

# THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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



Heddlu Police  
**DYFED-POWYS**

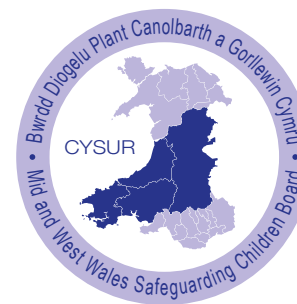
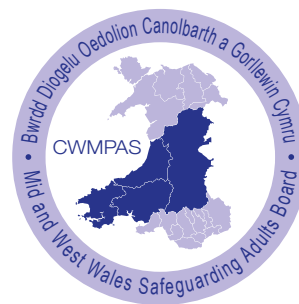


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# Introduction

**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 2021-22. The preceding two years have brought unprecedented challenges for the Regional Safeguarding Board and its partners in its endeavours to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic, in ensuring the citizens of Mid and West Wales are protected from experiencing harm, abuse or neglect.

As we begin to adapt to a post-COVID world, we remain proud of the dedication, resilience and determination of staff delivering frontline services in the most challenging of circumstances. This year's annual report outlines some of our key achievements and demonstrates how we have delivered against the objectives we set ourselves at the start of the year. This includes a continued commitment to deliver against our Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) agenda.

Developing creative solutions to some of the significant workforce challenges the social care and the public sector workforce is experiencing at a national level has been another key area

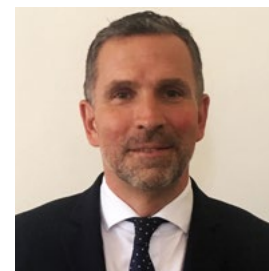
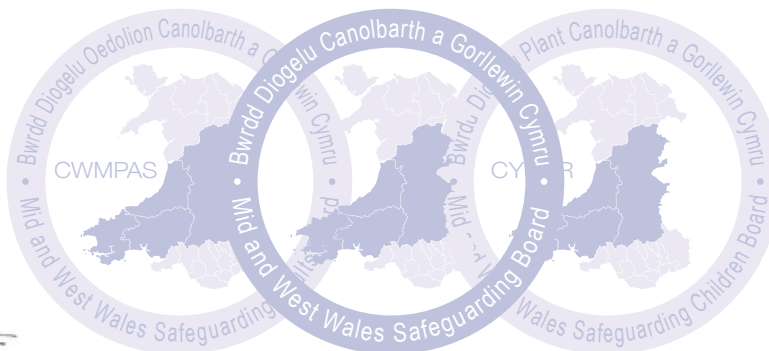
of the Boards' work this year, as well as the implementation of key multi-agency policies and protocols which include the High-Risk Behaviours (Including Self-Neglect and Hoarding) Policy and Procedure. The success of events and activities delivered as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2021, both from an engagement and feedback perspective, is just one example of how our creative use of digital and virtual platforms can be used successfully to reach large multi-agency audiences as part of our COVID recovery journey.

Our collaborative response to the continuing challenges, alongside our successes and achievements, have continued to demonstrate the paramount importance of the Regional Safeguarding Boards and their work in the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. We would like to thank the members of the Mid and West Wales Boards and sub-groups for their engagement, commitment and progress made in the last year. CYSUR and CWMPAS are progressing well, and we look forward to working with the Boards next year to continue to improve and enhance practice 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.

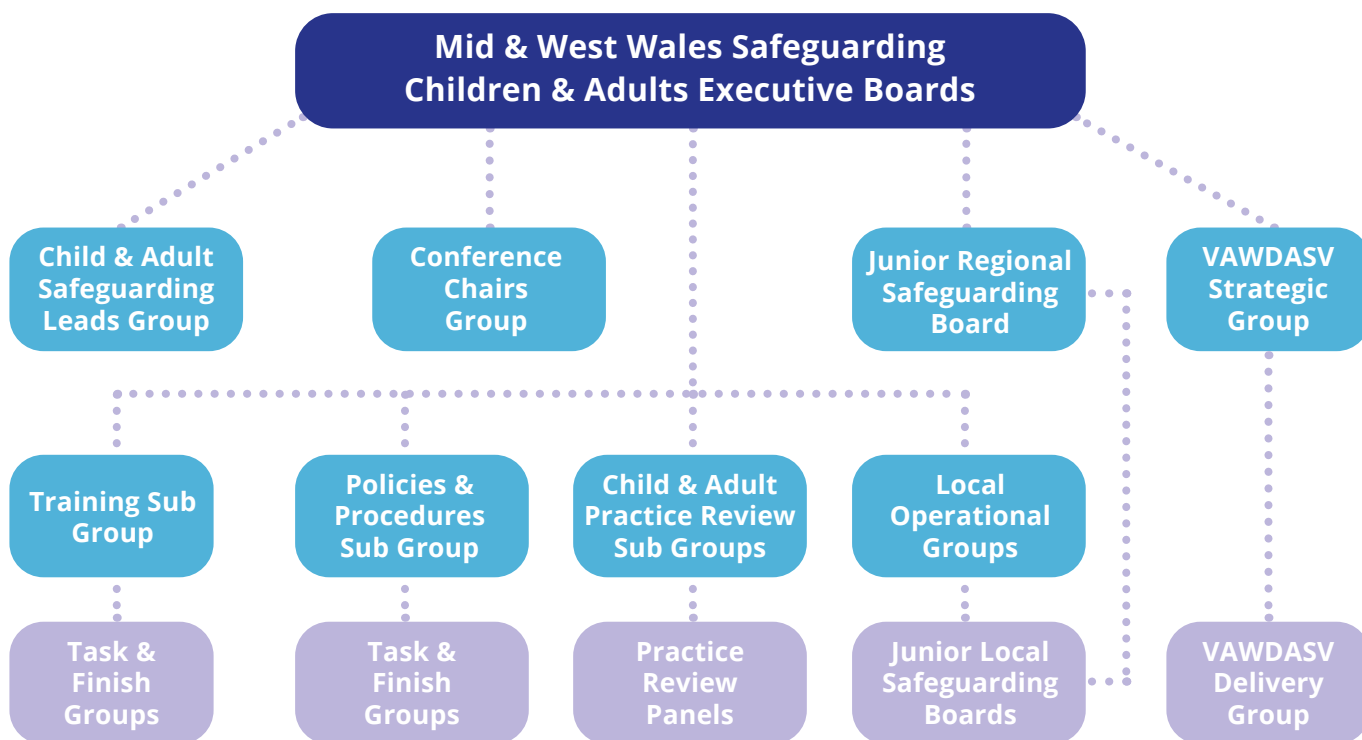




# Board Structure

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.





## 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 & Adults' 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:

*It is really pleasing to see the influence this Board has on a national level.*

CWMPAS Chair,  
Jonathan Griffiths ”

## 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](#) and [Volume 2 – Child Practice Reviews](#)' and makes a recommendation to the relevant Executive Board Chair as to whether there are identified learning outcomes and whether an 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):

Multi-agency learning is undertaken via a Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) from identified cases that have not met the threshold for a full concise or extended Child or Adult Practice Review. The Regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) was closed this year and has now been incorporated into the Child Practice Review (CPR) Sub-Group to help achieve consistency in decision-making. Responsibility for managing and overseeing MAPFs now sits with the CPR Sub-Group, although a link to regional LOGs will remain in place.

## Regional Policies & Procedures Sub-Group:

The Policies & Procedures Sub-Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. The Group seeks to provide guidance to professionals via the development of regional safeguarding policies and procedures. The Boards now have a significant number of multi-agency through-age policies to support practitioners in their practice, which are available on the Boards' [website](#).

## Regional Training Sub-Group:

The Training Sub-Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. It seeks to support and guide the delivery of safeguarding training and learning across the four Local Authority areas and partner agency organisations.

The Training Sub-Group works closely with partners' training departments to ensure and promote the quality and consistency of safeguarding training and delivery. The group can commission specialist, bespoke safeguarding training across the region and works closely with other sub-groups, such as the APR/CPR Sub-Groups, to ensure any learning outcomes identified in Child/Adult Practice Reviews are disseminated to staff, and any identified specialist training is commissioned.

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

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

VAWDASV affects all citizens of the region and incorporates all forms of violence against women, honour based violence, forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, and domestic abuse. The VAWDASV Strategic Group is a multi-agency collaboration that is driving forward the requirements of the [VAWDASV Act](#), including the implementation of the 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

The COVID-19 Operational Group was a temporary bespoke group established in March 2020 to ensure an efficient and consistent response to the COVID-19 pandemic across safeguarding services in Mid and West Wales.

The group, made up of senior strategic and operational multi-agency partners across the region, met throughout 2020 and 2021. It was disbanded in the summer of 2021 as it was considered all the necessary systems and structures were in place to manage the effects on services and practice of the pandemic.





## 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.

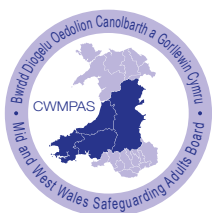
The group continues to advise the Executive Boards on safeguarding matters and issues from a young person's perspective via meetings, workshops and consultation events.

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

### **Nina Davies**

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**

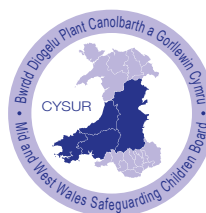
Head of Adult Services,  
Pembrokeshire County Council

### **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

### **Nina Davies**

Director of Social Services,  
Powys County Council

### **Jayne Butler**

Det Superintendent,  
Dyfed Powys Police

### **Stefan Smith**

Head of Children's Services,  
Carmarthenshire County Council

### **Donna Pritchard**

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

### **Darren Mutter**

Head of Children's Services,  
Pembrokeshire County Council

### **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

**Mandy Nichols-Davies**

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

**Jayne Wheeler-Sexton**

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

**Claire Roche**

Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Powys Teaching Health Board

**Linda Davies**

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

**Nikki Harvey**

Head of Safeguarding, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

**Hazel Lloyd-Lubran**

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

**Chris Harrison**

Regional representative for Heads of Commissioning



**Mandy Rayani**

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

**Mandy Nichols-Davies**

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

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Head of Safeguarding, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

**Hazel Lloyd-Lubran**

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

**Steve Davis**

Regional representative of Youth Justice Managers

**Regional Directors of Education**

Rotating membership from Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys

**Dr Ingrid Prosser**

Named Doctor, Child Protection, PTHB

**Dr Damitha Ratnasinghe**

Named Doctor, Child Protection, HDUHB

## Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

**Julie Breckon**

Regional Safeguarding Board Manager

**Theresa Welch**

Business Development Officer

**Rebecca Reynolds**

Practice Review Business Manager

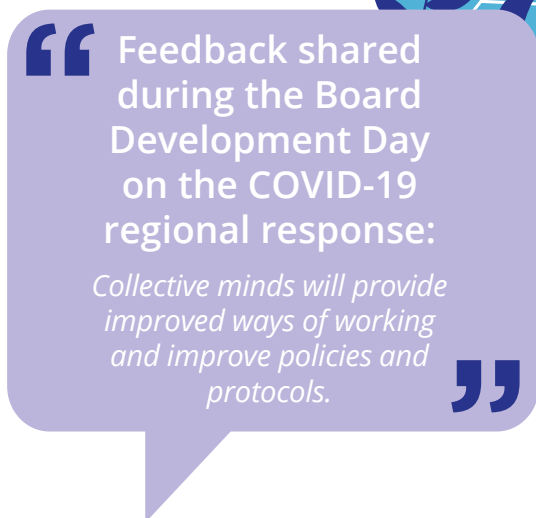
**Stuart Hicks**

Business Co-ordinator

# (b) Action taken to achieve our outcomes

## Continued Implementation of COVID-19 Regional Arrangements

A considerable amount of time and resources in the preceding year was redirected to support the multi-agency safeguarding response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the significant number of interim regional arrangements previously developed and implemented to support this work has continued to support both safeguarding practitioners delivering frontline services and strategic policy and decision makers.



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

*Collective minds will provide improved ways of working and improve policies and protocols.* ”

This work includes the continued use and implementation of regional policies and frameworks, including the [COVID-19 Regional Escalation Process and Risk Management Policy for Care and Nursing Homes](#), and the [COVID-19 Threshold Documents](#) developed to support safe decision-making. As previously referenced, due to the success and collaborative work undertaken across the partnership throughout the pandemic, it has been possible to suspend the temporary changes made to the Boards’ structure this year. This includes the COVID-19 Operational Group, as partners considered sufficient systems, processes and policies are now in place to support a continuing cohesive, collaborative multi-agency response to the continuing challenges of the pandemic.

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## Implementation of the Multi-Agency High-Risk Behaviours Policy and Procedure (Including Self-Neglect and Hoarding)

Following the completion of this piece of work last year, the framework has been implemented this year. The origins of this stems from an acknowledgement and understanding of the significant correlation between the numbers of safeguarding referrals received that feature self-neglect and hoarding, as well as identified themes in cases that are referred for Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs. The implementation of a clear framework to support practitioners in this extremely complex area of safeguarding work has been welcomed by all agencies across the regional partnership this year. It is intended this framework will support a more coordinated and consistent response via an agreed process similar to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), where previous agency efforts to manage continuing, emerging and acute risk have been unsuccessful.

Agreement has been reached to implement a regional multi-agency panel this year to oversee and manage any referred cases. This will be for an initial period of 12 months, after which the process will be reviewed. Please refer to Sections I and L for more information on this key workstream.

## Continued Implementation of the Regional Safer Lives, Healthier Relationships VAWDASV Strategy

As required by Welsh Government under the VAWDASV Act 2015, the Mid and West Wales region published the [Safe Lives, Healthier Relationships VAWDASV Strategy](#) in November 2018. The Regional Strategy and Annual Delivery Plans are overseen by the Regional Adviser and VAWDASV Strategic Board, who are accountable to the Regional Safeguarding Executive Board. This regional strategy is now coming to a natural end, and as we proceed to publication, an independent consultant is working with partners across the region to develop a new strategy to be completed and published in the coming year. This will be aligned to new published national priorities. The Regional Safe Lives, Healthier Relationships VAWDASV Strategy is considered to be a huge success in the Mid and West Wales region and has been driven with enthusiasm, rigour, tenacity and vision by the VAWDSV Regional Advisor. The last year has seen the culmination and completion of a number of projects linked to the regional priorities. Throughout the life of the strategy, and through the COVID-19 pandemic, the region has seen a huge increase in demand on specialist service provision, intervention and support alongside increased complexity.

This has included seeing an increase in both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse presenting with acute mental health issues and increased levels of substance misuse, alongside higher levels of reports of coercive control and stalking related abuse. The increase in demand for specialist provision has had a knock-on effect on demand for services such as Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) services, refuge places, perpetrator programmes and specialist sexual violence and counselling services. The shortage of suitable safe housing for victims of domestic abuse causes additional challenges. The review underway will take into consideration all these factors in the development of a new strategy for the region in the coming year, as well as building upon the success of projects aligned to the existing strategy.

