

THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

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



Heddlu Police
DYFED-POWYS



GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru
Public Health Wales



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



GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust



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

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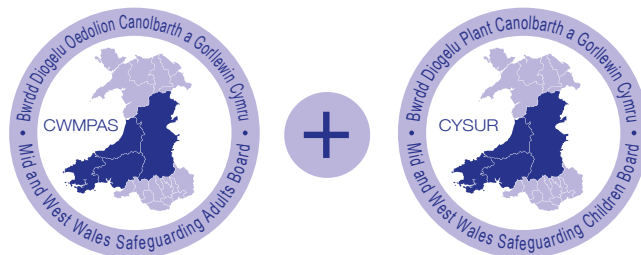
Introduction

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 2024-25.

We are pleased to share via this year's report notable progress in relation to several key areas of focus for the Boards. This includes progress in relation to an innovative new project, Safeguarding LINC, which we are sponsoring to explore avenues for utilising the latest advances in technology to develop an intuitive information sharing platform, which draws critical multi-agency information together into one easily accessible space for safeguarding practitioners. This landmark project offers significant potential for our partners in terms of facilitating more timely and effective information sharing in relation to children who may be at risk of harm.

We have also further developed our regional Quality Assurance Framework during the year, culminating in a revised dataset which facilitates analysis of a greater number of practice areas in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk, together with a newly developed audit model which has now been embedded into a regional quarterly programme. These achievements have been critical in supporting the Boards in overseeing regional practice, and in identifying opportunities to further improve and develop safeguarding policy, procedure and training.

The Boards continue to support the implementation of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) framework this year, following the publication of the accompanying statutory guidance in October 2024. The Boards continue to lead the delivery of the SUSR Learning and Development Framework, from which a comprehensive programme of training is being made available to key stakeholders across Wales. Detailed information in respect of the current



progress of this programme is included within this report, and this key area of work will continue into the coming year.

This year, we say goodbye to our longstanding Chair of the CYSUR Board. Jake Morgan has led the CYSUR Board since its inception in 2014, and during his tenure, has guided the Boards through significant development and progression, to the established collaborative partnership which exists today. The preceding ten years have seen countless achievements in relation to the development of regional policy, training and guidance, and Jake has been instrumental in driving the Boards' programme of work during his time as Chair, as well as influencing the national agenda in relation to a number of key areas. The Boards wish to express their sincere gratitude to Jake for his dedication to the Boards over the last ten years and wish him the very best in his next endeavour.

We are delighted to welcome Audrey Somerton-Edwards into the role of CYSUR Chair this year. Audrey has been an engaged and supportive partner of the Boards for several years as Director of Social Services in Ceredigion County Council, and the CYSUR Board looks forward to entering the coming year under Audrey's guidance and support.

The Boards continue to be supported by unwaveringly strong partnerships across agencies in the Mid and West Wales region, and the achievements shared within this report would not have been possible without partners' commitment, enthusiasm, and generosity of their time. We wish to thank our colleagues for their continued support and look forward to working together in the coming year to continue to develop our practice and build upon what we have achieved to date.



Michael Gray

Michael Gray
(CWMPAS Chair)

Director of Social Services, Housing and Public Protection - Pembrokeshire County Council



Audrey Edwards

Audrey Somerton-Edwards
(CYSUR Chair)

Director of Social Services
Ceredigion 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.

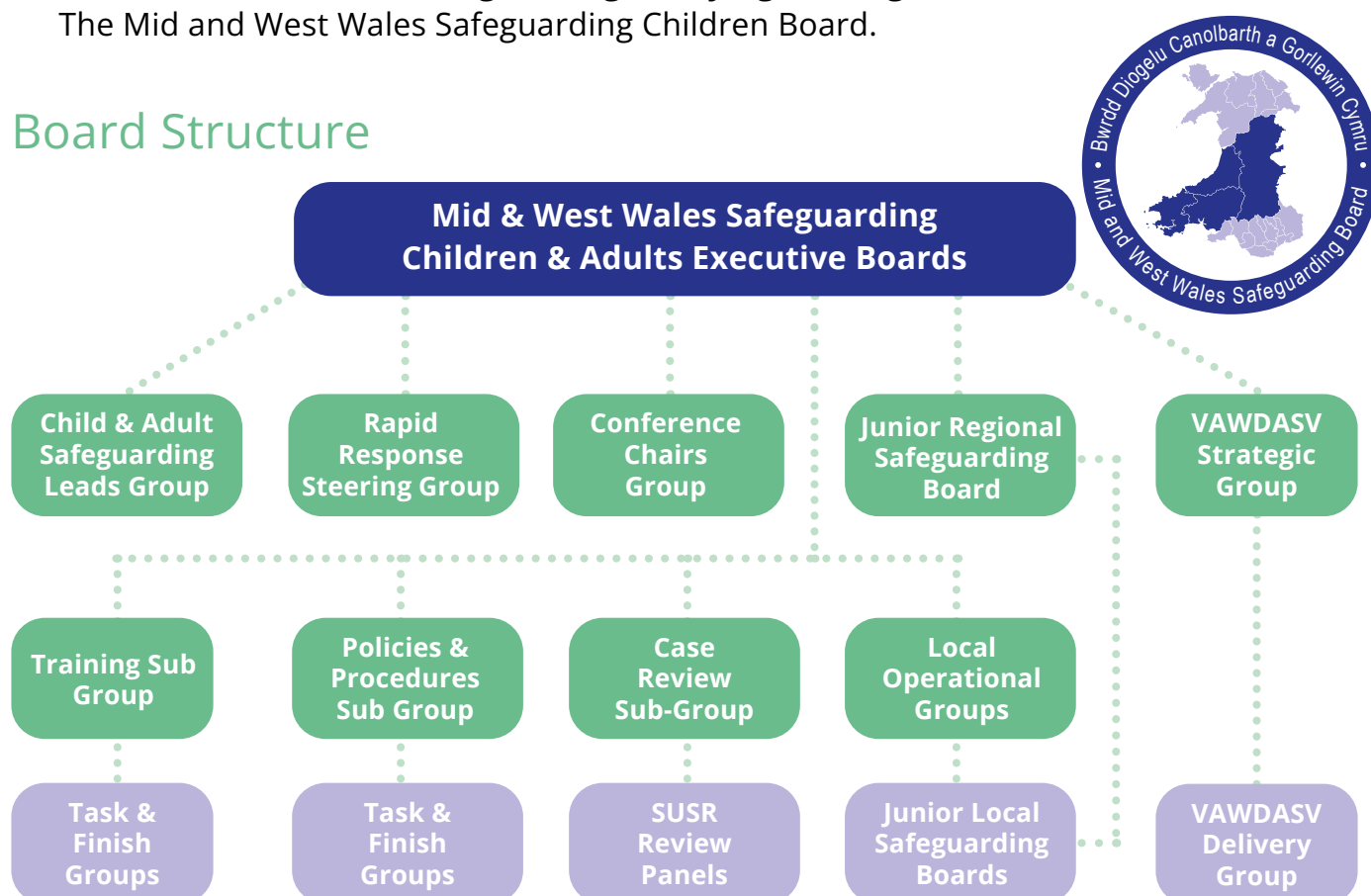


Board Structure

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.

Board Structure



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 Heads of Children's and Adults' Services, who chair the groups, and senior and middle managers from local statutory agencies, including Health, Police and Probation.

LOGs seek to improve practice locally by discussing local safeguarding activity in an open and transparent environment, sharing and analysing 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.

Regional Case Review Sub Group

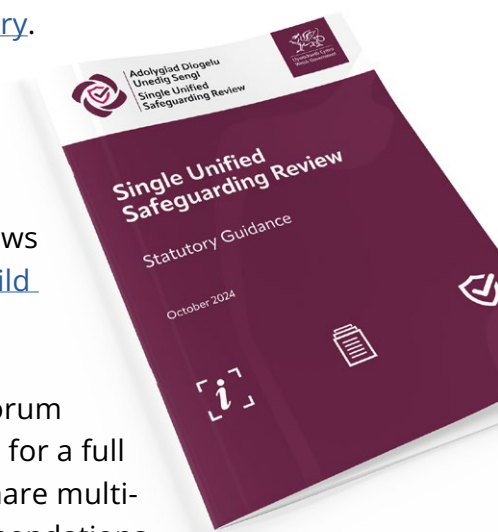
The Regional Case Review Sub Group considers referrals from agencies where a Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) may need to be undertaken. This is in situations where a child or adult has either died or suffered significant harm as a result of abuse and/or neglect, or has been the victim of a Domestic Homicide or a Mental Health Homicide.

The Regional Case Review Sub Group considers information against defined criteria for each type of review within the [Single Safeguarding Review Statutory Guidance \(October 2024\)](#) and makes a recommendation to the relevant Executive Board Chair as to whether there are identified learning outcomes, and whether an SUSR should be undertaken to learn lessons.

SUSRs 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 on the Boards' [website](#) and added to the [Wales Safeguarding Repository](#).

Regional Board processes were amended and updated in the year 2024/25 to comply with the new statutory guidance which came into effect in October 2024. Prior to this, Board responsibilities were confined to cases that met the criteria for Child or Adult Practice Reviews as set out Working Together to Safeguard People Volumes 2 and 3, [Child Practice Reviews](#) and [Adult Practice Reviews](#) respectively.

Multi-agency learning is undertaken via a Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) which explores identified cases that do not meet the threshold for a full SUSR, but from which there is felt to be opportunities to obtain and share multi-agency learning and/or good practice. The Board Chairs agree recommendations for cases to be explored through the MAPF model. MAPFs are then undertaken locally on a multi-agency basis and are presented to the relevant LOG, who holds responsibility for the ratification and delivery of the accompanying action plan. The Case Review Sub Group receive completed reports to enable any possible regional learning to be considered, shared and acted upon.



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 have a significant number of multi-agency through-age policies to support practitioners in their practice, which are published on the Boards' [website](#) once ratified.

CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

Up until the end of March 2025, the CYSUR Board continued to commission Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its Regional Junior Safeguarding Board. The service was formally de-commissioned on 31st March 2025 when the contract ended, and a new model will be developed in the coming year to support the contribution of children and young people into the work of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board.



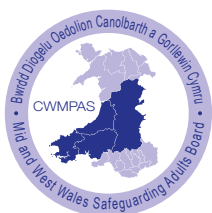
Regional Training Sub Group

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 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 Case Review Sub Group, 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 fora and groups support and are closely aligned to the Boards' annual strategic plan and priorities. These include regional multi-agency Adult and Children's Safeguarding Leads Groups, a regional group for Child Protection Conference Chairs, and an Immediate Rapid Response Regional Steering Group that supports a robust multi-agency response following the death of a child or adult where suicide is suspected to be the cause.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategic and Delivery Groups

VAWDASV incorporates all forms of violence against women and girls, including 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 new Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-27 ([see section B](#)). 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. In the preceeding twelve months, some areas of the region have developed additional local fora that support the regional Strategic and Delivery Groups to manage local workstreams and responses to the regional strategy and associated work plan.

(a) Membership



CWMPAS (Safeguarding Adults Executive Board)

Michael Gray (Chair)

Director of Social Services, Housing
and Public Protection,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Mandy Nichols-Davies (Vice-Chair)

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

Audrey Somerton-Edwards

Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Nina Davies

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Sharon Daniel

Executive Director of Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Claire Roche

Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Cathie Steele

Assistant Director of Nursing, Assurance
and Safeguarding
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Andrew Edwards

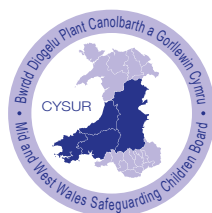
Assistant Chief Constable,
Dyfed Powys Police

Kate Burton

Head of Adult Social Care,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Donna Pritchard

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



CYSUR (Safeguarding Children Executive Board)

Audrey Somerton-Edwards (Chair)

Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Wayne Bevan (Vice-Chair)

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Michael Gray

Director of Social Services, Housing
and Public Protection,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Audrey Somerton-Edwards

Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Nina Davies

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Sharon Daniel

Executive Director of Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Claire Roche

Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Cathie Steele

Assistant Director of Nursing, Assurance
and Safeguarding
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Andrew Edwards

Assistant Chief Constable,
Dyfed Powys Police

Wayne Bevan

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Jan Coles

Head of Children's Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Mel Laidler

Head of Adults' Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Sharon Frewin

Head of Adults' Services,
Powys County Council

Liz Bowen

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service

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

Debbie Pachu

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

Vicky Maxwell

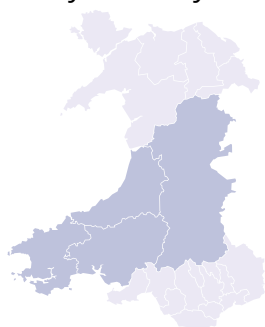
Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Chris Harrison

Regional representative for Heads of
Commissioning

Dafydd Llywelyn

Police and Crime Commissioner for
Dyfed Powys



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

Sharon Powell

Head of Children's Services,
Powys County Council

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

Debbie Pachu

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

Vicky Maxwell

Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Gill Adams

Regional representative of
Youth Justice Managers

Regional Directors of Education

Membership from Pembrokeshire,
Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys

Dr Ingrid Prosser

Named Doctor, Child Protection,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Dr Damitha Ratnasinghe

Named Doctor, Child Protection,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

Julie Breckon

Strategic Regional Safeguarding Manager
for Children and Adults at Risk

Rebecca Reynolds

Practice Review Business Manager

Stuart Hicks

Business Development Officer

Vacant (at time of publication)

Business Development Officer

(b) Work, achievements and activity this year, to meet our outcomes and implement our strategic plan

Projects to support improved information sharing

The Boards have embarked on several key projects to support better information sharing across agencies in the last year. The first related to **Safeguarding LINC**, a new project sponsored by the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards, which aims to utilise the very latest technological advancements to integrate data from multi-agency partners to enhance support for the protection of vulnerable children. The pilot is being undertaken in partnership with two of the four Local Authorities in the region, together with Dyfed Powys Police and Hywel Dda University Health Board, with the view to expanding this model throughout the region as the initiative further progresses.



Grant money has been secured from the Welsh Local Government Association to develop a prototype system that will integrate safeguarding risk markers from different organisations. This system is designed to complement professional decision-making and support earlier interventions for children on the child protection register or subject to Section 47 enquiries and investigations. This is an exciting and potentially groundbreaking project that the Boards are delighted to sponsor.



Swansea University are supporting the work and key project steps include identifying and agreeing on an initial set of risk markers from each organisation, developing information governance principles, matching data across systems, developing a regional cloud-based solution for data hosting and management, and creating a data visualisation tool. This project will continue to progress in the coming year.

A pilot project to support improved early information sharing across agencies has been undertaken in Pembrokeshire Children's Services in the last year. The PIT STOP Model has been driven and led by Dyfed-Powys Police in partnership with the local authority, and this work links directly to recommendations that emerged from the CYSUR 1 2021 Child Practice Review published in August 2024. The focus is on children who fall outside the criteria for section 47 enquiries and who are not deemed to be at immediate risk of significant harm. The process has provided a framework that brings all key agencies together in the form a daily discussion, to share relevant information on the child and family in question. This provides a framework to fully understand any safeguarding concerns around a child and family to support robust decision-making and helping to ensure intervention is provided at the right time and with the right level of support, should this be required, to help prevent escalation of need or risk. The pilot period ran from 20th June 2024 to 31st August 2024 and involved a total of 389 cases. A full evaluation of the project has been completed which will inform a second pilot to be undertaken in the coming year, with the potential for a full co-location to be considered as part of a future model.

A project and training resource that seeks to enhance practitioner confidence to share information more readily, proactively and proportionately within the confines of the law has been successfully developed and implemented this year. This follows the huge success and feedback from practitioners in respect of one of our National Safeguarding Week events in November 2024: **Myth Busting in Information Sharing in Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work**. The training resource captures and explores the key messages delivered during the November 2024 session. This has been promoted widely across the region and is available via the Boards' website at the following [link](#).

Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR)

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have been commissioned by the Welsh Government to lead on the coordination and delivery of the Learning and Development Framework in respect of Single Unified Safeguarding Reviews (SUSRs) in Wales. This has continued to be a key theme of the Boards' work programme and priorities this year, working alongside Welsh Government colleagues, as well as other Regional Safeguarding Boards and Community Safety Partnerships across Wales, to support the implementation of the new SUSR statutory guidance published in October 2024 via the provision of high-quality training, guidance and supplementary resources.

The development of online training materials such as e-learning packages and video resources are at an advanced stage at the time of writing. These are targeted at a wide range of practitioners across Wales and include awareness for all training, support for learning event attendees, and supplementary online training for prospective panel members, Chairs and Independent Reviewers which supports the in-person programme of training which continues to be facilitated across Wales.

This modular approach to the Learning and Development framework will ensure the availability of specific, targeted resources for all audiences of multi-agency practitioners and professionals who have a role in the delivery of SUSRs and/or the implementation of associated learning outcomes.

Following last year's successful national pilot of face-to-face training for panel members, Chairs and Reviewers, further training has been delivered across all Regional Safeguarding Boards (RSB) across Wales. The purpose is to equip those with the necessary knowledge and skills to lead or participate in a number of reviews which will now be encompassed within the SUSR model, including Child Practice Reviews (CPRs), Adult Practice Reviews (APRs), Mental Health Homicide Reviews (MHHRs), and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), as well as Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews (OWHRs), which may be brought under the SUSR model in future (subject to the evaluation of a national pilot). This programme of training received overwhelmingly positive feedback and was well attended by multi-agency partners in all areas of Wales, and helps to ensure the availability of trained and experienced panel members, Chairs and Reviewers to support SUSRs undertaken across Wales.

SUSR Panel Member Training Attendee feedback:

The training was excellent in all areas. Very informative and clear regarding process and procedures, best practice and ethos behind the SUSR. I feel more confident that I have the knowledge and skills that would be useful as a panel member.



Feedback from stakeholders on the delivery and quality of the SUSR pilot training can be seen below.

The CYSUR Board Chair, Strategic Regional Safeguarding Manager, Practice Review Business Manager and other Sub Group members have continued to contribute to national task and finish groups to progress this work. This sits alongside ongoing extensive work regionally to strengthen and update our regional policies, procedures and processes, and to adapt sub-structures to complement the requirements of the new SUSR statutory guidance. Our previous Practice Review Sub Group is renamed the Case Review Sub Group, to align with other Boards in Wales and reflect the additional criteria of reviews captured within the SUSR framework.

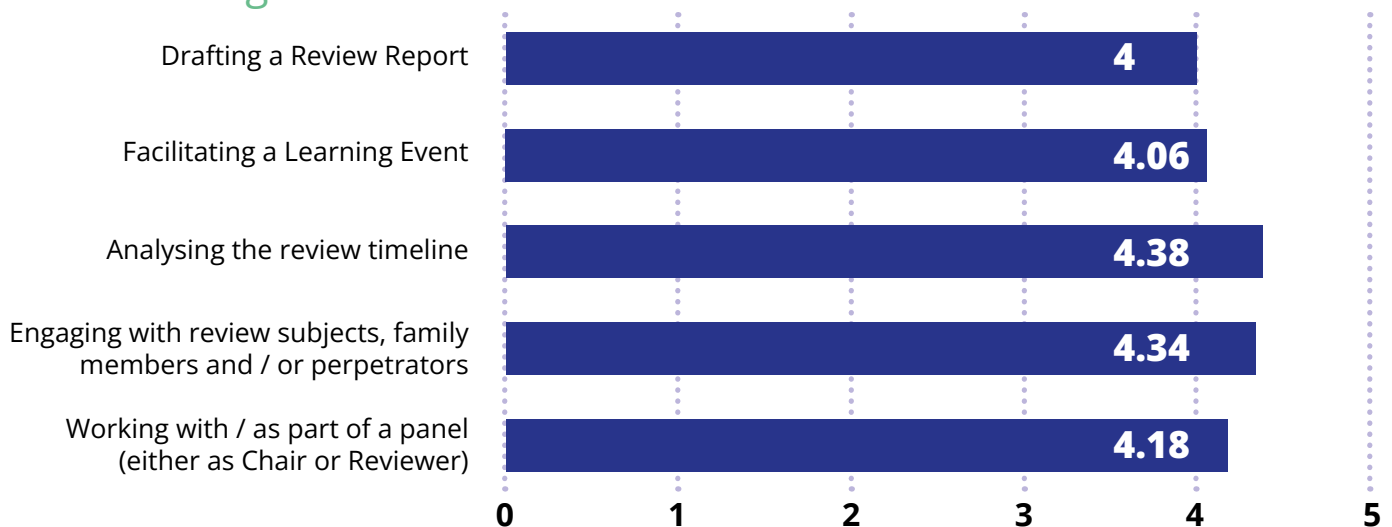


SUSR Panel Member Training Attendee feedback:

The training was very detailed and engaging, covering many areas, as well as wider experiences of the trainer and other colleagues on the training. I felt the trainer was excellent in keeping everyone's focus and attention. The training was clear and concise and included beneficial group discussions.

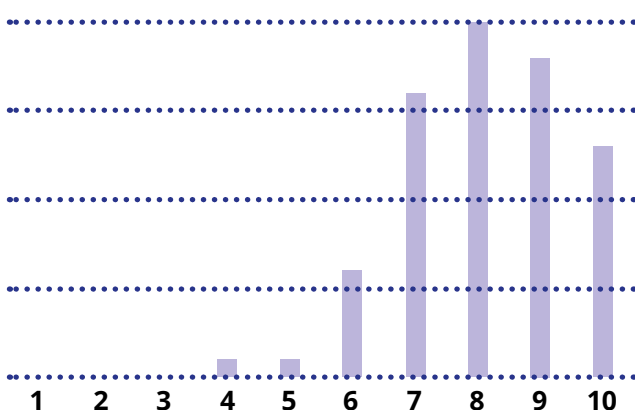


Post-training confidence



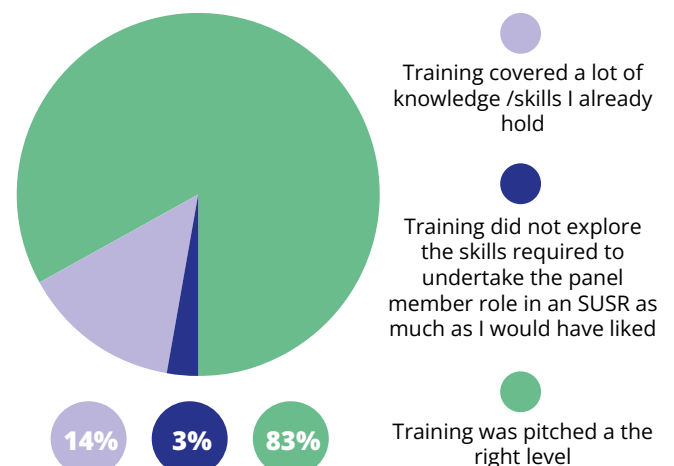
Post Chairs and Reviewers training confidence in a number of specific areas, highlighted above.

Confidence undertaking the role of Panel Chair



Confidence in undertaking the role of a panel Chair following training. Average rating of 8.12 out of ten.

Opinions about the training



Panel Members' opinions about the training, show that the majority of participants agreed that this training was pitched at the right level



Images from
SUSR National
Launch
in Cardiff,
December 2024



Images from
National SUSR
Training, held in
Cardiff



Images from
regional SUSR
Chairs and
Reviewers
Training in
Llandovery



Regional Work to implement the National Safeguarding Training Standards and Framework

A significant amount of time and resources has been devoted this year to the embedding and implementation across agencies of the [National Safeguarding Training Standards](#). The Regional Safeguarding Boards hosted an event in partnership with Social Care Wales in October 2024, to promote national training materials for the very wide, far-reaching and diverse group of practitioners eligible for Group B training. Supplementary work via regional task and finish groups remains ongoing to finalise a reporting QA tool that will provide the Regional Executive Boards with better oversight on the availability and quality of safeguarding training available to practitioners.

Further work to identify opportunities for collaboration in respect of bespoke, advanced training across the four Local Authority areas for those that fall within groups D-F remain ongoing and will be finalised in the coming year.



Some collective photos from the Social Care Wales Group B Implementation Day held in October 2024

New Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy 2023-2027

Work has continued with rigour and pace across the region since the publication of [Building Happier, Safer, Stronger Lives, Mid and West Wales Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-2027](#) in 2023. This regional strategy encompasses the experiences of key stakeholders alongside survivors' voices and individual experiences regarding the services they have received, and how these can be improved. This has been developed within the national context and the [Welsh Government's National Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026](#).

Key achievements and areas of focus this year have included a commissioned regional perpetrator contact that will continue to address the behaviour of those that commit acts of domestic abuse in all forms, including violent and coercive and controlling behaviour. Other key achievements include a newly launched regional [VAWDASV Facebook page](#), as well as work to provide direct support to individuals and families with no recourse to public funds, and an increase in the availability of accommodation for people with high and complex needs via the development of dispersed accommodation options across the region.

The current delivery plan, which is reflective of the experiences of those with lived experience of domestic abuse, continues to be enhanced via the ongoing work of a regional Survivor Advisory Panel. The panel is now well embedded and operational within existing regional structures, and its members regularly attend various regional and national meetings to share their experiences. Work continues to be undertaken with key members of the judiciary, informed by the lived experiences of the survivor panel and their reported poor experiences of the criminal justice process.

Activity across the region has been comprehensive and sustained, which includes communication and engagement work on post-separation abuse, and collaboration with the regional Suicide and Self-Harm Coordinator on suicide within a context of domestic abuse. Work undertaken with children and young people has focused on the new curriculum and supporting education colleagues to develop age-appropriate workshops in relation to VAWDASV.

The strategy continues to build upon existing successes and continues to strengthen preventative and support services for children and young people, survivors and perpetrators across the Mid and West Wales region.



Executive Board Development Day

On 24th January 2025, the Executive Boards came together to hold their Annual Development Day in Llandovery. 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 look forward to the key aims to be included in the plan for the coming year.

This year's event provided an opportunity for partners to come together to reflect on the year's achievements and set new priorities for the year ahead, aligned with the refreshed overarching strategic priorities set the previous year. The day consisted of a series of structured exercises, including consideration of the implications of the implementation of SUSR and any associated action required by the Boards in the coming year.

Board members also reviewed current participation and engagement mechanisms in relation to children and adults at risk, with a particular focus on a revised participation model to ensure that the voices of children who may be at risk directly inform the Boards' programme of work. Through an open session, Board members then explored "hot topics" which they felt should inform the programme of work for the coming year, allowing reflection of thematic areas relevant to current practice and opportunities to respond to these via dedicated actions enshrined within the new Annual Plan.

To view the full annual plan for the coming year, please see [here](#).



Images from
MAWWSB
Development
Day 2025



Work to Support Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty places a duty on specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. The duty commenced on 31st January 2023 and is a strategic initiative led by the Home Office. The duty is therefore not devolved, however is relevant to Wales and requires a multi-agency approach, involving police, local authorities, healthcare providers, and community organisations to collaborate on strategies to address the root causes of serious violence and implement effective interventions.

Although it is not a statutory requirement for the Police and Crime Commissioner to be members of Regional Safeguarding Boards, they have been formal members of the Regional Executive Boards as a key statutory partner in Mid and West Wales for several years. Partner agencies have supported and actively engaged in the development of the regional strategic needs assessment and accompanying delivery plan. The work has been overseen by the Police and Crime Commissioner, with Dyfed-Powys Police being the lead agency driving the work that complements several Board workstreams, many of which support the innovative work undertaken in respect of the VAWDASV agenda.

Interventions in the last year have included further analysis to fully understand the profile of violence occurring within the nighttime economy, and Dyfed-Powys Police have completed further research into this that will inform future work. Further work has included counselling for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence; targeted youth interventions with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), youth workers and local youth community groups; and youth prevention sports sessions targeted in hotspot areas, providing opportunities for young people to participate in prevention workshops. This work has run alongside third sector organisations, who have been commissioned to provide motivational interviewing training to assist with support to victims of sexual abuse and perpetrators of peer-on-peer abuse, as well as counselling for people aged 18-25 who have experienced sexual violence.



Work to Support the Development of and Completion and Publication of Regional Strategies and Policies

A significant amount of time has been dedicated this year to the development of practice guidance to support practitioners who work with fabricated and induced illness. A multi-agency task and finish group has been led by the two named Doctors for the region, who are each Board members for child protection. The practice guidance is in the final stages of development and will be implemented in the coming year.

A number of key projects were completed in 2024-25, culminating in the update, development and publication of numerous key regional policies and pathways. New policies, materials and guidance developed and published this year include:

- [Factsheet: Safeguarding Allegations Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust](#)
- [Guidance for a Rapid Response to Incidents of Suspected Suicide](#)
- [Materials to support Child Protection Conferences across the region](#)
- [Multi-Agency Protocol for Safeguarding Electively Home Educated Children](#)

All of these projects have been completed within the Boards' various groups and Sub Groups, and 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.



Information to Support 5 Key Elements of Safeguarding Effectiveness



Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol
Cenedlaethol Cymru

National Independent
Safeguarding Board Wales

The following supplementary specific information is provided to support the 5 domains of effective safeguarding, as requested by the National Independent Safeguarding Board this year:

NISB - 5 Key Elements to Safeguarding Effectiveness



The Safeguarding Process

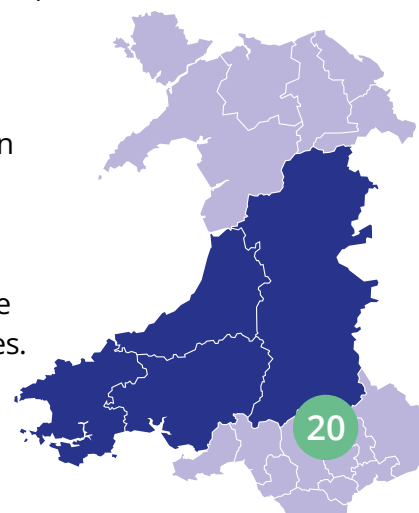
(How is the Board assured that arrangements are effective in identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns? What are the outcomes of regional processes and interventions?)

The Boards' structures continue to support a clear and accountable governance process for agencies to report on a regular basis their safeguarding activity and performance to the Regional Safeguarding Executive Boards. This is supported by a well-established regional performance and quality assurance framework that provides quarterly performance data which is interrogated and analysed, supported by a regional audit programme. The Boards' Local Operational Groups are key local multi-agency fora that meet regularly to discuss local operational safeguarding practice and strategic issues. The four Local Authority areas within the Mid and West Wales region host the Local Operational Groups, which are chaired by a Head of Children's or Adults' Services. Each Local Operational Group is required to provide a quarterly summary report to the Regional Executive Safeguarding Boards on local safeguarding activity and performance, as well as wider safeguarding activity and information such as training, safeguarding in schools and education, SUSRs and MAPFs (including the monitoring of action plans), and commissioning information in relation to care nursing homes. The report also has a section dedicated to the outcome of any local inspections.

An annual programme of reports is provided to the Boards by specific agencies on a rotational basis. For example, Dyfed-Powys Police provide a summary of the outcome of their annual inspection undertaken by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services and any information relevant to safeguarding. As a further example, Hywel Dda University Health Board and Powys Teaching Health Board provide an annual report on the outcome of their yearly self-assessment in respect of the Safeguarding Maturity Matrix, which is a tool for Health Boards that provides assurance, shares practice and drives improvements towards a consistent approach to safeguarding practice within health across Wales.

Assurance of safeguarding practice in schools is provided via the submission of an annual Section 175 report to the Regional Executive Boards. Work has been undertaken this year with Education colleagues to strengthen this report, to make it more outcome-focused, with more attention to children's emotional health and well-being. This is a comprehensive assessment of all safeguarding systems and processes within Education across the region, and includes an assessment of partnerships and working relationships, training and the management of allegations against staff.

