need for agencies to collaborate to develop a whole system response, that provides the right support in the right place whilst effectively safeguarding these individuals and protecting the public. Work in the last year has specifically focused on housing needs, supporting a regional multi-agency response to this complex area.

Vulnerability Hub – Dyfed-Powys Police

The creation of a vulnerability desk within Dyfed-Powys Police in April 2019 for victims of Domestic Abuse led to the development of a much broader force-wide response to vulnerability, which includes people who have identified mental health problems and those identified to be at risk of exploitation. In March 2020, the Vulnerability Hub was launched. Based at the Police HQ in Carmarthen, the Hub has brought together the police central safeguarding services including 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.

In partnership with VAWDASV agencies, the Vulnerability Hub now houses a secondary risk assessment unit. This team provides secondary review of all domestic abuse incidents to identify missed behaviour crimes such as coercion and control or stalking. The agencies has established a 'Daily Discussion' process in which all Domestic Abuse incidents that meet the MARAC criteria are considered by a multi-agency panel within 48hrs. This has significantly improved the timescales in which survivors are receiving engagement and support.

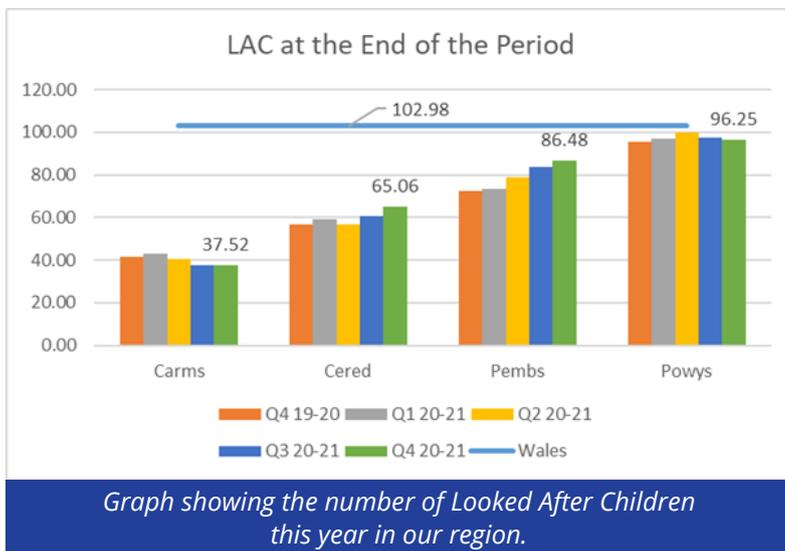
To support the new working practices, £350,000 of capital funding has been used to equip identified locations in each of the four local authority areas with state of the art video conferencing equipment. Due to the pandemic, further development of the Hub was paused but recommenced in January 2021. Since that time, a full-time mental health secondment has been secured to support the policing and joint responses to mental health challenges.

The Vulnerability Hub has an established Phase 2 delivery plan, which will seek to improve the response to exploitation through the creation of an exploitation desk and enhance pathways to early help interventions in partnership with other agencies.

Safeguarding People

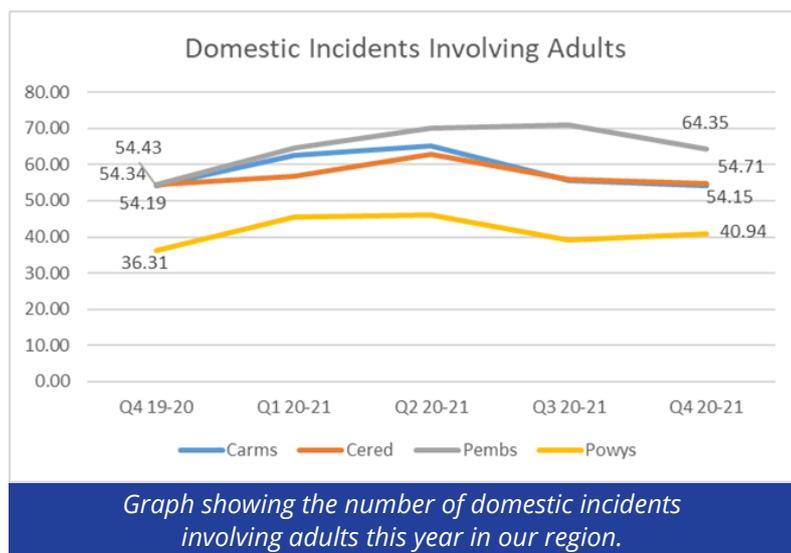
- Supporting effective challenge and professional accountability in the delivery of safeguarding practice

