



# **West Glamorgan Safeguarding Boards**

## **Annual Report**

**2020 – 2021**

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## Foreword & Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Report for the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board.

This annual report presents an overview of the work the Board has undertaken over the last 12 months as part of our annual plan.

2020 – 2021 was a very unusual year with the United Kingdom entering into a National lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were unsure how this would affect the way we function as a Board during these uncertain times but the commitment from our partner's has meant Safeguarding remained our priority, and essential services continued to operate to support the most vulnerable in our region.

We would like to thank the members of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board for their engagement during the last year. We are still in unprecedented times and 2021-22 won't see the end of this crisis but with continued commitment we are confident that we will continue to meet our Board priorities.

### Andrew Jarrett

Director of Social Services  
NPT Council



### David Howes

Director of Social Services  
Swansea Council



### Mark Brier

Superintendent South  
Wales Police

## About the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board

The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB) was established to promote, inform and support multi agency safeguarding for Children and Adults across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

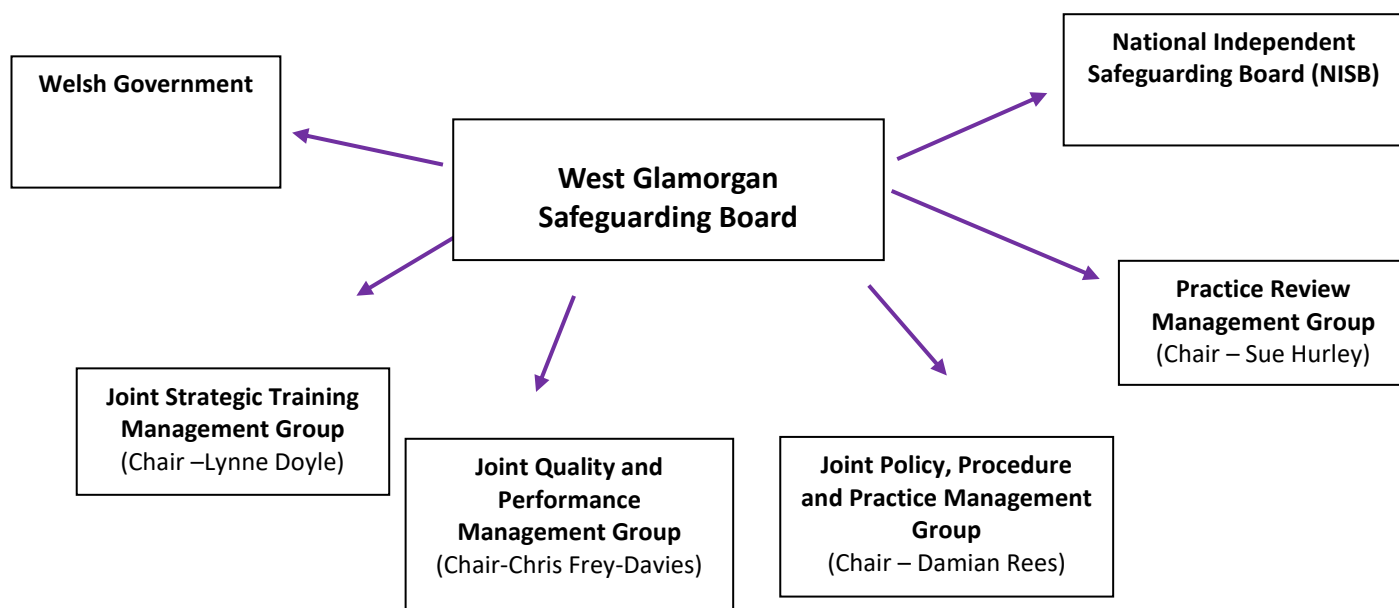
We are the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children and Adults living in the region.

The WGSB is a multi-agency forum which brings together representatives of each of the main agencies and professionals who are responsible for helping to protect Children and Adults from abuse and neglect.

The WGSB is responsible for agreeing on how the different services and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard children and Adults, and for making sure that arrangements work effectively in bringing about better outcomes for Children and Adults in West Glamorgan.



### Organisational Chart



## Membership

### Regional Safeguarding Children Board Membership during 2020-21

NAME	POSITION
<b>Chair</b>	
Andrew Jarrett	Director of Social Services Neath Port Talbot CBC
Trudi Meyrick / Mark Brier	South Wales Police
<b>Local Authority</b>	
David Howes	Director of Social Services Swansea Council & Chair of Adult's Board
Aled Evans	Director of Education Neath Port Talbot CBC
Keri Warren	Head of Children's Services Neath Port Talbot CBC
Helen Morgan-Rees	Director of Education Swansea Council
Julie Thomas /Julie Davies	Head of Child and Family Services Swansea Council
Kate Phillips	Head of Achievement and Partnership Swansea Council
Chris Frey-Davies	Principal Officer Safeguarding Adult & Child Services & Quality Assurance Neath Port Talbot CBC
Damian Rees	Principal Officer for Safeguarding and Performance Quality Swansea Council
Chris Millis	Head of Participation Education Neath Port Talbot CBC
Lynne Doyle	Learning, Training & Development Manager Neath Port Talbot CBC
<b>Swansea Bay University Health Board</b>	
Cathy Dowling	Assistant Nurse Director Nursing & Patient Experience
Nicola Edwards	Head of Nursing Safeguarding
<b>Public Health Wales</b>	
Ian Smith	Named professional Safeguarding Children
Debbie Pachu	Designated Nurse/Midwife – National Safeguarding Team
<b>South Wales Police</b>	
Sue Hurley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner</b>	
Siriol Burford	Police and Crime Commissioner
<b>Probation Service</b>	
Deanne Martin	Assistant Chief Officer, Head of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot
<b>Early Intervention &amp; Youth Justice Service</b>	
Alison Davies	Principal Officer EIYJS Neath Port Talbot CBC
Jay McCabe	Principal Officer Bays+ & YJS Swansea CC
<b>Secure Estates</b>	
Karen Wedmore	Manager Hillside Secure Unit
<b>Welsh Ambulance Service Trust</b>	
Wendy Herbert	Assistant Director of quality and nursing
<b>Third Sector</b>	
Clare Hopkins	Volunteer Services Manager - SCVS

## Regional Safeguarding Adult Board Membership during 2020-21

NAME	POSITION
<b>Chair</b>	
David Howes	Director of Social Services Swansea CC
Cathy Dowling	Assistant Nurse Director Nursing & Patient Experience SBUHB
<b>Local Authority</b>	
Andrew Jarrett	Director of Social Services Neath Port Talbot CBC & Chair of Children's Board
Angela Thomas	Head of Adult Services Neath Port Talbot CBC
Amy Hawkins	Head of Adult Services Swansea CC
Lynne Doyle	Learning, Training & Development Manager Neath Port Talbot CBC
Chris Frey-Davies	Principal Officer Safeguarding Adult & Child Services & Quality Assurance Neath Port Talbot CBC
<b>Swansea Bay University Health Board</b>	
Nicola Edwards	Head of Nursing Safeguarding
<b>Public Health Wales</b>	
Dr Lorna Price	Designated Doctor
Debbie Pachu	Designated Nurse/Midwife – National Safeguarding Team
<b>South Wales Police</b>	
Sue Hurley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager
Beth Aynsley / John Lane	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager
<b>Probation Service</b>	
Deanne Martin	Assistant Chief Officer, Head of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot
<b>Third Sector</b>	
Danielle Lock	Volunteer Services Manager - SCVS
<b>Prison Service</b>	
Rob Denman	Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
<b>Wales Ambulance Service Trust</b>	
Rhiannon Thomas	Senior Professional Safeguarding Children and Adults
<b>Care Home Providers</b>	
Dianne Purnell	Home Mangers/RI/Providers
Jaqueline Orrells	Home Mangers/RI/Providers
Chris Rees	Home Mangers/RI/Providers
Christian Heinrich	Home Mangers/RI/Providers
Inti Zirga	Home Mangers/RI/Providers

## **Actions taken to achieve our outcomes**

The Board uses a programme management approach to achieve the outcomes set out in their business plan. The Board acts as a representative group at strategic level holding overarching responsibility for safeguarding within their organisations and across the regional partnership. In order to achieve the outcomes required the Board developed a structure to ensure it is best placed to fulfil its requirements. The Boards and their management groups have terms of reference which are reviewed annually to ensure they are fit for purpose and aligned with legislation. The Chairs of the Boards also hold the statutory director roles in one of the local authorities within the Board area. All Board members have a role profile which they are required to sign at the point of induction so as to ensure they understand their agency's commitment to the work of the Board.

The WGSB operate joint management group meetings – The Board has a Policy Procedure Practice Management Group (PPPMG) and a Quality Performance and Monitoring Management Group (QPMG). There is a Joint Training Management Group (JTMG) and a Joint Practice Review Management Group (PRMG). The PRMG This group ensures a consistent and timely approach to practice review referrals, identifying reviewers, panel members and Chairs. The group operates on behalf of both boards to fulfil Board functions and has a quality assurance role in scrutinising practice review reports and action plans to ensure smooth sign off, completion and publication. Agencies represented on the Board take lead responsibilities by chairing management groups which encompass chairs from local authority, health board and police.

The Boards have a joint business plan where overarching desired outcomes are set alongside what action is required to achieve the outcomes. Each of the identified actions are allocated to either one of the Management Groups or to an individual who are then held to account via a monitoring process. This strategic plan is then broken down into individual management group work plans which are reviewed at each meeting, milestones checked and achieved and risks/issues and achievements reported to Board meetings using status report templates.

Due to the pandemic it was recognised that the Board needed to take a pragmatic approach because it was identified that it may not be able to set priorities as it has done in previous years. As a consequence, it was agreed to take a covid-related approach.