Commissioning reports are provided to the Boards on a regular basis. Work across the region this year has focussed upon strengthening placement agreements for providers with a requirement to support learning as part of Practice Reviews. A recent consultation exercise has gathered further perspectives on key issues which will inform the production of a final document, ready for implementation, which is expected before the end of May 2025. Further work has been undertaken to support the development of care home placements for working-age adults, as well as addressing the identified need to develop alternative models for commissioning placements for this cohort, as a result of changes to legislation that will become effective on 1st April 2026. Work continues to progress actions as outlined in [West Wales Regional Market Stability Report](#), which captures a number of risks and makes recommendations to ensure the development of a vibrant market which is able to meet demands and mitigate any risks, including safeguarding risks associated with care and nursing homes.

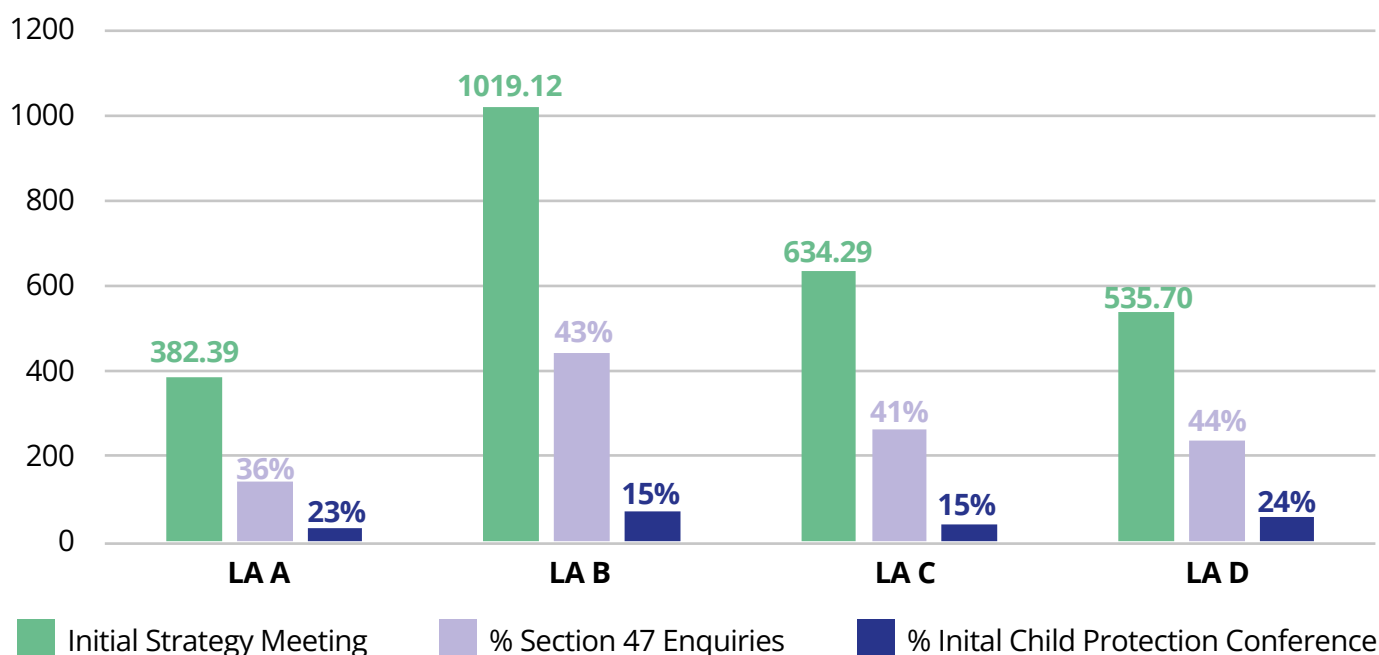


Multi-Agency Safeguarding Activity and Data

(How is the Board assured that arrangements are effective in identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns? What are the outcomes of regional processes and interventions?)

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

Initial Strategy Meetings, Section 47 Enquiries and Initial Child Protection Conferences

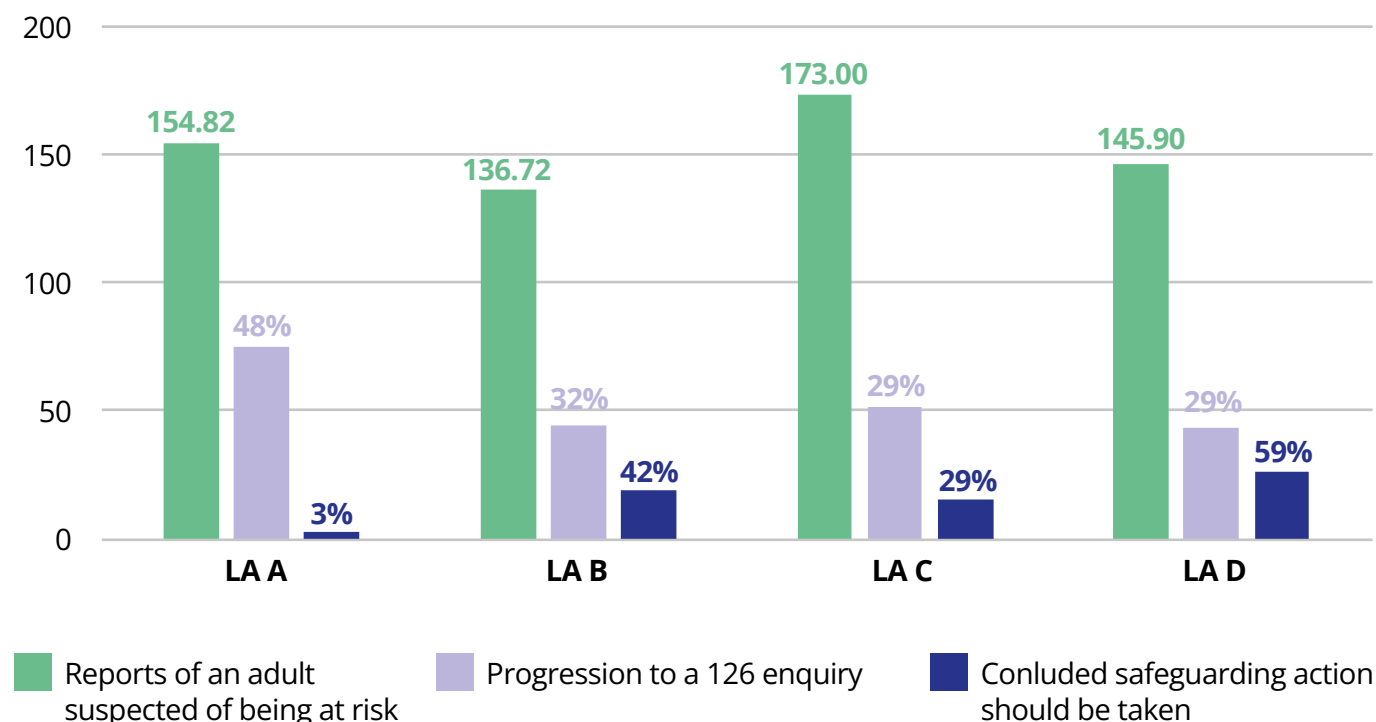


Graph showing exemplar from regional data set showing the number of Initial Strategy Meetings/Discussions held in each LA in a quarter per 10k population, the percentage of those which progressed to Section 47 enquiries, and of those, and the percentage of those that further progressed to an Initial Child Protection Conference

The Boards' Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework referenced above includes a comprehensive dataset. This aids the Boards' understanding of professional safeguarding practice within a multi-agency context across the region, utilising data which aligns with the Welsh Government performance indicators. As well as information provided by the Local Authority, the Police and Health Boards also provide data on key measures related to their safeguarding activity and practice. Examples of data submitted across agencies includes information in relation to children at risk, section 47 investigations, children on the child protection register, looked after children (LAC), exploitation and modern-day slavery and hospital admissions as a result of self-harm. For adults at risk, information is provided in respect of, for example, section 126 enquiries and the 7-day enquiry, domestic abuse and provider performance.

The data and information reported covers all key areas of safeguarding activity and practice, and are measured using formulae which take into account the population of each area to facilitate a truer reflection of local and regional trends. A report with analysis is produced by the Regional Safeguarding Manager and Business Unit staff, highlighting any key trends. This is discussed at length at the Executive Board, and local data is explored at Local Operational Groups.

Reports of adult suspected of being at risk, progression to 126 enquiry and safeguarding actions



Graph showing exemplar from regional data set showing reports of adult suspected of being at risk and progression to 126 enquiry, (per 10k population), and of those, how many concluded safeguarding action should be taken

This continues to support the Regional Executive Board's robust helicopter view of high-level multi-agency safeguarding practice across the region, via the scrutiny of quarterly overview reports, containing analysis of key regional and local trends. This supports the Boards in their commitment to effective challenge and holding agencies to account when safeguarding practice and service delivery falls below expected standards.

Thematic Hotspots

(What key Thematic Sources of Harm which require a safeguarding response of harm locally are evidenced in the Board data? What steps have been taken to respond to this thematic evidence?)

The processes outlined in the two sections above support seamless identification of key thematic trends across the multi-agency partnership and region. Over the years, since the existence of the current Mid and West Wales All Age Safeguarding Boards and partnership, a number of thematic trends and hotspots have been identified through these processes that have resulted in more in-depth pieces of work being undertaken in the form of deep-dive exercises, independent reviews of practice and research.

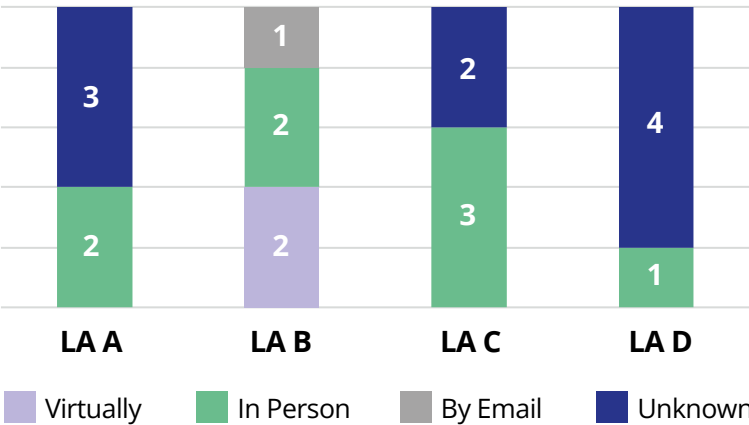
Examples of themes explored through this work include suicide, elective home education, thresholds, domestic homicides and the workforce. The outcome of these pieces of work have influenced the Boards’ strategic priorities, reflected in its published annual plans and accompanying workstreams.

A new process has been introduced this year as part of the Boards’ performance framework to undertake multi-agency audits. The first audit undertaken via this revised model focused on initial child protection conferences, which broadly presented a very reassuring picture of practice in the areas of focus captured, which included engagement and participation, compliance with statutory processes, and the quality of information provided to conferences.



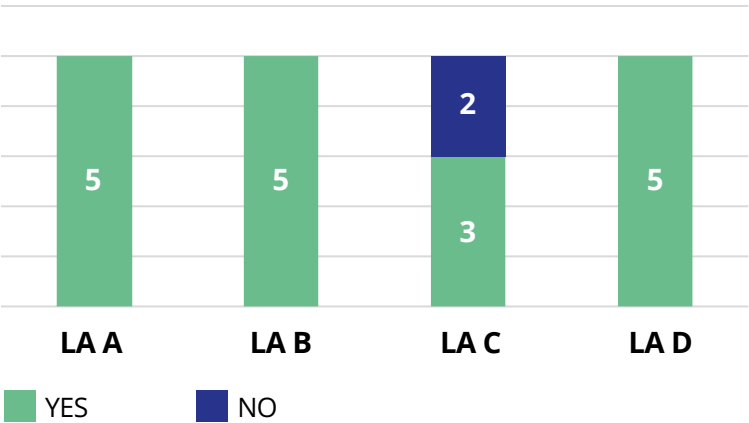
The implementation of a regional multi-agency risk register into QA reporting mechanisms enhances and supports existing processes, to highlight patterns and trends across the region that have a multi-agency impact on the delivery of safeguarding services.

Method of sharing social workers report with the parents by Local Authority



The audit reviewed how social workers’ reports were shared with parents, within local authorities, prior to the conference(above).

Method of sharing social workers report with the parents by Local Authority



Service User Feedback

(What are the RSB's objectives regarding gathering service user feedback in relation to directing safeguarding activity? What do the metrics that capture this feedback tell the Board? How does the Board plan to respond to this evidence and over what time?)

There is no one overarching holistic framework or process for gathering consistent service user feedback; a number of arrangements are in place at a local agency level that influence safeguarding work, response and activity across the region.

Although the contract with TGP to run the regional Junior Safeguarding Board ended on 31st March 2025, local children's fora remain very active across the region, and a new model of engagement that makes better use of existing fora will be developed in the coming year. Information regarding the contribution children's voices have made to the Board this year is covered under [section \(h\)](#).

The work of the Survivors Panel, linked to our regional domestic abuse work referenced earlier, has directly influenced workstreams associated with this work this year. Their voice and experiences are actively embedded into the Boards' wider structures and are actively influencing the shaping of services across the region for survivors of domestic abuse. This year has focussed on the impact of post-separation abuse and counter-allegations made by perpetrators of domestic abuse.

This year's strategic plan has committed to progress work in respect of the Most Significant Change Model of engagement in respect of adults at risk. A pilot exercise will be implemented in the coming year that will seek to utilise the stories of those with lived experience, to inform safeguarding practice and the delivery of services across agencies.

Workforce Information

(What is known about the profile of the safeguarding workforce?)

- How is recruitment and retention affecting the delivery of safeguarding duties?
- To what extent is multi-agency training provided to and taken up by the safeguarding workforce?
- What evidence is available to assure the Board that agencies understand and respond to the wellbeing and support of the safeguarding workforce?)

Commissioned Review and Analysis of Children and Adults Safeguarding Workforce Risk Factors

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have a full and clear understanding of the regional social care workforce. As outlined in last year's report, independent consultants were commissioned by the Boards to undertake a full review and profile of the workforce and to review and identify workforce risk factors in children's and adults' social care teams across the region. The work was jointly commissioned by the Regional Safeguarding Boards and the West Wales Regional Partnership Board as a collaborative endeavour. This followed and built upon previous work carried out in 2018 by the Regional Safeguarding Boards.

In the main, key messages and findings from the review at the time mirrored the acknowledged national picture in relation to the significant challenges all social care and wider public sector services are experiencing in the recruitment and retention of staff into key positions. This was identified as one of the biggest risk factors to the safe delivery of services to the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities. Although the picture was variable across our region, themes identified include high vacancy levels and difficulties recruiting to key safeguarding positions.

A number of recommendations were made and have been progressed in the past year. Particular investment and focus has been dedicated to a "Grow Your Own" approach across three of the four Local Authority areas within the region. This has involved investment in the creation of paid traineeships for qualified social work positions, to mitigate against the trends and risks identified within recruitment and retention of staff.

The overall picture in 2025 is more stable than when the review and report was commissioned in 2023. It is extremely positive that the emerging picture identified in last year's report has continued along an overall more positive trajectory. Alongside investment in developing long-term strategies to maintain a skilled, stable workforce, creative measures have been implemented across the social care workforce, in particular to complement long-term recruitment strategies. This includes Pembrokeshire's 'Golden Hello', relocation packages and social media campaigns. To ensure pay is not a barrier to new recruits, pay and salaries has been benchmarked alongside other local authorities within the region. Staff engagement surveys undertaken in Pembrokeshire have evidenced that staff think positively of the culture and team ethos in social care, and this is also evidenced in exit interviews. Recruitment and retention at the time of reporting is reported to be overall at 10%, which is a significant improvement compared to previous years. Additional challenges within some teams in children's social care are acknowledged, however plans and mitigations are in place with a focus on long-term investment and additional resourcing in these teams.