Specific areas of focus across the region in the last year are outlined below:

- **Secured Funding and the Development of Long-Term Sustainable Regional Funding Model**

As a region, we have tackled the significant challenges we face head-on with vision and creativity. We have secured over £900,000 of additional funding in this financial year alone, and an additional £200,000 revenue funding has been awarded for 2021-22. This has been allocated directly to specialist VAWDASV service providers, to increase their capacity in response to the post-pandemic demand. This has been used to resource five additional self-contained units of accommodation across the region, as well as making improvements to refuge and Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) facilities.

An award of just under half a million pounds via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has also been secured to support our regional approach to perpetrators of abuse, which has helped to bridge the gap in funding to support the delivery of much needed perpetrator intervention programmes.



- **Regional Remote Evidence Facilities**

Welsh Government released funding in the last financial year to increase the capacity of remote evidence facilities across Wales, which has been used across the region to help increase the options available to victims and witnesses in domestic abuse and sexual violence cases via the creation of three new remote evidence sites across the region.

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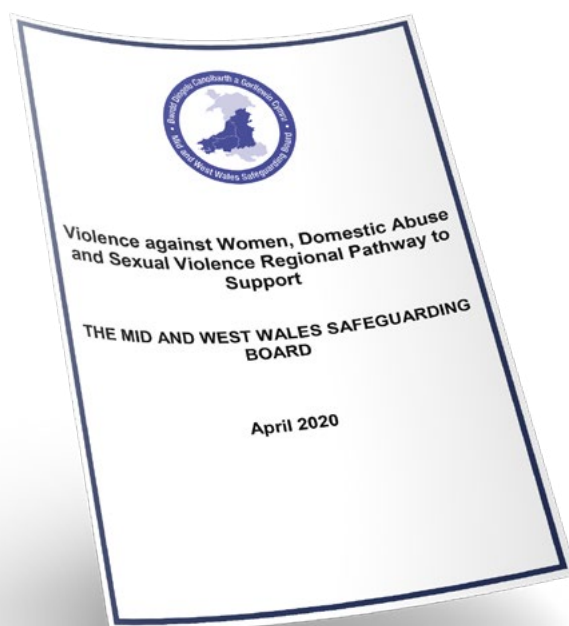
- **Supporting the New Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Curriculum**

With support from Public Health Wales and the regional Healthy Schools advisors, a regional VAWDASV resource directory has been created to support primary and secondary schools across the region in the development of high quality, age-appropriate VAWDASV resources, designed to support school staff to deliver the VAWDASV topics within the RSE curriculum.

Further partnership with the Regional Strategic Group for a Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Mental Health services, Dyfed Powys Police, Education Psychology, the West Wales Education Partnership, and University of Wales Trinity Saint David, continues to enrich the RSE school curriculum.

**Other work in the year to support the existing regional VAWDASV strategy includes:**

- Improvements to the regional identification, response to and reporting of child to parent abuse via the development of a regional pathway and policy.
- The development of a clear VAWDASV communication strategy informed by survivors and stakeholders. Work continues to establish a Regional Survivor Advisory Panel to oversee all the planning for engagement activities, which will include a pilot survivor peer support group.
- An ongoing review of existing commissioning arrangements to inform the development of a joint, integrated “one public service” commissioning strategy. The Regional Adviser and Partnership Coordinator are supporting Local Authorities in recommissioning activities with a continued consideration for potential cross boundary commissioning exercises.



Further information on the VAWSAV in Mid and West Wales can be obtained via the following link: [www.cysur.wales/vawdasv](http://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:

#### Engagement with Adults at Risk

Direct engagement with adults at risk in relation to its work remains a key priority for the Regional Safeguarding Board. The Adult Safeguarding Leads Group, who have this year placed a focus on the Multi-Agency High-Risk Behaviour Policy (including Self-Neglect and Hoarding) will carry this workstream forward into the coming year.

Initial discussions have been productive, and a number of local areas have shared their learning to date from local initiatives currently in place. The Boards continue to have a longer-term plan to formalise arrangements into a Regional Communication and Engagement Strategy for Adults at Risk.



## 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.

The young people of CADW have demonstrated exceptional commitment and enthusiasm in light of the limitations that COVID-19 has placed on their opportunities to come together. Local groups have continued to embrace virtual means of coming together, which is evident from the outstanding output once again achieved by each group (please see Section J). At the time of writing, opportunities to meet face-to-face have begun to arise in local and regional groups, which the young people have happily welcomed and enjoyed.

Despite the long-term restrictions posed by COVID-19, the Regional Junior Safeguarding Board has achieved an increased level of collaboration and unity this year, as its young people work together on the development of a training video/animation that, when complete, will be incorporated into multi-agency practitioner safeguarding training.

Face-to-face workshops to complete this project will take place in the coming months, with the final resource due to be launched in the year 2022-23. The young people have approached this work with remarkable creativity and insight, and this Board eagerly awaits the launch of this unique piece of work. Furthermore, this project is set to act as a springboard for further collaboration and unity as a regional forum, with further work anticipated in the coming year sure to feature in the 2022-23 Annual Report.

Please refer to Sections J and L for more detailed information.



*Photographs during the productive training video / animation workshops*



*Photograph of Junior Board members during the productive training video / animation workshops*



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

An equal effort has been dedicated to communications with the general public this year, noting the benefits of increasing public awareness of key safeguarding issues to promote greater understanding of abuse, neglect and wellbeing, which in turn can aid public reporting of concerns and self-referring for support.

Campaigns and content promoted this year include the following themes/awareness days:

- Mental Health Awareness Week (national theme: nature and wellbeing)
- Stop it Now! Child Sexual Abuse awareness campaigns
- Information on how to report safeguarding concerns locally
- Promotion of the Boards' Annual Plan and Annual Report
- World Suicide Prevention Day
- Ending Physical Punishment in Wales campaign messaging and launch information
- National Safeguarding Week campaigns including Facebook Premieres of regionally developed materials, and messaging linked to regional events and webinars (see Sections F and L)
- Promotion of Junior Board content and projects
- National #CallOutOnly campaign on sexual harassment
- Safer sleep messaging and guidance for new parents
- Children's Mental Health Week

These efforts have materialised in terms of our social media reach and engagement data. In particular, our Facebook page reach has increased by 27% this year, with 33,361 people seeing CYSUR content on the platform. Once again, the peak of Facebook reach was during National Safeguarding Week, with numbers reaching 12,199 content views/engagements on a single day in November 2021. This is a notable increase from the highest number of insights on any date in the previous year (8,134 on a single day of National Safeguarding Week 2020). Facebook and Twitter continue to be the most prominent means of communication with the public for the Boards in terms of social media, with Twitter peaking at 17,400 impressions on a single date this year.

This data is tremendously encouraging in our work to increase our reach and engagement in respect of the general public, with the above data demonstrating that high numbers of individuals are seeing and engaging with our content and targeted campaigns. In addition to these primary forms of social media engagement, we have also launched an Instagram account, to promote visual content and attempt to further target young people in terms of communications. The establishment of a CYSUR YouTube channel this year has also enabled both an additional format of content to be further shared, i.e. video resources (ranging from 5 minute briefings to 1-hour presentations), and an additional platform through which the general public can be kept up to date on our work and key safeguarding messaging. In the coming year, it is hoped a greater frequency of communications and campaigns can be achieved, together with consideration of new and increasingly innovative ways of engaging with the general public, as well as considering how our social media platforms can better target practitioners.



## Improved communication with practitioners

The Board Business Unit has built upon its streams of communication this year to further support practitioner knowledge in key areas of safeguarding, as well as promotion of the Boards' work. The primary ways in which this has been achieved include:

- **7 Minute Briefings:** this method of communication has proved highly successful in enabling managers to succinctly brief teams on new developments and key topics in the safeguarding arena, and for this reason, new 7 Minute Briefings continue to be developed in respect of current priorities, new policies, and practice review learning.
- **Website:** our firmly established Resource Hub is configured to enable practitioners to quickly access a wealth of resources based on topic or by website user, and these resources continue to be added to from a variety of communication streams. New website pages are also added regularly in line with regional and national safeguarding developments.
- **Virtual training:** the increased use of virtual means to hold training webinars has resulted in a notable increase in training reach, as well as mechanisms to record events and make them accessible after the event date. Video resources have also been developed and published this year, which enable practitioners to access a greater variety of safeguarding information in a variety of formats, at a time and place, which is more accessible to them.

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

- Links have been strengthened between the Junior Board and the CYSUR/CWMPAS Boards in terms of alignment of workstreams and greater influence of the voice of children and young people.
- An increased variety and volume of safeguarding information is available to practitioners via numerous platforms and access routes.
- A wider audience is being reached for safeguarding campaigns targeted at the general public, leading to increased public awareness on abuse and neglect and how to access support.

## What we still need to do:

- Develop a robust process for engagement with adults at risk via a Regional Strategic Framework and Engagement Strategy.
- Identify further opportunities to increase avenues of communication with practitioners on the Boards' work and key areas of focus.
- Launch and begin to disseminate the regionally agreed newsletter template.

## 2. Thematic Learning and Developing Best Practice:

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

### What we said we would do:

- Amalgamate MAPF monitoring into Child and Adult Practice Review Sub-Groups and raise the profile of MAPFs regionally
- Simplify the referral processes for Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs
- Introduce a Rapid Response Model in response to suicide
- Provide additional business support to colleagues in their undertaking of reviews and MAPFs
- Continue to support the Single Unified Safeguarding Review national work
- Develop and expand virtual training across the region
- Implement regional remote evidence sites to support survivors of domestic abuse
- Implement new regional MACE Terms of Reference

### What improvements we have made:

#### Amalgamate MAPF monitoring into Child and Adult Practice Review Sub-Groups and raise the profile of MAPFs regionally

This year significant work has taken place on the regional monitoring of and support to MAPFs. All MAPFs are now monitored via the Child and Adult Practice Review Sub Groups. MAPFs and their progress are now discussed quarterly at the sub-group alongside CPR/APR updates from each local area. Improvements to our administration systems, including the establishment of Excel trackers for CPRs and APRs has complemented this development, with both reviews and MAPFs now tracked in the same central document, enabling more robust regional oversight of progress.

#### Simplify referral processes for Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs

A Practice Review Development Day took place in November 2021 to consider a number of proposals, which included a simplified referral processes for Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs. This proposal will enable new referrals to follow a streamlined process, allowing them to be considered at an earlier stage by the sub-groups, which in turn enables timelier commencement of reviews and therefore learning. The Executive Board has approved this proposal in principle and the development and implementation of the new process will take place in the coming year.



Practice Review Development Day 2021

### Introduce an Immediate Response Model in response to suicide

The purpose of this process is to identify and provide support to individuals who may be at increased risk of suicide or self-harm following an instance of suicide in their network or peer group. This development is an outcome of our regional suicide prevention work, which formed a key focus at the Practice Review Development Day, as well as having featured as a theme in a number of regional practice reviews and MAPFs. A regional task and finish group has been established to develop a model that will be implemented in the coming year.

Please refer to Section I for more information.

- Provide additional business support to colleagues in their undertaking of reviews and MAPFs
- This year, the Boards' Business Unit has expanded with the creation of a new post, namely, the Practice Review Business Manager role. This post has been created to support colleagues in conducting CPR/APRs and MAPFs, as well as facilitating the implementation of numerous developmental projects identified in this area as outlined above. The Practice Review Business Manager commenced in post in January this year and will drive progress in both ongoing reviews/MAPFs and wider developmental objectives outlined in the 2022-23 Annual Plan in the coming year.

### Continue to support the Single Unified Safeguarding Review national work

Our Boards are engaged in several workstreams of the ongoing Single Unified Safeguarding Review national work, which has continued with pace this year. Further areas of focus include work to support the development of a National Repository of Reviews to promote wider sharing of learning between Regional Safeguarding Boards. Notably, our Boards' CPR/APR Action Plan template, which was developed and implemented across the region last year, has formed the basis of a trial national Action Plan template. Our Business Development Officer has worked closely with Gwent Safeguarding Board on the further development of this template, together with guidance for its suggested use, and have begun to engage with other Boards in Wales by delivering live demonstrations of the document to enable regional pilots to take place in the coming year. At the time of writing, several Boards are trialling the template, with feedback to be received and further development to take place in the coming year.

### Develop and expand virtual training across the region

A number of developments have taken place this year, which have expanded our regional safeguarding training suite considerably. National Safeguarding Week built upon the innovative virtual means of delivering training employed in the previous year by opting to utilise Microsoft Teams for large-scale virtual events and conferences, which were well attended and highly commended by attendees.

The Boards' social media accounts, which have been growing steadily over recent years in reach, were employed to launch video guides to learning from completed Domestic Homicide Reviews. These were launched as Premiere Live Videos on Facebook, which then became available afterwards on CYSUR's Facebook page, our most prominent and popular social media account. These resources also provided a valuable addition to CYSUR's new YouTube account, sitting alongside numerous other videos published thus far to create an additional platform for practitioners and the general public to access for safeguarding information relevant to Mid and West Wales. Two ongoing projects currently in development within the

Boards will add further to our virtual suite of training resources in the coming year, namely, a Professional Curiosity introductory video, and the animation being developed by our Junior Board, CADW, on how safeguarding professionals can better adopt child-centred approaches in their practice. We look forward to sharing these completed pieces of work in our 2022-23 Annual Report next year. [Please refer to Section L for more information.](#)

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### Implement regional remote evidence sites to support survivors of domestic abuse

As highlighted under the regional VAWDASV developments outlined in Section B, grant funds have been utilised to fund three remote evidence sites for victims and witnesses of incidents of domestic abuse across the region this year, making it easier and safer for victims to pursue criminal prosecutions against perpetrators.

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### Implement new regional Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Terms of Reference

New MACE terms of reference developed in the preceding year have now been fully implemented across the region this year. This has been led by a Regional Exploitation Task and Finish Group, which is supporting MACE meetings to be primarily strategic, facilitating analysis and identification of patterns, trends and hotspots of activity, as opposed to an operationally focussed meeting. The scope of the meetings has also been expanded to incorporate wider forms of exploitation beyond sexual, for example criminal exploitation.

[Please refer to Section I for more information.](#)

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

- Monitoring of regional CPR/APRs and MAPFs has become more robust, aiding the progress of numerous ongoing review processes in the region. Lessons learned are captured and promoted to practitioners more robustly as a result.
- Clear plans have been devised and agreed for the development of Practice Review and MAPF processes in the region.
- Safeguarding training for practitioners has become increasingly accessible via the introduction of additional virtual platforms and resource suites.