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. The Regional Executive Board has a robust helicopter view of high-level multi-agency safeguarding practice across the region, through scrutinising quarterly overview reports containing analysis of key regional and local trends.



This supports the Boards in their commitment to effectively challenge and hold agencies to account when safeguarding practice and service delivery falls below expected standards.

This has proven particularly valuable in the last year, in providing a means of overseeing safeguarding trends throughout the pandemic. Key conclusions drawn from this analysis include a general stability in LAC data through the year, with no significant changes in volume or on local or regional trends, which are largely consistent with pre-COVID data.



Domestic incidents involving adults was another of the particular focuses of the COVID-19 Operational Group, and so the ability to assess trends against concerns and anticipated risks was a great aid in monitoring the impact of and risk posed by COVID-19 over time. This dataset demonstrated a steadily increasing rise in reports of incidents at the onset of the pandemic, followed by a notable reduction in most areas towards the winter, with rates stabilising at the end of the year.

This enabled considerations to be made at this group, and at Executive Board level, as to whether other factors could be impacting the data, e.g. under- or over-reporting, changes in capacity and general working practice, or other issues external to COVID-19.

• Practice Reviews

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

- The need for training and awareness raising for multi-agency practitioners in relation to professional curiosity and disguised compliance.
- The need for improved training and awareness for practitioners in relation to mental capacity legislation, particularly where service users exhibit high-risk behaviours.
- The importance of children being spoken to directly as part of care and support assessments.
- The need for regional policy guidance where parents exhibit extreme religious views.
- Improved provision nationally for children in need of secure accommodation.
- Improved national statutory guidance for children who are electively home educated.

Solution Focused Practice

All of the four Local Authorities across the region continue to use 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. In the coming year, this work will be further enhanced with a scheduled review and update of the regional Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF), which will seek to incorporate this model into reports and referrals that are made for children and adults at risk.



(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 early 2021. This attendance was virtual, with two young people joining via video link along with their Participation Officer to provide support. The young attendees delivered a presentation on their key achievements over the last year.

The Executive Board expressed great delight with the commendable work undertaken by CADW in the last year, noting that progress and success was not hindered by the limitations associated with the pandemic. Moreover, the young people shared their experience of the Junior Board providing a helpful opportunity to engage with their peers during times of social restrictions and increased loneliness and boredom.

The Executive Board felt heartened to hear the positive impact that CADW has on its members, in addition to the significant contribution that CADW members make to their work and in turn, to the Boards as a whole.

“ Feedback from Executive Board Chair:
What a heartening and motivating presentation from the young people. ”

“ Feedback from CADW members:
This group has really helped my confidence. This group has changed me, and changed how I am to other people. ”

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 meet with CADW frequently via virtual platforms, receive regular updates on ongoing projects, and collaborate on specific workstreams.

CADW meet frequently on Zoom to discuss a number of projects which they have continued to progress.

In April 2020, a virtual Open Mic event was held to showcase the talents of children and young people, and in doing so, encourage children and young people to express themselves and raise awareness of keeping them safe online.

Young people, their families and professionals all attended the event, which was held on Zoom.



CADW Open Mic event held in April 2020

This event took a relaxed, fun approach, and provided a space for the young people to come together and enjoy themselves during a challenging time.