Powys's drive, work and commitment in recent years to reduce reliance on agency workers as part of its workforce strategy has paid dividend. At the time of reporting, only 8 agency social workers were employed across children's services, which represents a significant decrease compared to previous years. In addition to reducing the use of agency workers, there has been an improvement in retention rates and a decrease in the number of social worker vacancies, from 30 in March 2024 to 11 in March 2025. This success is attributed to a recruitment action plan, including a "Grow Your Own" social worker programme, and an enhanced staff wellbeing offer. These initiatives have enabled Powys to create a stable workforce in a safe and sustainable manner, without

compromising the quality of service provided to the public. As a result, vacancies within Children's Services have reduced significantly, enabling the workforce recruitment action plan more recently to be scaled back, with recruitment strategies and actions now targeting specific vacant posts. The "Grow Your Own" programme has continued to be a success, and in 2024, produced a further 7 newly qualified social workers for Children's Services, who are now in post in their permanent teams. The programme estimates to have another 5 students qualify for children's services posts in the year 2025.

In the last year, a more positive picture has emerged, and a real and sustained change to workforce stability has been seen within Powys. Strategies including improvements to advertising processes and job descriptions, alongside focused recruitment events, have supported a more stable workforce in comparison to previous years. Although Children's Services in particular have required significant investment in agency social work and expenditure, the numbers of agency workers are reducing.

In addition, the Boards have oversight of the trends within the care, nursing home and domiciliary care sector. Assurance is provided via regional robust reporting mechanisms to the Boards. Reports this year reflected waiting lists for domiciliary care have reduced during 2024/25, however providers are needing to be creative to ensure they are actively recruiting as well as retaining staff. Reliance on overseas workers is significant across all sectors.

Staffing challenges have been identified within the Health Visiting service in one of the two Health Boards in the region in previous years, and action taken to mitigate risk as part of Board reporting mechanisms. Systems and processes exist both at a regional level and within the Health Board's own internal governance and monitoring process to identify any significant challenges and report these by exception to the Regional Safeguarding Boards. Relevant Directorates/Clinical Care Groups have oversight of workforce profiles and participate in annual workforce planning. Any risks related to the workforce and safeguarding are on service risk registers and escalated accordingly.

Although the Regional Safeguarding Boards are not directly responsible or accountable for the workforce within third sector organisations, they do provide and support many preventative safeguarding services, including those that support domestic abuse work. Specialist providers have highlighted the significant strain on retention of trained skilled and experience staff, as well as significant issues in recruitment into the sector.



Training

As outlined under [section \(j\)](#), all agencies have their own internal safeguarding training programmes. The Regional Safeguarding Board Training Sub Group commissions and provides multi-agency training throughout the year. This is generally specialist safeguarding training linked to multi-agency themes and need, which is therefore not widely available through single-agency training programmes, as well as training linked to recommendations from published Child and Adult Practice Reviews and new SUSRs. When multi-agency training is available, there is usually a high demand for places, and feedback is consistently positive. Views are widely expressed by agencies within Mid and West Wales that more multi-agency training is needed, and this model is deemed to be more effective overall in terms of outcomes. The focus of this year's multi-agency training programmes and packages are covered under [section \(j\)](#).

Work continues to embed the [National Safeguarding Training Standards and Framework](#) across the region. It is hoped this will provide an opportunity to provide more multi-agency training and regional collaboration, particularly for the higher tier groups of C and above.

All agencies have structures and support in place to support staff well-being. For example, Ceredigion have a Well-Being Officer within the Council whose sole role is to develop initiatives to support all staff's well-being. They also have counselling and emotional support services, as well as the formal structures of supervision and peer supervision support within teams.

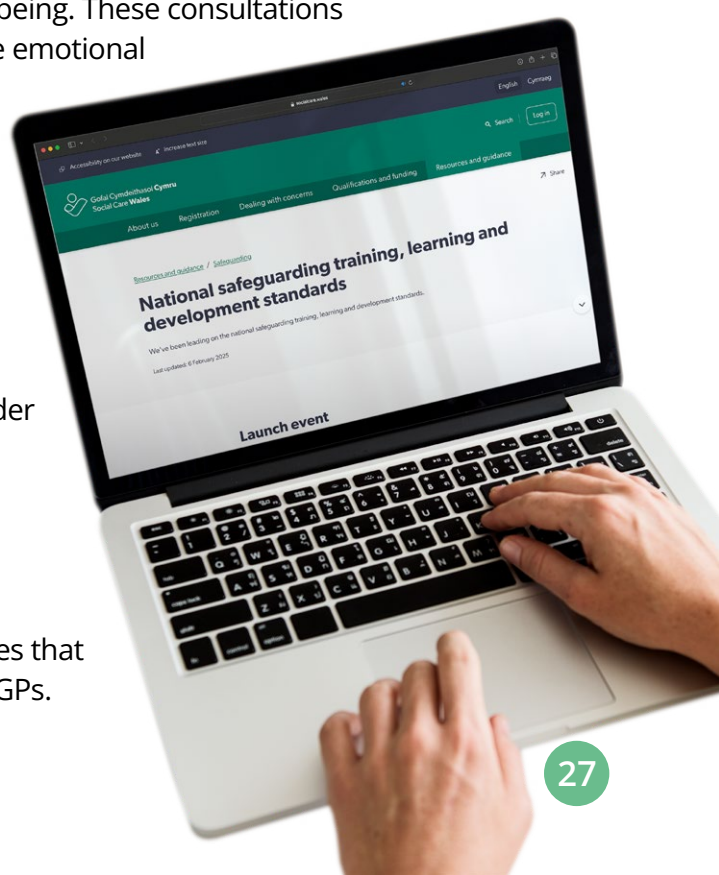
Powys Local Authority has invested heavily in staff well-being initiatives in recent years as part of their broader workforce strategy. Throughout the year, they have continued to enhance their wellbeing offer to staff. An in-house clinical psychologist provides different interventions to support the wellbeing of staff across Children's Services.

Consultation and reflective input for teams and practitioners are provided by the psychologist, which includes providing case consultations to practitioners and carers about children they are working with/ caring for. While the primary focus of these consultations is to address the needs and difficulties of children and families, they also serve to support staff wellbeing. These consultations offer a safe and supportive space for staff to reflect on the emotional impact of working with trauma and vulnerability.

The Boards have taken opportunities to promote and raise awareness of "Canopi" through our communication platforms, including our newsletter. Canopi offer a free and confidential mental health support service for social and health care staff in Wales. Canopi provides support to those with mental health and psychological symptoms, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and alcohol-related issues.



Canopi exists as part of a wider network of support services that are available to health and social staff in Wales, including GPs.





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

Welsh Government

The Boards have continued to work closely with Welsh Government this year. The Strategic Regional Safeguarding Manager and staff in the Board Business Unit attend national briefing meetings and bespoke events to support the development of national safeguarding work and policy. The Board Chairs continue to attend and engage in regular meetings with senior Welsh Government officials and the National Independent Safeguarding Board. Much of the Boards' focus this year has been on continuing to support the implementation of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) as fully outlined in [section \(b\)](#), and leading on the development of training resources to support the implementation that became effective in October 2024.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Boards' existing positive relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner has been sustained this year via continued attendance and contribution to Regional Safeguarding Executive Board meetings, and they are now a fully integrated member of the regional Executive Board. Through this avenue, the Boards have received frequent, in-depth updates in respect of the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty since its commencement on 31st January 2023.



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

The preceding year has focused on implementation of its delivery plan following the completion of the regional strategic needs assessment the previous year. The plan has identified a number of areas to focus upon to prevent serious violence in our communities, including online risks and alcohol-related violence linked to the nighttime economy. Further information in respect of this work is captured under [section \(b\)](#).

Other Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales

Regional Safeguarding Board Managers across Wales continue to meet regularly to share good practice, discuss areas of development and identify emerging national safeguarding trends. The ongoing implementation of the SUSR Learning and Development Framework by Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards on behalf of the Welsh Government is overseen by a Training Steering Group, which features representatives from all Regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales, thus continuing to allow a collaborative approach to training development and delivery.

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards also meet frequently with other Boards across Wales to plan National Safeguarding Week, discussing ideas and sharing regional plans to allow good practice to be shared.

Regional West Wales Partnership Board

Strong links and communication established with the West Wales Partnership Board have been continued this year, with whom Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards collaborate on specific areas of mutual interest and importance.



The promotion and facilitation of Safer Recruitment, Safer Employment Roadshows across the region to promote workforce development and national training standards that began in the preceding year, have continued through 2024-25, culminating in an online workshop in August 2024 for those that were unable to participate in face-to-face events.



Safer Recruitment Event, 2024

Social Care Wales



Following the successful launch last year during National Safeguarding Week of the Safeguarding Framework to support the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training across Wales, work has continued this year to implement the framework via the Regional Training Sub Group.

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to be represented on the national development group leading on the implementation of this work and remain actively engaged in this project.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

The Boards continue to respond to and provide information when requested by CIW. Regional work has continued this year to progress actions and work in relation to the recommendations of the Rapid Review of Child Protection Arrangements published in September 2023.



In addition to this specific workstream undertaken during the year, the Boards have supported and provided information in respect of ongoing inspections, including the multi-agency Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA), where appropriate in the region. CIW are routinely offered a designated slot at all regional Executive Board meetings and have attended this year to present the findings of the national overview report on JICPAs 2019-2024.

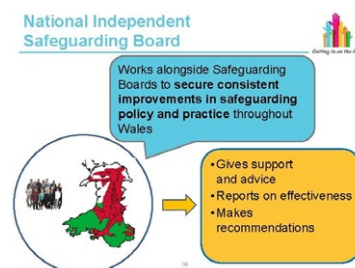
Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to maintain strong links with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in the region. Following publication of the SUSR Statutory Guidance in October 2024, work and collaboration to support implementation of the SUSR model has taken place. Work has focused upon strengthening existing regional processes, to ensure proportionate links and robust governance processes are in place during the completion and publication of an SUSR with a domestic abuse element.



National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to enjoy a constructive relationship with the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB), and members regularly attend and contribute to Regional Executive Board meetings.



Discussions and dialogue with Welsh Government and the NISB continue to take place regularly via Board Manager Meetings, as well as supplementary meetings with Board Chairs. The Boards have utilised the offer and resourcing of support from Manchester Metropolitan University to support and develop safeguarding practice, to further develop regional work on improving and strengthening responses to adults at risk, with a focus upon the 126 Enquiry Process. Further information in respect of this work is covered under [section \(g\)](#).

Public Health Wales (PHW)

Work has continued to take place to advocate for better information and messaging for parents in relation to safe sleep, due to the number of Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Childhood (PRUDiC) related deaths in the region and across Wales.



(d) 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 specific requests this year.



(e) 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, providing representation at Executive Board level, as well as on multiple Board Sub Groups and each county's Local Operational Group.

The Named Nurse and Head of Safeguarding Adults and Children holds the role of Vice Chair for the CWMPAS Executive Board. The Health Board has contributed to the Regional Safeguarding Board Development Day and Annual Plan, and have maintained their commitment to regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews and Multi-Agency Professional Forums. Additionally, Hywel Dda is a key partner in the newly implemented Rapid Response to Suspected Suicide process, following a successful pilot phase. The Safeguarding Team continues to offer a single point of contact for all Health Board and Local Authority staff to access for advice and support, ensuring the workforce have a designated contact point for any safeguarding-related concerns or queries.

As well as supporting regional multi-agency safeguarding work and developments, Hywel Dda are actively engaged in national workstreams aimed at improving safeguarding policy and practice from a Health perspective. Hywel Dda actively contribute to the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and Sub Groups, and the Head of Safeguarding has been Vice Chair of the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and UHB lead alongside a Designated Nurse at the NHS Wales Network VAWDASV Steering Group. The Lead Nurse LAC is an active member of the NHS Wales LAC Steering group, and Hywel Dda co-led on the revised draft of the NHS Wales Safeguarding Supervision Guidance.

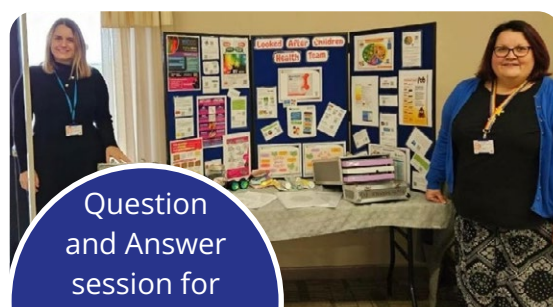


Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Hywel Dda University Health Board have implemented an updated *Dental Care Pathway for Looked After Children*, which provides a standardised approach to improve dental outcomes for these children. This has been achieved through utilising services *Community Dental Service (CDS)* and the *Designed to Smile (D2S)* team.

Hywel Dda continue to work in partnership with other agencies to support training delivery and awareness raising in relation to key areas. This year, the LAC team delivered training to social workers in Ceredigion on the role of the LAC Health Team within the Health Board and collaboration with partners, which highlighted the importance of identifying the health needs for Looked After Children and of joined up working to meet their health needs.

Furthermore, in February 2025, the LAC Health Nurses supported a Question-and- Answer session for Foster Carers in Pembrokeshire, focusing primarily on health promotion and health education topics. A display board was exhibited with up-to-date health information and highlighting other health services that provide support for Looked after Children.



Question and Answer session for Foster Carers, February 2025

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB)



Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) continue to contribute fully to the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards. PTHB demonstrate a strong commitment to partnership working by providing consistent representation at the Executive Boards and at all Board Sub Groups, including the Safeguarding Leads Group, Training and Development and Policy and Procedure Sub Groups. Health Board staff work in close partnership with their multi-agency partners in all areas of the safeguarding agenda including VAWDASV, MARAC, MAPPA, MACE, PRUDIC, Corporate Parenting, SUSRs and multi-agency audits. This year, PTHB worked closely with Powys County Council and Dyfed-Powys Police in the completion of the action plan arising from the Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA).

PTHB continue to actively engage in numerous Board workstreams, having contributed this year to such key areas as the Rapid Response to Suspected Suicide pilot and review, regional work in relation to the Section 5 process, and the review of The Right Help at the Right Time Children's Threshold Document.

A focus for PTHB this year has been on raising awareness of the importance of "back to basics" conversations, information sharing and professional curiosity, including cross border communication. This is in response to and recognition of thematic learning arising from regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews and Joint Inspections highlighting opportunities for improvement in relation to collaborative working across agencies and services, as well as proactive and timely sharing of appropriate information.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

***Powys Teaching Health Board** have implemented a Safeguarding Management App, which has resulted in significant improvements in data management, administrative processes and decision-making. The time savings achieved have resulted in increased capacity, improved accuracy, and enhanced responsiveness.*

To support this, they have led a "Pick Up the Phone" campaign of promotional materials such as posters to encourage practitioners to proactively engage with each other for discussions in relation to concerns they may hold about children and adults at risk. The campaign was launched in March 2025 and was supported by a cross-platform social media rollout, as well as promotion via the Health Board's intranet.

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.



They have this year worked closely with individual agencies on specific pieces of work related to key identified themes, such as identification of and responding to suspected suicide clusters, as well as working collaboratively with CYSUR to support ongoing work in relation to safer sleep. The Boards have promoted a series of network communications in the last year issued by Public Health Wales in respect of safeguarding policy. Several members of the National Safeguarding Team attended the national Chairs and Reviewers SUSR training and are now approved to lead on SUSRs as Independent Chairs and Reviewers.

Dyfed-Powys Police

Dyfed-Powys Police (DPP) have maintained their commitment to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards this year across all Sub Groups and workstreams.



The DPP Superintendent Board representative has taken on the role of Vice Chair of the CYSUR Board, and the Regional Case Review Sub Group continues to be chaired by a DPP Detective Chief Inspector.

Dyfed-Powys Police continue to hold responsibility for the chairing of PRUDiC meetings instigating the Rapid Response to Incidents of Suspected Suicide meetings. DPP officers are represented at all Board levels, including the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and all Sub Groups. In addition, Dyfed-Powys Police continue to provide in-person and virtual facilities for regional Executive Board meetings on a quarterly basis.

This year, Dyfed-Powys Police have implemented improved mechanisms for capturing the voices of children within Public Protection Notices (PPNs), allowing for a more person-centred approach to child safeguarding, as well as the promotion of improved working relationships with children.