### What we still need to do:

- Implement a through-age Practice Review Sub-Group and agree and adopt clearer, more efficient referral mechanisms.
- Establish an Immediate Response Model to instances of suicide in Mid and West Wales which identifies any need for support in the community and networks, as well as facilitating timely learning.
- Continue to support the Single Unified Safeguarding Review development, and prepare for regional implementation once launched.
- Recommence regional training task and finish groups to complete outstanding actions against the [Mid and West Wales All Age Regional Training Strategy and Delivery Plan](#).



### 3. Strengthening the Workforce and Managing Risk:

To Develop and Implement Strategic Initiatives, which will Enable Greater Retention 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 promote workforce development, recruitment and retention.
- 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
- Recognise excellent safeguarding practice.
- Review the Multi-Agency Referral Form to develop a more effective referral form which can be used for a range of reports of risk.

#### What improvements we have made:

##### Workforce

Action that has been taken to strengthen the workforce in potential vulnerable areas across the region in previous years has continued. Strategies implemented to support improved recruitment and retention have continued to be progressed via the West Wales Regional Partnership Board, who are leading on this workstream, and with whom the Regional Safeguarding Boards continue to have strong links. All four Local Authorities within the region continue to have internal recruitment strategies in place to support a long-term sustainable model of recruitment and retention for social care staff.

An initial review of current staffing levels, vacancies and trends was undertaken this year across the four local authority children’s services, however it was decided a further, more advanced deep dive into social care recruitment patterns and vulnerabilities across the region, including adult safeguarding and social care, is needed. This work will be commissioned in the coming year. It is widely accepted there are significant challenges facing many public sector organisations across Wales at present, with high vacancy levels in some teams and areas who provide essential services to adults and children who may be at risk of harm. This has required some creative strategies and solutions to be put in place to manage and mitigate any potential increased risk. The Regional Safeguarding Boards has communicated directly with both the Welsh Government and Care Inspectorate Wales about these challenges, citing the need for a national consistent response to the continuing challenges.

##### Recruitment practice, grow your own initiatives and links to Universities

Grow your own initiatives and schemes are in place across the region, including within the Health Boards, specifically in relation to Health Visiting and some Local Authority areas. Health visiting in some parts of the Hywel Dda region is experiencing significant challenges in respect of recruitment and retention of staff. Risk assessments have been completed and assurance provided to the Regional Safeguarding Board that a plan and mitigating actions are in place to manage any risk. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board along with its strong links to the West Wales Partnership Board continues to keep a very close watching brief on risks

identified within the care and nursing home and domiciliary care sector. The considerable work undertaken regionally in this area in recent years, led by the regional commissioning partnerships, has continued in the preceding 12 months. This includes the use of a regional dashboard tool to monitor services and support identification and escalation of risk, alongside the Regional Escalating Concerns Framework that helps to provide timely intervention and support to residential settings that may be struggling to maintain high standards of care. The impact of the global pandemic continues to present challenges in this area. It is well documented that care homes have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such, these settings have a higher proportion of people at risk of serious complications from infections. The situation continues to be monitored closely alongside the regional COVID-19 Recovery Plan developed and implemented last year by the regional commissioning collaboratives. In summary, irrespective of significant challenges, 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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### Recognition of Excellent Practice

Within the confines of our reporting period, we can confirm clear arrangements are in place for a multi-agency awards ceremony to take place at University of Wales Trinity Saint David on 13th May 2022, to be attended by the Deputy First Minister Julie Morgan. It is intended a cross section of practitioners from across the region will be acknowledged and rewarded for their work, including work carried out throughout the pandemic.

.....

### Review of the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)

Work is underway via a regional task and finish group to review the regional multi-agency referral form for children and adults. When the forms are updated, it is intended digital platforms will be utilised across the region to encourage online submission.

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

- We have clear plans in place to support robust staff recruitment and retention, and we understand our areas of weakness and vulnerabilities. A further deep dive exercise will be undertaken in the coming year.
- 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.
- Clear plans are in place to improve the way practitioners report concerns for children and adults at risk.

### What we still need to do:

- Deliver an annual multi-agency staff award ceremony that identifies and acknowledges excellent safeguarding practice and achievement scheduled for May 2022.
- Better understand recruitment patterns and trends across children’s and adults’ services via a deep dive exercise to be undertaken in the coming year.

## 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:

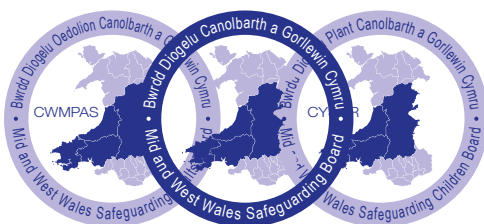
- Focus on engagement of specific services at Board, including Education colleagues.
- Support the development of national policy, legislation and guidance.
- Deliver and report against the actions assigned in the national Child Sexual Abuse Action Plan.
- Continue to work and collaborate with the Welsh Government, National Independent Safeguarding Board and other forums on issues of national importance.

### What improvements we have made:

#### Focus on engagement of specific services at Board, including Education colleagues

The Board has welcomed and enjoyed an increased level of engagement of Education services at Executive Board level this year, with numerous local Directors of Education having attended. This has been of particular value in the regional response to the “Everyone’s Invited campaign”, which gave the Boards an opportunity to consider the issue of sexual harassment and sexually harmful behaviour in schools, and the extent to which we as a region have consistent and effective policies in place to respond to this identified issue. Numerous significant discussions have taken place on the steps needed to achieve best practice in this area, culminating in bespoke work being undertaken by the Directors of Education as a group.

This work has commenced with a focus on agreeing consistent regional definitions of the key issues arising from the campaign, with the view that consistent identification and understanding of these issues will form a strong foundation in the subsequent responses agreed across the region. This issue is one of many examples of challenges facing our Boards today which benefit from the rich contribution Education colleagues have to offer, and we look forward to further utilising these relationships in the coming year as we work together on key safeguarding issues impacting children and young people.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol  
Cenedlaethol Cymru  
National Independent  
Safeguarding Board Wales

## Support the development of national policy, legislation and guidance

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards has given considerable support to a number of national pieces of work including the development of legislation, policy, guidance and bespoke projects, such as:

- Acting as the national Regional Safeguarding Board representative on the Ending Physical Punishment in Wales Strategic Implementation Group and Training and Diversion Task and Finish Group. This became law in Wales in March 2022, with the aim of deterring parents and carers from using physical methods such as smacking to chastise their children. Please see Sections I and M for more information on this work.
- Supporting the Single Unified Safeguarding Review. The Regional Safeguarding Board Chair, Regional Manager and other Board members have given considerable support to this work via representation at the national ministerial group, various sub groups including training, policy and governance groups, and specialist focus groups set up to redraft the statutory guidance. When complete, this work and new statutory guidance will replace the existing Child and Adult Practice Review guidance, and will include Domestic Homicide Reviews and Mental Health Reviews. Please see more detailed information on this work in Sections D and I.
- Supporting the development of new National Training Standards led by Social Care Wales. The Regional Safeguarding Board Manager and members of the Boards' sub groups have supported the development of new safeguarding training standards via membership of the national Safeguarding Standards group. The aim is to develop consistent training standards across Wales for multi-agency safeguarding training to be published later this year.
- Deliver and report against the actions assigned in the National Child Sexual Abuse Action Plan. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards submitted a substantial return this year evidencing how it has promoted resources to support children, parents, carers and practitioners to prevent sexual abuse occurring, and to improve how they respond when reports are received.

Please see more information on this in Sections I and M.

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

- Work to better support education practitioners to respond to and manage sexually harmful behaviour in schools is now embedded into the Boards' workstreams.
- Primary legislation, policy and guidance in Wales to effectively safeguard people is strengthened.
- Practitioners, parents and carers are better equipped to prevent and respond to incidents of child sexual abuse.

## What we still need to do:

- Continue to play a national role in the post-law implementation of the Ending Physical Punishment in Wales legislation.





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

## Welsh Government

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board has continued to work closely with Welsh Government (WG) in the last year, via attendance at regular briefing meetings with Government officials to discuss the Boards' work. 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

As referenced in Sections C, I and M, the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have played a significant role in supporting the implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020, representing all Safeguarding Boards in Wales via membership of the Strategic Implementation group and the Training, Operations, Guidance and Diversion Task and Finish group.

The Boards have also continued to make 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 the Board Chair, Board members and Regional Board Manager are represented on several of these. This has been a significant resource commitment, both within the context of time and personnel commitment from the Mid and West Wales region.

Please see Sections D and I for more information.

## Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Chair of CYSUR, Jake Morgan, has continued throughout the year to liaise with the previous 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.

Constructive discussion and dialogue has continued to take place in respect of areas of mutual interest, including the ongoing issue of safeguarding within the context of elective home education (EHE), and the long-standing and ongoing need for Welsh Government to honour its previous commitment to strengthen safeguarding legislation in Wales for this group of children. The Board commits to continue to support and work with the newly appointed Children's Commissioner for Wales, who has agreed to support an event in the region scheduled to take place during National Safeguarding Week this year.

## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 collaborative approach continues to be taken with the West Wales Partnership Board concerning the impact of the pandemic. Joint work to undertake a review of lessons learned exercise is now underway. 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.

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## Social Care Wales

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board have continued to work with Social Care Wales, who are developing Safeguarding Standards to support the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training across Wales. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board has continued to be represented on the national development group leading on the development of national multi-agency training standards, and has hosted a regional event of key partner agencies as part of the national consultation.



## Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

The Boards have responded to and provided information when requested by CIW, including assurance in respect of staff competency and training in complex safeguarding work for children at risk.



The request came in following significant UK-wide media attention following tragic deaths of children and perceived shortcomings in responses from professionals safeguarding them. Ongoing discussion, dialogue and communication has taken place in various forums with CIW and Welsh Government regarding the recruitment and retention crisis across the social care and public sector workforce in Wales, and the need for a national, targeted response to this. Without this, concern remains high that existing challenges within the sector to secure and retain a skilled, competent workforce long-term to safeguard the most vulnerable will be exasperated and increase risk.

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## 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.



This has included the outcome and report published this year into exploitation by organised networks of vulnerable groups. Work undertaken in the region to support the National Action Plan on Child Sexual Abuse, and the development and promotion of materials including a 7-minute briefing in to support the publication of [Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 7 – Safeguarding Children from Child Exploitation](#), aligns closely with this broader national work.

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## Community Safety Partnerships

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



Proportionate communication takes place and is fed into the Boards' various forums and meetings in relation to the outcome of Domestic Homicide Reviews across the region, and areas of mutual interest including any relevant learning in need of dissemination.



## 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 continue to take place regularly, as well as supplementary meetings with Board Chairs.

### National Independent Safeguarding Board



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



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

The Boards have continued to support the national review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements currently being led by the NISB, via attendance at various meetings and events hosted by researcher Michelle McManus from Liverpool John Moores University, who is about to commence phase 3 of this work, and a number of bespoke interviews have taken place with key partners across the region to support this.





## (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 systems, structures and processes implemented in the preceding year (2020-21), that developed and implemented a multi-agency response to the wide range of risks posed to safeguarding services and the public throughout COVID-19, has continued throughout 2021-22. These include policy guidance in relation to children on the child protection register, looked after children and threshold guidance for adults at risk.

Notwithstanding the significant workforce challenges referenced in Section C, this work has continued to support practitioners and managers practically and strategically to deliver safe services to the most vulnerable people in our communities. The achievements made this year despite the unprecedented challenges faced continue to be a source of great pride within the Boards.

Most of the non-urgent workstreams temporarily paused in the preceding year have now recommenced alongside new workstreams, encompassing a continuing business as usual approach across the Boards and their work.



**“ Feedback from Development Day:**

*Digital and blended learning can have a greater reach.*

.....

*There is a sense of looking afresh and there is opportunity in that.*

.....

*The continuation of our established relationships is fundamental going forward.* ”



## Completion / Publication of Regional Strategies and Policies

A number of key projects were completed in 2021-22, culminating in the publication of numerous key regional policies and pathways that include:

- [Decision Making at CP Conferences \(agency groupings\)](#)
- [Regional Guidance on Child to Parent Abuse](#)
- [Updated Regional Information Sharing Protocol](#)
- [Implementation of the Regional High-Risk Behaviours \(Including Hoarding and Self-Neglect\) Policy and Procedure](#)

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. All resources provide guidance to staff, and seek to support and improve professional safeguarding practice, closely aligned to the Boards' strategic priorities.

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## Executive Board Development Day

After two years of reverting to Microsoft Teams to hold virtual Development Days during the COVID-19 pandemic, Board members were thrilled to return this year to a face-to-face event for our Executive Board Development Day 2022. This standing annual event provides an essential opportunity for colleagues to consider as a collaborative the outcomes and successes of the previous year's Annual Plan, and to use this reflection to then look forward to the key aims to be included in the plan for the coming year. Whilst the Boards are proud of the manner in which this was able to continue throughout the pandemic utilising virtual means, the benefits of working together face-to-face were clearly evident throughout the day, with meaningful discussion and debate arising as we considered our direction of travel in the coming year with respect of our overarching objectives, as well as agreeing a number of specific targets to be captured within the Plan.

In light of this desire to build upon existing work undertaken, and considering the expansion of opportunities presented by the increased options for face-to-face events, 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. The

**“ Feedback from Executive Board members at Development Day:**

Members agreed the following words best described the culture of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board:

- ✓ **Collaborative**
- ✓ **Purposeful**
- ✓ **Focussed**
- ✓ **Collective** ”



additional priority agreed last year, namely, to prioritise the response to and recovery from COVID-19 across our region has been retained, to ensure that the regional transition to a post-COVID working practice is carefully considered and consistently applied.

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 2022-23](#).



Executive Board Development Day 2022

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

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

Learning Events have taken place both virtually and in person this year, with the format of events being determined by current COVID-19 regulations and practical considerations. Learning Event processes are well-established in the region and, as a result, have been able to be transferred to virtual sessions where required for both Practice Reviews and MAPFs.

The Boards and LOGs take a positive, learning-based approach to Learning Events, which encourages constructive and mindful discussions and challenge between practitioners about the circumstances of the review, together with their own perspectives in terms of the approaches taken, challenges faced and individual reflections of both good practice and potential learning available. All Learning Events held this year have received positive feedback in terms of providing a cathartic “safe space” to discuss challenging circumstances and identify valuable shared learning to inform future Board priorities and safeguarding work going forward. These Learning Events have each culminated in the identification of valuable learning forming the focus of Practice Review and MAPF reports and action plans, ensuring all learning is considered by the Boards and taken forward promptly and effectively.

**“ Learning Event Attendee feedback:**

*A valuable reflective exercise for professionals to highlight the importance of working together and sharing important information with the appropriate services and avenues to prevent missed opportunities.*

.....