A regional CADW meeting took place in June 2020 to share “lockdown work” with each other and have a discussion at a regional level. It was highly positive to see the excellent work continuing locally and regionally within Junior Boards during lockdown periods, and the value of this communication at a time of increased isolation was evident to all involved.

Although the annual CADW Residential was not permitted to take place this year due to COVID-19, the Junior Board instead enjoyed a “Residential with a Twist” in October 2020. Zoom was utilised for this event, which included fitness workshops, a gameshow, and a healthy cooking demonstration. The purpose of this event was to allow the young people to come together for an enjoyable event, which placed a focus on positive ways to maintain healthy wellbeing during times of restriction and isolation. This event was greatly enjoyed by all involved, and serves to demonstrate the unwavering motivation and positivity within CADW throughout exceptionally difficult times.



CADW presentation to the Executive Board

Funding has also been obtained from CAVO to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people, which will be utilised to create inclusive fitness sessions and healthy recipe cards.

This year, CADW have been tasked with a new project originating from a completed Child Practice Review, the purpose of which is to develop a resource outlining the views of children and young people on how safeguarding practitioners can better support and interact with them.

The young people have decided to develop an animation to convey this message, which can then be included in a range of safeguarding training packages at both a regional and an individual agency level. Excellent progress is being made in this project, which is also resulting in significantly stronger links being developed with the CADW Board and its members. This work is hoped to be completed and launched in the coming year.



Powys 'Eat Carrots Be Safe from Elephants' Junior Safeguarding and Participation Group have elected to rename themselves this year, now officially known as **Powys Ambassadors of Youth Safeguarding (PAYS)**, with one of its members designing a new logo.

They have placed a focus on active promotion this year, with the aim of increasing participation from young people in Powys. The group have identified three key objectives for themselves, namely: raising awareness of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); safety at home, school and the community; and transitioning into adulthood.



Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' and Ceredigion Youth Service played a pivotal role in key CADW projects during 2020-21, and completed a variety of projects locally. The Safe Stars created a poem in

May 2020 to express how young people felt about COVID-19, which was shared widely across social media. The group came up with words to describe the situation brought about by the pandemic, and raise awareness of the importance of staying safe during lockdown, as well as to make people laugh and smile at this difficult time. This is an excellent example of how the Safe Stars balance serious issues pertinent to young people with enjoyment and humour, to create a positive experience in addition to undertaking a high standard of important work in the area of junior safeguarding. Later in 2020, the Safe Stars created a video in which a TGP Cymru mug was "passed" around virtually, to bring people together and use a light-hearted format to share a message of staying safe at home.



TGP Cymru's CEO Jackie Murphy joining in the Safe Stars "stay home, stay safe, drink tea" video campaign

This was also an opportunity to reconnect with people who have supported the Safe Stars in their work and activities. From June to August 2020, CADW interviewed professionals so that the children and young people

could get to know the people who safeguard them. The Safe Stars started their 'Question-Time Challenge' by meeting a number of professionals on Zoom. They asked ten questions to each person to find out a little bit more about them and what their top tips were during the lockdown period.

The group asked questions to professionals who safeguard children and young people in health, education, housing, charity, and police sectors, as well as the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

As well as utilising Zoom to keep in touch on a regular basis, the Safe Stars have also made use of social media to increase communication this year, both by sharing frequent updates on current projects on Facebook and Instagram, and by utilising a "group chat" to stay in touch with one another.





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 Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), act as a voice for local young people and pass on their opinions to the Children's Rights Commissioner in Wales.

In November 2020, the Community Children's Rights Ambassadors organised a special event to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the UNCRC. The virtual workshop was open to all young people in Carmarthenshire.

The attendees had the opportunity to learn more about children's rights and the origins of the UNCRC. Additionally, they participated in interactive activities and quizzes to increase awareness of this important document. All the young people who attended this successful event received CYC's eco-friendly gifts.