## Safeguarding Priority Outcomes 2020/21

Safeguarding Priority: To ensure a robust, resilient and consistent approach to safeguarding practice during the Covid 19 pandemic			
Priority Area/Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators?	Respective Subgroup
<p>To develop a clear picture of the impact Covid 19 is having across the Region i.e. For individuals, communities, the work force and partner agencies.</p> <p>To oversee and review the efficacy of measures taken by agencies as they realign governance, processes and practice to respond to Covid 19.</p>	A clear picture of the spread and impact Covid 19 is having across the region.	A suite of data to allow the virus to be tracked across the region to inform response and to pre-empt safeguarding issues arising i.e. an increase in unsafe hospital discharge, care home pressures etc.	QPMG
		A suite of data to ensure changes to practice are monitored, understood and responded to by the Board i.e. Work force capacity issues across a range of agencies: domiciliary care, social care, care homes; Rapid discharge, unsafe discharge; trends in reports of Domestic Abuse, Financial abuse, Mental Health, Substance misuse etc.	QPMG
<p>To ensure the response to Covid 19, across the region, is measured, legal and consistent and that safeguarding remains the golden thread.</p>	A clear message to the public, communities, professionals and partner agencies that safeguarding at these times remains a priority.	Ensure our communities reduce the spread of the virus through supporting and encouraging self-isolation, social distancing and updating public and staff when guidance changes	Communication & Engagement subgroup
		The Safeguarding Board will ensure factual information from Public Health Wales, Welsh Government and others is distributed to keep the regional population – citizens and workforce - well informed, whilst seeking to reduce the risk of abuse i.e. online abuse and individuals being scammed/abused i.e. financial etc.	Communication & Engagement Subgroup



		The Safeguarding Board to encourage reviewing and developing use of technology to safeguard both staff and communities to ensure safeguarding messages are cascaded in an effective manner	Business Unit and Communication & Engagement Subgroup
		Develop training resources and online information for volunteers and all staff working at this time	JSTG
		To coordinate training on safeguarding, emergency medication and manual handling training for social workers and other appropriate employees who can be re-deployed to support home care with direct care calls	JSTG
		Develop and review regional policy, procedures and guidance on how services will continue to operate during the pandemic. This document will be circulated to all Safeguarding Board partners	PPPMG
		To provide a forum to support multi agency partners for the duration of these unprecedented times	Safeguarding Board Meetings
		To continue to collate, effectively record and retain new referrals for both Adult / Child Practice Reviews and PRUDiC's in accordance with the guidance for discussion, scrutiny, transparency and decision making once members of the PRMG can resume and progress in an effective manner without interference with the current priorities for all agencies	Business unit and PRMG
		To undertake rapid reviews, providing there are representatives from all agencies available, under the existing MAPF guidance for the purpose of early learning, in respect of abuse and neglect arising over the course of the pandemic and which would need to be acted upon. N.B. All current CPR and APR will be placed on hold	Business unit and PRMG
		Junior Safeguarding Board to ascertain, for example, via an online survey, how children and young people are managing at home.	JSB/QPMG

		To link in with regional groups (VAWDASV, CSP, APB etc.), including those set up across the region to respond to the pandemic i.e. Gold, Silver, Bronze, thus keeping the Board abreast of developments and assurances in respect of safeguarding per se.	Safeguarding Board members
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## **How have we made a difference?**

### **Quality Performance Management Group (QPMG)**

The Quality Performance management Group (QPMG) monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB) and local organisations, individually and collectively, in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults.

Over the course of 2020/2021 the primary focus of the group was 'To ensure a robust, resilient and consistent approach to safeguarding practice during the Covid 19 pandemic' across the region. We achieved this by working together to develop a clear picture of the impact Covid 19 had across the Region i.e. For individuals, communities, the work force and partner agencies and by overseeing and reviewing the efficacy of measures taken by agencies as they realigned governance, processes and practice to respond to Covid 19.

#### **What did we do?**

1. The group has reviewed how partner agencies have ensured safeguarding remained a priority during the pandemic.
2. The data dashboard has been used to track safeguarding activity over the past year across Children's Services and Adult Services (Care Homes), with the inclusion of a new data set to better understand Suicide across the region.
3. Relationships across the partnerships (Safeguarding, CSP, VAWDASV, APB, PREVENT) have been strengthened following the revision of partnership reporting mechanisms.
4. The group has overseen the National Child Sexual Abuse Action Plan.
5. The group has begun a programme of work, with partner agencies, to review how the Wales Safeguarding Procedures have been embedded.
6. The group has and will continue to seek assurances from all agencies in respect to recommendations made by Practice Reviews and Multi-Agency Professional Forums.
7. A task and finish group was set to prepare the region for the introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards in March 2022.
8. Themes identified via the audit programme, specifically in respect of exploitation, have been progressed to the Policy Procedure & Practice Management Group to ensure a consistent response to harm outside the family home is developed across the region.

#### **What did we find?**

At the outset of the pandemic we found it difficult to track the virus across the region to support decision-making and planning. This was largely due to data-sets being under-developed. To counter this the group received regular feedback and observations from across the partnership to consider what this meant for safeguarding.

As data-sets matured the group was supported by the National Welsh Informatics System (NWIS) to track the virus across the region and by the second wave of the virus the data in respect of local COVID hotspots was in the public domain.

The group worked closely with the Regional Response to COVID and was provided assurances in respect of: the use of DNACPRs across the Region; how Care homes managed the challenges; and the regional response to emotional wellbeing and mental health. We also tracked suicides across the region, through the Rapid Response Suicide Group in a bid to reduce wider associate(s) and community risk(s) and to better understand patterns, trends and themes from these tragic events.

Our own data dashboard proved useful for tracking Children and Adult Social Services activity but fell short of providing any further data from across the partnership. This is an area that remains the subject of ongoing work and revision by the group. It should be noted that the issue is the dashboard per se. and not an unwillingness to share information across the partnership. What the dashboard exposes is that we have multiple complex silo data sets across the partnership that need further interrogation to join-up and extract useful data.

The pandemic focused the partnership and there was excellent communication and collaboration across the partnership to respond to concerns in what was uncharted waters.

The Boards audit programme continued through the pandemic but this was impacted by the demands placed on partners over the course of the pandemic.

### **What do we need to do?**

As per the previous annual report, the future focus will be on establishing the performance framework and data dashboard.

The set work programme developed for the group has been pushed back due to COVID and the primary focus of this work is to ensure the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (WSP) are embedded. It has been agreed that joint, multi-agency audits be undertaken against the WSP (child and adult) to look at:

- Strategy discussions/meetings (Completed)
- Enquiries (S47/S126) (Underway)
- Case Conferences

Other audits will include:

- Duty to report (Integrated report/referral)
- Professional Abuse Process
- Other – to be determined against the forthcoming Priorities for 20/21 and matters arising over 20/21.

## Policy Procedure & Practice Management Group (PPPMG)

The Policy, Procedure and Practice Management Group (PPPMG) has a key role in achieving the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board's (WGSB) overall objectives and functions which are:

*'Ensuring that effective policies and working practices are in place to protect children and Adults and that they are properly coordinated remains a key role for Safeguarding Boards. Only when these are in place should Boards look to their wider remit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and Adults.'*

The aim of WGSB Policy, Procedure & Practice Management group is to -

- Coordinate and ensure the effective development of multi-agency Policy, Procedure and Practice documents (PPP) for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and Adults in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot local authority areas.
- Receive, review and facilitate consultation of All Wales and Regional forums PPPs developed for the purpose of safeguarding children
- Develop and maintain a shared library function for all WGSB ratified documents.

## Review of progress against the annual plan 2020/21

Safeguarding Priority – To ensure the response to Covid-19, across the region is measured, legal and consistent and that safeguarding remains the golden thread.

The PPPMG's main focus during this year was to develop and review regional policy, procedures and guidance on how services would continue to operate during the pandemic. The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Guidance during COVID 19 was created and circulated to all Safeguarding Board partners. A link to the document can be found here:

<http://www.wgsb.wales/media/13461/safeguarding-guidance-during-covid-19-as-of-the-8th-april-2020.pdf?v=20201027153014>

## Wales Safeguarding Procedures

The PPPMG have continued to focus on reviewing their policies to ensure they are in line with the new procedures, and have sought assurance from partner agencies that they have done the same. The PPPMG worked alongside the Joint Strategic Training Group to identify any gaps in policies and procedures that were needed to support the training in line with the new procedures. Education representatives within the group also linked with schools to ensure child protection policies also reflected the new procedures. The Group also supported a launch of the procedures which was held in January 2020.

## West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board Local Policies and Procedures

In 2020/21 The PPPMG developed and reviewed 7 separate policy documents.

**Unexpected Death of a Child** – While PRUDiC remains the Procedural Response for unexpected deaths, this process will ensure that wider reaching welfare considerations and impacts are given alongside those identified in the PRUDiC process

**Rapid Discharge Protocol** – In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, new governance arrangements have been put in place on a temporary basis to allow the regional partners to work together in responding effectively to the challenges faced by our regional health and social care sectors during this time of unprecedented demand

**Regional Care Home Protocol** - In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, new governance arrangements have been put in place on a temporary basis to allow the regional partners to work together in responding effectively to the challenges faced by our regional health and social care sectors during this time of unprecedented demand

**Childhood Obesity** – This guidance aims to provide a framework for people working with children and families to help them with the different considerations about whether a child's obesity is also a child protection concern

**Adult Self Neglect Protocol** – The purpose of this protocol is to aim to prevent serious harm or death of a person where self-neglect has been identified. It will provide guidance to a range of professionals to enable them to recognise self-neglect and encourage multi-agency working and practice

**Protocol for the management of complaints relating to child protection conferences** – This document will ensure compliance with safeguarding procedures in respect of challenge and complaints made in respect of child protection registration and child protection processes

**Information Sharing Protocol** – The protocol will provide staff from partner organisations with confidence to share relevant information where the purpose is to safeguard children, young people and adults

## **Practice Review Management Group (PRMG)**

Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the provisions for Safeguarding Adults and Children for all partner agencies. Volumes 2 & 3 clearly sets out the statutory guidance which requires Safeguarding Boards to undertake Child Practice Reviews and Adult Practice Reviews as identified. The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board's Practice Review Management Group (PRMG) has a key role in achieving these functions of learning, reviewing and improving safeguarding practice. The Practice Review Management Group is the platform from which these reviews will be undertaken on behalf of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Children Board and the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Adults Board.