*It was thorough, felt inclusive and non-judgemental.* ”

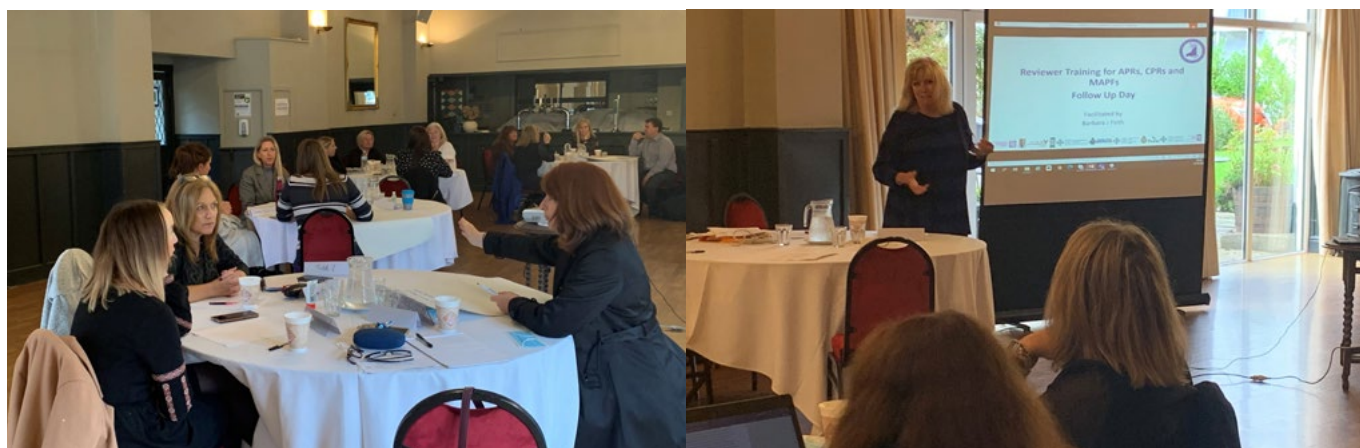


APR Learning event held at Parc Y Scarlets in October 2021

# Some collective photos from regional face-to-face events held during this year.



*CYSUR Chair Jake Morgan opening the Executive Board Development Day 2022*



*Practice Review Development Day 2021*



*APR Learning Event, October 2021*

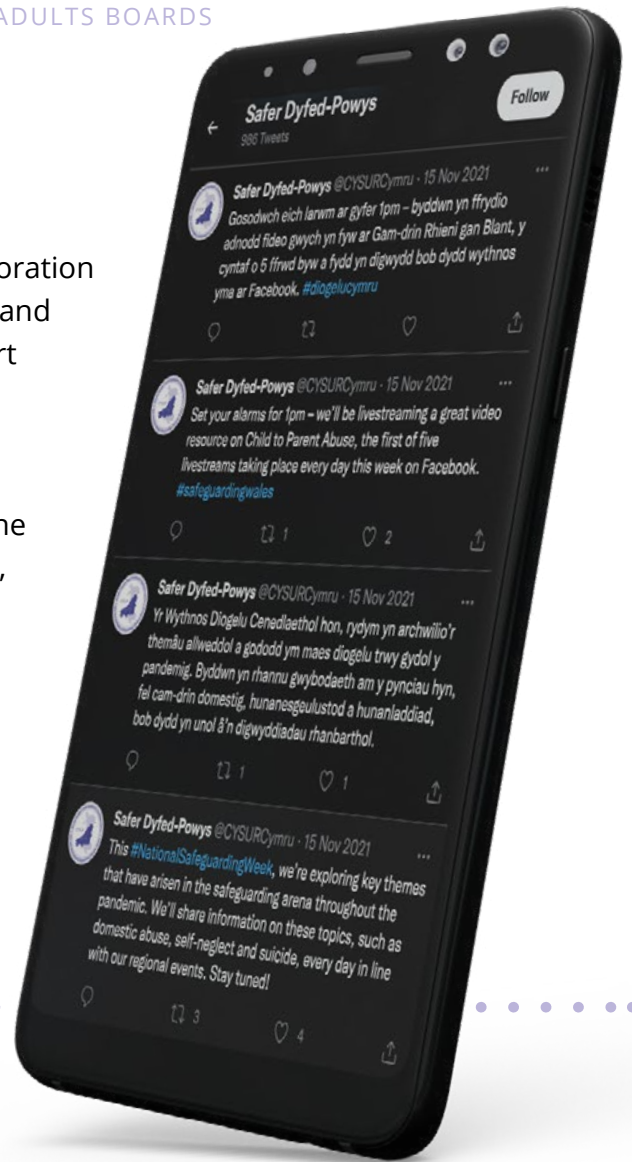


## Local, Regional & National Collaboration for National Safeguarding Week (NSGW21)

In November 2021 the Board Business Unit, in collaboration with the four Local Operational Groups, coordinated and supported a regional programme of events to support National Safeguarding Week.

Events and communications during the week were centred on themes of particular significance during the pandemic, for example, domestic abuse, exploitation, suicide and self-harm and self-neglect.

A number of virtual seminars and workshops took place throughout the week exploring these topics, complemented by a social media and website campaign created and led by the Boards.



## Regional Conferences

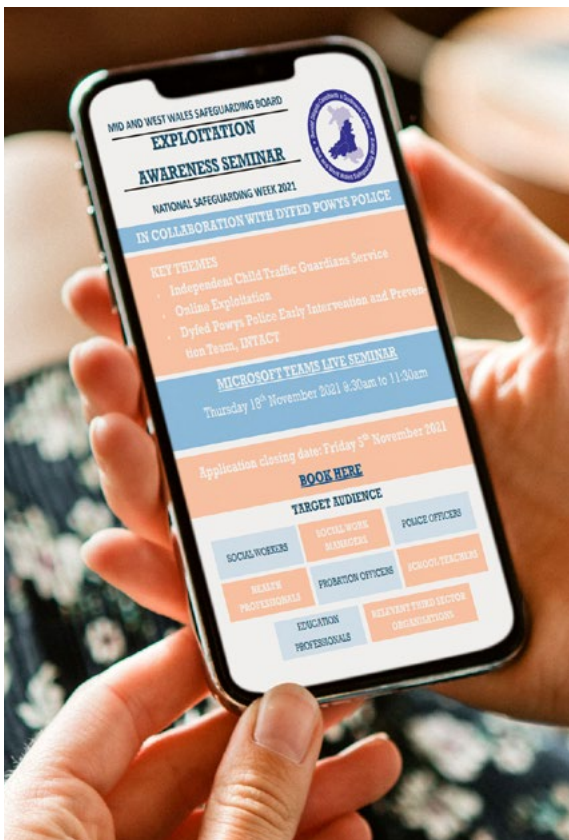
National Safeguarding Week activities were able to proceed virtually this year, with Microsoft Teams being utilised to deliver a number of workshops to practitioners across the region.

[These are fully detailed in Section L.](#)





# Some collective photos from National Safeguarding Week 2021 and associated social media campaign



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

## Hywel Dda University Health Board

Hywel Dda University Health Board continues to be a consistent member of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards of CYSUR and CWMPAS, represented at Executive Board level as well as on multiple Board subgroups and each county's Local Operational Group. The Assistant Director of Nursing Assurance and Safeguarding Corporate Nursing is the Vice Chair of the CYSUR Executive Board. Hywel Dda continues to proactively support the Boards' undertaking of Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs. The Corporate Safeguarding Team have committed to building capacity within the corporate resource to support the increase in reviews undertaken across the region in recent years, particularly in light of the Health Board encompassing three of the four Local Authority areas within our Board footprint. The Head of Safeguarding continues to fulfil the role of Vice Chair of the regional Adult Practice Review Sub Group.



Having led the development of a new regional procedure for management of injuries in non-mobile children last year, Hywel Dda have actively promoted the implementation of the procedure in 2021-22.

Hywel Dda's Looked After Children (LAC) Lead Nurse continues to be a consistent and active member of Corporate Parenting Panels, regularly reporting to multi-agency Corporate Parenting Panels on LAC activity and assurance of compliance with health assessments to ensure the health needs of LAC are identified and met. In addition, the Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children is a member of the Heads of Children's Services meetings and has collaborated in drafting the Regional Guidance for Working with Families that are Difficult to Engage.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Hywel Dda University Health Board have implemented an all age Safeguarding Enquiry Database, which is a safe storage system for all enquiries and multi-agency information shares, promoting an 'organisation with a memory' across the age span.*

Hywel Dda is committed to focussing on action for children that supports wellbeing through their life-course, addresses inequality and is informed by the voices of our future generations. They have established a Children and Young People Working Group (CYP) which brings all relevant children's services across the organisation together to identify key priorities for service improvement and develop a holistic three-year improvement plan. Alongside this, the CYP Working Group is taking an outcomes-based approach to developing a longer-term plan.

The University Health Board (UHB) actively contributes to the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and subgroups. The Lead Safeguarding Adults Practitioner represents the UHB at the National Safeguarding Standards Group. In addition, the Head of Safeguarding is the Vice Chair of the NHS



Wales Safeguarding Network, and is also the UHB lead alongside a Designated Nurse at the NHS Wales Network VAWDASV Steering Group. The Lead VAWDASV and Safeguarding Practitioner has this year worked in partnership with specialist providers to engage with GP clusters to promote of regional learning across Primary Care, further contributing to the extensive dedication given by Hywel Dda to promote awareness of VAWDASV.

Training and awareness raising has been another key theme in Hywel Dda's safeguarding achievements over the year. The Named Doctor delivers Level 3 clinical recognition of abuse and neglect (child safeguarding) training and offers this to staff from Social Services and Police. Adult Safeguarding training has been delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Team to Doctors as well as Primary Care. On World Elder Abuse Day, the Lead VAWDASV and Safeguarding Practitioner delivered a lunch and learn workshop on Domestic Abuse and Older People. This has since been delivered to other groups on request. In terms of children's safeguarding, the Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children and Named Doctor have developed and delivered Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Childhood (PRUDiC) training with joint presentations from Dyfed Powys Police and Consultant Pathologist Cardiff.

## 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. This includes ongoing support to regional Practice Reviews and MAPFs, with PTHB providing a Chair to an Adult Practice Review this year.

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. This year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PTHB participated in a review of children who were home schooled to establish if any children at risk, undertaken collaboratively with Powys County Council, Education, and Police.

PTHB are key members of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Health Collaborative, tasked with developing a long-term model and pathways for children and adults who have experienced rape or sexual assault. The Health Board are represented at the Project Board and all relevant sub-groups. PTHB remains an active partner in the NHS Wales National Safeguarding Network, engaging in its sub-groups, arising workstreams and task and finish groups. A key achievement within PTHB this year is the development of their Safeguarding HUB, which offers a single point of contact into the safeguarding team. This has enabled a lead nurse to join strategy discussions, as well as providing a more efficient route of communication with staff and partner agencies.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Powys Teaching Health Board have developed a robust Was Not Brought Protocol and Significant Event Chronology on Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). This is aligned to the ongoing regional work on Professional Curiosity and widely embedding this into practice to promote earlier identification of risk, in encouraging practitioners to consider the potential reasons for missed health appointments, a theme identified in previous regional Practice Reviews.*

PTHB have also made improved use of Informatics and MS Team Services to support effectiveness and efficiencies with the Safeguarding Team. This includes the establishment of a safeguarding group supervision booking system, and an electronic feedback form following training sessions that can be easily analysed. The outcome of this development has been increased efficiencies in the team, enabling a redesign of the service and development of further improvements.

The Health Board continue to utilise their monthly newsletter to disseminate messages to practitioners on key safeguarding issues. They have provided this helpful word cloud below to illustrate the themes addressed in the newsletter this year.



An additional achievement within PTHB this year has been their engagement with Looked After Children to redesign of the Health Questionnaire, which is now live. The Questionnaire was originally designed to meet the needs of children who do not always want to have a health assessment carried out in person each year. During the pandemic, PTHB introduced virtual health assessments due to necessity, and it became evident that developing choices for children regarding their Health Assessment was needed. This resulted in a redesign and digitalisation of the Health Questionnaire with input from the children and carers. An improvement has already been noted in returned Health Questionnaires, along with positive responses from the children and carers.

## 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. Inevitably, the impact of COVID-19 has been significant on the National



Safeguarding Team, leading to a need to temporarily suspend engagement with the Boards and some of their sub-groups to prioritise the pandemic response for a period of time this year. As a result, the nature of future engagement between the Boards and the National Safeguarding Teams will be subject to review and discussion in the coming year, as PHW determine their long-term role within the context of Regional Safeguarding Boards post-pandemic.



## 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.



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
NHS Trust

Despite being a small team pan-Wales, there has been a continued commitment to support the Safeguarding Boards where WAST attendance is required at meetings. 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.

WAST have maintained collaborative working throughout the pandemic, and there has been a sustained increase in enquiries from Local Authorities and other partner agencies within the Board. This has continued to strengthen engagement and partnership going forward. Despite the increase in demand on the service and staff, the Safeguarding Team have noted a continued increase in concerns identified and reports submitted by WAST staff. The majority of WAST staff are now registered to use the new digital system to submit safeguarding reports for the organisation. WAST Safeguarding Training has continued to be delivered both virtually and face to face.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Welsh Ambulance Service Trust have this year implemented a pan-Wales referral/ pathway between WAST and the Fire and Rescue Service, which includes the Mid and West Wales area. Thirteen referrals have been made thus far in this region. Feedback from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is that WAST referrals are of a high standard and enable identification of high risk individuals in the community.*

There has been a continual rolling programme of recruitment within WAST during this reporting year which has increased the demand for training. The Safeguarding Team continually reviews the training packages to ensure that they are suitable to both virtual and face to face delivery. Due to the increase in WAST's safeguarding reporting activity and the need to further engage with Safeguarding Boards, there was a need to review the structure and composition of the Safeguarding Team. They now have two Senior Safeguarding Specialists in post, and have recruited two external Band 7 Safeguarding Specialists.

## 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.



The DPP Superintendent Board representative continues to hold the position of Vice Chair of the CWMPAS Board. The significant support which DPP continues to provide to regional Child and Adult Practice Review processes and associated sub-groups, particularly, by providing Chairs to a number of reviews, has further increased this year, with the Police providing a Chair for the Child and Adult Practice Review Sub-Groups. The Board is extremely grateful of this support, and the role of the Chair will be instrumental in driving forward the key developmental work planned within the realm of Practice Reviews during the year 2022-23.

DPP have expanded upon their mechanisms for engaging with other agencies, with a particular focus on early intervention. They have this year implemented an early intervention programme working with partners like Youth Offending Teams (YOT)/Youth Services, as well as a new Neighbourhood IOM scheme.

They have worked together with CPS on the Joint National Action Plan for rape to improve criminal justice outcomes, and also worked with Victim Support services to improve the referral process and support for Victims of Crime, specifically, domestic abuse and sexual offences. The overarching purpose of these collaborative approaches is to improve coordination of the response to safeguarding concerns across the region.