In January 2021, Carmarthenshire Youth Council members took part in a consultation organised by Carmarthenshire Education Service. They shared their views on the arrangements to sustain Educational Services to pupils in Carmarthenshire during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The young people produced a document titled 'Characteristics of good, blended learning.' Their views and experiences were shared with senior managers and in this way contributed to a positive change in education during these difficult times.

In February 2021 during the lockdown, CYC

took part in a virtual 'Rhedeg i Paris' ('run to Paris') challenge. The young people walked/ran a combined 500 miles (the distance from Carmarthen to Paris) in just 10 days to raise funds for two charities: Shelter Cymru and Ferryside LifeBoats.

They encouraged and motivated themselves along the way, while improving their team building skills, their wellbeing and fitness level. CYC completed the challenge successfully and collected £760 towards their chosen charities.



Image taken during CYC's "Rhedeg i Paris" challenge

Two CYC members took part in a project run by the Police and Crime Commissioner and their Youth Forum.

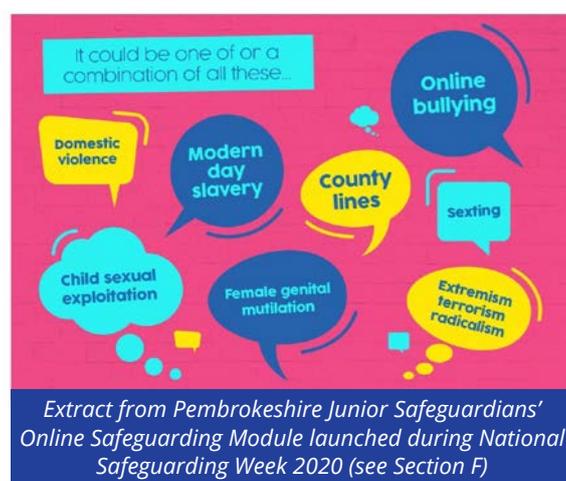
They worked together to produce a short video/film that shares young people's experiences of contact with the Police, to be used as a training resource available to officers for them to hear young people's views and experiences and learn from them going forward.



Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardsians have actively engaged in a range of projects once again this year, of mutual benefit to their own group and to local and regional priorities. In July 2020, members of the Junior Safeguardsians formed part of the interview panel for the Director of Education for Pembrokeshire, and in June 2020 the young people were also involved in the recruitment of Service Manager for Children’s Services.

The young people’s panel is a valuable part of the recruitment process. It develops a variety of skills for the young people, which they can utilise in their education and future employment, and gives them the opportunity to have their voice and recommendations heard by senior managers and decision makers. The young people enjoy being part of the process and it enables them to develop and build upon the sustainable relationships held with local decision makers.

Members of the Junior Safeguardsians are members of the Education Recovery Team in Pembrokeshire, and as a result have attended meetings and provided feedback on the views and opinions of the peers. The role that young people played in the Education Recovery Team meetings during COVID-19 has influenced how pupils returned to schools in Pembrokeshire, with young people contributing to the guidance that was produced. Young people also designed a ‘Back to School Survival Guide’ poster that has been used in all schools. This is an excellent example of how the Junior Safeguardsians undertake a high quality of work by young people, for young people, and the wider benefit to safeguarding services of this engagement.



During the last 12 months, members have been able to attend various meeting with Members of the Senedd. One member attended a meeting with the First Minister to discuss the impact of COVID on young people and share the views of others. This was a fantastic opportunity for young people, which allowed an opportunity for the First Minister to question young people and for young people to question the First Minister. In August 2020, the Junior Safeguardsians worked in partnership with Young Wales to deliver Young Inspectors training online. Young Inspectors are trained to inspect organisations against the National Participation Standards for Wales. Pembrokeshire now have 10 newly qualified Young Inspectors.