The PRMG has an appointed chair and co-chair and engagement across all agencies remains high.

Decision making and monitoring of referrals and reviews is well embedded into the PRMG. This process is now consistent across Child and Adult Practice Reviews. The group continue to meet bi-monthly as a joint management group and challenge is welcomed as part of expected practice to

ensure that any decision making will stand scrutiny. We encourage a learning culture and even when a referral does not meet the criteria for a specific review either a MAPF or a single agency review will be considered and the group updated accordingly with the learning.

The pandemic caused a need to change the way we managed Practice Reviews and learning events moved to a virtual platform via Microsoft Teams.

All reviews continue to be presented to Board with a report, action plan and seven minute briefing. The seven minute briefing has proved an effective tool for cascading the learning from reviews.

The group has strengthened the links between the other subgroups of the safeguarding board to ensure robust and efficient monitoring of the action plans falling out of the recommendations in the commissioned reviews.

During this time with the assistance of the Joint Strategic Training Management Group we delivered two Learning events to cascade the identified learning and good practice from 3 child practice reviews. These learning events were attended by representatives from all statutory agencies as well as third sector partner agencies throughout the Safeguarding Board area. Could you rephrase The learning events were facilitated by either the reviewer(s) or chair of each review’.

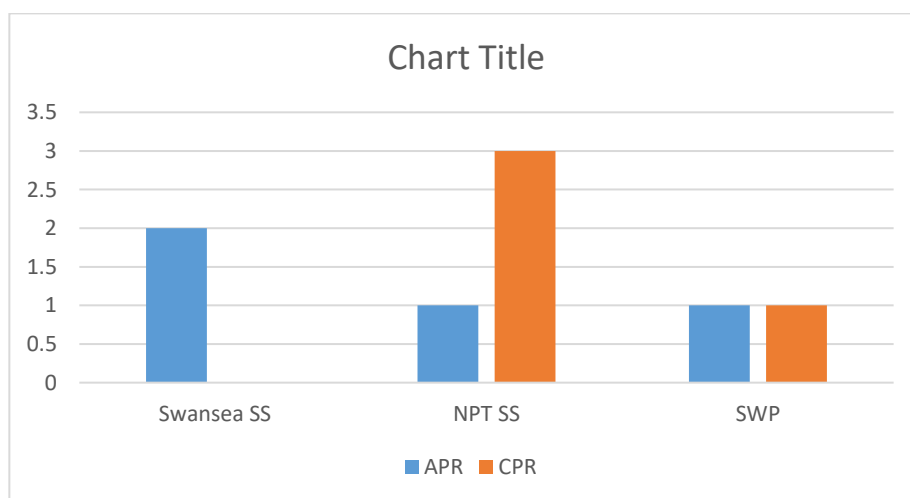
During 2020-21 the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board PRMG received:-

4 Child Practice Review Referrals – 1 progressed into a concise CPR, 1 extended, 1 Multi Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) and 1 didn’t meet the criteria.

4 Adult Practice Review Referrals – 1 progressed into a concise APR, 1 extended, 1 MAPF, 1 didn’t meet the criteria.

During the last financial year the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board published 1 Adult Practice Review, 1 Child Practice Reviews and undertook 2 MAPF’s.

### Practice Review referrals by agency



## South Wales Police

Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot BCU has a dedicated Safeguarding Department that covers Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Local Authority areas. It is managed by a Detective Chief Inspector who has overarching responsibility for three portfolio areas:

### 1. Adult Safeguarding

Domestic Abuse Unit, Adults at Risk (Safeguarding) and Modern Slavery Human Trafficking (Safeguarding). Officers from these departments engage in a number of important forums, such as Domestic Abuse, Sex Work and Modern Slavery Multi-agency risk assessment conferences and work alongside Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.

### 2. Child Safeguarding

Child Abuse Conference and Referral Unit. Missing Persons Team, supported by a Missing Persons Coordinator and advocate from Barnardo's. Child Sexual Exploitation Team and Youth Offending Team.

### 3. Offender Management

Management of Sex and Violent Offenders Unit, Integrated Offender Management Unit, Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management and Domestic Abuse Offender Managers.

The above portfolio areas are managed by three dedicated Detective Inspectors, who manage a number of accredited Detectives, Police Officers and Police Staff, who are committed in delivering the priorities of the Chief Constables Delivery Plan, in particular;

***'Protecting Against Exploitation'*** and working with partners to deliver ***'Early Intervention and Prevention'*** Initiatives.

To enhance the identification and response to Criminal Exploitation of Children and in recognising the vulnerabilities of young offenders, the Youth Offender Team, now sit under the Child Safeguarding Portfolio, ensuring a holistic response to offending behaviour.

Swansea Neath and Port Talbot BCU Safeguarding Department ensures Detective Chief Inspector representation on all West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board sub-groups and the Superintendent overseeing Safeguarding and Community Safety in Swansea Neath and Port Talbot BCU is co-chair of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board. This ensures a high degree of strategic oversight and cross fertilization of portfolio areas that cover both Public Protection and Community Safety.

Safeguarding Board Sub-group activity has been constant and responsive to the changes brought by the Pandemic, with a seamless transition to video conferencing.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot BCU Public Protection Unit has been involved in a number of programs of work, which have contributed towards the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board Strategic Priorities



It was recognised that the impact of the Pandemic could result in further isolation of our most vulnerable so there was not only a determination to ensure business continuity but progress and innovation including:

Supporting the continued role out of 'Operation and Strategic Contextual Risk Panels' and enhancing early help provision

Engaging in the formation of Suicide Rapid Response Group, which aims to support those affected by suicide and prevent contagion with an acute appreciation of the potential impact on mental health caused by the pandemic.

Ensuring that offender management cohorts better reflect the local priorities, investing in two Domestic Abuse Offender Managers.

Engaging in a number of forums, to ensure that no child or vulnerable adult at risk is hidden or hindered from accessing the support they need during the Pandemic, prioritising those most at risk.

The police have maintained face to face contact in all critical roles, and officers wearing Personal Protection Equipment have continued to visit our most vulnerable and those that present a risk to the vulnerable

Officers from the Management of Sex and Violent Offender Unit, continued to conduct Home Visits to all registered sex offenders, ensuring appropriate risk management.

Visits by specialist domestic abuse officers continued to survivors of domestic abuse, who could be further isolated by the Pandemic, ensuring enhanced victim engagement..

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Person Team, continued to visit children at risk of exploitation, conducting home visits ensuring all safeguarding, disruption and investigative opportunities were explored.

There has been timely strategy discussions / meetings and case conferences ensuring no delay in child and adult and risk protection proceedings and evidence of enhanced vigilance of professional abuse, with a number of high profile cases in court.

There has been enhanced victim contact during the pandemic in recognition of protracted timescales in the court process, ensuring victims were kept up to date and engaged.

Greater sensitivity and an enhanced response to the National Referral Mechanism has ensured that children exploited by County Lines are identified earlier and there has been a significant rise in the use of the statutory defence offered by section 45 of the modern slavery, ensuring children are not unduly exposed to the criminal justice system.

Swansea Neath and Port Talbot BCU has risen to the challenge presented by COVID-19, whilst looking beyond the crisis to bounce back better. At the same time as policing new rules and regulations on social distancing and dealing with a unique policing challenge and demand, the investment into safeguarding department has continued, with an uplift between March 2020 and April 2021 of a Detective Inspector and 4 Police Officers and Staff.

There is further uplift in resource planned in the coming year and a determination to deliver on the Chief Constable Delivery Plan, to work with partners at the earliest opportunity to prevent

exploitation of the most vulnerable, providing a robust and comprehensive response to those who intent of exploiting the citizens of Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot.

## **Swansea Bay University Health Board**

Swansea Bay University Health Board Corporate Safeguarding Team remain committed to supporting staff to ensure that Safeguarding remained everybody's business whilst our services cope with the ongoing pandemic. This is a time of significant uncertainty for colleagues and the public and it is crucial that we work together to ensure that Safeguarding remains at the forefront of our work.

A Guide to Safeguarding Processes during the COVID-19 outbreak has been developed. This document is reviewed and updated regularly and disseminated to staff.

The Team continues to work with our respective partner agencies to manage and respond to Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse concerns.

The Health Board Corporate Safeguarding Team operate an extended "Duty Desk" Monday-Friday 8am-8pm to provide staff with Safeguarding advice and support. This supports our clinical colleagues to focus on increased demands and the Team have received positive feedback in relation to the extension of the availability of Safeguarding advice and support. The Health Board Safeguarding Committee has continued to meet quarterly.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and being able to access relevant information quickly and easily ensures that our staff are able to carry out their safeguarding duties. Previously staff have reported difficulty finding Safeguarding information. The Health Board Safeguarding SharePoint, was launched in November 2020 during National Safeguarding Week. The SharePoint has been added to the Quick Links section of the Intranet providing staff with a central "go to" point, and thus enabling staff to find all the relevant information needed to ensure our patients are safeguarded. In December 2020 Safeguarding was added to the Consultant Connect Telephone Advice & Guidance service providing healthcare professionals in Primary Care and Secondary Care in Swansea Bay UHB with a means to access Safeguarding advice and support Monday Friday 8am-8pm (excluding bank holidays).