In addition to these numerous workstreams, DPP are currently exploring opportunities with the local authorities to reintroduce joint training, having made significant progress to date in achieving this objective. The Force's ongoing dedication to responding to VAWDASV continues to be evident in their activities over the year. DPP has reinstated domestic abuse satisfaction surveys, with feedback obtained from survivors through IDVA and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) services.

Vulnerability Training was provided for all officers and relevant staff from January to March 2022, including elements of domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, as well as covering other safeguarding themes including exploitation, early intervention and the completion of MARFs.

A safeguarding booklet has also been developed this year to improve the safeguarding knowledge of Detective Sergeants, demonstrating DPP's ongoing determination to embed safeguarding knowledge and skills across all levels of the organisation.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Dyfed Powys Police have successfully implemented their new INTACT Team into the Force. The team has now been up and running for 12 months, during which time they have received 320 referrals for support, with a take-up rate of around 85%. They have not only safeguarded the individuals at-risk of engaging in serious violence and organised crime, but have also supported their family and friend networks. The team have worked to build trusted relationships with other services such as Team around the Family (TAF), youth support and YOT to develop integrated opportunities for all.*

## 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 Youth Justice Services themselves are multi-agency in composition and governed by their own Management Board. Youth Justice Services are integral to each Local Operational Group and collaborate fully with partner agencies. The four regional Youth Justice services have strong representation across a range of regional partnerships, and at a national level through YOT Managers Cymru.

Pre-pandemic modes of service delivery are back in operation within the Youth Justice Board, however, new developments have also been achieved over the year. The Youth Justice Board has this year reintroduced a framework for reporting and reviewing Serious Incidents involving a child death or serious further offence committed by a young person under YJ supervision. This is a new development that will be further reviewed in the coming year within the context of existing processes. In addition, the Youth Justice Board are committed to the development of the Youth Advisory Network and an all-Wales Youth Offending Team Young People's Charter.

Current training priorities within Youth Justice consist primarily of child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation including county lines, substance misuse, and risk taking (or harmful behaviour to self and others).

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## The National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service (NPS) is represented on the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and some sub-groups. Throughout the pandemic, the service worked with safeguarding partners remotely and in the Dyfed Powys Police's Vulnerability Hub to develop processes to support safeguarding and vulnerability.



The NPS have provided particular support to regional VAWDASV work, securing additional funding to facilitate key workstreams on perpetrator interventions. The increased focus on safeguarding within the context of VAWDASV has increased the volume of requests for such checks, and this additional demand has been serviced via agreement of an additional admin resource through the Public Protection Team in the Probation Service to sit in Police HQ. The NPS has also welcomed 28 new trainees this year, as well as new PSO staff in the Probation Delivery unit.

A key achievement within the organisation this year is the launch of the new HMPPS policy framework on safeguarding. NPS have ensured that all managers are aware of this new framework and its implications.

## Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire County Council's Statutory Director of Communities chairs the CYSUR Board and has fulfilled this role for a number of years, providing consistent strategic leadership to the Executive Board and its Local Operational Groups and sub-groups.



Carmarthenshire Children's Services have provided significant support to the Board and its various workstreams over the last year. In particular, extensive support has been given to practice review processes, with a number of Children's Services staff taking on review and chairing roles to ongoing reviews this year. This support is greatly appreciated by the Board due to both the significant time and resource dedication that review processes entail, as well as the collective regional benefits that practice reviews provide by way of identifying and considering effective means of implementing learning and achieving best practice.

A key learning outcome from Children Practice Reviews over the years has been the need to further promote and encourage the development of professional curiosity, Carmarthenshire Children Services have recognised this and have commissioned training in respect of professional curiosity, as well as holding workshop sessions with key members of staff. This training will be expanded in the coming year as the Board launches its new regional suite of multi-agency professional curiosity training. [Please see more information in Section L.](#)

Carmarthenshire Children Services engages regularly with Health, Police, Education and many other services and agencies to evaluate multi-agency safeguarding practice and ensure procedures and systems ensure children are effectively safeguarded. This year, they have worked with independent schools on this objective, who have now agreed to an audit process and safeguarding training.

Despite the numerous complex challenges, which the pandemic continued to raise throughout the year, Carmarthenshire Children's Services were able to visit and meet in person with the majority of known Electively Home Educated children in the county. The service took its dedication to safeguarding in the context of EHE further this year by facilitating support events for families who electively home educate.

Carmarthenshire Children's and Adults' Services have worked collaboratively over the past year to develop its Local Operational Group, in order to make it more effective in monitoring safeguarding on a multi-agency level, and to become more proactive in driving developments in safeguarding practice. 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.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Carmarthenshire Adults' Services led the development of the High-Risk Behaviours (including Self-Neglect and Hoarding) Policy and Procedure, which was launched during National Safeguarding Week 2021. The development of the process brought complex challenges in terms of identifying clear and effective pathways of supporting individuals who self-neglect, particularly in the absence of legislation or national guidance. The Policy and Procedure facilitates a multi-agency discussion amongst agencies around an individual to enable the identification of the most effective response, considering any possible provision of support to the adult at risk.*



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. Carmarthenshire also hosts and supports the work of the Regional VAWDASV Advisor in implementing the regional Strategy and Annual Delivery Plans. Furthermore, the strategic and operational lead for Adult Safeguarding chairs the All Wales Safeguarding Leads group, which considers current priorities and challenges in the adult safeguarding arena on a national level.

In addition to the extensive support provided to numerous standing Sub-Groups, Carmarthenshire Adults' Services are also leading a current Task and Finish Group established to design and implement an Immediate Response model for responding to instances of suspected suicide in the region [as referenced in Section C](#).

The process will complement the existing PRUDiC procedures by enabling early identification of learning, as well as considering an individual's peer group and network to swiftly identify and provide support to connected individuals who may be at heightened risk of suicide and/or self-harm. This model will be piloted regionally on a multi-agency basis once designed, with the pilot anticipated to commence later in the coming year.

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## 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. The Senior Safeguarding Manager led and chaired the Regional Child Practice Review Sub-Group for a number of years prior to her retirement this year, as well as contributing to a number of reviews, most recently in the capacity of Second Reviewer. Her tenure as Child Practice Review Sub-Group Chair was critical in terms of the development of regional review mechanisms and practice, with the Chair leading on the regional development of the MAPF Forum and Process prior to its amalgamation into the Practice Review Sub-Groups. The Chair also placed a focus on establishing a regional best practice template for new referrals, which has resulted in a significant improvement in the consistency and overall quality of Practice Review referrals across the region, as well as a significant increase in efficiency and a subsequent improvement in the promptness of new reviews commencing and therefore learning being identified and implemented.

The Local Operational Group continues to follow a through-age model and rotating agenda to ensure a range of issues in the safeguarding arena are explored in detail at the multi-agency forum. Guest speakers support this aim in enabling a more in-depth and informed discussion on specific

themes. The LOG also receives reports from Education on safeguarding, which helps to provide strategic oversight and discussions on relevant matters that affect all partner agencies.

Pembrokeshire’s effective and integrated LOG meetings enjoy a consistent commitment and contribution from all agencies, which further enriches discussions and outcomes. A further achievement within Pembrokeshire this year is the delivery of safeguarding training is the delivery of safeguarding and child protection training internally to the vast majority of childcare staff. This training was delivered in person by senior management staff.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Pembrokeshire has a well-established procedure in place for the undertaking of MAPFs, which formed the basis of the regional MAPF Practice Guidance. Two MAPF Learning Events have been undertaken this year, utilising virtual means of coming together in light of the continuation of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the reporting year. The Events received extremely positive feedback and culminated in focussed, high-quality MAPF Reports and Action Plans to take forward the learning shared at the multi-agency events.*



## 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.



Powys Children’s Services Senior Manager chairs the Regional Training Sub-Group, and Powys Children and Adults’ Services have each provided valuable contributions to ongoing practice reviews this year by way of chair and reviewer roles. Business support are supporting other staff to shadow ongoing reviews, to ensure their skill base is expanded and to increase capacity for these reviews. Powys Children’s Services continue to lead 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 [as referenced in Sections C and I](#). Children’s Services also hold the chairing role for the Regional Exploitation Group working on the development of a Regional Exploitation Strategy.

The Boards enjoyed support from Powys Children’s Services this year in respect of a National Safeguarding Week 2021 webinar on Harmful Sexual Behaviours, as referenced in Section L. Powys worked collaboratively with their Education colleagues to this end to ensure wider education attendance at this event.

Powys built upon their contribution to the Harmful Sexual Behaviours event by undertaking the NPSCC Harmful Sexual Behaviours audit toolkit. This was a joint undertaking between Children’s Services, Education and Powys Teaching Health Board, with final analysis and findings pending at time of writing. The Child Exploitation Team continues to work collaboratively to achieve the Child Exploitation Strategy 2020-2023 vision statement: making our communities harsher for perpetrators and safer and non-blaming for children.

During 2021, the team successfully embedded multi-agency Community of Practice events to raise awareness of best practice approaches within the identification, assessment, protection, intervention, and review of children at heightened risk of exploitation. The quarterly sessions have routinely gained excellent attendance and feedback, which averages of over 50 attendees across partners and third sector colleagues. The team connected with the Powys Youth Services to create community-facing videos, which reached over 200 people via various social media platforms to promote child exploitation being understood as a form of child abuse.

The team later created two further videos, one for parents and carers, and one for children, to specifically raise awareness of technology-assisted exploitation due to the increased identification of online harm during the pandemic.

In response to learning identified in a completed Child Practice Review in the area, Powys delivered training to its staff this year on safeguarding, culture and religion. Disguised compliance, which was also identified as a theme in the aforementioned review, has also been a focus of safeguarding training during the year, with neglect training also undertaken in recognition of this theme arising from a recent PRUDiC. This demonstrates a commitment from Powys to ensure that learning gleaned in practice reviews is taken beyond the report recommendations and actions, to inform thematic learning and drive continuous improvements in practice.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Powys Children's Services have worked with partners to roll out the Bright Spots survey to Children Looked After (CLA) and Care leavers in Powys. Findings will be taken forward in 2022/23. Initial headline findings from the CLA 4-18 survey are positive, indicating that children feel safe, have trusted adults, and enjoy education.*

Within Adults' Services, training has been delivered to external provider agencies on the Section 5 Position of Trust process. This training has sought to educate providers on the process and also link this with their responsibilities under Registration and Inspection of Social Care Wales Act (2018). Adults' Services have also achieved improved recording of the Section 5 process in alignment with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and are awaiting the build of new forms within WCCIS to further support this.

The safeguarding team undertook a review this year of the Adult Practice Review relating to the first APSO in Wales. This identified areas of development in the organisation. The action plan was then shared with the operational teams to ensure that they understood the powers of Section 127 and the organisational responsibilities.

## 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 have also provided valuable support to an ongoing Adult Practice Review this year by providing a second reviewer.

Ceredigion continued its development this year of a Through-Age Wellbeing Model, 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 has seen the establishment of and continued development of a Through Age Safeguarding Team, including the development of one process in relation to Professional Concerns processes across Children's and Adults Safeguarding.

Ceredigion have continued to build on collaborative working with Health and Schools colleagues to develop an integrated front door into social care at Porth Gofal to triage referrals and provide early safeguarding help and prevention.

A VAWDASV local delivery group has been agreed to be developed at a local level with partner agencies, in order to implement a local delivery plan in particular in relation to addressing need where domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues impact on children being at risk of harm and/or becoming looked after.

A number of bespoke training packages have been delivered to safeguarding staff this year within Ceredigion. Professional Curiosity Training was delivered to Corporate Managers and Team Managers first in October 2021 with a rolling programme of training being delivered to staff across the Through Age Safeguarding Model. The training is through age training and initially has been provided by an external provider, who the Board have now commissioned to develop a regional package, which will be finalised and implemented in the coming year.

Counter-terrorism training was also delivered this year by a Specialist Officer in the Police to channel panel members of a newly formed channel panel membership, in order to ensure that panel members were aware of their roles and responsibilities and reflecting, understanding the importance of the process. In addition, bespoke safeguarding and whistleblowing training was developed and delivered for Managers of Provider settings, with further training developed to deliver to staff in provider settings.

The provision of advocacy services for Looked After Children has also been a focus in Ceredigion this year. An advocate is provided to every child who is being looked after, who attends all review meetings to ensure that the voice of the child / young person is heard.



### Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Ceredigion have strengthened their Early Intervention/ Prevention services and resources with the further development of a Community Connector service for adults, children and young people. This has involved the development of an early intervention/prevention panel which meets weekly to discuss how interventions from any part of the model could support a child / young person and their family.*



## Regional Directors of Education

All education services related to the Board collaborate well. There are strong relationships with other partners including Health, Police, Youth Services, Probation Services, and Youth Offending Teams. Each education directorate shares information related to their own risks in order to provide support to one another.

Education is represented on all Local Operational Groups and Board sub-groups. At present, each local Statutory Director of Education attends the Executive Board on a rotating basis. 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.

Key challenges facing education at present are ensuring that the work related to peer on peer sexual abuse and sexually harmful behaviour is supported and embedded in the work of schools. There have been a number of contributions from Education Services to the Board this year, including updates on this work undertaken by Estyn. An agreed local definition has been achieved through joint working with the authorities which will form the basis of achieving a response to peer to peer sexual harassment and harmful behavior which is consistent across not only schools in each locality, but across all localities in the region.

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## 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 support for events during the pandemic. They have this year been involved in a number of PRUDiCs and chaired one MAPF, which was held remotely. 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 283/2022, and co-chairs the Welsh Government's Safeguarding in Education Group. They have recently joined the Single Unified Safeguarding 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 2020/21 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. 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 and are participating in the regional and local suicide prevention forums.

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## Regional Commissioning Representative

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

This year, regional Commissioning Services have developed protocols to manage and assess risk across the whole system for the care home and domiciliary care sectors. For example, collective action has mitigated against care home closures due to workforce and other COVID-related issues. They have also have worked with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to share intelligence and provide a mutually supportive approach to the sector. A Memorandum of Understanding has been produced on an all Wales basis via ADSS (Heads of Service Group for LAs), Local Health Boards and CIW to share intelligence. The result of this work is more effective and timely sharing of information to support swift mitigating actions in relation to provider concerns and issues to safeguard people.

Recognising that the greatest impact of COVID has been experienced by the care home sector, a market stability report for the care home sector was undertaken in 2021 to more fully understand the potential risks and mitigations. This also formed part of the wider regional market stability report, which has been finalised and is going through relevant approval processes for the partner agencies.

A notable achievement within commissioning this year is the development of shared sitreps to assess and manage risks, for example, the domiciliary care sitrep, which provides an update on the hospital discharge situation, linked to workforce pressures.