The group members have also been involved in various local and national consultations during the last 12 months, including:

- **Children’s Commissioner Coronavirus and Me** - May 2020 and January 2021
- **National Parks – Experience for all**
- **Pembrokeshire County Council Strategic Equality Plan 2020 – 2024**
- **Making Votes@16 work in Wales** – research project
- **Pembrokeshire County Council Reopening Youth Club Guidance**
- **Youth Work Wales Interim Board** – COVID-19

(k) Applications for Adult Protection & Support Orders

One successful application for an Adult Protection & Support Order (APSOs) was made in Mid and West Wales during 2020-21, the first application in this region since the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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



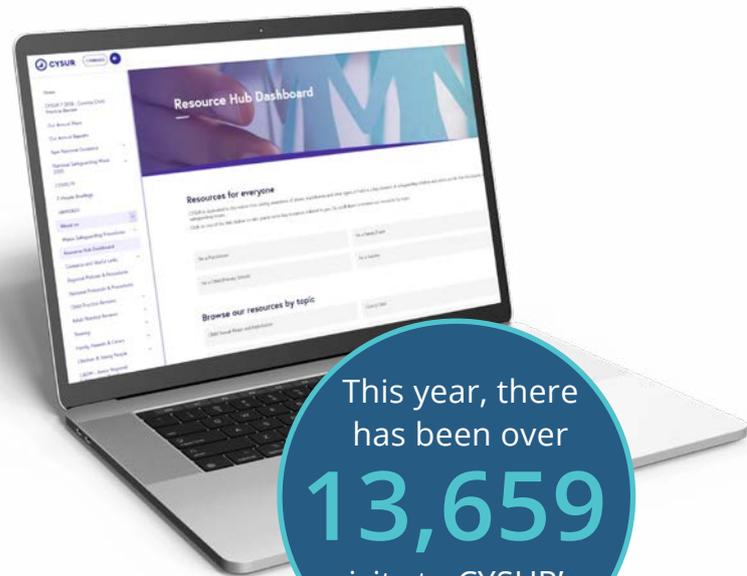
(I) Information or learning the Boards have disseminated and training recommended or provided

Website

The Boards' website 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 Boards' website, as are current and previous Annual Plans and Annual Reports.

The website is a resource that has continued to grow this year. A comprehensive Resource Hub is now fully functional, with options to browse a range of resources by topic or by user (e.g. parents/carers, children, practitioners). The website is also used as a conduit to promote safeguarding events and to share learning and good practice.

The development work undertaken on the website this year has paved the way for resource expansion. Work undertaken to the website this year has been significant, and will be further built upon in the coming year, as the Boards utilise digital methods to improve access to safeguarding training and information across the region.



This year, there has been over **13,659** visits to CYSUR's website

“ Feedback from Development Day: *The website is clear and information is accessible* ”

Training

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

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

A wealth of safeguarding training has been delivered across Mid and West Wales this year, as outlined overleaf.

Thematic Review Training was delivered across the region, facilitated by **Barbara Firth**. The purpose of this training was to explore some key themes that have arisen in completed Practice Reviews regionally, as well as wider learning from national reviews.

Professional curiosity, supervision and training were among the themes explored through this training, with multi-agency practitioners sharing their own experiences and challenges to enhance the discussion around how these themes can be addressed. Sessions were structured to enable practitioners to discuss these issues with multi-agency colleagues, and for these discussions to inform the sessions later delivered to managers, enabling a multi-level exploration of the key challenges faced and how they can be overcome.