### **Safeguarding Referrals**

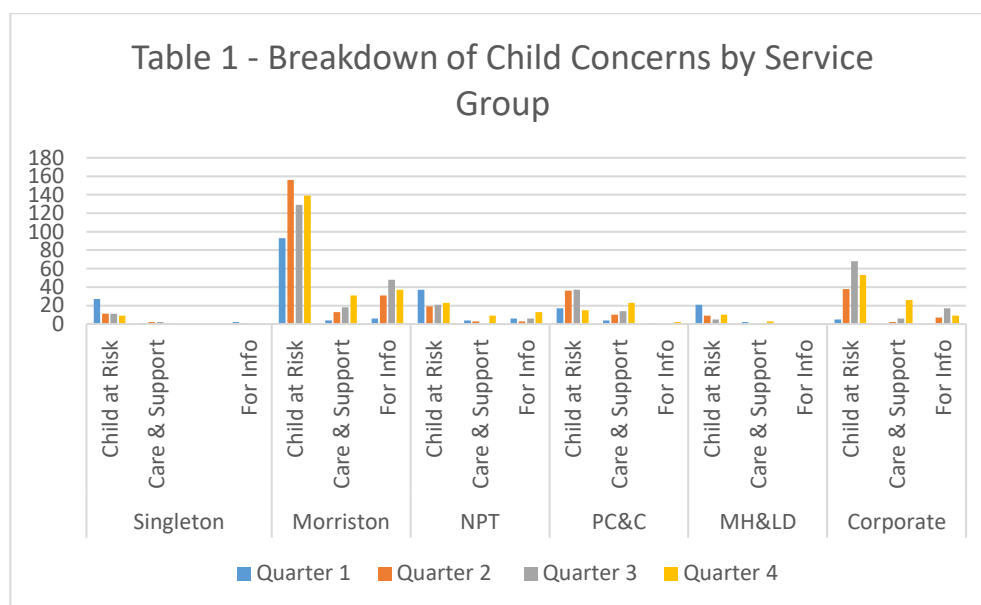
In accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989, 2004, the Health Board has a statutory obligation to report children and adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Referrals made in respect of adult and child abuse/neglect are sent to the relevant Local Authority and it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to investigate. Health Board employees are engaged

throughout the process making the Report/Referral, attending Strategy Meetings and Case Conferences as well as contributing to any Child/Adult Protection Plans.

The Health Board Corporate Safeguarding Team request a copy of all Reports/Referrals submitted to Local Authorities in order to collate and monitor the Health Board Safeguarding activity.

### Safeguarding Children Reports to Local Authority



During 2020/2021 Morriston Service Group completed the majority of Safeguarding Children Reports to Local Authority. This is attributed to the number of children that are seen in the Emergency Department. This is followed by Safeguarding Children Reports completed by CAMHS colleagues (reported under Corporate, Table 1).

### Safeguarding Adult Reports to Local Authority

Table 2 demonstrates the breakdown of Adult at Risk Reports submitted to Local Authority. Quarter 2 reported the most Adult at Risk Reports. A significant increase in Adult Care and Support Reports were noted in Quarter 4 with the majority of Reports being submitted from Morriston and Primary, Community and Therapies Service Groups.

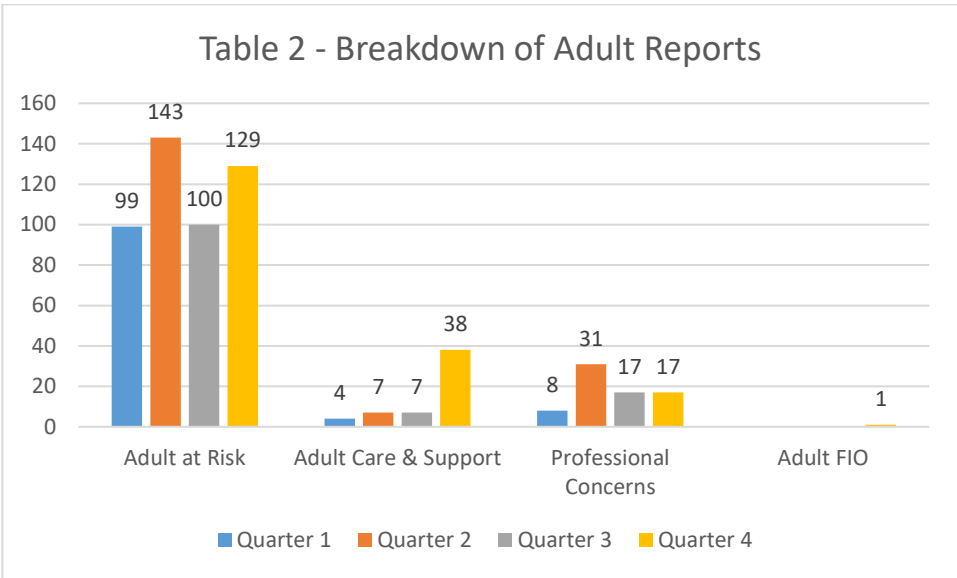
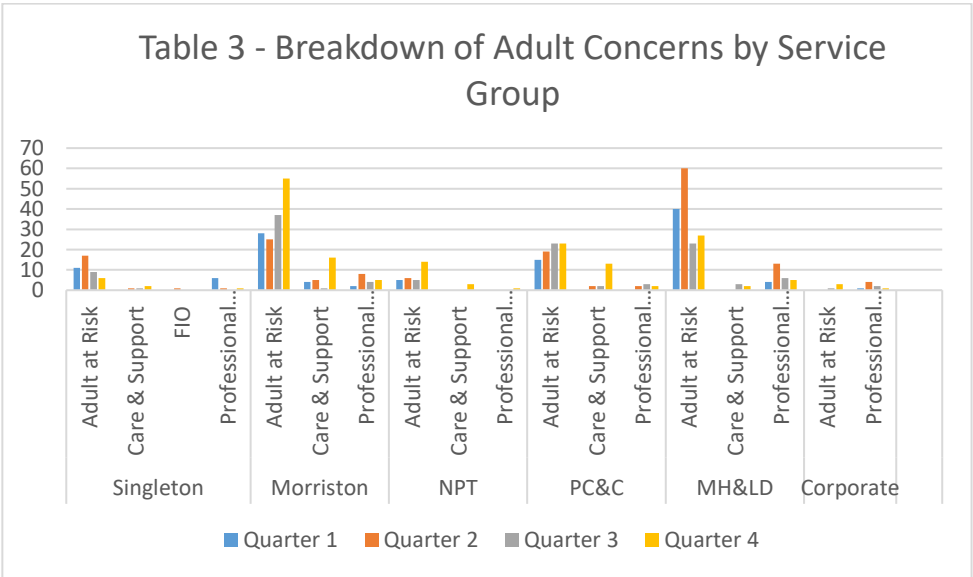
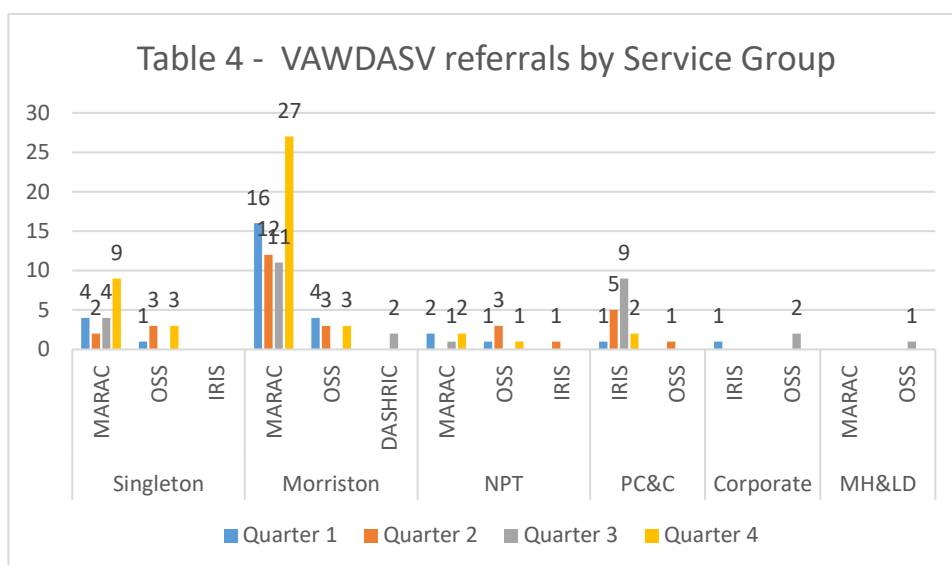


Table 3 demonstrates the breakdown of concerns reported to Local Authorities by Service Groups. There has been an increase over the year of Adult at Risk Reports submitted by Morriston Service Group. This may be an impact of increased awareness within the Service Group, with an Adult Safeguarding lead being identified within the Emergency Department. Whilst there was a range of Reports being made for all categories of abuse, physical, emotional and financial abuse accounted for a high proportion of the Reports submitted.



### Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

During the reporting period Health Board staff have completed 104 MARAC referrals, 33 referrals have been made to the One Stop Shop and 39 referrals to IRIS (Table 4). Morriston Service Group continues to complete and submit the majority of referrals, however there has been a noted increase in referrals received from Midwifery Services. The Corporate Safeguarding Team continue to promote the “Ask and Act” Pathway.



### IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety)

IRIS has been introduced locally in the Neath and Neath Valley GP cluster areas. IRIS is a general practice-based Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) training, support and referral programme, which is a collaboration between primary care and third sector organisations specialising in DVA. The introduction was impacted by the COVID pandemic as all Health Board training was suspended for a short time. A virtual training package was developed and GP practice training recommenced. Despite the initial slow start 134 members of staff were trained last year.

The IRIS programme allows GP practice staff to refer directly to a specialist advocate if a disclosure is made. In the reporting period 39 referrals have been made to the IRIS Advocate Educator, this figure is increasing as more GP practices have been trained.

The Advocate Educator offers specialist support to the GP practices and to women that have been referred, as well as providing specialist DVA support and delivery of training to practices. Referrals can be made by staff in GPs practices that have received the IRIS training.

National statistics show that women aged 16 – 24 are significantly more likely to be victims of DVA than women over 24. However, the majority of referrals made to the Swansea Bay UHB IRIS project are in other age groups, with a higher than average referral rate for women over 60 years. The project is successfully supporting GPs to recognise the indicators of DVA and receive disclosures, the women that have made disclosures and have subsequently been referred to the Advocate Educator would have unlikely accessed help from any other source had they not been asked about DVA by their GP, 70% of referrals have been first time disclosures.

