



BWRDD DIOGELU CANOLBARTH A GORLLEWIN CYMRU

CYSUR & CWMPAS

THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING BOARD

CYNLLUN BLYNYDDOL | ANNUAL PLAN

2026-27



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES
Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Gwasanaeth Prawf
Cenedlaethol
National Probation
Service



Heddlu • Police
DYFED-POWYS

Diogelwch ein Cymuned - Safeguarding our Community



INTRODUCTION

CYSUR: The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children Board and CWMPAS: The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Adults Board is pleased to publish and present its annual joint strategic plan for 2026-27.

We have taken a renewed approach to the development of our Annual Plan this year, based upon a collective desire to focus upon the most prominent thematic areas within the region and how we can make the greatest difference for children and adults at risk in our communities. We continue to benefit from a Board consisting of engaged and supportive partners, who provide an immeasurable level of proactivity and support to our strategic agenda. This is, in our view, a source of real strength, from which we can take forward the range of workstreams constituting our plan for the coming year.

Not listed within this year's Annual Plan is the vast range of workstreams which form the Board's overall business. We have taken this approach to allow our Plan to reflect the additional commitments we have made over and above our core functions and our existing programmes of work, and therefore to facilitate more in-depth, focused oversight of our delivery against the Plan throughout the year. This plan will therefore not outline the vast range of work which this Board continues to undertake both to meet its core functions, and to continuously develop our practice to better support communities and practitioners across Mid and West Wales; however, full detail on the Board's overall spectrum of work is provided annually via our Annual Reports.

This year, we have also identified new strategic priorities informing our Annual Plan. Within these new priorities, there is an increased focus on how we can better capture and understand the voices of children and adults at risk to inform our practice, which includes piloting the Most Significant Change model of practice in collaboration with Pembrokeshire County Council. Quality assurance and evaluation also feature prominently in this year's Plan, to support richer analysis of regional trends and therefore more informed programmes of work.

Our Annual Plan reflects thematic national learning in relation to key areas such as practice in relation to Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (safeguarding allegations/concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust). Information sharing also features within this year's Plan, as we continue to progress the Safeguarding LINC project, which is utilising advances in technology to develop a virtual platform for safeguarding professionals hosting multi-agency information in one accessible, secure space. We look forward to piloting and evaluating this project in this coming year, as a springboard for expansion of the project in its next stage of implementation.

In addition, the Board is pleased to be continuously leading on the delivery of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) Learning and Development Framework on behalf of Welsh Government, by building upon progress made to date with additional training to support the continuous professional development of Chairs and Reviewers, as well as supporting organisational awareness and implementation of SUSR nationally.

We commence this new year with a sincere gratitude for and appreciation of the significant contribution that our partners continue to make to our partnership and are confident that this solid foundation will be a source of strength as we move forward to achieve our strategic objectives together.



Audrey Edwards

**Audrey Somerton-Edwards
(CYSUR Chair)**
Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council



Michael Gray

**Michael Gray
(CWMPAS Chair)**
Director of Social Services,
Housing and Public Protection
Pembrokeshire County Council

OUR VISION

The vision of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board is that all people in the region live their lives free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and that their rights are protected. All safeguarding work is sensitive to and firmly rooted in respect for differences in race, ethnicity, culture, ability, faith and sexual orientation. Engaging with and being responsive to the needs of all stakeholders, including children, young people, adults at risk, their families, carers, service providers and the wider community, is essential to promote the Board's vision.

Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Executive Board Membership

 <p>CWMPAS (Safeguarding Adults Executive Board)</p>	 <p>CYSUR (Safeguarding Children Executive Board)</p>
<p>Michael Gray (Chair) Director of Social Services, Housing and Public Protection, Pembrokeshire County Council</p>	<p>Audrey Somerton-Edwards (Chair) Director of Social Services, Ceredigion County Council</p>
<p>Vacant (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p>Vacant (Vice-Chair)</p>
<p>Audrey Somerton-Edwards Director of Social Services, Ceredigion County Council</p>	<p>Michael Gray Director of Social Services, Housing and Public Protection, Pembrokeshire County Council</p>
<p>Darren Mutter Director of Social Services and Housing, Carmarthenshire County Council</p>	<p>Darren Mutter Director of Social Services and Housing, Carmarthenshire County Council</p>
<p>Nina Davies Director of Social Services, Powys County Council</p>	<p>Nina Davies Director of Social Services, Powys County Council</p>
<p>Sharon Daniel Executive Director of Nursing, Hywel Dda University Health Board</p>	<p>Sharon Daniel Executive Director of Nursing, Hywel Dda University Health Board</p>
<p>Claire Roche Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Powys Teaching Health Board</p>	<p>Claire Roche Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Powys Teaching Health Board</p>
<p>Nadine Gould Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience, Hywel Dda University Health Board</p>	<p>Nadine Gould Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience, Hywel Dda University Health Board</p>
<p>Ross Evans Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police</p>	<p>Ross Evans Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police</p>
<p>Llyr Williams Head of Public Protection and Temporary Detective Chief Inspector, Dyfed Powys Police</p>	<p>Llyr Williams Head of Public Protection and Temporary Detective Chief Inspector, Dyfed Powys Police</p>
<p>Kate Burton Head of Adult Social Care, Carmarthenshire County Council</p>	<p>Gill Adams Interim Head of Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council</p>
<p>Donna Pritchard Deputy Director of Social Services and Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal, Ceredigion County Council</p>	<p>Donna Pritchard Deputy Director of Social Services and Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal, Ceredigion County Council</p>

Mel Laidler Head of Adults' Services, Pembrokeshire County Council	Chris Frey-Davies Head of Children's Services, Pembrokeshire County Council
Sharon Frewin Head of Adults' Services, Powys County Council	Sharon Powell Head of Children's Services, Powys County Council
Liz Bowen Assistant Chief Executive, National Probation Service	Liz Bowen Assistant Chief Executive, National Probation Service
Charlotte Westacott Head of Safeguarding Adults & Children (Named Nurse), Hywel Dda University Health Board	Charlotte Westacott 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	Jayne Wheeler-Sexton Assistant Director of Safeguarding (Named Nurse), Powys Teaching Health Board
Debbie Pachu Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding Team (NHS Wales), Public Health Wales	Debbie Pachu Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding Team (NHS Wales), Public Health Wales
Chris Harrison Regional representative for Heads of Commissioning	Gill Adams Interim Regional representative of Youth Justice Managers
Dafydd Llywelyn Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys	Regional Education Senior Officers Carmarthenshire – Vicky Jeremy Ceredigion – Elen James Pembrokeshire – Steven Richards-Downes Powys – Judith Hickey
	Dr Ingrid Prosser Named Doctor, Child Protection, Powys Teaching Health Board
	Dr Faumy Hassan Named Doctor, Child Protection, Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit
Julie Breckon Strategic Regional Safeguarding Manager for Children and Adults at Risk
Rebecca Reynolds Practice Review Business Manager
Stanislava Kovacinova Business Development Officer
Stuart Hicks Business Development Officer

HOW WE DEVELOPED OUR ANNUAL PLAN

Every year the Board holds a Development Day, where we collectively review our delivery against the previous year's Annual Plan, and reflect together on both the overarching strategic priorities and the specific workstreams we wish to take forward into the coming year.

This year, the Board elected to take a renewed approach to the development of its Annual Plan. The result is a new style of plan which is more refined than previous iterations, with actions which are fewer in number but are themselves more targeted and ambitious. These are the areas where we felt that we could make the biggest difference for our communities in the coming year, and this focused, condensed Annual Plan will support us in implementing our agreed actions with the depth and focus that will allow our outcomes to be met most effectively.

As a result of our revised approach, we have not, as we have done in previous Annual Plans, included any workstreams within this Plan which already form part of the Board's business and functions, akin to our responsibilities as outlined in Part 7 Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. These areas of work are enshrined into the governance and annual programme of the Board, and across agendas and work plans throughout our Board structure. A brief overview of some of these areas is provided below, and fuller detail of the Board's collective functions and activity can be found in our Annual Reports.