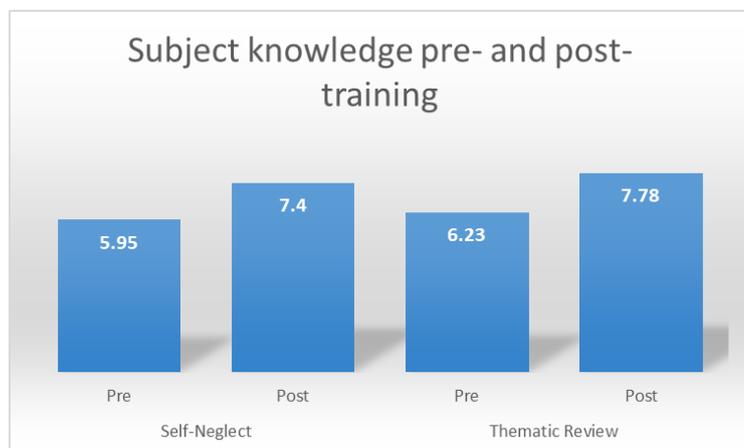
The Executive Board received a presentation from Barbara Firth on the sessions and their outcomes following their conclusion in early 2021, to ensure learning taken from her research and obtained during the sessions themselves can be pursued to inform regional priorities in the coming years, supporting the delivery of one of the Boards' strategic priorities of thematic learning and developing best practice.

Self-Neglect Training workshops were held throughout and beyond National Safeguarding Week, delivered by **Michael Preston-Shoot**. The issue of self-neglect has been a focus within the Adult Safeguarding Leads group in recent years, as a result of a mutually identified need to establish a clear process which equips practitioners with the authority to intervene where self-neglect occurs and poses a risk of harm to individuals living in Mid and West Wales, particularly in light of national guidance not providing specifically for this challenge. Practitioners were able to share their experiences of handling cases of self-neglect in this training, and to hear expert guidance on how to support a self-neglecting individual as a practitioner.

8.54
Average rating from attendees on the extent to which the Thematic Review Training will influence their practice, from 1 to 10.

Thematic Review Training attendees' comments:
Going forward, I will be using supervision to have in-depth discussions around specific cases, considering the issue of professional curiosity and adapting skills in order to ensure that I am not relying solely on self-reporting.

8.6
Average rating from attendees on the extent to which the Self-Neglect Training will influence their practice, from 1 to 10.



Average knowledge level self-assessed by attendees of self-neglect and regional Practice Reviews, prior to and following training, on a scale of 1 to 10.

Self-Neglect Training Attendee feedback:
I feel I have more knowledge to challenge and escalate in a situation. I feel I can suggest different approaches. I have more legal understanding. I found it excellent and feel more confident to support service users.

The **Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse** delivered a one-day **Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse Training** event virtually via Microsoft Teams in March 2021. The session led an in-depth exploration of how intra-familial CSA occurs, its impact on victims, the ways in which it can be concealed, receiving and responding to disclosures, and the challenges faced by professionals who handle such cases. Participants were able to draw on their own experiences and hold a discussion in a safe space around the challenges they face in supporting victims of intra-familial CSA. The event was widely praised for offering a thorough and sensitive overview of this challenging issue.

Stalking Awareness Training was also organised this year by the VAWDASV Board, with **Professor Jane Monckton Smith** delivering a virtual session to a large regional audience via Microsoft Teams. The training placed a focus on stalking behaviours and associated risk factors, together with an overview of the “8 steps to homicide” which Professor Monckton Smith identified through her study of over 400 cases across the UK.

“ Intra-Familial CSA
Training Attendee feedback:
*I feel more confident in being able to
provide support if any of the
young people I work with
made a disclosure.* ”

Attendees heard how risk should be assessed in terms of the level of time and attention perpetrators dedicate to their stalking behaviour, providing them with tools to identify and respond to risk at an early stage, with a strong focus also placed on the experience of victims and the need to centre this in decision-making. This training was widely praised across the region as being highly engaging and valuable for practice.

A **Section 47 Development Day** was facilitated for the Boards in early 2021 by **Gladys Rhodes White OBE**, as part of the Boards’ wider focus on Section 47 practice informed by regional disparity in this area and a mutual desire to explore this across agencies and localities.