A quarterly report has been submitted to the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner which has demonstrated the success of the project so far with the increase in referrals and evaluation from patients.

The Health Board have recognised the benefit of IRIS. The Primary, Community and Therapies Services Group have confirmed the funding for the project to be rolled out across the whole of SBUHB area.

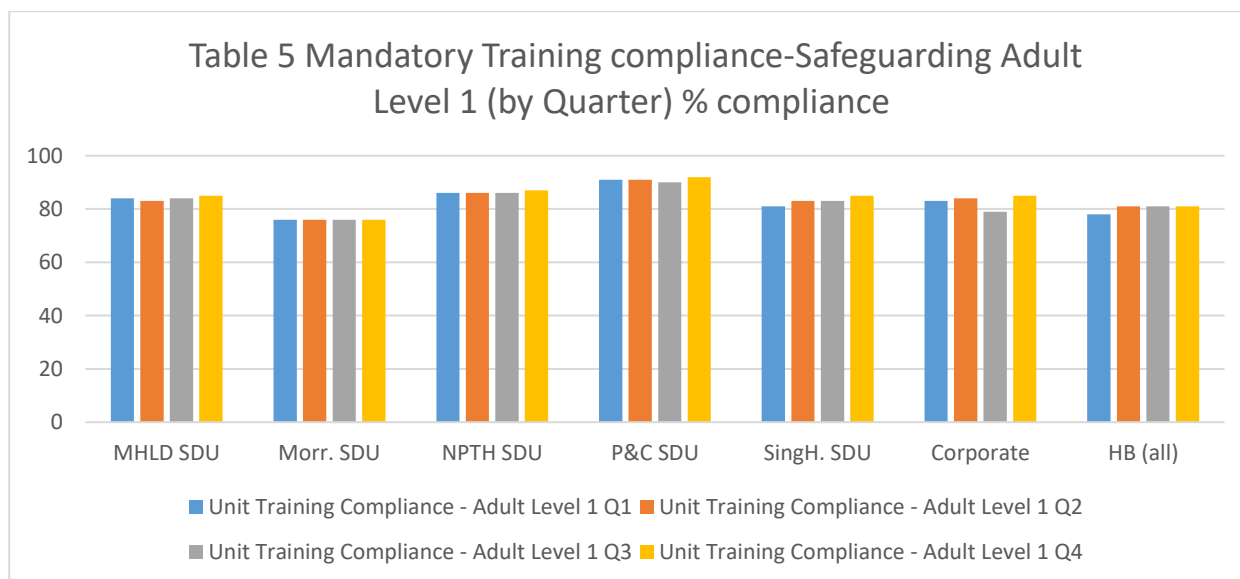
Calan DVS, a specialist DVA organisation are the current providers of phase one of the IRIS implementation. An invitation to tender was advertised by the HB and the contract for phase two has been awarded to Calan DVS following their successful application. Phase two commences in April 2021, two Advocate Educators have been successfully recruited and the recruitment process for a GP Clinical Lead has commenced.

The Corporate Safeguarding Team are working with Primary, Community and Therapies Services Group; IRIS and Calan DVS to support the implementation of the project.

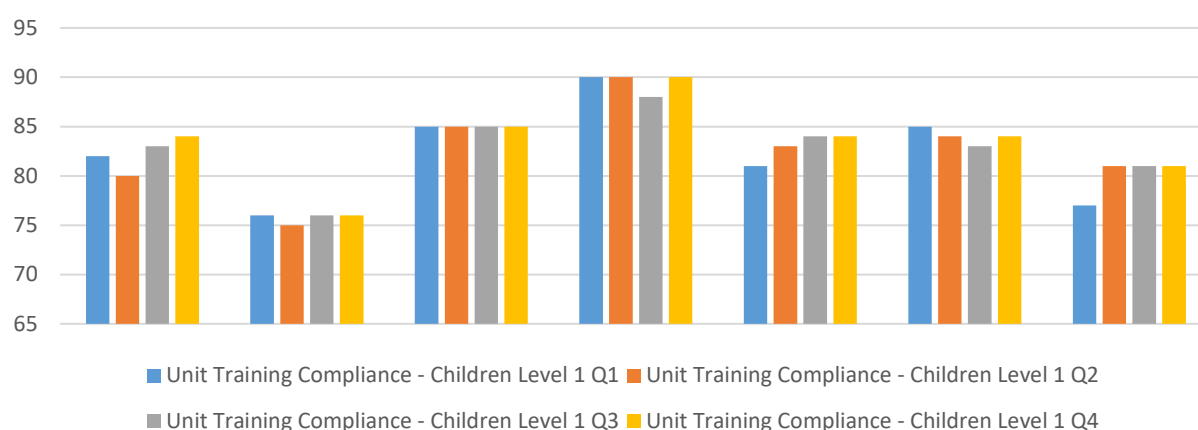
## Safeguarding Training

Level 1 & 2 Safeguarding Adult and Children training and Group 1 Violence against Women, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence training is provided via e-learning. Level 3 Safeguarding People, “Ask and Act” Group 2 and Group 3, Mental Capacity Act Level 3 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Level 2 facilitated training was suspended for a short period last year due to the pandemic. Facilitated Safeguarding training recommenced in July 2020 in a blended format (face to face and via Teams). Training compliance is monitored by the Health Board Safeguarding Committee.

Tables 5 & 6 demonstrate the Health Board Mandatory Safeguarding Training compliance.



**Table 6 Mandatory Training compliance-Safeguarding Children Level 1 (by Quarter) % Compliance**



**Table 7 - Safeguarding People Level 3 Attendance**

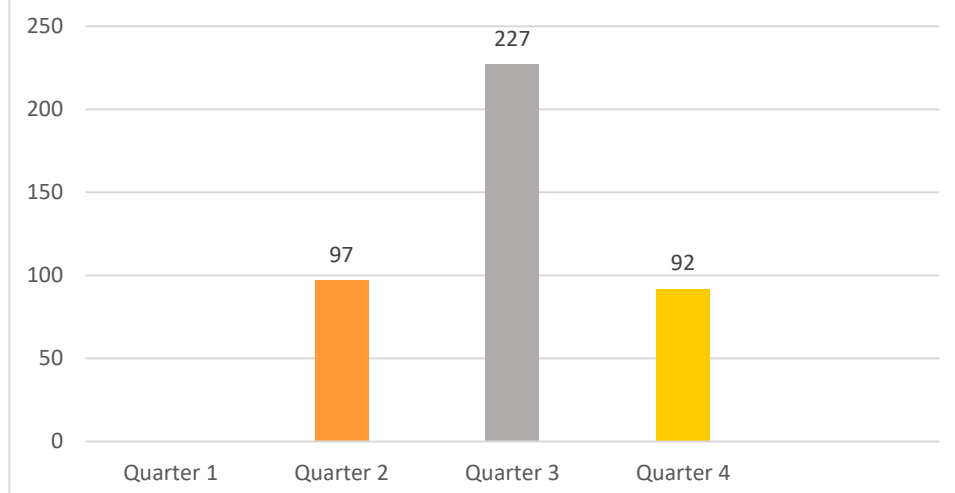


Table 7 demonstrates the numbers of staff who attended Level 3 Safeguarding People Training. In addition to this the Emergency Department received three in house Level 3 Safeguarding Training sessions in Quarter 4, a total of 45 staff attended these sessions.

Since July a total of 311 staff have attended “Ask and Act” training during 2020/2021. This includes sessions delivered as part of the Nurse Induction Programme as well as regular sessions across the Health Board Sites.

Swansea University Lecturers in Health Care Law have delivered seven virtual MCA Level 3 training sessions during the last year. These sessions are attended by both Health and Local Authority staff. In total 144 Health Board Staff have attended sessions during the reporting period.

Seven DoLS Level 2 training sessions have been delivered virtually since the training recommenced in September along with one DoLS Assessors update, attended by Section 12 Doctors. In total 288 Health Board staff have received this training.

Training evaluations indicate that staff find the sessions very informative, with positive interaction from the on-line question and answer facility, where staff have the opportunity to ask the facilitators questions anonymously if they so wish.

A recorded webinar developed by Swansea University Care Health Law Department on the application of DoLS in 16 and 17 year olds is available on the Safeguarding Intranet page or via the Corporate Safeguarding SharePoint. This presentation is narrated and therefore it can be accessed at any time

Evaluations from all training delivered to date continue to be positive, despite the current challenges with staff adapting to the new methods of training delivery.

### **Safeguarding Supervision and Support**

Safeguarding Supervision and support is an essential component of clinical governance. The Corporate Safeguarding Team continues to contribute to the Health Board Safeguarding Supervision arrangements and provides daily ad hoc Safeguarding advice and support, one to one Safeguarding Supervision, Peer Group Review and Group Safeguarding Supervision sessions.

The Swansea Bay University Health Board has worked alongside the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board to achieve its priorities and functions. The Head of Nursing: Safeguarding, Named Nurse and the Assistant Director of Corporate Nursing both attend and contribute to the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board. The Health Board actively contributes to the Regional Board sub groups.



## Training and Learning

In light of the pandemic the WGSB's priorities have been set against the backdrop of Covid 19.

The Joint Strategic Training Management Group & Communications and Engagement Group has focussed its work within the priority area of:

**'To ensure a robust, resilient and consistent approach to safeguarding practice during the Covid 19 pandemic'.**

Exploitation training was delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams in collaboration with Health. Workshops were delivered in four sessions over four consecutive weeks. 11 regional multiagency workers were able to attend on a range of devices whether at home or in their workplaces including school halls and the accident and emergency department. Resources were shared on the platform each week for attendees to access and read before and after sessions. A diverse group of professionals across the West Glamorgan Partnership was able to access and participate in the training

Feedback included:

"On the back of your training, I'm setting up a safeguarding working party within my school consisting of members of the well-being and pastoral team that is aiming to develop innovative ways to share safeguarding tools and information for parents online using our website as a platform. This would ensure that they are supported in an additional way and also in the case of another lockdown where schools could close"

- The training was excellent in raising awareness and enable me to think about different types of exploitation that I may not have considered in my work before.
- This training was extremely useful and I was not expecting it to be as I thought I had a fair understanding of the subject and it was very thought provoking.
- All useful to prompt thinking and inform practice. Thought provoking about use and type of language we use with young people.
- In each section, we looked at the language we use, the assumptions we make, and the way in which we can so easily turn victims into believing they are at fault. The vulnerable are at risk from a number of types of manipulation and some will result in them being criminalised.
- I enjoyed the different formats used such as podcasts, films, poems etc. and the opportunity to still work in groups.