- Executive Board meetings: the Executive Board meets quarterly and addresses a broad range of business at these strategic meetings, which includes analysis of regional performance data, oversight of all Board subgroups and workstreams, presentations and discussions on areas of regional and national priority, and reviews of progress against implementation of our Annual Plans.
- Single Unified Safeguarding Reviews (SUSRs): We undertake SUSRs where an individual has died or experienced harm which falls under one or more criteria for an SUSR under statutory guidance. The Board manages and oversees all SUSRs in Mid and West Wales and has a regional model and toolkit supporting this.
- Multi-Agency Professional Forums (MAPFs): We have a regional framework to support agencies in the convening of MAPFs for cases which do not meet the criteria for an SUSR, but from which there is felt to be multi-agency learning. We support MAPFs across the region utilising toolkits and practice approaches developed from best practice.
- Training: Our regional Training Subgroup supports and develops new multi-agency safeguarding training to support practitioners across the region.
- Policies and Procedures: The Policies and Procedures Subgroup maintains and reviews existing regional policies, procedures and other regional guidance in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk and develops new documentation in alignment with regional priorities and thematic areas.
- Safeguarding Leads meetings: These multi-agency meetings take place on a regular basis throughout the year and consist of the senior managers across child and adult social care, as well as senior officers from Health and Dyfed Powys Police, to consider and progress bespoke pieces of work alongside core meetings and to explore areas of safeguarding practice of mutual interest across agencies.
- Task and Finish Groups: In addition to these core functions and groups, several bespoke task and finish groups run throughout the year to progress Board projects and activity. In the coming year, this will include the development of a new all-age regional Exploitation Strategy, and training groups to plan and deliver bespoke regional multi-agency training, alongside

work to plan and deliver an array on activity and events that take place each year as part of National Safeguarding Week.

As can be seen, the Board has a comprehensive, overarching set of workstreams and business sitting within its broad range of statutory functions. Although further detail on the work undertaken by our Board can be found in our Annual Reports, the Annual Plan for this upcoming year has included only those new areas of work which partners have committed to this year over and above our standing and ongoing Board business. The Annual Plan for 2026-2027 is set out in the following pages.

IDENTIFIED STRATEGIC PRIORITY OUTCOMES FOR 2026-27

1. National and Regional Thematic Learning: Strengthen and consolidate key areas of national and regional learning and themes into the Board's work and Priorities.

2. Quality Assurance and Data: Undertake richer, more qualitative evaluation and data analysis to facilitate intelligence-driven Board programmes and workstreams.

3. Participation and the Voices of Those with Lived Experience: Strengthen engagement with children, adults at risk, and communities, and ensure their perspectives and lived experiences directly inform practice and priorities.

4. Strengthen Engagement with Communities (including Isolated and Hard to Reach Groups and Organisations): Empower communities by facilitating the development and accessibility of resources and guidance in relation to safeguarding and wellbeing.

How we intend to achieve these outcomes and the summary of improvements we propose to make to enable us to fulfil our objectives is listed in our Business Plan below.

1. National and Regional Thematic Learning: Strengthen and consolidate key areas of national and regional learning and themes into the Board's work and Priorities.

Priority Area	What do we want to achieve?	How will we know we have achieved this action?
1.1 Executive Board Structure and Focus	Further promote the Board's strategic priorities and thematic areas of focus within Executive Board agendas.	Areas of work within the Annual Plan, together with key thematic areas, will feature more strongly within the Board agenda. Greater oversight of progress against the Annual Plan will be achieved at Executive Board level.
	Strengthen Executive Board agendas to facilitate stronger oversight and awareness of agency membership and representation at a strategic level.	Strategic representation across agencies will be a standing agenda item, to ensure the required representation is in place in relation to items within the Board agenda.
1.2 Information Sharing	Pilot and evaluate the Safeguarding LINC project.	Implementation of the project will be based upon outcomes of the pilot and evaluation.
	Expand the Safeguarding LINC project to encompass adults at risk.	Information in relation to adults at risk will be added to the platform, and adult safeguarding practitioners engaged in the next stage of the project.
1.3 Wales Safeguarding Procedures Section 5 - Safeguarding allegations/concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust	Alongside national workstreams, promote and support training and practice in relation to Section 5 processes.	Greater consistency of practice in relation to Section 5 will be evident across the region.

