

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ac Integreiddio
Social Services and Integration Directorate
Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Department for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

National Action Plan - Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

Update July 2021

- The Plan was published in July 2019 and sets out thirty two actions against ten key objectives that the Welsh Government expects to be implemented <https://gov.wales/preventing-and-responding-child-sexual-abuse-national-action-plan>
- The reporting date for Period 2 in the Plan has been delayed from 31 January to 30 June 2021 as a result of the impact of the pandemic. The Deputy Minister has been asked to consider advice to delay the final reporting date for the Plan for Period 3 from 31 January to 30 June 2022.
- The actions for Period 1 are completed. Work to implement the actions set for the Welsh Government in Period 2 has progressed well; a traffic light system has been applied for ease. Three actions have been delayed as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will work to progress delivery of these actions.
- The Safeguarding Children Boards have also reported on 30 June 2021 and a full report will be available in late July/early August.

Update on Welsh Government actions – January 2021

Periods 1 and 2

	Action completed	10 actions complete
	Action progressing but delayed	2 actions progressing but delayed
	Action delayed.	1 actions delayed and work to be commenced

Actions 2019-2020 –Period 1 (reporting 31 January 2020)

A1 .Develop a public awareness campaign to promote attitudes to CSA that will contribute to the prevention of abuse. - Complete
Stop it Now/The Lucy Faithfull Foundation commissioned and campaign materials and resources issued March 2020 and promoted by the Safeguarding Boards. https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wales/its-time-we-talked-about-it/
A17. Promote resources for schools with information for children on safe ways to speak out about abuse. - Complete
Launched as part of National Safeguarding Week 2019 and via Safeguarding Education Group (all 22 LAs). https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/discovery/resource/4d70707b-5636-466b-b22c-40eccae431be/en?sort=recent&strict=1

A25. Part-fund Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse research: *Exploring the scale of CSA in social care records: Wales File Study* – Complete

Published September 2020 and has 10 recommendations

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/our-research/the-scale-and-nature-of-csa/insights-from-practice/>

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/responding-to-csa-childrens-services-wales-briefing/>

Actions 2020-2021 –Period 2 (reporting 30 June 2021)

A4. Develop poster campaign on unsafe and unhealthy relationships for children and parent/carers Complete.

Commissioned by VAWDASV Division and published in July 2020 and available on the Hwb:

[Welsh](#) [English](#)

A7. Develop resources to support parents/carers from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities, parent/carers with disabled children and parent/carers with LGBT+ children and practitioners to understand CSA and how they can help to keep children safe.- Complete

In 2018/2019 we commissioned Stop it Now Cymru/The Lucy Faithfull Foundation to run a campaign to prevent child sexual abuse, identify child sexual abuse and provide information on to parent/carer and to practitioners on how to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse. <https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wales/what-we-all-need-to-know/>

This included information for [parent/carers](#) and for [practitioners](#).

We commissioned [EYST](#), [Stonewall Cymru](#), and [Learning Disability Wales](#) to work with Stop it Now Cymru/The Lucy Faithfull Foundation to adapt and develop these resources to meet the needs of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority, LGBT+ and learning disabled children and parent/carers. Information is available in English, Welsh and an additional 12 languages These resources were published in June 2021. [Publications and resources - Stop It Now](#)

A10. Develop non-statutory practice guidance to support those working in education settings, in managing cases of peer-on-peer abuse within the education settings. The guidance will provide advice on ensuring that where there are concerns around HSB children can continue to receive an education in way, which is safe for them and for other learners- Complete

Guidance for education settings on peer sexual abuse, exploitation and harmful sexual behaviour -To be read in conjunction with the All Wales Practice Guide on Safeguarding Children where there are concerns about Harmful Sexual Behaviour and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, was published in October 2020. This work was commissioned by Education Division from the NSPCC and Barnardo's Cymru.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/guidance-for-education-settings-on-peer-sexual-abuse-exploitation-and-harmful-sexual-behaviour.pdf>

A11. Develop information resources for practitioners and for parent/carers on CSE and HSB. Complete.

Barnardo's Cymru were commissioned to develop an online learning session on HSB, a guide for practitioners and information for parent/carers. These were published in June 2021.