A further achievement for Dyfed-Powys Police this year has been the creation of a permanent Domestic Abuse (DA) Stalking Perpetrator Coordinator role. The creation of a permanent post provides security and assurance that monitoring of stalking perpetrators will be continued and that work towards rehabilitation of these offenders will continue, thus reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Dyfed-Powys Police have led an innovative project this year aimed at helping children to understand the importance of safely speaking up about violence against women and girls. Through Step In, Speak Up, more than 6,000 school children have learned, in an age-appropriate way, how to act as upstanders for victims of sexual harassment, violence and discrimination.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Dyfed-Powys Police have this year achieved colocation of the Central Prevention Hub into the Vulnerability Hub, which allows for improved joint working in all areas of vulnerability. The Central Prevention Hub incorporates the Citizens in Policing (CiP) team, School Community Police Officers (SCPO) and specialists in problem solving, prevention and anti-social behaviour.

They also work closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), who can identify opportunities for early intervention. As a result of this, NPTs and SCPOs are now involved in missing persons and exploitation meetings.

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 active membership of all Local Operational Groups and Sub Groups. Youth Justice Services are themselves a multi-agency partnership, with statutory input from Police, Probation, Education, Health and Social Services.



Youth Justice Services continue to support regional Multi-Agency Professional Fora, undertaking various roles within these processes to support their completion. They regularly attend Channel Panel and Contest Meetings in relation to the counter terrorism and safeguarding interface, and have contributed to the regional Case Review Sub Group by sharing relevant information and learning in relation to these areas.

This year, Prevention and Diversion Assessments have been moved from their previous paper format onto an online assessment tool, creating consistency of practice across regional Youth Justice Teams and utilising the established Community Safeguarding and Serious Incidents Policy. This has facilitated discussions and agreement in relation to opportunities to take forward individual cases into review mechanisms for multi-agency learning. Youth Justice Services also ensure, via their active engagement across Board Sub Groups and workstreams, that learning from reviews is cascaded throughout their service, in order to inform regional practice.

The Regional Representative for Youth Justice Services has also this year supported and contributed to ongoing discussions in relation to revising and further developing the regional framework for engaging children and young people in the work of the Boards, an exciting project which will progress further in the coming year.

The National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service (NPS) is represented on the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and some Sub Groups.



NPS work collaboratively with partner agencies in a number of fora, such as Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Serious Violence and Organised Crime (SVOC), Integrated Offender Management (IOM), PREVENT and the Criminal Justice Board.

This year, an Adult Practice Review undertaken within the region has benefitted from the provision of an Independent Reviewer from the National Probation Service. The review required a particular knowledge and understanding of prison and probation services, and the provision of a Reviewer from NPS resulted in a high-quality report informed by service-specific experience and expertise. The Boards have also welcomed NPS colleagues onto training held for prospective Chairs and Reviewers under the SUSR Learning and Development Framework, and is grateful to the NPS for supporting this key function of the Boards in this way.

A focus for the coming year will be re-establishing mechanisms for NPS representation at Sub Group level, to ensure that the Boards' programme of work can continue to be informed by the contributions and input of NPS colleagues.

Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire County Council has continued to be a supportive and engaged partner to the Boards throughout the year, making regular and valid contributions to the work of all Regional Safeguarding Board Sub Groups.



Carmarthenshire County Council are leading on the exciting and innovative Safeguarding LINC project, which aims to utilise developments in technology to develop a multi-agency information database, allowing key safeguarding information to be more easily shared among and accessed by key partners who safeguard children at risk of harm. This work will continue into the coming year.

Carmarthenshire's Senior Manager for Adult and Corporate Safeguarding has been instrumental in leading progressive work in the region in respect of Adult Safeguarding practice, and has led several workshops this year. She provides considerable support to the Regional Safeguarding Boards and is involved in and leads a number of bespoke task and finish groups to improve and standardise practice across the region. She has acted as a supporting reviewer in a Child Practice Review and has provided significant support to the ongoing national work to develop supplementary guidance for Part 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

Carmarthenshire Head of Adults' Services is scheduled to retire in the near future. She has been instrumental in the development of suicide prevention work over a number of years in the Mid and West Wales region and has been a very active member of the Regional Executive Board. She has led a number of bespoke projects to support and improve services for adults at risks over number years, and we take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank her for the significant contribution she has made to the development of improved practice in this region.



Carmarthenshire Children's Services co-facilitated a regional Development Day in September 2024 that focused on the review and renewal of the Regional Children's Threshold Document "The Right Help at the Right Time", allowing colleagues across partner agencies to collectively develop the existing document to align with current legislation, guidance and practice developments. The Boards are sincerely grateful to the Head of Children's Services for kindly supporting this key workstream via facilitation of this event.

This year, Carmarthenshire Children's Services received a positive report from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) following their inspection, which cited good collaborative working, a clear focus on strengths and risks evident across multi-agency meetings, and evidence that "people's voices are heard, and their choices are respected".



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Carmarthenshire Children's Services have developed a practice guide to underpin the way in which they work with teenagers, focused on managing risk and achieving positive changes.

The report also highlighted that “there is a commitment by partners to work together in the interests of safeguarding children at risk of harm and abuse.”

Carmarthenshire continue to host and support the Regional VAWDASV Advisor and Coordinator posts to develop and deliver the key objectives of the VAWDASV strategy, and Carmarthenshire’s Senior Manager for Adult and Corporate Safeguarding is chair of the regional VAWDASV Delivery Group. The Carmarthenshire Senior Manager for Adult and Corporate Safeguarding also developed and continues to coordinate the regional Channel chair network, which is leading on work to achieve a consistent approach to Channel arrangements regionally.

Throughout the year, Carmarthenshire County Council has strengthened its Corporate Safeguarding arrangements, which has included reviewing policies and procedures, strengthening governance arrangements, and placing an emphasis on continuous training and development, supporting the overall aim of embedding a culture of safeguarding across all levels of the organisation.



Pembrokeshire County Council



Pembrokeshire County Council continues to be the regional host authority for the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards, and to facilitate the Regional Safeguarding Boards' Business Unit. The Director of Social Services and Housing is the Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Pembrokeshire are active members of all Board Sub Groups and workstreams and have supported the further development and implementation of the regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) framework, which now provides a greater level of support to local MAPF programmes, utilising a well-established format culminated within Pembrokeshire.

Pembrokeshire's Local Operational Group is multi-agency with a combined, through-age agenda which facilitates effective and integrated meetings which are well-attended and engaged in by all agencies. Topics explored within the LOG this year have included cybercrime, children's commissioning and peer-on-peer abuse, facilitating focused multi-agency discussion of key themes and opportunities for action to be taken.

As outlined fully under [section \(b\)](#), a key area of focus for Pembrokeshire this year has been the piloting of a Partnership Integrated Triage (PIT STOP) model as a potential means of achieving greater collaboration and joint working across services, to identify opportunities to provide early help to children and families in the community. This pilot identified strengths linked to early identification of risk and opportunities for preventative support and has provided a strong foundation from which agencies can collaborate to implement these strengths into future practice. The evaluation of this model will continue into the coming year.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

*Taking into account recommendations from DHRs locally and the regional VAWDASV strategy, **Pembrokeshire County Council**, supported by Ateb, and Pembrokeshire Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS), have secured accommodation for use by people aged over 55 who are fleeing domestic abuse. The Housing with Care Fund was accessed to fully furnish the house as a home for an immediate placement.*

In response to significant challenges experienced in relation to capacity to respond to increasing demand, additional resources have been injected into Pembrokeshire's Child Care Assessment Team, supporting practitioners to respond to the increased numbers of referrals being received in relation to children who may be at risk. This has been supported by significant work undertaken locally to encourage greater communication between professionals as a precursor to the submission of a referral.

Within Adults' Services, capacity has been increased this year via systems remodelling to respond to reports of adults at risk, in response to continued increases in demand and complexity. The new Adult Senior Service Manager has been instrumental in progressing and improving regional safeguarding practice for adults at risk, as part of ongoing regional work and practice development.

Powys County Council

Powys County Council's contribution to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and their workstreams has remained steady and consistent in the last year.



Powys Children's Services Senior Manager continues to chair the Regional Training Sub Group, and Powys Children's Services have provided valuable contributions to ongoing practice reviews this year by provision of a Panel Chair role.

Powys Children's Services have also contributed to the development of the regional Quarterly Assurance framework by offering advice and resources, including multi-agency templates, for adaptation to be used across Mid and West Wales.

In response to challenges faced in recruiting for vacancies within their in-house residential homes, Powys have launched a residential recruitment campaign which included social media use, attendance at recruitment events, development of promotional materials, and exploring opportunities for the current workforce to fill residential vacancies on a "relief" basis. The collective efforts undertaken as part of the campaign yielded 45 new applications and the appointment of 16 positions.

Throughout the year, Powys have continued to enhance their wellbeing offer to staff, as outlined in [section \(b\)](#). Several interventions are provided by the in-house clinical psychologist to support staff wellbeing, including reflective sessions to support teams in thinking about their work with children and families and the challenges that this can bring. Several different teams have these sessions on a monthly basis, and they are also offered to staff teams in residential care homes. The psychologist has also this year facilitated a reflective session for the Senior Leadership Team to support them to explore emotional impact of the demands and challenges that they manage as senior leaders, and how they can look after their wellbeing and resilience. A variety of other forms of wellbeing support are also provided by the in-house clinical psychologist, including one-to-one support.

Powys Adults' Services Safeguarding Team have actively worked with care homes in Powys this year to increase their knowledge around safeguarding legislation and promote awareness of what to report and how. A greater number of visits to adults at risk have also been undertaken this year, which has supported greater understanding in relation to the voice of the adult.

This year, the Adult Safeguarding Team have absorbed the responsibilities associated with Channel, and considerable time has been invested by the Chair and Vice Chair to establish a sustainable model of delivery with Counter Terrorism partners. Transition continues to be a key area of focus within Powys and has been added to the standing agenda for the LOG to ensure continued oversight and multi-agency collaboration on this key item.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys County Council Childcare and play team have utilised the childcare training and development grant to support childcare providers to upskill and train the childcare workforce to meet the revised Care Inspectorate Wales National Minimum Standards in relation to safeguarding. 144 childcare workers have access group B and 60 have accessed Group C. The Powys Childcare business support team have reviewed the suite of standard childcare policies to incorporate the new safeguarding standards and requirements to support providers in their understanding of the new regulations.

Ceredigion County Council

Ceredigion County Council attend and contribute to all Executive Board Meetings, Sub Groups and all task and finish groups associated with the work which emanates from the Boards. Members of staff from Ceredigion contribute to Adult/Child Practice Reviews and have once again provided support to an Adult Practice Review this year via a senior officer undertaking the role of Panel Chair.



The Boards are particularly pleased to welcome Ceredigion's Statutory Director, Audrey Somerton-Edwards, into the role of CYSUR Chair this year, who has supported the Boards and their various workstreams for several years. The Boards look forward to ongoing collaboration and progress across our strategic objectives under the leadership of the new Chair.

Ceredigion's Statutory Director also jointly facilitated the regional Development Day held in September 2024 in relation to "The Right Help at the Right Time" Threshold Document, and the Boards are sincerely grateful for this support to this key area of focus during the year. The document remains under review at the time of writing and the Boards look forward to its launch in the coming year. The Local Authority hosted the Regional Flagship Safeguarding Conference held as part of National Safeguarding Week in November 2024, a well-attended and extremely successful event organised via collaboration with several partner agencies and professionals.

This year, Ceredigion have fully embedded the regional MAPF model, and have completed multiple MAPFs this year using the regional framework. This has included training additional Ceredigion County Council officers in the model in order to increase capacity and therefore facilitate efficient and timely identification and implementation of learning.

At the beginning of the year, Ceredigion embedded their Quality Assurance Framework across all adults and children's teams in the Through Age Well-Being Model. This consists of 50 case file audits being undertaken each quarter, with senior managers, team managers and senior practitioners all playing a role in the process. Engagement with service users and families, as well as professionals from partner agencies, is another key feature of the framework.

Within Ceredigion's in-house residential care homes, Safeguarding Champion roles have been developed, so that there is a designated safeguarding lead in each home who can ensure that safeguarding practice is embedded within each residential setting.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

***Ceredigion County Council** have developed a six-monthly Practitioners Forum. This is a key feature of the newly established Quality Assurance Framework, in which themes and outcomes from audits, as well as learning from Child/Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, are shared with practitioners. Representation is required from every team across the Through Age Well-Being model, and attendees subsequently share the learning obtained within their respective teams.*

Regional Directors of Education

Education Services across the region work closely with other partners including Health, Police, Youth Services, Probation Services, and Youth Offending Teams. They attend Rapid Response meetings and engage in regional CPR/APRs and MAPFs. In particular, Education colleagues have played an active role in supporting the implementation of the regional MAPF model across the region this year, which has led to partners across agencies becoming more experienced with and therefore able to effectively deliver the MAPF programme.

Education also attend VAWDASV meetings, as well as the Daily Discussion meetings as part of the MARAC. Education also participate in a high number of Channel Panel meetings and provide information and feedback to schools to ensure children's safety and appropriate safeguarding. Agreement has been reached at Executive Board level to move away from the previous model for Education representation, whereby one Statutory Director acted as regional representative for Education services across Mid and West Wales, toward a model whereby all four Local Authority Education Services are required to directly attend, feed into and engage in Board meetings and workstreams. The Boards have enjoyed this opportunity to promote even greater collaboration with Education colleagues, and look forward to building on this further in the coming year.

The theme of peer-on-peer sexual harassment has been a particular area of focus within regional Education services this year, in partnership with regional Further Education (FE) colleagues, as outlined below.

Regional Further Education (FE)

Further Education (FE) colleges within the region 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. In this way, FE have contributed to all levels of the Boards this year, engaging in active participation within Sub Groups and key work streams. The Designated Safeguarding Lead continues to actively engage in and support the Boards' Practice Review/SUSR programmes of work, in relation to both regional delivery and supporting national training and events for Panel Chairs and Reviewers. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is also a valued and active partner in the delivery of the regional MAPF programme, having taken on a lead role in relation to a MAPF undertaken during the year.

Peer-on-peer sexual harassment has been a particular area of focus among regional FE colleagues during the year. Following the publication of the [Peer-on-peer sexual harassment in education settings: action plan](#), comprehensive work has been taking place with the aim of effectively implementing a whole-system approach to preventing and tackling peer-on-peer sexual harassment, which includes creating open fora for discussion around relationships and sexual harassment, embedding clear policies and processes, and supporting children and young people to create healthy habits around relationships and sexual behaviour. This is supported by the innovative Taith Pathway 2 project, which facilitates the sharing of knowledge and expertise between Welsh and international organisations to create a community of practice in relation to misogynistic attitudes and cultures. Presentations have been delivered within LOG meetings this year to update and discuss ongoing progress with multi-agency colleagues. This thematic area of focus will continue to be a priority within regional FE settings in the coming year.

Regional Commissioning Representative

The Mid and West Wales Commissioning Partnership is represented on the Executive Boards and supports a strong West Wales collaborative approach to commissioning. It has been identified however that links with the Powys Commissioning Partnership could be strengthened, which will be a focus for the coming year.

A Regional Market Stability Board has been established to progress the priorities detailed in the now completed Market Stability Report for West Wales. A number of priority work areas identified within the report have already been progressed, including the agreement of an options appraisal to assess and make recommendations on creating and enhancing regional strategic commissioning capacity, and the completion of a commissioning self-assessment to inform the current position and future work in relation to establishing a regional specialist children's commissioning programme.

Challenges continue in relation to recruitment, retention and continuously providing up-to-date training to the regional workforce, with a need to often rely on agency staff. Ongoing training is vital to ensure quality of services are improved and any issues acted upon, and so ensuring the provision of high-quality training is a priority within the service. Provider performance challenges and escalating concerns in respect of some settings have also considerably impacted capacity and have an effect on the ability to oversee and undertake routine quality assurance and contract compliance work.

However, a significant achievement within the partnership this year has been the development of a regional quality assurance framework document, supporting the implementation of a consistent approach to quality assurance across the region, and a subsequent ability to benchmark quality and highlight opportunities for improvement.