1.4 Adult Safeguarding Practice and Training	Enshrine the development work undertaken by the Adult Safeguarding Leads in 2025-26 into the establishment of a regional supplementary practice guide, to inform regional and national work in this area.	The practice guide will inform updates and amendments to the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for adults at risk.
	Utilise the practice guide outlined above to develop multi-agency training and guidance in relation to adult safeguarding.	Greater parity will be achieved between children's and adults' safeguarding within the multi-agency training framework.

2. Quality Assurance and Data: Undertake richer, more qualitative evaluation and data analysis to facilitate intelligence-driven Board programmes and workstreams.

Priority Area	What do we want to achieve?	How will we know we have achieved this action?
2.1 Regional Quality Assurance Framework Development and Update	Develop a qualitative evaluation model to evaluate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding training, and its impact on professional practice.	Qualitative evaluation data will be available in relation to multi-agency safeguarding training, which will directly inform review and rollout of packages.
	Develop, as part of the Regional Quality Assurance Framework, a model and process for undertaking a peer review amongst partner agencies as an audit mechanism.	Partner agencies will be aware of a clear pathway through which to request/arrange a peer review as an audit function within the Board framework.
	As part of the review of the Quality Assurance Framework, develop the Board's audit model into a long-term programme, establishing an agreed frequency and process for identifying audit themes.	A rolling audit programme will be embedded and audits brought to the Executive Board at a regular agreed frequency.
	Refine and develop the presentation of data to the Executive Board, via a combination of utilising advances in technology, and embedding multi-agency data analysis within wider Board structures, to inform the data and analysis presented at Executive Board level.	<p>The Executive Board will receive more detailed, intelligence-driven analysis in relation to regional performance data.</p> <p>Multi-agency data analysis will feature within Board agendas at sub-group level, to facilitate additional analysis and reflection.</p>

3. Participation and the Voices of Those with Lived Experience: Strengthen engagement with children, adults at risk, and communities, and ensure their perspectives and lived experiences directly inform practice and priorities.

Priority Area	What do we want to achieve?	How will we know we have achieved this action?
3.1 Most Significant Change	Pilot and evaluate the Most Significant Change model in collaboration with Pembrokeshire County Council.	A Story Selection Panel will be incorporated into existing Board structures.
		Direct contributions and stories in relation to individuals in the community will feature within Board agendas, workstreams and business.
3.2 Voices of Children and Young People	Fully implement the agreed children's engagement model to enshrine children's contributions obtained at a local level into the Executive Board.	The outcome of local children's engagement practices will feature in Local Operational Group agendas.
		Collated contributions from children and young people will be visible within Board business and agendas.

4. Strengthen Engagement with Communities (including Isolated and Hard to Reach Groups and Organisations): Empower communities by facilitating the development and accessibility of resources and guidance in relation to safeguarding and wellbeing.

Priority Area	What do we want to achieve?	How will we know we have achieved this action?
4.1 Isolated Communities and Complex Ause	Identify barriers to accessing safeguarding guidance and support, including means of reporting concerns, and seek to address these via the provision of guidance, information and/or training.	Accessible guidance and information will be available to communities, with clear pathways for reporting concerns and seeking support.
4.2 Safer Sleep	Collate and publish a suite of resources and guidance in relation to safe sleep practices, utilising the Board's communication platforms.	Safe sleep will feature within the Board's Communications Plan.
		Safe sleep guidance will be readily available on the Board's website.
4.3 Communications	Establish a regional Communications Plan that includes the sharing of guidance and information for communities and practitioners in relation to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.	Regular communications will be shared across communications platforms in relation to a variety of thematic areas.
		Online metrics in relation to Board communications platforms will evidence increased reach in relation to content shared.

PROPOSED BOARD EXPENDITURE TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES

Local Authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceredigion 15% Powys 25% Carmarthenshire 35% Pembrokeshire 25% 	60%	Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hywel Dda UHB 75% Powys Teaching HB 25% 	25%	Total: 100%
Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dyfed Powys Police 	10%	Probation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Probation Service 	5%	