[Resources to help identify and engage young people at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

Dr Sophie Hallett, Cardiff University was commissioned to develop online learning sessions and resources on safeguarding young people from CSE and related safeguarding issues such as CCE, trafficking and going missing. These were published on 1 July.

[Check Your Thinking – Resources to support safeguarding practice with young people, for use by all those working with and caring for young people.](#)

A14. Develop an exemplar corporate safeguarding policy in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) for consideration by Safeguarding Board Partners. Delayed and not completed in Period 2.

This work was delayed because of the considerable pressure on the WLGA and on local authorities as a result of the pandemic response. Work will be prioritised to take this forward.

A19. Develop resources for children on what will happen if they tell an adult they are being abused- Complete.

The Welsh Government commissioned the NSPCC/Childline to develop information for children and young people to support disclosure and let them know what will happen if they tell an adult they have been/are being abused. These were published on the Childline site on 7 September 2020.

Under 12s Welsh - [here](#)
Under 12s English – [here](#)

Over 12s Welsh - [here](#)
Over 12s English - [here](#)

They are also available on the Hwb <https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/support-services/confidential-support/>

Dr Sophie Hallett, Cardiff University was commissioned to develop a short animation is designed for young people <https://youtu.be/xOiq3lhl-sE> . The animation is based on the [research messages](#) from young people, and from carers and practitioners too. It was developed in partnership with young people from Voices from Care. The words you see and hear are theirs.

[Easy Read - Keeping children safe from sexual exploitation](#)

[Youth Friendly- Keeping children safe from child sexual-](#)

[exploitation](#)

A21. Develop resources for non-abusing parent/carers on the process related to the investigation of CSA, CSE and HSB on the best ways to support children and on sources of help and support for non-abusing parent/carers. Complete.

Stop it Now Cymru/The Lucy Faithfull Foundation were commissioned to develop this resource and it was launched in February 2021.

<https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wales/working-with-parents-and-carers/child-sexual-abuse-investigations-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

A27. Support the development of a national Service Specification for Sexual Assault Referral Centre services in Wales with the NHS Wales Health Collaborative taking into consideration a range of child-centred practice models.

The pandemic has impacted on the development of this work. However, a Sexual Assault Referral Services Programme of work has recently been taken back into the NHS Collaborative for oversight and leadership from Cardiff and Vale UHB. The new model will be staged in three phases: phase 1 focuses on the implementation of the SARC hubs for children and adults, establishment of the Operational Delivery Network and commissioning roles, and has been approved (including funding). Further work will be required on phase 2 (spokes) and phase 3 (forensic medical examiner provision).

Since decisions on the new model were agreed in 2019, new standards for forensic medical examination have been published and, whilst these require staged implementation between October 2020 and 2023, there is a major milestone to be met by January 2022 at the very latest for all SARC buildings to meet the requirements.

ISO accreditation standards are currently being worked towards and have to be met by October 2023 with next major milestone being a requirement for all SARC buildings to meet standards by January 2022. An interim solution is planned for the Cardiff and Aberystwyth SARCS as the new builds will not be completed within timescales.

Connections have been made Trauma Stress Wales (TSW) which aims is to use evidence based treatments to help reduce impact of traumatic events. Consideration will be given to the evaluation of the Child House Model and how this could inform our approach in Wales.

A30. Promote evidence and learning from the Welsh Government funded Gwella project – Complete (but will continue).

A successful Gwella Digital Conference 2020 was held on 15 October with over 600 delegates registering for the online event. The presentations and workshops from the day are available on demand once you register at the site. Resources are also available.

<https://www.barnardoscymruhub.org.uk/on-demand-presentations>

<https://www.barnardoscymruhub.org.uk/workshops-home>

<https://www.barnardoscymruhub.org.uk/resources> (English)

<https://www.barnardoscymruhub.org.uk/resources> (Welsh)

A32. Develop age appropriate resources for children coming up to the age of 18 years on accessing support as adult survivors of abuse. Delayed.

This work has been initiated, working with VAWDASV and will hope to publish September 2021 at latest.