Commissioning capacity has been developed within Pembrokeshire this year, and a Children and Young People Forum of Providers has been established. In addition, as a result of engagement with young people, agreement has been reached to provide additional mental health support in response to the learning obtained via this engagement.



(f) 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.

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 overtly visible to other professionals and agencies outside of the Board.

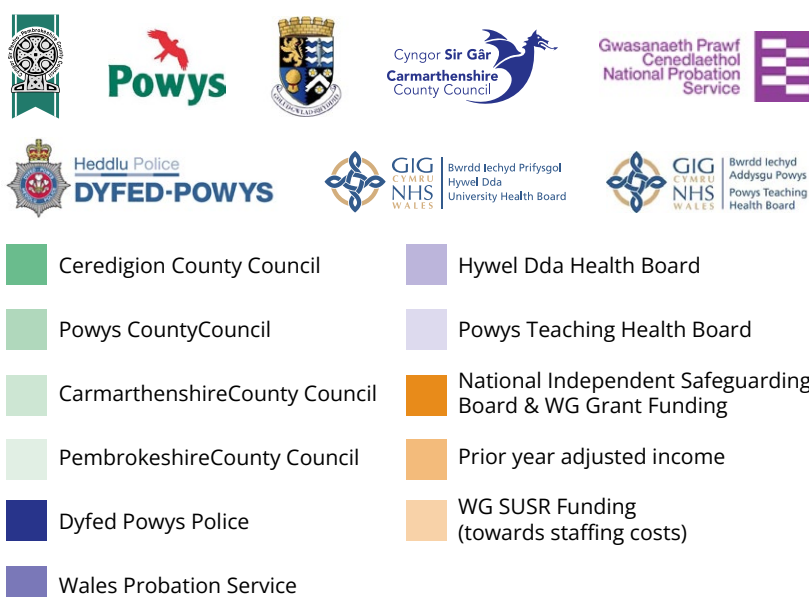
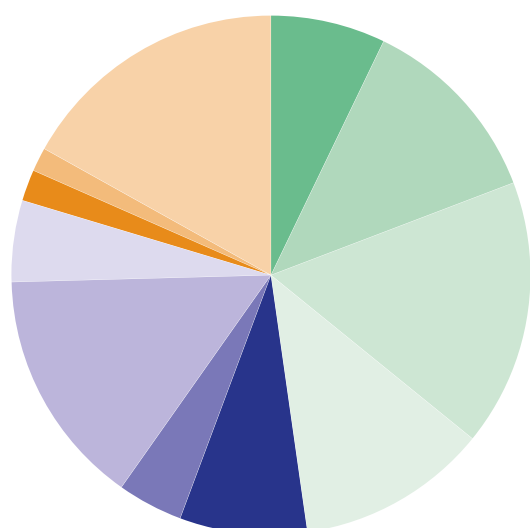
The process, management and publication of SUSRs and Child and Adult Practice Reviews, the delivery of the MAPF programme, the development of regional protocols and policies, as well as projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise are just some examples of Board work.

This is often in addition to their professional roles and day-to-day responsibilities and the Boards remain sincerely grateful for this continued support from colleagues across agencies in the region.

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.

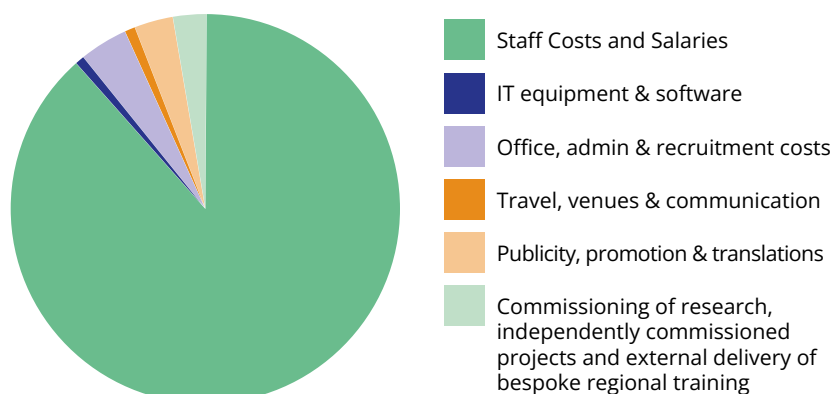
The total income into the Safeguarding Boards this year excluding grant funding was £197,270.

Income 2024 - 2025



The staffing of the Business Unit, who centrally manage and support the Boards' day- functions and programme of work, continues to comprise the majority of the Boards' expenditure, at 88% of total expenditure this year. The commissioning of research, projects and training comprised 3% of expenditure this year, with office, administrative and recruitment costs comprising 4%.

Expenditure 2024 - 2025



Expenditure in respect of publicity, promotion and translation costs remain consistent with the previous year at 3%. Travel, venues and communication once again constituted a marginal portion of expenditure this year, comprising 1% of overall spend and reflecting the increase in use of virtual means to collaborate with partners across the vast geographical area which comprises the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards.



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

Capacity and Demand

The capacity to respond to increasing and complex need, against a backdrop of high demand and lean resources, has continued to be a common feature that has emerged across a number of the Boards' Sub Groups and workstreams this year. Examples that have emerged include reported rising numbers of reports of children and adults at risk, rising numbers of looked after children, increases in the number of professional concerns meetings, rising numbers of Channel Panel meetings, pressures within foster placement capacity and availability and challenges with mental capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) processes.

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Understanding Lived Experience

This year has seen a continued commitment by the Regional Executive Board to ensure understanding the lived experience of children and adults at risk is firmly embedded into Board business, and at the core of discussions and accompanying workstreams and plans. The continuing use of service user case studies at the start of each Executive Board meeting has enriched discussions at a strategic level, ensuring the lived experience of citizens in Mid and West Wales who experience safeguarding services remains at the heart of planning and decision making.

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Corporate Safeguarding

This year, Board reporting and evaluation processes have been updated to ensure a process is in place to provide assurance to the regional Board on corporate safeguarding arrangements at a local agency level, with a focus upon leadership and governance, safe recruitment practice, commissioned services, and training. All agencies have provided assurance that very robust local arrangements are in place to oversee corporate safeguarding arrangements and where necessary, action plans are in place to address any identified issues. Within a local authority context, elected members are actively engaged in internal structures and oversee Corporate Safeguarding Boards. Annual self-assessment processes are in place and arrangements are subject to external scrutiny by Audit Wales.

Many examples of good practice have been provided; Ceredigion, for example, have developed a Quality Assurance and Contract Monitoring Tool using the Signs of Safety Framework, for the quality assurance and contract monitoring of a residential care provision for children. Health Boards report robust internal mechanisms that include clear governance and reporting structures, policies, internal delivery groups and annual assessments in line with the national Safeguarding Maturity Matrix, alongside audits and monitoring via internal risk registers.

Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Practice Development

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards are fortunate to continue to have a strong and committed group of multi-agency senior managers and strategic leads, who have continued to work together collaboratively this year to strengthen and improve safeguarding practice and intervention across the region for adults at risk. The group meets regularly with a focus to establish consistent practice across the four Local Authority areas of Mid and West Wales.

A number of in-person and online workshops have taken place, which have been facilitated by Michelle McManus from Manchester Metropolitan University on behalf of the National Independent Safeguarding Board, who has provided dedicated consultation time to Regional Boards this year. A focus for this year has been on strengthening the process for 126 enquires and to gain a more consistent interpretation of the **Wales Safeguarding Procedures**. It is the view of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board that there are inconsistencies in the wording of the Procedures and [Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 6 - Handling Individual Cases to Protect Adults at Risk](#), which has led to confusion and inconsistent practice. When complete, a regional practice guide will be developed, and it is hoped this may help inform future changes to the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and statutory guidance.

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards have historically benefitted from consistent engagement in the work of the Board at a senior strategic level across the Local Authority footprint area for adult safeguarding work. Changes at a senior level in the last 18 months have resulted in this engagement being less consistent and regular, leaving a noticeable void at a senior strategic level in some parts of the region. This requires attention in the coming year to reestablish the strong partnership working this region has historically benefitted from.



Safeguarding in Education

As highlighted in [section \(e\)](#), safeguarding governance processes have been amended this year at a strategic level to ensure there is senior educational representation at Executive Board level across the whole region, as opposed to this being held by one Director of Education. Reporting mechanisms have been developed this year to ensure annual assessments and returns from Education are more bespoke to Education's structure and governance arrangements, with a focus upon children's voices, partnership and collaboration, training and guidance, and policy and procedure. These processes complement the robust annual 175 audit and report undertaken by the Board annually as part of its quality assurance work as outlined under [section \(b\)](#). Assurance has been provided by three out of the four Local Authorities across the region, as arrangements are in place across these areas with a particular focus on the implementation of the [peer on peer action plan](#) published in January 2024. A variety of processes exist to obtain children's views, including via school surveys and focus groups on safeguarding visits, as well as through the safeguarding fora and links with youth councils.

Powys County Council Education Department have developed an "Eyes On" policy following the publication of the CYSUR 3/2021 Child Practice Review, which supports and enhances schools' responsibilities when children may be absent from school for extended periods of time. The work undertaken in Powys was presented to the Regional Executive Board in July 2024, and this good practice was shared with education departments across the region.

Robust training programmes for staff, including school governors, are reported to be in place across the region. However, some challenges with the delivery of the Group B training requirements as required by the [National Training Standards](#) (a requirement for teachers) have been identified.

Thresholds Risk work

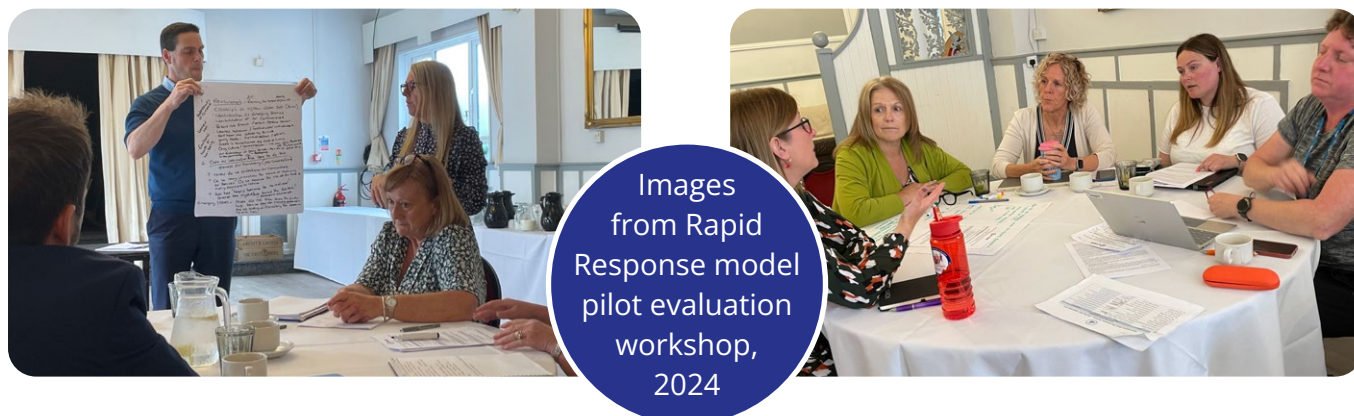
A significant amount of time has been dedicated this year to updating and producing a new threshold document for children. An accompanying training package has been commissioned and developed to support this document, alongside a supplementary package of training to support the quality of multi-agency referral forms (MARFs) from practitioners when they are requesting a statutory service for children who may be in need or at risk of harm. An Understanding Thresholds and Assessing Risk of Significant Harm training package is near completion and a pilot session will be delivered to multi-agency practitioners in the coming months before this is rolled out more widely next year alongside the new Threshold Document.



Images from Threshold Document Development Day in Llandovery, September 2024

Rapid Response Model Pilot

A permanent [Rapid Response Model in respect of Suspected Suicides](#) for children and adults has been fully implemented in the last year. This follows significant planning and work undertaken in previous years and an 18-month pilot of the regionally agreed model. The purpose is to provide targeted, rapid support to family members, peers and the community when incidents of suspected suicide occur. This forms part of the Boards' broader mental health, suicide and self-harm programme of work.



Practice Reviews and MAPFs

A number of Practice Reviews have concluded during the year, alongside an active MAPF programme, which is well embedded and delivered across the region.

Themes that have emerged from these review mechanisms include:

- The need for better information sharing between agencies
- Resourcing and rising and increasing demand on teams and services
- Increasing complexity of need
- Sexual abuse
- Suicide prevention
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Identifying and responding to concerns below the threshold of significant harm
- Coordination of multi-agency involvement and interventions with families
- Disguised compliance

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

Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

Up until the end of March 2025, the CYSUR Board continued to commission Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its regional Junior Safeguarding Board. The service was formally de-commissioned on 31st March 2025, and a new model will be developed in the coming year to support the contribution of children and young people into the work of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board, seeking to capture the voices of a greater number of children and young people across the region.

Following discussion with key partners and regional participation leads, consideration to create a more proportionate model of engagement, that will make best use of existing networks and platforms across the region, is ongoing at the time of writing, and the Boards look forward to progressing this key workstream in the coming year.





Powys Ambassadors of Youth Safeguarding (PAYS) Powys do not currently have a local Junior Safeguarding Group, and are in the process of recruiting to their Children's Services Youth Led Strategy Committee, with the focus being on their service and what is important to their young people. Groups of young people have been brought together in schools (secondary and primary) across Powys, meeting with the Powys Participation Officer. Safeguarding leads are asked to form the group, focusing on children looked after, those on child protection, care and support plans, as well as those receiving support from early help teams and Youth Justice, and third sector support like Adferiad, CAMHS and CREDU. The emphasis is on fun, building trust and learning skills.

A good example of a local initiative developed in Powys is highlighted below.

Youth Café

The Youth Café is an initiative developed by the young people on the Powys Junior Start Well Board (JSWB) to create safe spaces and promote wellbeing for their peers. Recognising a lack of safe places for young people to go after school, the JSWB proposed the development of a youth café. This café aims to provide a secure environment, access to a youth worker if needed, Wi-Fi, and subsidised food to address the current cost of living crisis.

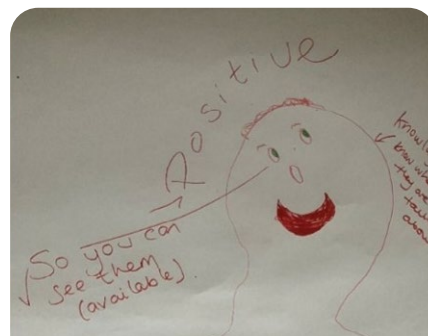
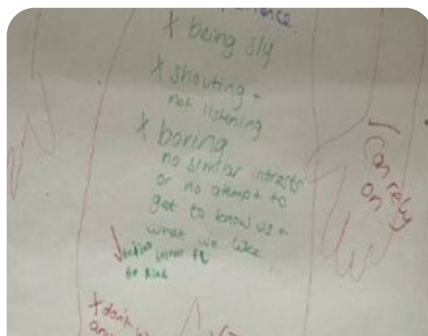
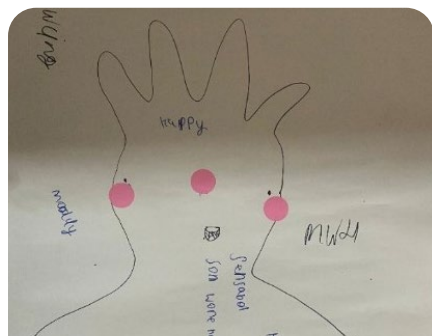
The JSWB conducted research and reached out to existing youth cafés for ideas. Based on their findings, they decided to pilot the youth café in Newtown. Funding was secured to employ a coordinator for six hours per week to conduct consultations and operate the café once a month. The youth café has been running monthly and has attracted a regular group of young people. It offers a variety of activities, including enjoying coffee or milkshakes, having something to eat, socialising with friends, doing homework, playing board games, and participating in arts and crafts.