Our theme for National Safeguarding Week was **'Stay Safe Stay Connected'** - 'Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It's fundamental to high-quality health and social care.'

A programme of events and resource guide was produced. This included:

- A virtual conference was delivered to an international audience of 140 professionals and parents by the PFAN (Parents, Families and Allies Network) in partnership with the Safeguarding Board. The conference was used to share experiences of parents and their allies in the United States and the UK, showing how parent advocacy creates better co-operation and understanding between parents and social workers, reduces the need for compulsory statutory interventions and for children to be looked after by local authorities. The outcome was to help parents, professionals and their allies to learn from the experience of others and consider how to engage with and support parents to become advocates and to promote a genuine partnership based on parents' voices and experiences. It will act as a launch pad for the development of parent advocacy within Wales and beyond.
- A child and adult practice review learning event was delivered virtually to 107 multiagency professionals across the West Glamorgan region. This enabled learning from reviews to be shared widely with the opportunities to question the authors.

Other activity has included:

- Modern Slavery First Responder training courses for those designated as first responders, with the knowledge and understanding they will require to carry out their responsibilities effectively and be confident of using and understanding the National Referral Mechanism and the Duty to Report under the Modern Slavery Act. This links in with the wider safeguarding duty to protect people from harm and report adults and children at risk. These courses have been open to regional multi-agency partners and have been well attended by 31 workers.
- A series of specialist training workshops were commissioned with the Lucy Faithful Foundation to support the Board's work against the Welsh Government Child Sexual Abuse Recommendations. Training was delivered to groups of regional multiagency partners on:
  - Preventing Child Sexual Abuse and the Stop It Now! Helpline
  - Assessing the protective skills of mothers, partners and adult carers
  - Promoting positive pathways for young people who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviour
  - Understanding Child Sexual Abusers
  - Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and the Internet

A workshop was also delivered to 32 regional multiagency professionals on Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse by the Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse.

- The group have now developed a website and have a new domain which is [www.wgsb.wales](http://www.wgsb.wales)
- The Business Management Unit have developed a newsletter which will be updated on a quarterly basis.

### **Develop and deliver training materials to support implementation of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for a multi-agency practitioner audience.**

A narrated presentation has been developed on the following areas of the WSP:

- An introduction to the app;

- key changes to the safeguarding procedures for children and young people at risk of harm; key changes to the safeguarding procedures for adults at risk and
- The procedures for safeguarding allegations/concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust.

The procedures and training materials are now available on our website - [www.wgsb.wales](http://www.wgsb.wales)

Both NPT & Swansea Councils have developed online pages that include access to a range of resources / videos / e-learning modules etc. that staff, volunteers and commissioned providers can access at home and keep up to date with training, Continuous Professional Development etc.

Examples are listed below – there is also a range of training modules available via NHS learning wales:

- Safeguarding people level 1
- Victim Focus - [self-development course after experiencing sexual violence](#)
- **Supporting adults and older people**
- Dementia and Covid-19
- The Mental Capacity Act and Covid-19: what's changed?
- Ethical framework for adult social care during Covid-19
- Domestic violence and abuse – guidance for professionals
- Supporting people with learning disabilities
- Tips for supporting older relatives in isolation
- Alcohol and Covid-19 – messages for social workers
- Care homes – residential and nursing
- Support for homelessness and substance misuse during Covid-19
- **Supporting children and young people**
- Online safety and well-being
- Providing safe services for children and young people through the internet

Award of Funding in relation to Supporting Safeguarding Boards to deliver training for the implementation of Welsh Government policy and legislation – 2020-21 (West Glamorgan Region)

The Purpose of the Funding is to support West Glamorgan Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards to deliver training for the implementation of Welsh Government policy and legislation. This will include:-

- Implementation of the Board Self Evaluation tool
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- National Protection Procedures and related practice guidance
- Increased capacity within the existing multi-agency safeguarding training programmes

End of year expenditure report attached below:

<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Actual Spend</b>
MARAC Training	MARAC Training	£3000.00	£3000.00
Multi Agency CSA Training	Multi Agency CSA Training	£8800.00	£8800.00
<b>Total Spend</b>		<b>£11,800.00</b>	<b>£11800.00</b>

## National Safeguarding Week



The theme for National Safeguarding week was “Stay Safe, Stay Connected”

Due to the pandemic, National Safeguarding Week 2020 took place virtually. It was unclear how effective this would be, however all service areas worked together and produced a large programme of events which proved to be the most successful yet.

The programme contained many events including the following two conferences:

### **PFAN - Parent, Family & Allies Network- Parent Advocacy – Development and Action Webinar**

The conference held on 16.11.20 was part of the PAN project plan with a view to informing and learning from each other on a Wales wide basis. The conference intended to show how parent advocacy creates better co-operation and understanding between parents and social workers, reduces the need for compulsory statutory interventions and for children to be looked after by local authorities. The conference was a demonstration of how parent advocacy can promote genuine partnership based on parent voice and experience. We had a superb organising group. The event included an excellent line up of renowned academics and experienced parent advocates and was well attended with 164 attendees on the day (including speakers who were present). Despite technical problems in managing the system and difficulties with sound, the conference was successful in relaying profound messages of hope, and instilling confidence in a changing process where parents are supported to care for their children in a more humane climate of social support.

### **West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board - Practice Review Learning event**

This was an online event where 3 practice reviews were presented to share the identified learning in order to improve systems and practice. The event ran successfully with 107 professionals in attendance via Microsoft Teams. The event also received positive feedback and it has been requested that these online learning events continue in the future.

A copy of the full programme of events can be found by clicking the attached link.

<http://www.wgsb.wales/media/14633/wgsb-programme-of-events-for-national-safeguarding-board.docx?v=20201102111623>

## **Collaboration**

### **How we have collaborated around safeguarding**

The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board have a large network of organisations and partnerships who are engaged with nationally, regionally and locally. There are structures in place to work alongside the National Independent Safeguarding Board and Welsh Government to ensure a strategic function and national collaboration.

### **Swansea Council Education (Children Board only)**

The year 2020/2021 has been unprecedented for schools and Education. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a UK wide lockdown including the closure of schools for the first time in modern history. As school closures commenced the Education Directorate and Schools were required to respond quickly to changing government guidelines regarding moving from educational provisions to childcare provisions for children of key workers and the most vulnerable.

In Swansea the Executive Education Board was established and was meeting daily in the first weeks and month of the school closures and lockdown. There were many aspects to manage including staff anxiety, staff with underlying health needs, the logistics and ability for schools to facilitate childcare alongside the definitions of key worker and vulnerable children. As a Directorate it was important that we supported our schools who also had to face rising public anxiety, parents' needs for childcare and what happened to those vulnerable children who did not attend a childcare provision, all at a time when the key messages from UK and Welsh Government was that it was safer for everyone to stay home.

Throughout the pandemic the safeguarding of pupils and staff has remained the priority for our schools and the Directorate. The decisions and guidance from Welsh Government and the WGSB regarding the refocus of its priorities during this period was very welcome at a time where the Directorate needed to look inward and realign its own priorities to keep pupils and staff safe. We were able to offer reassurances that each of the Emergency Childcare Settings (ECS) established in Swansea had applied a bespoke risk assessment to assist them in the management of childcare provision amidst the backdrop of infectious disease by applying a generic Health & Safety approved risk assessment developed within the LA. We were also able to cascade the new model Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy which was endorsed by the WGSB to fit with new legislation and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 and apply them to the ECS & schools. During the later "lockdowns" where the introduction of blended and online learning were introduced, the innovation and flexibility of our school systems were tested once again with evidence of inclusivity and swift response to concerns regarding access to education and learning. We were also able to facilitate visits from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who undertook spot check inspections of the ECS provisions with very positive results. Local authority officers developed internal

H&S/safeguarding audits in response to public concerns and complaints regarding COVID breaches in order to effectively support schools and provide assurances at executive level.

Officers were identified as Single Points of Contacts within the Education and Child & Family Services Directorates to respond quickly and effectively to challenge, concerns regarding vulnerable children attending/not attending ECS and emerging safeguarding issues. They were also able to monitor access to the settings by vulnerable children and report immediately concerns for our most vulnerable children as they arise. Systems were established and reporting mechanisms put in place to provide assurances at executive level and schools were very quickly able to report that 100% of children identified as vulnerable and needing childcare had received an offer of care during the lockdown.

As a Directorate we acknowledge that our agency representation at WGSB sub groups has dropped during this period. Individual officers' ability to contribute to practice reviews, performance reports and training plans has all been impacted by the re-prioritisation of supporting schools through the most challenging time in our history. Changes in leadership and vacancies within the Directorate have all had their impacts however the Directorate remains committed to Safeguarding and the work of the Safeguarding Board. Education Directorate in Swansea will continue to work towards building resilience and capacity to further support the work of the Board in the future.

## **Neath Port Talbot Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate**

The Directorate continues to prioritise its safeguarding responsibilities and as such takes a proactive role in the work of the Board. The Head of Participation is a board member and ensures all relevant business and updates are disseminated with the Directorate staff and schools via the Education Safeguarding Officer.

The Head of Participation chairs a fortnightly Safeguarding Reference Group (SGRG) attended by the School and Family Support Manager, Education Safeguarding Officer, senior HR officer for ELLLS, Principal Officer for Safeguarding Children and Adults, SPOC team manager and a Health and Safety representative. The group monitors the progress of allegations against staff in schools/Directorate, considers and approves safeguarding peer review reports, identifies any areas of concern and shares safeguarding information and updates.