Budget 2026-27		Agency Contributions 2026-27	
Staff Costs and Salaries	239,460	Ceredigion County Council	20,930
IT equipment & software	1,030	Powys County Council	34,883
Office, admin & recruitment costs	10,750	Carmarthenshire County Council	48,836
Travel, venues & communication	5,120	Pembrokeshire County Council	34,883
Publicity, promotion & translations	7,450	Dyfed Powys Police	23,255
Commissioning of research, independently commissioned projects and external delivery of bespoke regional training	10,740	Wales Probation Service	11,628
		Hywel Dda Health Board	43,603
		Powys Teaching Health Board	14,534
		Additional WG funding	42,000
TOTAL	274,550	TOTAL	274,550

HOW WE PROPOSE TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES

The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board will continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with all other Safeguarding Boards in Wales via attendance at regular Business Manager meetings facilitated by Welsh Government. This includes regular sharing of information and good practice regarding Single Unified Safeguarding Reviews, coordination of National Safeguarding Week themes and communication, and other ad-hoc/bespoke events that are arranged externally. In particular, strong collaboration will be achieved this year with various key stakeholders as we continue to oversee implementation of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review Learning and Development Framework and the facilitation of in-person training events, alongside the promotion and implementation of supporting digital training resources and attendance and contribution to several associated workstreams and sub groups.

We continue to shape the national safeguarding agenda and conversation, and we continue to work with the National Independent Safeguarding Board. This includes continuing to support the development of a National Multi-Agency Safeguarding Performance Framework.

Staff aligned to the Regional Safeguarding Board Business Unit, alongside Board members and staff and agencies who support our sub-groups and workstreams, attend and contribute to several national strategic Boards, as well as both regular and bespoke workstreams and groups, to support and develop safeguarding practice across Wales. These include the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, the National Safeguarding Training Standards Review Group, and the Anti-Slavery Wales Group. A significant amount of work has been dedicated this year to support the update of Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and this will continue in the coming year via implementation of the updated process.

HOW WE GIVE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE BOARD'S WORK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Up until the end of March 2025, the CYSUR Board commissioned Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its regional Junior Safeguarding Board. Through this model, the Board had the pleasure of engaging with a number of young people across the region in relation to several workstreams. However, changes in local arrangements for junior groups and partnerships, and natural evolution of engagement models locally and regionally, led to a subsequent need to further develop our regional model to facilitate more in-depth, consistent engagement that could reach a greater number of young people.

In the previous year, the Board has, in collaboration with regional partners, developed a renewed model for engagement with children and young people, which utilises existing local fora as a mechanism to reach wider groups of young people across the vast geographical footprint constituting the Board. In this way, the Board hopes to engage with a greater number of young people with a range of experiences of multi-agency support and intervention, as well as to achieve richer, more consistent engagement, via the support of local practitioners who support and engage in such groups. Engagement with children and young people forms a key focus within our Annual Plan once again this year, and we look forward to implementing our renewed engagement model in the coming year.

A survivor's panel made up of survivors of domestic abuse is well embedded within the Board's workstreams linked to the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) regional work. Their voices and lived experience contribute to regional meetings and work on a regular basis.

Plans to further embed the voices of survivors of domestic abuse will continue this year as outlined in the [regional VAWDASV Strategy \(2023-2027\)](#).

The coming year will see a 12-month pilot project be undertaken to hear and understand the voices of adults at risk. The Most Significant Change model of practice facilitates the gathering of, and reflection in relation to, stories from those who have been subject to the safeguarding process. The Board's existing structures will be utilised, including the Local Operational Groups and Executive Boards, to hear the experiences of those with lived experience, and the Regional Safeguarding Board will endeavour to consider how these experiences can shape the Board's work, strategic priorities and, ultimately, multi-agency safeguarding practice moving forward.

For more information on the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board, please go to our website:

www.cysur.wales

HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN

If you suspect a child, young person or adult is at **immediate risk of harm**, call **999** and speak with the **Police**.

If you would like to report a **non-urgent** incident or have a problem or general query, you can call the Police 24hr non-emergency number on **101**.

If you are concerned about a person's safety or wellbeing, you have a duty to report it immediately. Up-to-date contact information for each county within the Board can be found on our website.

For contact information to report a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, visit this page: <https://cysur.wales/contacts-and-useful-links/reporting-concerns-child/>

For contact information to report a concern about the safety or wellbeing of an adult, visit this page: <https://cysur.wales/contacts-and-useful-links/reporting-concerns-adult/>