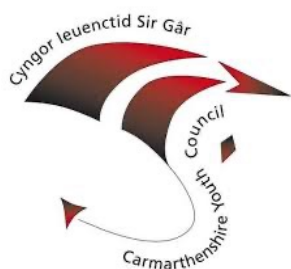
Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' and Ceredigion Youth Service have in recent years experienced membership challenges, following several long-standing members moving on to pastures new after numerous years of dedicated engagement with both the local and regional groups. Ceredigion use an advocacy service to consult with care experienced children and run activities to engage these young people.

The recruitment pool is via the CLA Activities team and through advocates. All of the young people involved have personal experience of safeguarding and have had contact with social services.

The first meeting of the newly formed Safe Stars group was held on the 29th October 2024, with 21 young people attending. 17 were brought by the LAC Activities group, 2 recruited via a visit to the Youth Club in Aberaeron, and 2 through advocacy work. The group enjoyed activities including archery, climbing and an escape room.



Safe Stars group members were asked to think of someone whose job it is to help with problems they might have, thinking about all the good qualities they need to have to be an effective helper, and put them inside the body.



Carmarthenshire Council do not commission a local Junior Board. Instead, 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.



The development of the **Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguards** group has continued into 2024-2025, with work around recruitment and the identity of the group. Throughout this time, they have maintained strong links with a range of services in Pembrokeshire County Council who ensure that children and young people have a voice and influence services who support them.

Over the past year, Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguarding has focused on strengthening its membership and engagement by prioritising recruitment from within the local community. The group have discussed various ways to promote the group and encourage more young people to get involved. The group successfully planned and facilitated their county-wide 'Day of Action' which saw attendance from every school, to provide information on what safeguarding is, consent, health relationships and empowerment. All young people attending on the day were provided with information to bring back to their schools. Building on the momentum of their successful previous conference, the Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians group has used these insights to shape their future work plans.

A key project this year has been designing and planning their new conference aimed at all secondary schools in Pembrokeshire. The upcoming event aims to be inclusive, engaging, and youth-led, with a focus on topics that matter to young people as conveyed in the 'What Matters to You' consultation, which saw over 5,000 young people being consulted with. By giving young people a platform to share their experiences and take part in meaningful dialogue, the group hopes to not only raise awareness about safeguarding but also address any other topics that young people would like to learn about in relation to keeping safe. Work planned for this conference will hopefully inform the work of the group moving forward.

(i) Applications for Adult Protection and Support Orders

There have been no applications for an Adult Protection & Support Order (APSOs) in Mid and West Wales during 2024-25, 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 in Wales and welcomes any observations from Welsh Government as to the likely reasons for this.



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

Website

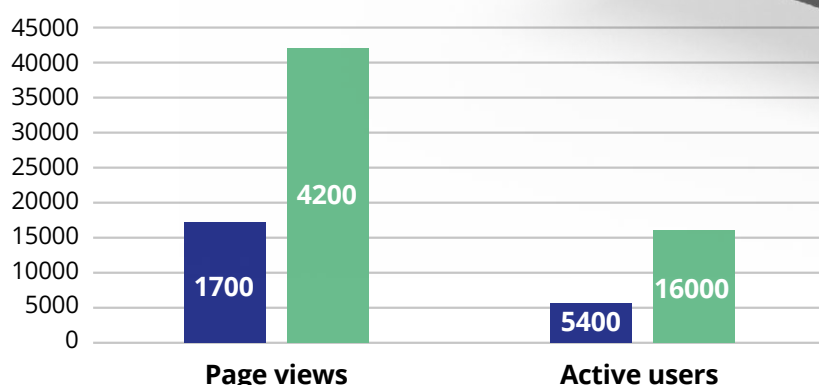
The Boards' website continues to serve as a central hub of valuable information, including guidance on reporting concerns, updates and news regarding new legislation and guidance, and a repository for regional policies, procedures, and Practice Review reports. It is an essential communication tool for the Boards, where key events and developments can be promoted, such as the programme of events in respect of National Safeguarding Week.

Recent development projects and new initiatives implemented by the Boards, including the now well-established newsletter, have facilitated a significant increase in reach in respect of Board news and communications. This is clear from the staggering increase in page views on the CYSUR website, which has soared from 17,000 to 42,000 this year, and the number of active users of the site, which has nearly trebled this year. The Boards are delighted with these outcomes, which evidence an increased audience of practitioners and the general public accessing relevant resources, information and guidance in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk. The website remains subject to continuous development work and updates, which will continue into the coming year.

The resource hub also continues to expand, offering subject-specific resources that support safeguarding.



CYSUR Website Traffic



Page views and active users of CYSUR's website this year, in comparison to 2023-24

2023 - 2024 2024 - 2025

Newsletter

The Board uses its far-and wide-reaching communication channels and networks to promote regional and national safeguarding news through its well-established quarterly newsletter. The distribution list and reach has increased significantly in the last year, and many compliments have been received from agencies and stakeholders in respect of the quality and usefulness of information provided. Please see link to our [newsletter page](#).



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. In addition, the National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Framework provides comprehensive guidelines and standards for safeguarding training, and ensures consistency in the quality and delivery of training across organisations, helping professionals develop the necessary skills and knowledge to protect vulnerable individuals. This regulatory framework continues to support 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 throughout the period. A wealth of safeguarding training has been delivered across Mid and West Wales this year, in face-to-face and virtual formats.



National Safeguarding Week

National Safeguarding Week took place this year from 11th to 15th November 2024, with the theme of “The Right Help at the Right Time”. Under this broad heading, a wide-ranging programme was designed in response to some of the safeguarding themes and issues that have emerged across the Mid and West Wales region in the last year.

Throughout the week, both in-person and online events were held, in the form of conferences and webinars that sought to raise awareness and highlight issues that currently affect children and adults at risk. The regional programme was supported by a local events day on Tuesday 12th November, which included a range of events facilitated by each of our partner agencies.

Regional Conference: Right Help at the Right Time

The flagship event for the week was a Regional Conference titled The Right Help at the Right Time. This in-person event was hosted by Ceredigion Local Authority and held at the Medrus Conference Centre, Aberystwyth University. It included workshops that covered a variety of themes and offered a breadth of engaging content focusing on trauma informed practice using virtual reality, and developing services to meet families’ needs.

Presentations from keynote speakers focused on the themes of early intervention approaches and the Trauma Recovery Model, as well as survivor stories and input from service users. Feedback from practitioners in attendance noted the excellent delivery and facilitation at the conference, which provided a deeper understanding of the impact of neurodiversity and trauma.

Recognition and compliments were offered for the Virtual Reality sessions, which brought practitioners into virtual scenarios with a view to fostering a deeper understanding as to the trauma experienced by children and adults at risk.

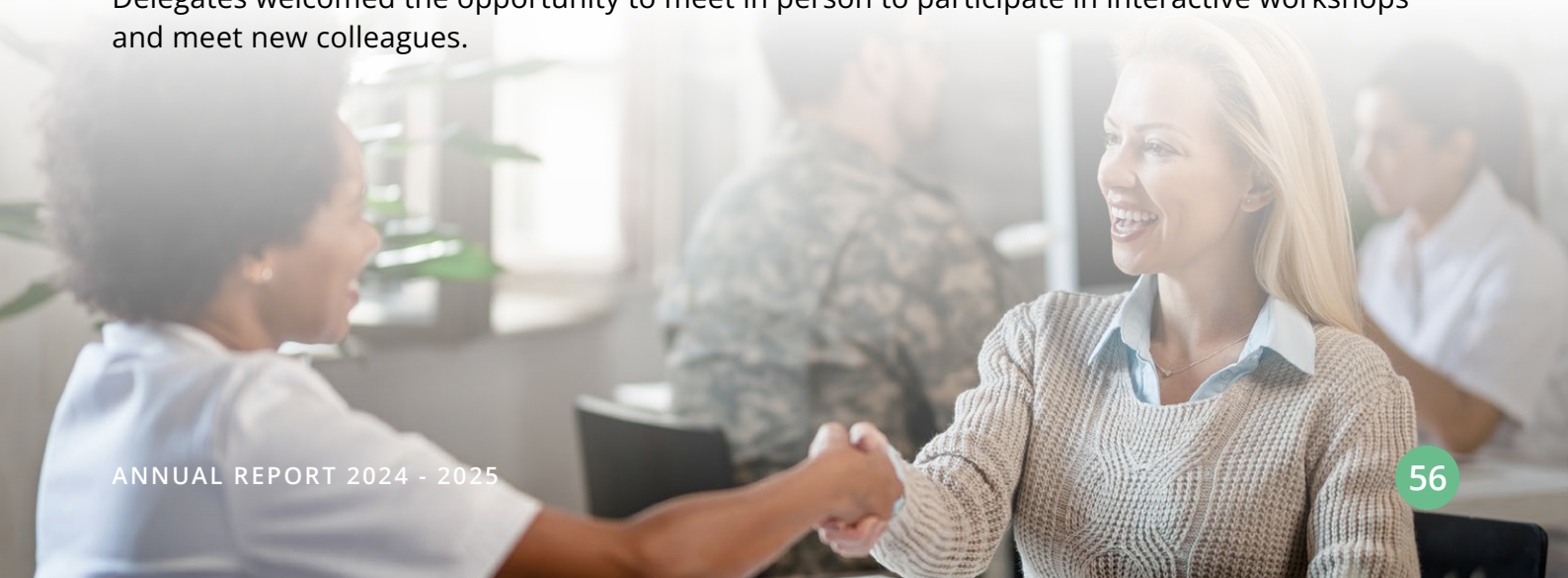
Delegates welcomed the opportunity to meet in person to participate in interactive workshops and meet new colleagues.



Attendee feedback:

*A great day to pause learn
listen reflect and update!*

*Fantastic conference / A
deeper understanding of the
impact of neurodivergence.
The workshops were a good
idea to highlight different
areas of practice – the use of
VR headsets was a brilliant
addition.*





Myth Busting in Information Sharing in Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

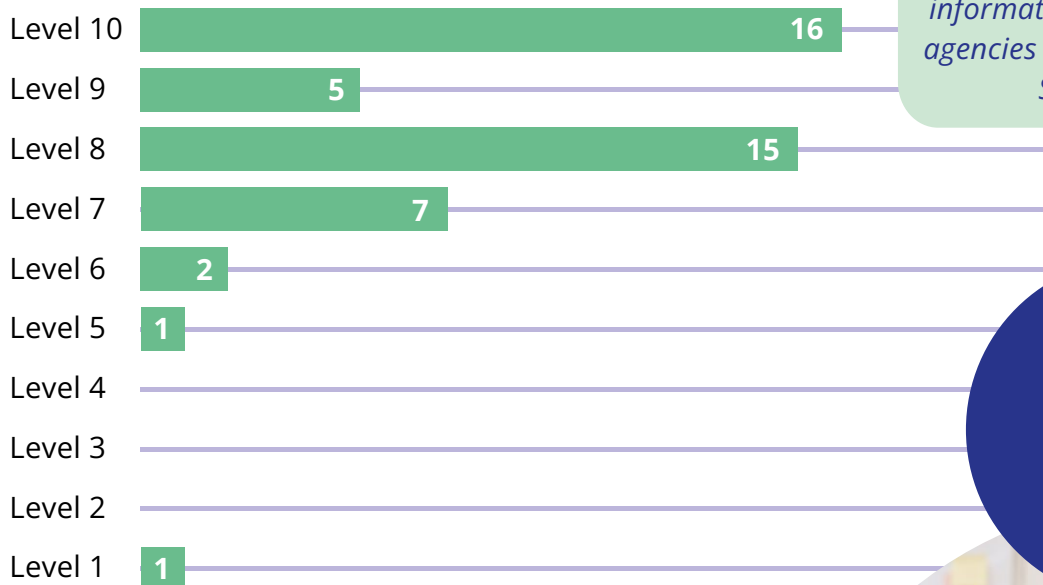
The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board hosted a very successful multi-agency webinar led by specialist safeguarding and data protection lawyer, Dai Durbridge. The session offered engaging training on information sharing with a particular focus on data protection legislation within the content of safeguarding.

The webinar also explored the barriers to information sharing, with a focus on the grey areas where there are worries and emerging concerns. The webinar also focused on some of the myths surrounding consent to share information, highlighting the other legal bases which support proportionate and appropriate information sharing in respect of safeguarding.

A number of related resources were also shared online to support further learning. These offered additional information around Information sharing in relation to safeguarding.

Feedback from the event

Attendees provided positive feedback in respect of the session, scoring an average rating of 8.34 from a possible 10 when asked to what extent what they have learned will influence their practice.



Attendee feedback:

I have a better understanding around consent and who to contact if I am unsure of who I am allowed to share information with, feeling more confident about information sharing.

I now feel more confident about information sharing with other agencies as part of my role as a Social Worker.



Excellent feedback was provided, praising the presenter in particular for the richness of the content and the high levels of interaction with attendees during the session to answer questions arising.





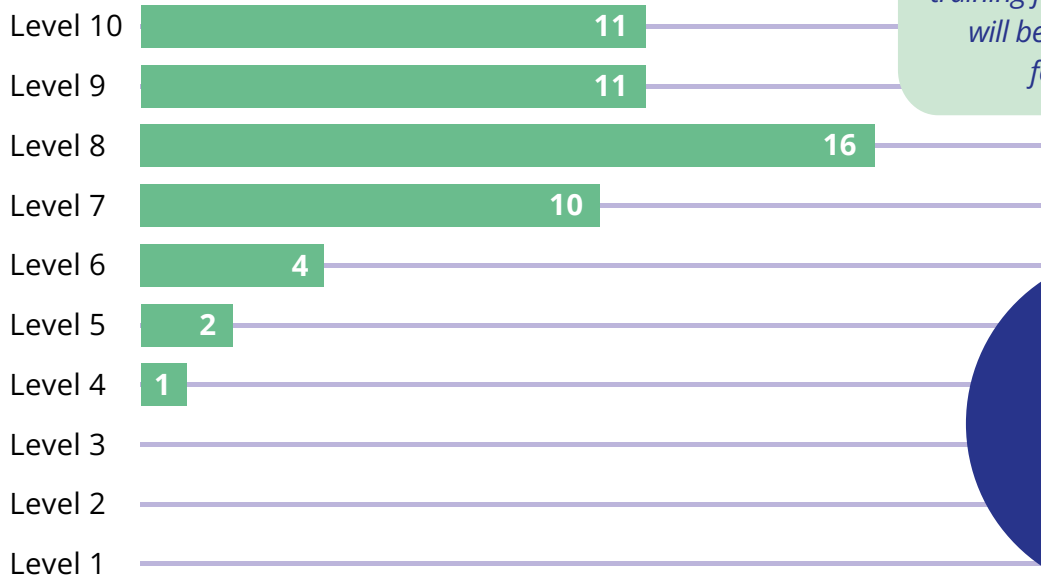
The Right Help at the Right Time for Children, Young People and their Families

This webinar featured guest speaker Paula McCreary and was an information sharing and promotional session which included a preview of the new CYSUR Threshold and Eligibility Support

Document, and the next phase of multi-agency safeguarding training being developed to support practitioners in their roles. The session also considered themes emerging from Professional Curiosity training currently being delivered across Mid and West Wales.

Feedback from the event

When asked to what extent what they have learned will influence their practice, attendees responded as below.



Attendee feedback:

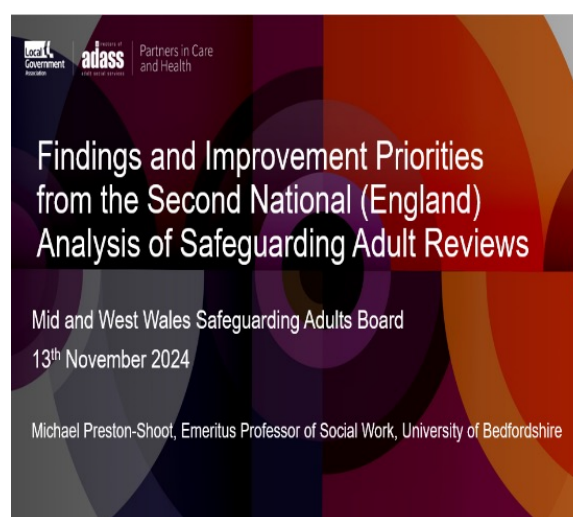
I thoroughly enjoyed this first session of safeguarding week. The training for threshold and MARFs will be extremely beneficial for practitioners.