The Head of Participation Chairs the Regional Contest Board meetings, Channel panel meetings and ensures any actions are undertaken and that the vital information from education is shared. The Education Safeguarding Officer deputises at these meeting as necessary. Since January 2021, the Partnership and Community Cohesion Team now sit within ELLL.

The Directorate's Education Safeguarding Officer is an active member in the Policy, Procedure and Practice Management Group; Quality and Performance Management Group, Joint Strategic Training Management Group and Practice Review Management Group.

The Education Safeguarding Officer is co-chair of the Practice Review Management Group and is a panel member on one review. As a co-chair she has been involved in work to develop the Boards business plan and the corresponding work plans of the management groups.

As part of the various management groups the Education Safeguarding officer ensures information is disseminated to all schools and education directorate managers. This may be information on training opportunities, new or updated policies or information and findings as a result of participation in audit activity.

The Board's business priorities and the promotion of safeguarding awareness topics are included as part of the Directorate's peer review school safeguarding reviews that every school in Neath Port Talbot is required to undergo every two years. Peer reviewers consider all elements of safeguarding and action plans are developed at the end of every review. Follow up to check on the implementation of actions is undertaken on a termly basis. COVID-19 has stalled the review timetable although one virtual review has been successfully undertaken. Dependent upon the continued planned easing of restrictions, physical reviews are currently being scheduled to recommence in the Autumn term 2021.

The Education Safeguarding Officer updates the basic safeguarding training that is delivered by designated leads to the whole staff annually. The new Safeguarding Procedures feature throughout the revised training. Training for Designated Safeguarding Leads has been developed by the Safeguarding in Education Group (SEG) for a consistent training pack across Wales. The Safeguarding Officer has delivered this training virtually to approximately 150 staff. The Education Safeguarding Officer continues to remind schools of the training requirements around Prevent and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and has attended 'train the trainer' sessions linked to VAWDASV and will be rolling out group 2 & 3 training to schools and directorate staff.

The Education Safeguarding Officer attends meetings of the All Wales Safeguarding in Education Group (SEG) and participates in a variety of working groups as part of this group's workplan.

The Directorate maintain its high level of commitment to, and engagement with, Board Priorities and activities.

## **Covid-19**

The current pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on all aspects of everyday life; none more so than our schools. In the past 15 months there have been two periods of prolonged lockdown that has resulted in schools closing for traditional face-to-face teaching in place of remote learning. Schools, have though, remained open throughout this time and were repurposed as child care and safe havens for key worker children and those designated as vulnerable learners.

Local Authority education officers have amplified their close working partnership approach with schools; social services and health partners over this time to support all pupils. Regular multi-agency meetings were held to create and continually review the joint vulnerable pupils register.

The local authority has ensured those pupils eligible for free school meals initially received a daily meal and subsequently on a longer-term basis provided direct financial assistance to FSM parents by means of weekly/fortnightly bank transfer payments. The local authority worked with schools to identify those pupils who were digitally excluded and unable to participate in online learning and



coordinated the distribution of over a thousand devices to pupils. The Education Welfare Service undertook over 900 home/garden welfare visits to pupils in the period September '20 – March '21 alone keeping in touch and ensuring pupils remained visible to services.

All pupils resumed face-to-face teaching from Easter, 2021; although the need for self-isolation continues where close contact has been identified with a positive Covid case. Local authority officers continue to work alongside partner agencies to support young people and identify those with wellbeing and/or mental health support needs as a result of their Covid experiences.

## **Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service**

Below is an overview of measures put in place to promote and maximise best practice in terms of safeguarding throughout the NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service. It also provides suggestions moving forward to continue improving practice to ensure that our young people are receiving the highest quality of care and support possible whilst being part of the service, and are safeguarded from harm. In NPT YJEIS, we have developed a specific work stream in relation to safeguarding incorporating the 2019 inspection action plan recommendations and to ensure that safeguarding is integral to all practice and all members of the team. The voices of the young person (who are young adults) is critical for this pathway's success, we will develop feedback sheets from them and obtain their views via interviews, discussion etc. The aim will be for young people to engage and help shape their own safeguarding plans, develop their contributions, have their say (and be heard) and give them some agency in making safer decisions in relation to their wellbeing and the choices they make.

Notwithstanding the particular challenges we have presently given the current COVID-19 world in which we are living and safeguarding has had to be the paramount consideration in the YJEIS. The safety of staff is also a key feature of our quarterly report.

Since September 2019, the nominated safeguarding lead remains in situ, although because of the confusing definitions of designated safeguarding leads, LADO's (England) and named safeguarding officers in both YOS services across Wales and in Local authorities, we have changed the title to safeguarding champion in the NPT YJEIS. This enables us to be clear around the roles and responsibilities and while our safeguarding champion collates and follows up queries with staff members, overall operational safeguarding will come via the ops manager and ultimately Ali Davies as PO who has oversight of all safeguarding concerns identified in the service. Safeguarding and managing risk is an integral part of all our work with young people.

Both the operational manager and the safeguarding champion completed safeguarding training and child practice reviewer training. Subsequently, we have a cohort of trained practice reviewers in the YJEIS.

There is a monthly Safeguarding Meeting for the PO, operational manager and the safeguarding champion to ensure we are all appraised of any safeguarding referrals, outcomes of professional strategy meetings or safeguarding issues.

## **The impact of Covid-19 on safeguarding in the YJEIS**

Covid-19 has affected the whole world, as we know it including the YJEIS. Safeguarding has been absolutely paramount throughout, and the close alignment with Children's Services has been beneficial in that we have had to manage our business differently but in many ways more effectively with open and frequent lines of communication with all partner agencies. The ability to get people together in virtual meetings has been positive, effective and immediate, therefore, responses have been quick, plans put in place effectively and frequency of meetings has increased to discuss vulnerable young people across the authority with our multi-agency partners. All high risk, ROSE and safeguarding issues are monitored on a daily basis. If there have been imminent Risk of Serious Harm concerns to others, the case manager follows usual procedures by contacting the seconded Police Officer, 101 reporting or 999 depending upon the seriousness and urgency of the situation. Similarly, the YJEIS have continued to submit any Child Protection and Safeguarding concerns to Children's Services Single Point of Contact Team.

### **Contact arrangement for young people & their families through lockdown:**

#### **As previously:**

- All young people on statutory Court Orders continue to be seen in line with National Standards and their assessed level of risk.
- These contacts take the form of both face-to-face contacts and virtual contact via WhatsApp video calls. During these contacts, case managers will check on the young person's general wellbeing and continue to progress work against their intervention plans.
- All young people have a risk status that is reviewed weekly and the frequency of contacts is monitored by the performance officer and fed back to children's services weekly.

### **Senior Management Oversight**

This contact plan has been ratified by Children's Services and the chair of our management board, Andrew Jarrett. Video calls via WhatsApp will enable all staff to deliver virtual and visual interventions with young people. We are now developing increased safe contact, and online sessions. This contact plan has also been sent to the YJB as part of our post inspection monitoring arrangements and to provide reassurance to the YJB.

### **Monitoring of vulnerable young people across the directorate:**

A list of vulnerable children was compiled between Children's Services (CS) and Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning (ELLL), including the YJEIS young people, which resulted in all children and young people on the list being RAG rated to ensure those most at risk have been prioritised. The list continues to be reviewed and updated each week by practitioners and managers across CS and ELLL including the YJEIS. The list is also shared with partner agencies to ensure they are aware of those most at risk. A multi-fortnightly agency meeting is held to ensure effective oversight of those deemed most vulnerable allowing partner agencies to develop a joined-up approach to any matters arising.

### **Emotional health and wellbeing for young people during COVID-19**

It is widely recognised that the risks for our young people in terms of their emotional health and well-being, have increased, some have been living in very dysfunctional families, at higher risk of DV, their education has been disrupted, and they are generally more vulnerable.

YJEIS access to monthly consultations with CAMHS has continued to take place; however, the format of these meetings has changed in response to COVID-19. Referrals for consultation have continued as usual i.e. referral form completed and sent via business support to CAMHS; however, phone/skype slots are allocated instead of face-to-face meetings. The continuation of this service has allowed staff to discuss the current plans of support in place for young people and amend them as necessary i.e. if there is a deterioration (significant or otherwise) in a young person's mental health. The advice and support of CAMHS to YJEIS staff has been vital at this time to manage the presenting risks appropriately.

CAMHS have enhanced their telephone Single Point of Contact service for families, referrers and partner agencies, providing telephone advice, support and referral triage, 9am – 9:30pm seven days per week.

Young people's safety plans are adapted to reflected the additional pressures and anxieties caused by COVID-19. Additional resources have been provided by Children's Services re telephone / media platform support training etc.

### **The police red flag system/ tracker Occurrence and alignment with the PPU**

We are now aligned with the PPU in South Wales Police and Youth Justice sits under the PPU umbrella getting good access to the resources and advice needed quickly. We have raised a few issues this quarter, which have been resolved but there does seem to be a change of practice in the PPU in relation to Out of Court Disposals (OCD), which I am anticipating will be covered by the police at board. One of the issues has been resolved by face-to-face bureaux being reinstated and a recognition by Youth Justice staff that reports for bureau must be in on time and quality assured for proper consideration by the panel.

Our YJEIS police officer continues to use the tracker occurrence, which generates information on current young people attached to NPT YJEIS. This occurrence tracks and monitors all young people attached to the YJEIS; drawing information from the Police Niche system and matching it with young people who are known to our service. This is still working well and has now been adopted throughout South Wales and Gwent police forces.