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

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

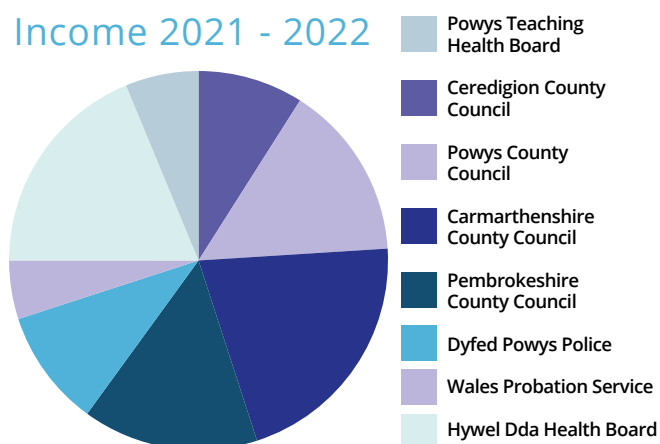
Resources used to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding Boards are not confined or restricted to financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The Regional Safeguarding Board Chairs, Executive Board Members, Sub-Group Chairs and members provide a significant amount of their time to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

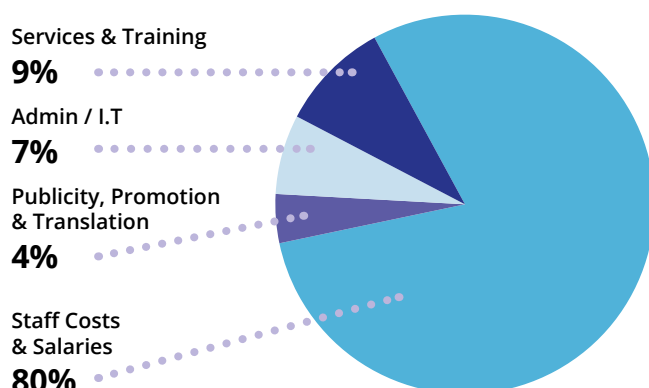
of regional protocols and policies, as well as projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise are just some examples of Board work. All statutory partners of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards contribute financially to the running of the Boards, with the exception 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 £167,930, which is significantly lower than most of the Regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales.

In 2021-22, the majority of the Boards' expenditure was dedicated to general running costs, including staffing the Business Unit (80%). The commissioning of services and training also made up a sizeable amount of Board expenditure (9%), 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.

Income 2021 - 2022



Expenditure 2021 - 2022



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

## Supporting and Developing Learning Lessons from Safeguarding Reviews

Working alongside Welsh Government colleagues to support the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review Model to learn lessons from reviews, including Child Practice Reviews (CPRs), Adult Practice Reviews (APRs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has been a keen theme of the Boards' work and priorities this year. A considerable amount of time and resource has been committed to support updating the existing national model in Wales. The CYSUR Board Chair, Regional Board Manager and other sub-group members continue to be members of various national sub-groups and task and finish groups to progress this important work.

This has included membership of bespoke groups to rewrite the statutory guidance and work to support improved family engagement in the review process. This sits alongside extensive investment committed locally to strengthen our regional work. This includes a full review undertaken of our existing CPR and APR sub-structures and sub-groups, with a decision taken this year to update the terms of reference and amalgamate existing groups into one sub-group next year. Further investment by Board members has been committed, alongside increased funds from Welsh Government, to fund the creation of a new Practice Review Business Manager role, appointed this year to further drive this work and support the regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum review work across the region.





## Professional Curiosity

The need for professionals to exercise more robust and better professional curiosity when intervening into the lives of children or adults who may be at risk of harm has been a theme in a number of CPRs/APRs and MAPFs across the region. This is not unique to the Mid and West Wales region, and we are aware this consistently features in reviews in other Boards in Wales and in UK-wide published safeguarding reviews. As such, considerable investment has been dedicated by the Regional Training Sub-Group to the development of a bespoke all-age multi-agency training package and accompanying practitioner resources.

Please see [Section L](#) for more information on the rollout of this training.

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## Information Sharing

Alongside professional curiosity, confusion and misunderstanding arises for multi-agency practitioners about what information can be safely and legally shared without consent, and this continues to be a feature in regional reviews. This is irrespective of significant work undertaken in this region by the Boards to promote better information sharing between professionals when concerns emerge.

Failure to share information in a timely and proportionate manner has also featured very recently in some very high profile UK-wide published safeguarding reviews. Further work has been undertaken this year, and the [Information Sharing Protocol for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults at risk within the Mid and West Wales region](#), previously completed in 2018 has been updated and expanded. It continues to be the view of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards that work is needed at a national level to promote better information sharing between professionals in multi-agency safeguarding work.

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## Tackling Exploitation

A number of initiatives have been led by the Boards 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 undertaken last year has been fully implemented across the whole region.

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.

## National Action Plan for Responding to and Tackling Child Sexual Abuse

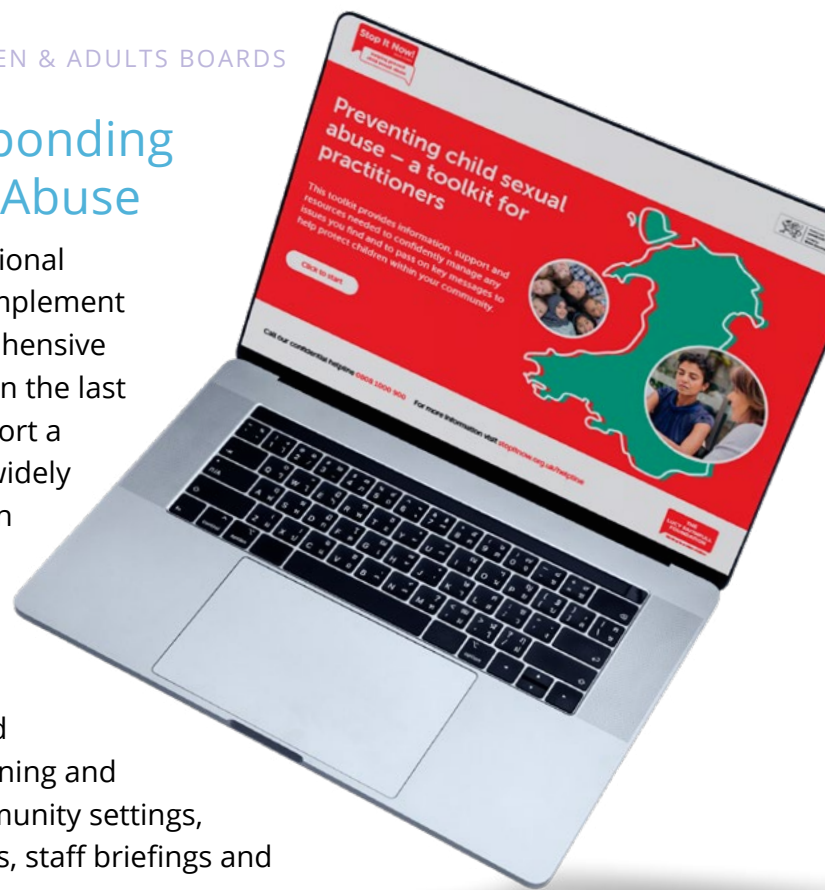
In accordance with the requirements for all Regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales to oversee and implement this National Action Plan, extensive and comprehensive multi-agency work has continued to take place in the last year to support this. This includes work to support a public awareness campaign, 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 continued to promote 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 continued to work closely with schools to promote awareness, which has included the promotion of various relevant resources and access to training packages, which include 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. One local authority in the region has developed a child sexual abuse toolkit specifically for teachers and education staff.

The VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Delivery Groups have continued to undertake significant work in relation to the promotion of information to children, parents and carers on healthy relationships. This includes work with Curriculum Leads across the region to in respect of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and ensuring that topics around VAWDASV are delivered consistently and with confidence. The Health Boards have continued to promote resources on child sexual abuse, sexual violence and healthy/unhealthy relationships, and a bespoke intranet page for Harmful Sexual Behaviours with links to the online Barnardo's HSB Training, along with resources for professionals, parents and carers remains available and accessible to staff.

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.

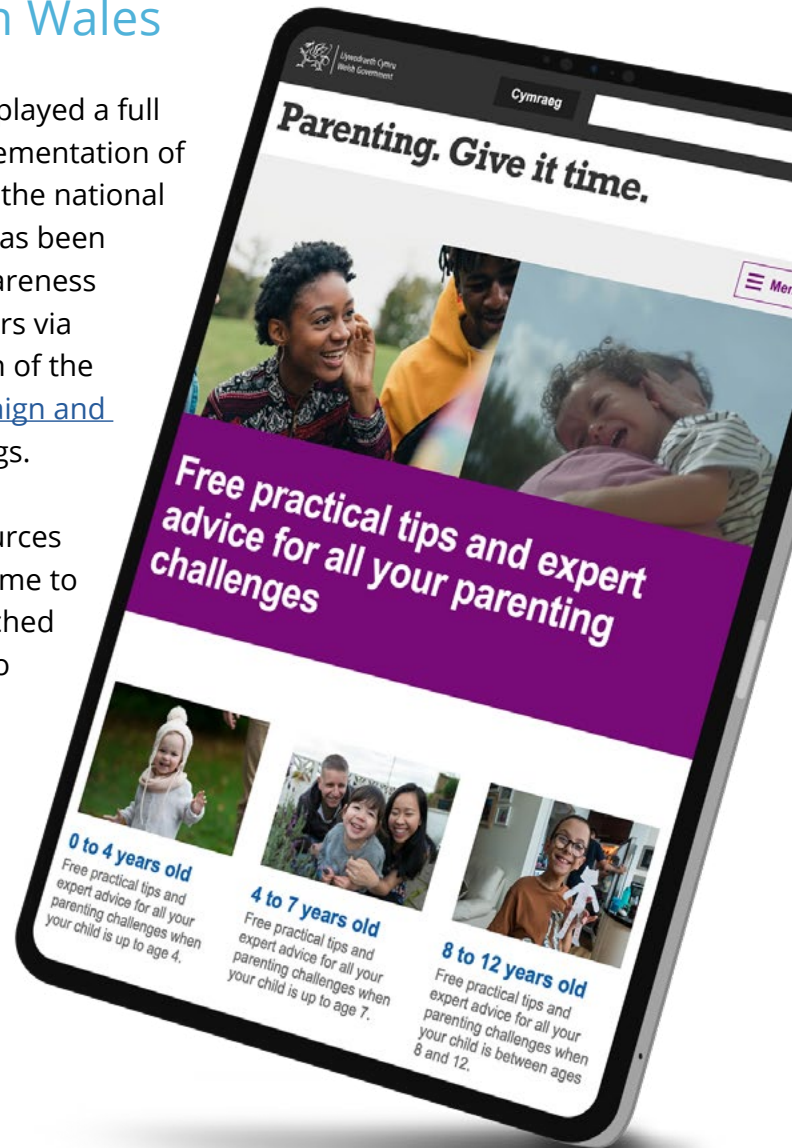


## Embracing the Preventative Agenda Ending Physical Punishment in Wales

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board has played a full and active role in both the development and implementation of this new legislation in Wales. The work to support the national strategic groups overseeing the implementation has been supplemented with significant promotion and awareness raising across the region with multi-agency partners via newsletters and bulletins, including the promotion of the [Welsh Government Parenting. Give It Time. campaign and website](#), and the development of 7 minute briefings.

All of the four local authorities have secured resources and staff to deliver the out of court diversion scheme to support parents where reports received have reached the appropriate threshold, with alternative ways to discipline and chastise their children.

Work has been undertaken across the region between Dyfed-Powys Police and the Heads of Children's Services to implement a consistent and proportionate way of managing reports of physical punishment when they are received.





## Mental Health, Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention

Mental health, self-harm and suicide continues to remain a high priority for the Boards and their 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.

Work to implement a 12-month pilot of a rapid response model in respect of suspected suicides for both children and adults has commenced via a bespoke task and finish group across the region. This will be implemented in the coming year, and will aim to provide targeted, rapid support to family members, peers and the community when incidents of suicide occur.

Information and data provided in relation to children's self-harm related hospital admissions across the region as part of the departments' performance framework has been interrogated at Executive Board due to a rise in trends in certain areas of the region post-pandemic.

Ongoing analysis is taking place alongside work with regional CAMHS services to assess long-term trends and any correlation with the impact of the pandemic and what additional support needs to be put in place. The impact of lockdown and its impact on people's emotional health and wellbeing has been identified as a significant issue across multiple Board groups and workstreams.





## Safe Sleep

Continuing and rising numbers of preventable deaths related to babies co-sleeping with parents have featured in the Process for Reviewing Unexpected Deaths in Children (PRUDiCs) across the region this year. We are aware this trend is not unique to the Mid and West Wales region and features in other Boards in Wales. Health partners have communicated concerns to the Welsh Government about the need to update current advice literature to parents, and as a result, this literature has now been withdrawn.

Localised literature is in the process of being developed by health partners in the region, and this will be shared and promoted in the coming year by the Boards. Dialogue continues to take place with Public Health Wales on what other strategies can be developed at a national level to promote better advice to new parents on safe sleep for babies.



## Dyfed Powys Police INTACT Programme

The INTACT Programme is a partnership programme run by Dyfed Powys Police for Serious Violence and Organised Crime. The programme was launched in January 2021, and the Early Intervention and Prevention Team, who works with young people who are considered vulnerable to being drawn into Serious Violence and Organised Crime, was launched in April 2021.

This project forms part of the Polices Vulnerability Hub 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.

Areas of vulnerability include drugs, child exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, fraud and cybercrime. The INTACT Team is made up of a number of Police Constables, Special Constables, a Police Sergeant and an Analyst across the Mid and West Wales force area. Children and families are targeted, and officers undertake direct community-based work and activities with the children and young people, linking them in to other agency and community preventative services and highlighting the risks, dangers and strategies used by organised gangs and criminals used to target vulnerable children and their families.

This is done via an intervention criteria that includes a known history of parental separation, family history of mental illness and alcohol and substance misuse, residing in an area of high deprivation, family members with a history of involvement of serious crime or low level prolific offending, involvement in gang culture and a history of online risky behaviour.

Between mid-June 2021 and 29th October 2021, **166 people** were allocated to the team, with an **80% take-up rate** for support. Projected figures going forward anticipate around **40 new people** will be identified each month across the four local areas across the region.

Around **100 additional people** have indirectly received support; often family or carers of those referred benefit from the intervention, such as onward referrals to Team Around the Family (TAF), which is a key part of all local authorities' early help services.

## INTACT Case Example

### Circumstances:

A school referred two brothers, 7 and 10 years old, to the INTACT EIP Team. Mum has six children and was struggling to cope with their behaviour.

### Risk factors identified:

Bereavement and drug use in the family, parental separation, diagnosis of ADHD and ODD, displaying signs of violence.