The event was structured with case studies deriving from real-life cases anonymised and submitted by partner agencies, with participants reviewing cases in groups to decide whether they warranted a Section 47 investigation. This training enabled a thorough discussion of safeguarding practice across organisations and the differing approaches to Section 47s, allowing colleagues to share their own experiences and consider alternative approaches taken. The event was deemed highly successful and helpful to colleagues in examining their own safeguarding practice and supporting the Boards’ wider objective of striving for best practice and continuous learning.

“ Section 47
Development
Day Attendee feedback:
*Thank you for the opportunity
to have a debate in
a safe space.* ”

Hywel Dda University Health Board’s named Doctor has delivered clinical **Level 3 child safeguarding training**, and offered this to staff from Social Services and Dyfed Powys Police. Their LAC team have delivered training to all Health Visitors and School Nurses on LAC and the health assessment framework.

Dyfed-Powys Police have trained 80 additional frontline staff to provide enhanced support for cases of CCE. These staff act as a single point of contact for the tactical response. Training has also

been provided to the newly developed INTACT team, which covers the four Local Authority areas to develop pathways and deliver on early interventions.

An **Achieving Best Evidence – Initial Enquiry Contact with Children Course** was delivered within Ceredigion County Council this year. This was a one-day course attended by both Children and Adult Safeguarding staff as part of the development of the Through Age Safeguarding Service.

Joint Working Protocol Workshops were held in Pembrokeshire County Council on child and adult safeguarding and substance misuse.

The Regional Training Sub-Group have this year undertaken the task of providing regional support to **Dyfed Powys Police's Child and Adult Abuse course**. Materials were devised within the sub-group, with a focus on the practical and operational element of this training. A successful pilot event took place in the year, with further sessions undertaken with rotating support from the Adult Safeguarding Leads. This training has further strengthened the multi-agency working relationships in place in Mid and West Wales, and progressed the Training Sub-Group's objective of delivering a high standard of multi-agency training across the regional footprint.

Good progress has been made in relation to training requirements under **VAWDASV** legislation in relation to the National Training Framework. The MWW Regional Training Subgroup are continuing to oversee the delivery of groups 1-3 and 6 of the National Training Framework. In response to COVID-19, a bespoke regional package of online delivery has been developed, which is delivered across all four local authorities with support from specialist service providers. Despite the impact of the pandemic, good progress has been made in the rollout of Ask and Act and this will continue in to this next financial year.

The governance supporting the regional rollout ensures consistent delivery, support for trainers and centralised evaluation repository. There are clear reporting structures to Welsh Government centrally, and the regional VAWDASV Board work closely with Health and Fire Service leads to coordinate deliver across all three training packages. A training needs analysis has also been completed across regional specialist service providers, in relation to groups 4 and 5. This will be utilised to inform investment in training, to meet the requirements of groups 4 and 5 within the specialist service providers. This will be in conjunction with specialist training commissioned by Welsh Government.

Irrespective of the identified challenges, the Regional Training Sub-Group has supported the delivery of **Wales Safeguarding Procedures** training across the regional footprint in the past year. This was a complex and large-scale task, with a need to deliver training on the new Procedures and key changes to practice to safeguarding managers and practitioners across all Board partner agencies. Initial sessions were delivered by **New Pathways** to regional colleagues, who then led on the delivery of this training within their own agencies. Microsoft Teams was utilised for these sessions, with support provided from the Boards' Business Unit to organising and facilitating these online events. This training has been successfully rolled out across Mid and West Wales, reaching frontline practitioners to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to safeguard children and adults at risk in accordance with new national guidance.

The virtual delivery of this training has paved the way for new formats of safeguarding training in Mid and West Wales, specifically the use of technology to reach wider audiences and create more convenient and accessible training opportunities. This work has culminated in the development of training videos covering both the child and adult safeguarding aspects of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, which are available on the Boards' website to provide access to basic safeguarding training to a wider audience, notably including third sector organisations and volunteers. A similar approach was taken later in the year to produce training videos for the Self-Neglect and Thematic Review workshops, with this material forming the "prior reading" at the centre of the Q&A style discussions in the live sessions.