In feedback, attendees scored an average rating of 8.09 from a possible 10 when asked to what extent what they have learned will influence their practice

Key themes from evaluations highlighted that it was an informative and interactive session which was delivered effectively.





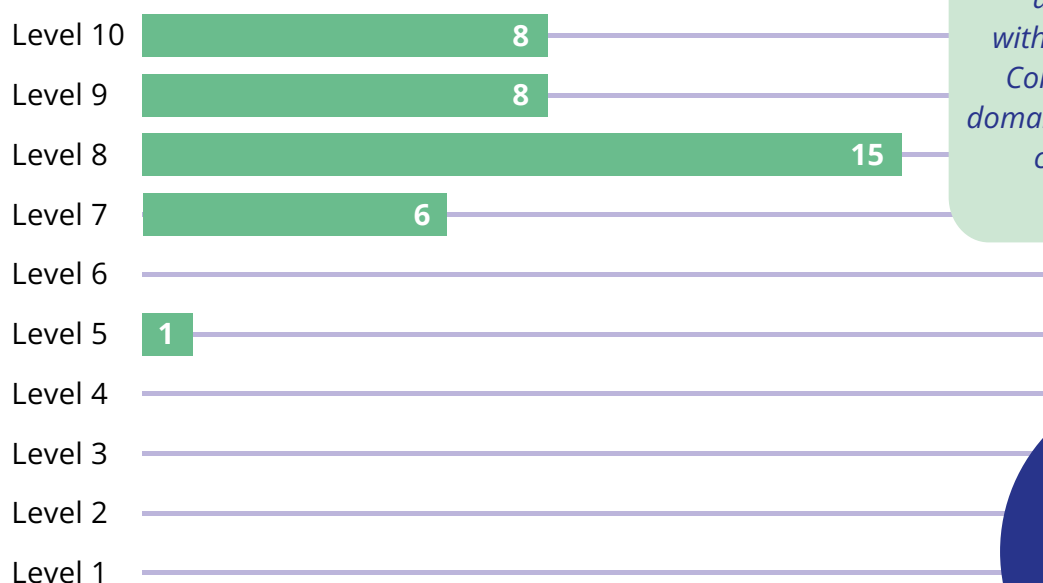
A Thematic Review of Adult Safeguarding Reviews

This regional webinar drew on learning from 652 safeguarding adult reviews in England, identifying learning about the process of commissioning, undertaking and completing reviews. The webinar presented quantitative and qualitative findings about effective safeguarding practice and shortcomings and allowed participants to consider the relevance of the findings of the review, in respect of adult safeguarding practice in Wales. The event was facilitated by Professor Michael Preston-Shoot.

Feedback from the event

Nearing the end of the session we asked attendees, to what extent what you have learned will influence your practice.

Their responses are shown below.



In feedback, attendees scored an average rating of 8.39 from a possible 10 when asked to what extent what they have learned will influence their practice

The webinar was attended by 108 participants from across the region and received positive feedback, with those present noting that the delivery was of a high standard, and that the presenter was very knowledgeable and effective.



Attendee feedback:

It was really informative and so helpful to reflect upon the challenges within adult safeguarding. Compartmentalising the domains to help identify those challenges we come across in practice.



Average
Rating
8.39

Learning together from a thematic review of regional CPRs & MAPFs

Dr Donna Peach & Dr Holly Gordon



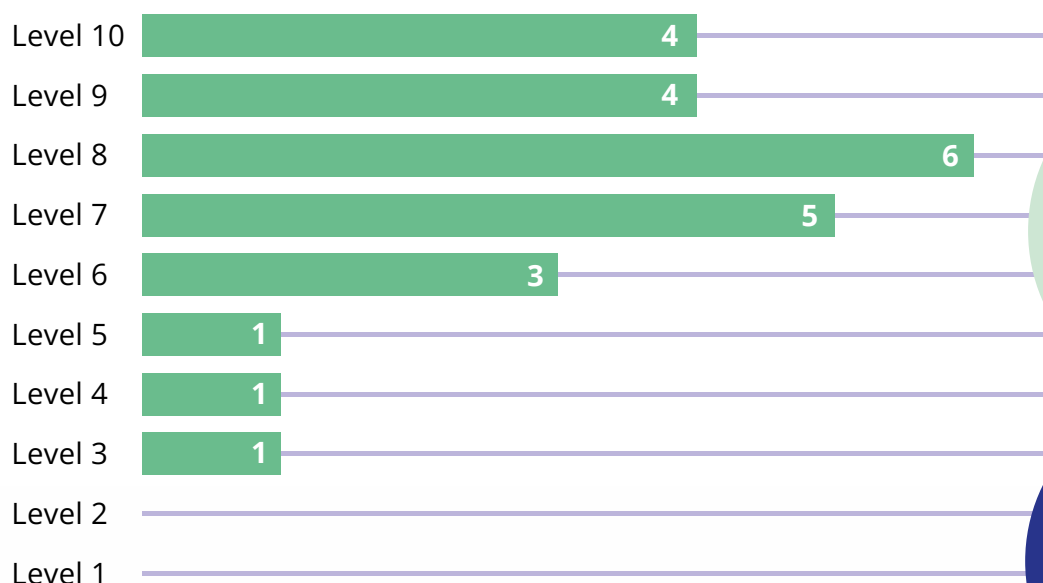
Learning Together from a Thematic Review of Regional CPRs and MAPFs

This event was facilitated by Dr Donna Peach and Dr Holly Gordon. This regional webinar presented participants with key themes and messages from Child Practice Reviews undertaken in Mid and West Wales in recent years.

It also considered key finding from recent national multi-agency inspection reports undertaken in Wales, and considered the implications for multi-agency practitioners and managers in their roles of safeguarding children who may be at risk.

Feedback from the event

Nearing the end of the session we asked attendees to what extent what they have learned will influence their practice. Their responses are shown below.



In feedback, attendees scored an average rating of 7.56 from a possible 10 when asked to what extent what they have learned will influence their practice



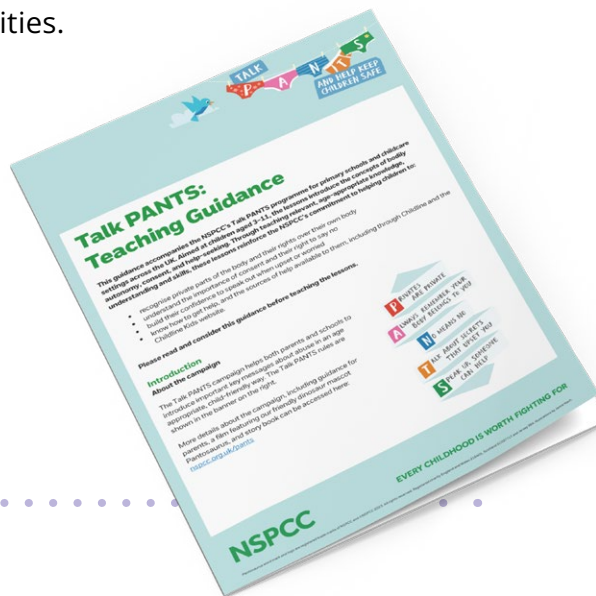
The webinar was attended by 95 participants from across the region and received positive feedback, with those present noting that the delivery was effective, with relevant current information.

Other National Safeguarding Week events

Four additional webinars were offered during the week that were hosted by third party partners, with invitations extended to local authority employees across the Mid and West Wales region.

These included:

- A webinar focussed on **Understanding Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus** was hosted by SHINE Cymru. This event offered an introduction to spina bifida and hydrocephalus with a case study approach to address the theme of the 'right help at the right time'. The session provided an understanding of what spina bifida and hydrocephalus are, and the different ways in which the conditions can impact a child's life and health, and that of the family. The event was linked to and delivered in response to the CYSUR 3/2021 CPR and its findings, published in March 2024.
 - A webinar focussed on **Safeguarding Transgender Young People from Exploitation** was hosted by the Children's Society. This event explored how barriers in society can lead to us failing to protect trans and non-binary young people from exploitation and harm, and what we can do to overcome these in our practice and in our systems. This session also explored the specific risks faced by transgender children and young people.
 - A webinar focussed on the **Listen up, Speak up Workshop** was hosted by NSPCC. This training help attendees understand how to listen and speak up on behalf of children and empowered attendees to support children in their communities.
 - A webinar focussed on the **Talk PANTS campaign** was hosted by NSPCC. This session highlighted the NSPCC's Talk PANTS campaign, which is aimed at education professionals, teachers, early years practitioners and those with caring responsibilities for children aged 3-11, to have simple and age-appropriate conversations that can help them keep children safe from sexual abuse. This session was significantly popular across the region, receiving 230 applications to attend.
-



Online Activity

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards ran an active social media campaign throughout the week, inviting people to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for safeguarding updates and information. Colleagues in partner organisations also shared communications on behalf of the Boards, thus amplifying the messages being shared.

A series of webpages were created to support all events that ran throughout the week, which were utilised for sharing speakers' presentations, training resources, videos and links from the events. These will remain accessible from our [National Safeguarding Week 2024](#) page. It is intended that these pages will continue to be a source of further guidance and support for learning in their respective subject areas.

Training and resources to support learning from Practice Reviews and SUSRs

A significant amount of time and investment has been dedicated to developing a seamless system of promoting and disseminating learning associated with published Child and Adult Practice Reviews. In the last year, dissemination events utilising online platforms have been held in respect of the following published reviews: CWMPAS 5 2018, CWMPAS 5 2019, CYSUR 4 2020-CWMPAS 2 2020, CYSUR 1 2021, CYSUR 3 2021 and CYSUR 6 2021.

Through the Dissemination Event model, virtual presentations and Q&A sessions are facilitated to enable practitioners to hear and discuss the key themes emerging and multi-agency learning arising in respect of recently published reviews. These events have been well attended across the Boards' partner agencies and have received overwhelmingly positive feedback. This well-established model has supported greater dissemination of learning arising from reviews, which helps to ensure the learning identified can reach and inform operational practice beyond the implementation of the review recommendations.

A supplementary library of recordings of these events delivered by the Independent Reviewers and Chairs who undertook these reviews is available on the Boards' [website](#).

In addition to this, a number of bespoke training events have been commissioned and delivered linked directly to recommendations that have emerged from Practice Reviews. In addition to events promoted as part of National Safeguarding Week, this includes training on the prevention of sexual harm, focused on assessing risk and decision-making in family contexts, which was linked directly to the learning identified in published child practice review CYSUR 4 2019. Further training focussing upon Abuse and Trauma within Faith has also been delivered linked to themes identified nationally and within the region.



Regional Training Projects and Delivery

Joint Section 47 Training for Police Officers and Social Workers

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Understanding Thresholds and Assessing Risk of Significant Harm

Further work and resource have been dedicated to the development of a multi-agency training package to support experienced practitioners working with more complex child abuse. This training package, when completed, will complement and run in tandem with the new regional Threshold Document for children under development. A pilot training event will be facilitated in the coming year and full report of the feedback and outcome will be provided as part of next year's annual report.

Training to Support Quality Submission of Multi-Agency Referrals for Children (MARF)

Work is underway to develop a multi-agency training resource to support quality submission of MARFs when a family is deemed in need of a service or a child is at risk of harm. This will complement the Understanding Thresholds and Assessing Risk of Significant Harm training. A resource to support this work is almost complete and will be launched next year.

Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The VAWDASV Regional Training Sub Group consists of all four Local Authorities and both Health Boards, and continues to meet and oversee the Regional Training Plan to deliver Groups 1-3 and 6 of the National Training Framework. The region has committed to a joint delivery plan and reporting framework directly into Welsh Government for national oversight.

Support To Dyfed Powys Police in delivery of Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme (SCAIDIP) training to Police Officers

A comprehensive training package has been developed by regional adult service managers responsible for safeguarding, and is delivered regularly to support the delivery of specialist training to police officers as part of their own mandatory internal training requirements.



Other agency training

In addition to the above regional training commissioned and delivered on a multi-agency basis by the Regional Safeguarding Boards, all agencies have comprehensive safeguarding training plans and programmes delivered on an inter-agency basis.

This year, agencies have focused upon embedding the [National Safeguarding Training Standards](#) with a particular focus on implementing training in respect of Group B, as outlined under [section \(b\)](#). Work is underway to finalise a more robust process to enable the Executive Board to have better high-level oversight of the availability and quality of safeguarding training available to practitioners across the region.



National Safeguarding Week Conference 2024 photos

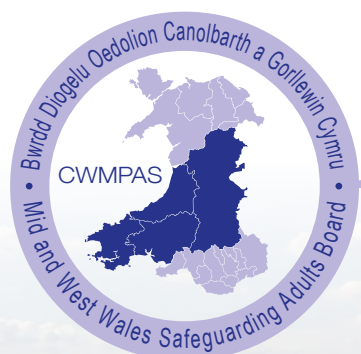




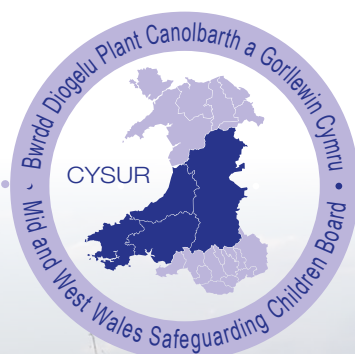
(k) How the Safeguarding Boards have implemented advice from Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Chairs of CYSUR and CWMPAS and the Regional Safeguarding Manager and team 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. The CYSUR Board Chair acts as the Regional Safeguarding Board Chairs representative at regular meetings that take place with Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board.

This year has focused upon the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process and work to support development of a national quality and performance framework across Wales being led by the National Independent Safeguarding Board. Both of these projects have been fully outlined throughout this report.

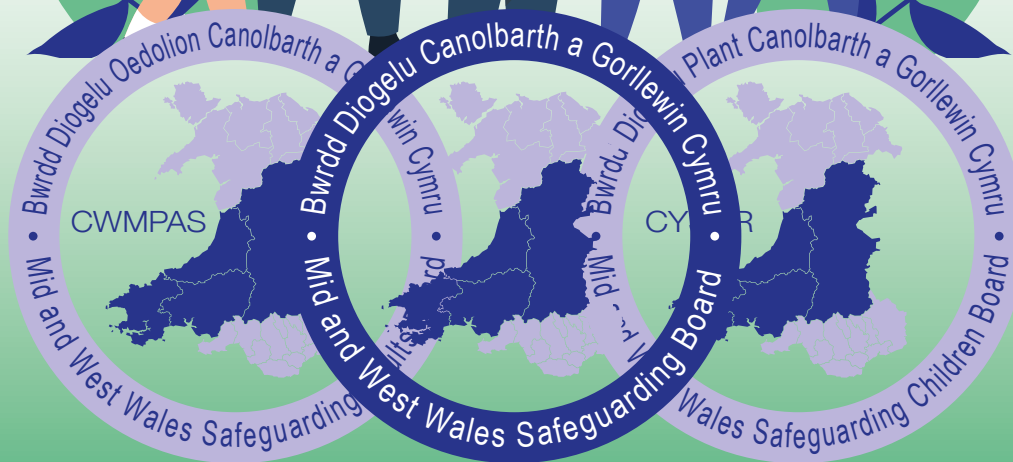


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Glossary

- **APR/CPR** – Adult Practice Review/Child Practice Review
- **MAPF** – Multi-Agency Professional Forum
- **VAWDASV** – Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- **MACE/CSE** – Multi-Agency Child Exploitation/ Child Sexual Exploitation
- **LOG** – Local Operational Group
- **NSGW** – National Safeguarding Week
- **ERW** – Education Regional Working
- **EHE** – Elective Home Education
- **RASSO** – Rape and Serious Sexual Offences
- **FGM** – Female Genital Mutilation
- **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
- **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
- **SUSR** – Single Unified Safeguarding Review
- **IDVA** – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
- **ISVA** – Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
- **NSPCC** – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- **CPD** – Continuing Professional Development
- **MCA** – Mental Capacity Act
- **DASH RIC** – Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour-based Abuse Risk Identification Checklist



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

Produced by the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board

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