### Action taken:

1. Both boys attended the INTACT Project Safe group intervention.  
*i.e During the group sessions, it became clear that there were wider concerns in the home environment and their violent behaviour was causing tension in the community.*
2. Following the conclusion of the group sessions, an officer visited the family and spoke about a referral to Team Around the Family (TAF). Mum consented to having a referral to the service and the officer helped her complete the form.
3. Signposting to local football clubs was undertaken for the boys.
4. Due to violent behaviour in the street, a joint event with the housing provider was arranged and parents had a chance to put forward their concerns regarding safety and the lack of provisions for children and young people, which could serve as diversionary activities.  
*i.e As a result, the housing provider are seeking funding for a new MUGA (multi use games area) for the local children and young people to use.*

### Outcome:

The behaviour of the boys has improved at school as a result of the intervention, one of the boys is also now attending football club regularly and took part in the CLIW boxing intervention. Mum feels that she has received quality support from TAF and continues to have their support.

## Drug Related Deaths and Non-Fatal Overdoses

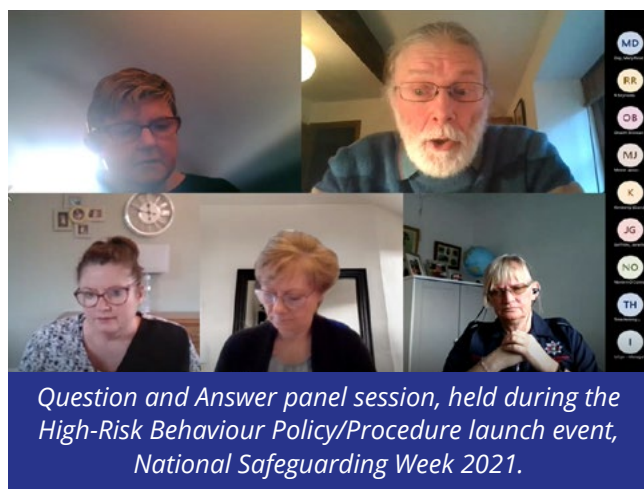
Significant work has been undertaken across the region in the last year on awareness raising in respect of themes and trends associated with drug related deaths and non-fatal overdoses within the Hywel Dda area of the region. Information and presentations have been delivered to the Executive Board and Local Operational Groups by the Health Board. A number of factors have been analysed of those affected, including age, gender and county.

Overall, initial findings indicate drug-related deaths have been increasing in the region over the last few years, but there has been a sizeable reduction in 2021. More recent trends indicate the COVID-19 pandemic may have had a significant impact on the number of deaths recorded in 2020. COVID recovery planning and other targeted work such as work to tackle County Lines by Dyfed Powys Police may be contributing to the reduction in deaths. Data collation in respect of non-fatal overdoses, however, is relatively new, and was not recorded until May 2020. Initial trends suggest that overdoses are taking place across all levels of deprivation in the region, from the most deprived to the least. These trends will continue to be monitored and shared with partners to highlight any increased risk and vulnerability in the coming year.

## 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 implemented a regional multi-agency protocol and framework to support service users who fall into this category, Multi-Agency High-Risk Behaviour [Policy](#) (Including Self-Neglect/Hoarding) and Multi-Agency High-Risk Behaviour [Procedure](#) (Including Self-Neglect/Hoarding). 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. The protocol formed a key part of activities as part of National Safeguarding Week, and was formally launched in November 2021. [Please refer to Section L for more information.](#)



## Accommodation for Those with Complex Needs

Work has continued 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. The work is challenging and complex, requiring a high level of buy-in and commitment from multi-agency partners across the region.



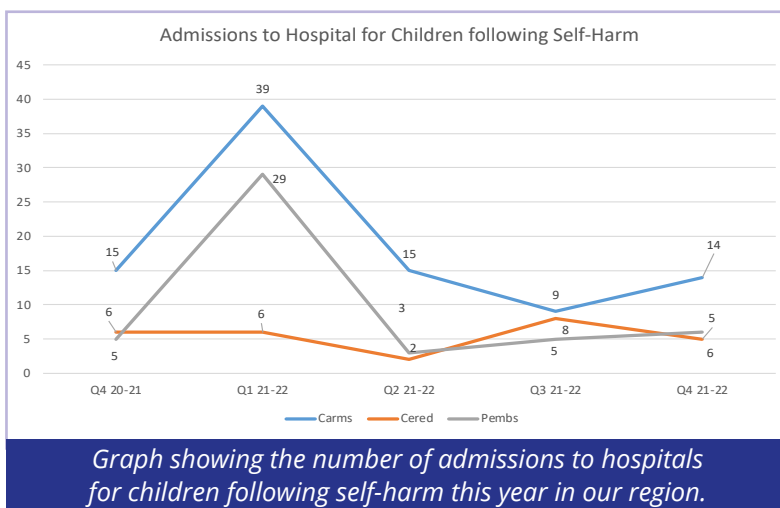
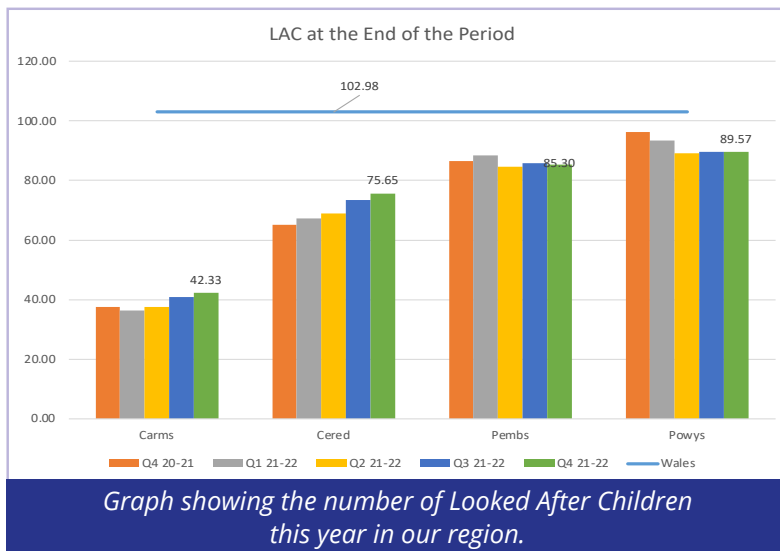


## Safeguarding People

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

The Boards' Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework, which includes a comprehensive dataset alongside a local and thematic regional audit schedule, has continued to aid the Boards' understanding of professional safeguarding practice. 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. Self-harm related hospital admissions for children is one example of an area of particular focus for the Boards this year.



### 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
- Suicide prevention
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Deaths related to safe sleep
- The need for better information sharing between agencies

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

## Regional Animation Project

The primary focus of the CADW Regional Junior Board this year has been a workstream stemming from a completed Child Practice Review, assigned to them by the Training Sub Group. The purpose of which is to develop a safeguarding training resource outlining the views of children and young people on how safeguarding practitioners can better support and interact with them. The young people of the CADW Board have approached this work with great enthusiasm and creativity, conveying some very powerful messages to practitioners.

This project has been a fully collaborative, unifying project for the Regional Board, with all four Local Boards contributing extensively to numerous stages of the project. Feedback from young people and Participation Officers thus far is that this project has been significantly beneficial in uniting the Local Boards into an engaged, cohesive regional partnership.

As a result, this project is set to act as a springboard for further strengthening the Regional CADW Board in the coming year, and this Board looks forward to further enjoying the rich, valuable contributions that the young people make to our Regional Safeguarding Boards through their excellent work and commendable enthusiasm and dedication.

[For more information, please refer to Sections J and L.](#)

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## Residential with a Twist 2021

Although the annual CADW Residential was not permitted to take place once again this year due to COVID-19, the Junior Board instead enjoyed a "Residential with a Twist" in September 2021. 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.

Zoom was utilised for this event, which included a baking session, a wellbeing workshop, crafting, and a gameshow. This event was greatly enjoyed by all involved, and serves to demonstrate the unwavering motivation and positivity within CADW throughout exceptionally difficult times.

## Management and Future of the CADW Group

2021 saw a changeover of management of the group, with Angie Felkin-Heins taking over as TGP Cymru's Participation Development Lead from Sera Coles. Angie has commenced in post with a focus on revising the group's existing terms of reference and objectives, to be taken forward with the young people in the coming year. Angie has met with this Board on a number of occasions to discuss the future management of this group, with clear objectives in place. This Board looks forward to this further development of the group, which will have at its core a focus on reflecting the views and intentions of the young people forming the Junior Board.

Challenges have faced the CADW Board this year, with membership having decreased from previous years. As is the nature of a Junior Board, a number of young people have moved onto pastures new as they enter the next stages of their lives, including employment and higher education, and also enjoying the benefits of returning to greater normality following the two-year period of significant restriction and isolation.

It is thought that the need to meet as a virtual-only group for an extended period of time may also be a factor in this decrease, particularly in light of young people also being asked to use virtual means for so many other aspects of their lives during the pandemic. This challenge, teamed with the reduction in the number of existing members, has presented a further challenge in the recruitment of new members. This is a current area of focus in the CADW Group, with plans in place to recruit new members through a range of activities and promotion in the coming year, once again empowering young people to drive the progress and aims of their Junior Board, supported by a strong and dedicated support network within the Board and TGP Cymru.

Despite entering the coming year as a smaller group, the Junior Board concludes 2021-22 as a strong, unified group, brought together by their shared objective of developing and launching their excellent animation project. Celebrating and taking forward this work, together with considering their objectives and membership as a group going forward, are exciting workstreams to be taking forward in the coming year.



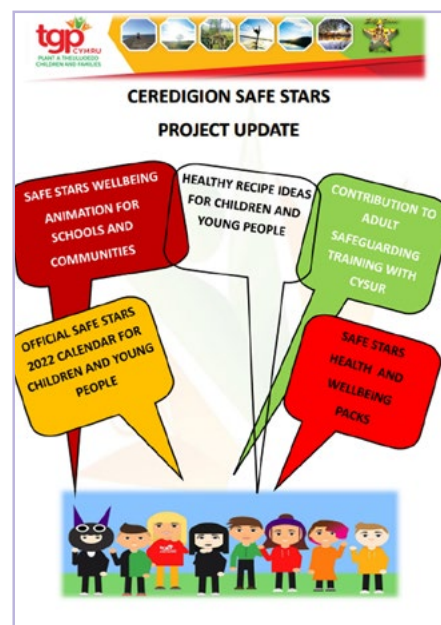
**Powys Ambassadors of Youth Safeguarding (PAYS)** commenced this year with a focus on active promotion this year, with the aim of increasing participation from young people in Powys. The group have identified three key objectives for themselves, namely: raising awareness of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); safety at home, school and the community; and transitioning into adulthood. PAYS provide representation on the Junior StartWell Board, reporting back to the group on key areas of progress. PAYS have contributed actively to the ongoing regional animation project, offering invaluable insight into the view of young people, which has significantly informed the messaging of the resource.

PAYS have however experienced some challenges this year associated with the staffing of the youth engagement post, as well as retention of group members and recruitment of new young people. At the time of writing however, the post has been refilled and work has commenced on tackling recruitment challenges in the coming year, which will feed into the regional objectives in this area.



**Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' and Ceredigion Youth Service** continued to contribute to key CADW work in 2021-22, and completed a variety of projects locally. The Junior Safeguarding Board for Ceredigion created a number of simple and healthy recipes for children and young people this. They will be distributed as part of the Safe Stars Health and Wellbeing Packs for children and young people living in Ceredigion, to support young people, particularly those who may be experiencing challenges at home, by equipping them with information to support their wellbeing and health.

Also included within the Health and Wellbeing Packs, as well as being delivered to Ceredigion young people, is the Safe Stars calendar, which they have developed once again for 2022. The calendar includes dates of key awareness days relevant to young people, on themes including mental health and exploitation, against the backdrop of picturesque views of Ceredigion taken during the young people's time spent getting into nature during lockdown. 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.



Ceredigion Safe Stars have experienced similar challenges to the regional Board in terms of recruitment, with the departure of some existing members due to progressing onto new opportunities and moving out of county leading to a reduced membership compared to previous years. Recruitment will be a focus locally and regionally in the coming year to attempt to bring in new young people with a passion for safeguarding and promoting the voice of children and young people.



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

CYC's members are engaged within both the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) and the Welsh Youth Parliament (WYP). The UKYP programme provides opportunities for 11-18 olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. The previous CYC UKYP member's term spanned 2020 to 2022, with a focus on environmental work, in respect of which they undertook a number of projects in the community. Additionally, they presented the motion for LGBTQ inclusivity in schools, which they presented, to the UK Youth Parliament. It was later used to encourage Healthy Schools Wales to make schools a better place for young people.



During the pandemic, they helped construct and help involvement from all backgrounds on the Wales Equality Action Plan to ensure a better future. In March 2022, the new UKYP member was elected, who will hold the term for the next two years. The primary focus of UKYP's work will be on the priority area of health and wellbeing. Within the CYC structure, there are three co-opted spaces for the WYP members from the three continuances. In December CYC was joined by the newly elected WYP members for the 2021-2023 cohort.

WYP Hustings was hosted by CYC ahead of the WYP elections held in November 2021. A former WYP member and current CYC member was in charge of organising the event, which took place on Wednesday 10th November. This event was an online election hustings for the online Welsh Youth Parliament election, which took place from November 1st to November 22nd. WYP candidates from the three constituencies of the county were asked what their priorities were as candidates, giving them an opportunity to say why young people should vote for them. It was a great way to showcase children and young people's rights in action. Members of the Senedd were also present at the event, and young people could ask them questions and ask for their advice.



As a result of the Make Your Mark Consultation, CYC focused on Domestic Abuse as their priority issue for the last year. CYC has set up a new subgroup focused on the topic 'Domestic Abuse'. The group has held several meetings, both online and in person, to discuss approaches that they can take to try to bring more attention to this important topic. The group attended training about domestic abuse, which included learning about the different types of abuse, challenging myths, and facts about the topic. They have learnt how to keep themselves safe in such situations and knowing where to go for support/guidance. CYC members met with the Domestic Abuse (DA) project coordinator and Healthy Schools Coordinator to ask for guidance and gain more information about the topic. They are currently working on a digital platform, which would include information about DA, recent statistics, a support directory, and blogs.



**Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguards** 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 particular, the Safeguards have strong links with a range of services in Pembrokeshire County Council, which promote the voice of young people within services, as well as enabling the young people to influence and find out more about the services who support them.

Group members worked with the Head of Children's Services this year to develop a Children and Young People's Charter, which is a Children's Services promise to children and young people about how they will be treated when they have a social worker. This will help children and young people decide if the service they are getting meets their needs and considers their views and lived experience.

Members of the Junior Safeguardians are members of the Education Recovery Team, they 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 safely. Young people who are members of the Board then produced a report in partnership with Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly called Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly, Education Recovery – The Voice of Young People January 2022.