(m) How the Safeguarding Boards have implemented advice from Welsh Government and the 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 continues to implement and report against the National Action Plan for Child Sexual Abuse as directed by Welsh Government, and continue to provide multi-agency representation and input on a number of formal government workstreams, including the ongoing Single Unified Safeguarding Review process and the Children in Wales Bill.



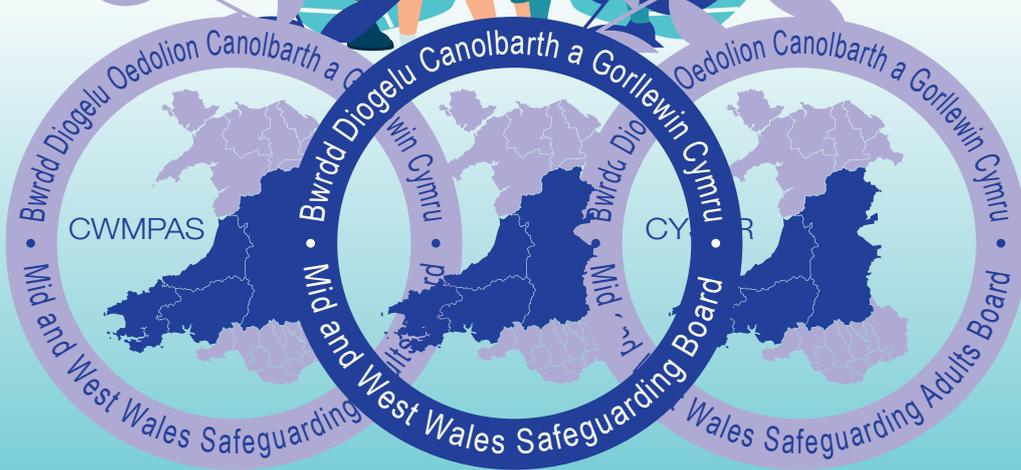
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Glossary

- **APR/CPR** – Adult Practice Review/Child Practice Review
- **MAPF** – Multi-Agency Professional Forum
- **VAWDASV** – Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- **MACSE/CSE** – Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation/ Child Sexual Exploitation
- **LOG** – Local Operational Group
- **NSGW** – National Safeguarding Week
- **ERW** – Education Regional Working
- **EHE** – Elective Home Education
- **NISB** – National Independent Safeguarding Board
- **DoLS** – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- **CIW** – Care Inspectorate Wales
- **IICSA** – Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- **PRUDIc** – Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Childhood
- **ACEs** – Adverse Childhood Experiences
- **PTHB** – Powys Teaching Health Board
- **CYPP** – Children and Young People Partnership
- **CAMHS** – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- **MARAC** – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- **MAPPA** – Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- **PHW** – Public Health Wales
- **NST** – National Safeguarding Team
- **WAST** – Welsh Ambulance Service Trust
- **DPP** – Dyfed-Powys Police
- **YJS** – Youth Justice Service
- **NPS** – National Probation Service
- **CRC** – Community Rehabilitation Company
- **SoS** – Signs of Safety
- **PSE** – Personal & Social Education
- **ADEW** – Association of Directors of Education in Wales
- **LGBTQ+** – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning Plus
- **DBS** – Disclosure and Barring Service
- **MARF** – Multi-Agency Referral Form
- **DHR** – Domestic Homicide Review
- **DA** – Domestic Abuse
- **SARC** – Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- **BAME** – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- **CSPPI** – Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents
- **YJB** – Youth Justice Board
- **UNCRC** – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **CSA/CSE** – Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation
- **CCE** – Child Criminal Exploitation
- **IRISi** – Social enterprise established to promote and improve the healthcare response to gender-based violence.
- **DSP** – Designated Safeguarding Person





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

Produced by the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board

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