The young people reached out to others and asked 3 main questions:

- **What are the positives about school?**
- **What are the negatives about school?**
- **What do you think the solutions are to the negatives?**

The Youth Assembly were also asked: If you could tell the Director of Education one point about the impact of COVID on your education, what would it be?

In July 2021, members of the Junior Safeguardians formed part of the interview panel for the Head of School Improvement. The young people's panel is a valuable part of the recruitment process; it develops young people's skills and it 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 sustainable relationships with local decision makers.

Young people worked with PCC to light up County Hall blue to promote Children's Universal Day on 20th November 2021. Young people celebrated the bright, boundless potential of every child and standing up for their rights. The theme was Children's Rights and Climate Change, and the young people were involved in running a competition in the county on how to make schools more carbon friendly.

The group members have also been involved in various local and national consultations during the last 12 months. These include:

- **Pembrokeshire Communities COVID response**
- **Pembrokeshire Well-being Assessment**
- **Period Dignity**
- **Hywel Dda University Health Board - Building a Healthier Future after COVID-19**
- **Annual Child Poverty Survey**



## (k) Applications for Adult Protection & Support Orders

There have been no applications for an Adult Protection & Support Order (APSOs) in Mid and West Wales during 2021-22, and there has only been one application in this region since the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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



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

## Website and Social Media

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. The comprehensive [Resource Hub](#) has continued to grow in content and in topics, with specific pages users can access based on their individual needs (e.g. parents/carers, professionals) or by safeguarding issue (e.g. various types of exploitation, domestic abuse).



The Business Unit has further worked to develop the site as a “one-stop shop” of key information relevant to safeguarding today. To this end, a new website section has been developed for national safeguarding updates, for example, [Ending Physical Punishment in Wales legislation](#).

Development work has also taken place this year on both the format of resources available, and the avenues from which information can be found. A number of video resources, made both regionally and nationally, have been made available on the website this year, as well as forming the first set of content for the Boards' new [YouTube channel](#), to give practitioners and the general public an additional means of obtaining safeguarding information. Significant further work will take place in this area in the coming year.

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## Training

As outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Regional Safeguarding Boards should ensure practitioners in their area have access to and receive the training they need in child and adult protection work. The Boards' multi-agency Regional Training Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan continues to provide a framework that both supports the commissioning and delivery of bespoke multi-agency training linked to the Boards' strategic priorities, as well as providing assurance on the quality and availability of safeguarding training to practitioners and managers across the partnership. The Boards are assured all agencies provide good quality safeguarding training to their staff, and this has continued on virtual delivery platforms throughout the pandemic. A wealth of safeguarding training has been delivered across Mid and West Wales this year, as outlined overleaf.



**Reviewer Training to support APRs, CPRs and MAPFs** was delivered across the region, facilitated by **Barbara Firth**. The purpose of this training was to equip a greater number of colleagues across Board agencies with the skills and knowledge required to act as a Reviewer and Panel Chair for a Practice Review or MAPF, as well as supporting Panel members to fulfil their responsibilities in an open and transparent manner.

The Boards are grateful of the ongoing willingness from all partner agencies to support review processes by providing chairs and reviewers when required. A hybrid approach was taken to the delivery of these events, with a sequence of virtual Microsoft Teams webinars taking place during the summer of 2021, followed by an in-person event in Llandovery on 13th October, to act as a follow-up to the initial sessions, and a platform to discuss review processes and skills in greater depth.



*Photographs from the Reviewer Training Follow-Up Event in October 2021*



**Wales Safeguarding Procedures Training** was rolled out this year. Each agency has continued to support the on-going implementation of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures by delivering relevant practitioner and manager training at a local level.

**DBS Workshops** were also delivered this year by a representative from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The purpose of these sessions was to support safe recruitment and provide an informative overview of the DBS' role and remit, together with practical guidance about how to identify the level of check required for a role, as well as outlining the Barring Service and its objectives and procedures. The presentation was a very useful session which highlighted the need to place a focus on the appropriate level of DBS check to undertake not only for a new role, but when a role changes.

Two **Child Sexual Exploitation** webinars also took place later in the reporting year. These sessions were delivered by Dr Sophie Hallett and offered to each Safeguarding Board in Wales by Welsh Government. The sessions utilised real case studies from interviews conducted by Dr Hallett, which outlined the grooming process and the nature of the exploitation from the point of view of young people, to aid practitioners in understanding their lived experience and how to better support them.

**“ CSE Training Attendee feedback: ”**  
*Facilitator was fantastic, motivational, upbeat and provided clear messages.*

## Ongoing Training Projects

A substantial resource and time commitment has been dedicated to two key projects this year, and will be finalised and launched in the next reporting year. The first of these projects is the **Junior Board Animation Project**. When complete, this will be a safeguarding training resource for practitioners who intervene in the lives of children and young people.

This work has spanned a number of months due to the multi-stage nature of the project, together with the need to await a significant reduction in COVID-19 measures in order to facilitate in-person animation workshops to develop the resource. The animation is however on track to be completed and formally approved in summer 2022, with a launch in autumn/winter.

A suite of **Professional Curiosity Training and Resources** is in development at time of writing. The suite of training is comprehensive in including three key elements:

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

This suite of training will aim to provide numerous avenues through which professionals can access information on this topic, which continues to feature in ongoing and completed Child and Adult Practice Reviews regionally and nationally. The suite of training is well-balanced, with an in-depth, focussed approach to the topic provided in the Training Package, supplemented by resources which are easily accessible to practitioners. The Boards were delighted to formally launch the new **High-Risk Behaviours (including Self-Neglect and Hoarding) Policy and Procedure** during National Safeguarding Week. The event was led by the following guest speakers:

- **Dr Mary Rose Day**, who has authored numerous publications in the field of self-neglect;
- **Professor Michael Preston-Shoot**, who has researched major studies on effective practice with adults who self-neglect; and
- **Diana Harris, Safeguarding Lead for the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service**, who was instrumental in developing the policy.

**Professional Curiosity Training Attendee feedback:**

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

.....

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



The policy itself is a proud achievement of our Boards this year, as it is a result of outstanding multi-agency collaboration, through which we engaged with the third sector to devise a truly collaborative response to individuals exhibiting high-risk behaviours. Self-neglect and hoarding are areas which currently are not addressed via a legal framework, and so the purpose of this policy was to offer a support mechanism to protect individuals at risk who exhibit such behaviours. This policy has been carefully designed to enable multiple agencies related to the individual at risk to come together and determine a coordinated provision of support and engagement, by determining as a group the best way forward, informed by the collective information available.

**Official Launch of the High-Risk Behaviours (including Self-Neglect and Hoarding)**  
**Attendee feedback:**

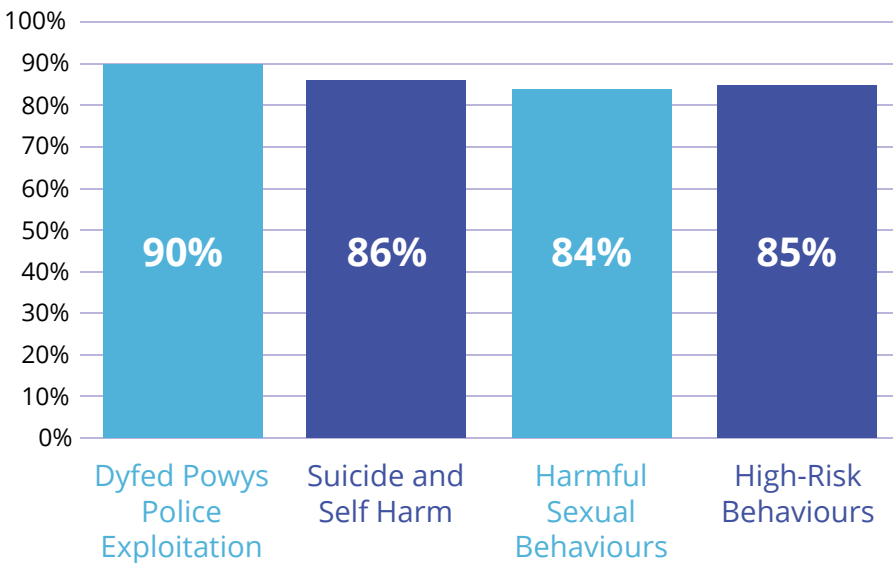
*I am really optimistic that the policy and guidance capture what it is we need to move forward to manage these complex cases.*

This event therefore provided an excellent opportunity to provide practitioners with a wealth of information about this policy and how it can be used going forward, supported by valuable insights from leading experts in the field.

Attendees were also invited at this forum to ask questions to both Professor Preston-Shoot and regional colleagues who developed the new Policy and Procedure, to enable practical discussions and consideration of how this work can be taken forward and embedded into practice. Attendees rated the event at 85% on average in terms of the extent to which it will impact their practice.

### NSW Events and their impact to practice

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



**Dyfed Powys Police facilitated an Exploitation Awareness Seminar** as part of the regional programme of events. Exploitation can take a number of forms, and the Exploitation Webinar facilitated by Dyfed Powys Police provided a thorough overview of numerous types of exploitation that both children and adults can be at risk of. Topics covered in the session included the role of the Independent Child Trafficking Guardian, online exploitation including “sextortion” and economic crimes, and an introduction to the INTACT programme established within the police force.

**“ Exploitation Awareness Seminar Attendee feedback:**

*It will better inform my decision making and also enable me to provide frontline officers with more detail on what is expected from them when potential victims of exploitation are identified.* ”

Presentations were delivered by Police staff and officers who are experts in their particular field of knowledge, allowing attendees to learn about the current methods employed by perpetrators of exploitation, as well as the innovative ways in which the Police identify and respond to these issues. The session was highly successful; when attendees were asked to rate the extent to which the content of the course would influence their practice going forward, an average score of 90% was given. This feedback is extremely positive in light of the multi-agency nature of the training, indicating that the wide range of roles and agencies represented at the event found the content to be significantly relevant and helpful to their safeguarding practice.

**Suicide and Self-Harm Training** also took place during National Safeguarding Week. Suicide and self-harm continues to be an issue of particular focus for us in Mid and West Wales, and so we continue to explore new avenues of highlighting and examining the issue in our safeguarding training and awareness raising. This year, National Safeguarding Week was utilised once again to promote key messages in terms of safeguarding those at risk of suicide and self-harm, with outcomes of research shared by Professor Ann John, lead author of the Talk to Me 2 strategy.

**“ Suicide and Self-Harm Training Attendee feedback:**

*Much more insight into future trends and valuable insight given by hearing someone’s lived experience.* ”

Kate Heneghan spoke on behalf of POPYRUS to explain the role of this organisation in providing confidential support through their helpline. Attendees also enjoyed the significant value added to the webinar by Sarah Dale, a young person in the region who shared her perspective and lived experience of self-injury. This insight into her own experience was extremely powerful and brought the experiences of children and adults at risk of suicide and self-harm to the centre of discussions, a sentiment echoed by numerous attendees in their feedback. The event was extremely well-attended, with an overall rating of 86% given by attendees in terms of usefulness for practice.

Education professionals were invited to a targeted webinar on the theme of **Responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviours** during National Safeguarding Week. Teachers and education staff across the region were welcomed to this event facilitated by Pat Branigan (NSPCC). This event was aligned to the regional and national current focus on two overlapping issues, namely, Child Sexual Abuse and peer to peer sexual abuse.





The event aimed to improve practitioner understanding of how harmful sexual behaviours can present and how they should be identified and addressed, and provided an excellent opportunity to share information with education staff on this issue, who are often those practitioners most likely to recognise and respond to Harmful Sexual Behaviours. The seminar was extremely informative and received excellent feedback by those who by all attended. A number of practical tools were provided to attendees of the event, who in responding to feedback, gave an 84% average rating to the question asking the extent to which they felt the information shared would directly impact and support their practice.



### Responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviours Training Attendee feedback:

*Information and delivery was very good, statistics and links to other resources was very valuable*



The **Domestic Homicide Reviews Learning Materials** were utilised for livestreams on CYSUR's Facebook page each day of National Safeguarding Week, and made available on YouTube and Facebook thereafter. This provided both an opportunity for the materials to reach a wider audience, and to provide an opportunity to trial an additional means of communication with practitioners and the general public for the Boards, which remains a key aim in our Annual Plan.

The first of many **Domestic Abuse Awareness Sessions** delivered by **Calan DVS** aligned with the Monday of National Safeguarding Week 2021. Targeted at the beauty industry, these online workshops were designed to offer guidance to stylists and beauty technicians on how they might witness warning signs of domestic abuse.

For example, stylists might notice that clients are being controlled by their partners in terms of when and where they can attend appointments, that their means of paying for services are controlled strictly by their partner, or they may even share information in informal chats with beauticians which suggests that they are a victim of domestic abuse.

These sessions therefore served to highlight the unique position of this role to beauticians, and equip them with the knowledge of both how they can identify domestic abuse in the community, and also how they can respond to this challenge when it arises within their role.

**Stalking Awareness Training** was delivered once again 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.

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.

**Hywel Dda University Health Board's Adult Safeguarding Team** has delivered bespoke training sessions this year on self-neglect, discharge planning, professional concerns and providing information to inform the enquiry process. Lucy Faithful Training has also been delivered on the following topics:

- [Professionals Protect](#)
- [Digital Resilience](#)
- [Understanding Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#)
- [Sexual Exploitation Awareness](#)

Training is currently being rolled out to all Supervisors Sergeants in **Dyfed-Powys Police** to raise their awareness of the importance of the DASH risk assessment process and the daily discussion process. In addition, SCAIDIP Courses have been reintroduced following COVID, and the numbers of those to be trained has increased. All frontline officers have engaged with training from the Centre of Expertise on CSA in identifying and responding to signs of CSE.

**Powys County Council** commissioned JMG Training & Consultancy to deliver training this year on Hoarding, Self-Neglect and Complex Lifestyles. This local focus on these high-risk behaviours is in alignment with the regional developments in this area, noting the recent launch of the High-Risk Behaviours (Including Self-Neglect and Hoarding) Policy and Procedure.

In **Ceredigion County Council**, training delivered this year includes a bespoke safeguarding training session delivered to foster carers, and a workshop provided to Corporate Lead Officers and Corporate Managers in relation to the Local Authority's roles and responsibilities under CONTEST.

The innovative [online safeguarding module](#) **Keeping Children, Young People and Adults Safe in Pembrokeshire** was once again highlighted and celebrated as part of this year's programme of events. The online-based web resource is a great package of information designed by and for young people, offering an introduction to the topic of safeguarding.

The MWW VAWDASV 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.

# (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 as previously outlined, including the ongoing Single Unified Safeguarding Review process and the Ending Physical Punishment in Wales legislation.



# 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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