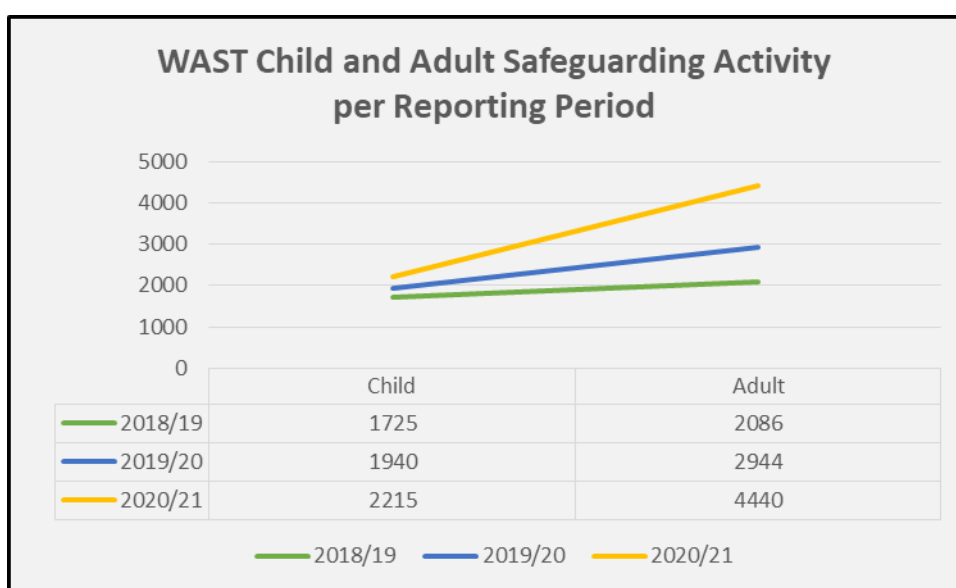
Feedback is also given to staff across the YJEIS in team meetings and supervision. Safeguarding is a standard item on supervision agendas. The Safeguarding lead and operational manager highlights improvements in practice and key areas for development for the teams to focus on as they move forward to achieve best practice. Additionally, key messages are driven forward on a weekly basis through the team meeting, which is chaired by the Operational Manager.

## Welsh Ambulance Service

The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) achieves the Safeguarding objectives of each Regional Safeguarding Board by effectively working together to ensure good outcomes for people who have contact with our service within the Board Region.

Our activity during 2020-21 to prevent, protect and support individuals and their families within the Safeguarding Board region has increased significantly. This may be attributed to the COVID 19 period which has resulted in National recognition of increased vulnerability for Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse.

The following graph illustrates 75% increase in WAST Safeguarding activity over the past 2 year period March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019- March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021:



The pandemic has impacted the safeguarding team within WAST in all activities. Particularly responsibility in working with partner agencies and ensuring that staff were appropriately trained to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

- 60% of WAST training was delivered virtually and 40% face to face.
- 63% increase in demand to train staff in comparison to last year ( due to huge recruitment drive within the organisation).
- 95% compliance with child safeguarding training (2985/3141)
- 92% compliance with adult safeguarding training ( 2778/3035)
- 84% compliance for VAWDASV group 1 (3430/4091)
- 1110 staff trained Group 2 Ask and Act.

The safeguarding team developed appropriate training packages to suit both virtual and face to face delivery. This included required updates on Wales Procedures.

WAST has also continued to uphold the strategic requirements placed upon the organisation despite many of the safeguarding team being re-deployed to support operational and Infection Prevention Control demands during the COVID response.

In addition the Safeguarding team have progressed the introduction of an electronic digital (Doc Works) system to complete and submit Safeguarding Reports to the relevant Local Authority. The Doc Works system can be immediately accessed by our frontline staff to ensure timely submission of reports to Local Authorities across Wales. This system will enable us to provide regionally specific safeguarding data monthly as well as annually to the Safeguarding Board in 2022.

## **NSPCC**

The NSPCC are full members of the main board and are also represented on most sub groups and have undertaken co-chairing responsibility for one. The NSPCC representative shares information with the board as appropriate and disseminates all relevant information within their own agency. The NSPCC representative will continue to support the work of the board by undertaking specific tasks as required. In the past year the NSPCC board and sub group members have contributed to the development of the performance framework and dashboard to enable effective oversight of trends, themes and critical incidents that require attention and response to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are deployed. The NSPCC has contributed to the review and development of policies, procedures and guidance to support effective safeguarding practice. Through the provision of resource the NSPCC has also supported the board in its delivery to the Welsh Government Child Sexual Abuse action plan. When appropriate the NSPCC has also contributed to practice reviews and ensured the effective dissemination of learning within agency.

## **Swansea Council for Voluntary Service**

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS) continues to ensure its safeguarding ethos remains at the forefront of its work. We support the work of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board with regular attendance at meetings and supporting Board priorities for the year 2020/2021 in the following ways:

### **SCVS**

- SCVS has been fully operational from the first day of the initial lockdown in March 2020. SCVS rearranged its staff team and its way of working to ensure those we support continued to have contact to reduce isolation and provide them with an opportunity to talk about their situation with an independent person such as our volunteer Independent Visitors for Children Looked After.
- SCVS opened up its services to members of the public to help meet the needs of the community and where necessary introducing new services to reduce unmet needs for essential services such as prescription and food collections and deliveries and telephone befriending.

- We have provided support to those in need in and their carers.
- All SCVS existing volunteers have received safeguarding training and know how to escalate their concerns.
- New volunteers recruited during the reporting period have completed an induction and safeguarding training prior to commencing their role.
- Where concerns have been raised, these have been escalated to the required agencies such as Social Services, the Police or Mental Health Crisis team etc.
- SCVS has made links with new Third Sector Services and referred those in need to new and existing provision when required.
- With the support of our staff and volunteers, we have enabled those needing to shield or isolate access basic necessities such as food and medication.
- SCVS volunteers supported the Swansea Domestic Abuse Hub to deliver food parcels.
- We have worked in partnership with organisations such as Digital Communities Wales to source equipment such as tablets and smart phones to enable people to have contact with outside world.
- SCVS called a meeting of those services supporting people seeking asylum and refuge in Swansea to ensure a coherent delivery response and to raise issues that needed addressing such as free school meals.
- SCVS put a call out to staff to support care homes within the Swansea and NPT region at a point of crisis in partnership with the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) as part of the RPB care home cover approach- Offer of support not accessed.
- SCVS had representation on Community Silver meetings.
- SCVS Communications Officer sits on Test Trace & Protect (TTP) Regional Communications Group. BAME Vaccine Hesitancy Group.
- SCVS reviews regular communication from Welsh Government to stay abreast of updates.
- We reviewed and updated our policies including our Safeguarding Policy in light of Covid and added addendums.
- Both SCVS & NPTCVS report to Regional Partnership Board on staff capacity and our ability to meet the demand for service.
- SCVS delivered Social Prescribing to many areas of Swansea and recruited more staff for the role during this period.
- Our Neighbourhood Approach staff were operational during this period supporting people including providing volunteers to support people to use digital equipment.

### **SCVS and the Sector as a whole**

- SCVS produced the following information sheets to support the sector and others including Local Area Coordination Teams: SCVS Overview for Informal Volunteering on Safeguarding & Confidentiality and SCVS Keeping Safe & Healthy. We also produced a Safeguarding Policy Development Guidance sheet for those needing to develop their own policy.
- We worked with local Councillors and Local Area Coordinators to discuss potential safeguarding issues around Financial abuse for those who were dependant on others to meet their basic needs such as food shopping.
- We directed organisations to WGSB website for information and always ensure we emphasis the need for robust safeguarding procedures.
- SCVS negotiated with Swansea Council Social Services department accessing their eLearning safeguarding training for ourselves and other Third Sector Organisations/Groups. Access was

granted and extended and we were also provided with the opportunity to access other relevant training via elearning.

- SCVS has shared training that has come from WGSB within our own service and the Sector.
- SCVS has continued to support the Sector by holding its various forums and emphasising the need for continued diligence in relation to safeguarding. We have invited guest speakers to talk at these forums on relevant matters including the DBS Outreach Worker for Wales. We also included training on our training programme with themes of safeguarding running through them.
- SCVS and NPTCVS are the referral route for Hospital Discharge for Swansea Bay University Health Board for Community Wellbeing Referrals. This service carries out a wellbeing assessment and referral on to other third sector services based on need eg Swansea Carers Centre, British Red Cross etc

### **Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service**

- Joined the TTP Communication Cell in order to provide guidance on how to engage with harder to reach individuals and to share consistent messages across the region.
- Developed and provided training to volunteers around keeping themselves and other safe whilst undertaking COVID-19 response roles.
- Made safeguarding awareness training available to all volunteers across Neath Port Talbot and extended invitation to partners including Tai Tarian staff.
- Developed and delivered training for volunteer managers in Neath Port Talbot who were responsible for overseeing volunteers in their COVID-19 response roles.
- Developed and delivered training across the region to Test, Trace, Protect contact staff.
- Joined the Multiagency Oversight of Vulnerable Children and Young People group which was set up to arrange monitoring for vulnerable people in Neath Port Talbot during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Took part in Suicide Rapid Response meetings to review suicides in Neath Port Talbot with a focus on contagion and putting support in place for those affected by the suicides.
- Worked with the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board and Swansea Bay University Health Board to establish the Community Wellbeing Service, ensuring patients are discharged from hospital quickly and safely where community support can be provided.
- Worked with the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board and Swansea Bay University Health Board to plan for third sector support in care homes should additional support be needed.
- Organised a Safeguarding event for the third sector which provided information about the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures and what they mean to third sector groups.

### **Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service – Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Probation Service**

The year 2020/2021 has been unprecedented for Probation delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a UK wide lockdown and a move to Exceptional Delivery Model across all forms of probation delivery. In Swansea, NPT the Probation Service embarked on an early and comprehensive review all domestic abuse perpetrators. This work focussing on those who posed

the highest risk of harm initially and working closely with Police and LA partners to review and deliver Risk Management Plans in the context of pandemic and the consequential impact on risk.

Throughout the pandemic the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children has remained the absolute priority for Probation Practitioners and the Probation Delivery Unit. The strength of our local partnership working and guidance from Welsh Government and WGSB has enhanced our ability to respond quickly to risk issues using established frameworks around Child Protection, MAPPA, MARAC and other forums. We were able to offer reassurances that each of person on probation in Swansea, NPT had received a reviewed and comprehensive risk assessment to review risk management activity during this challenging period.

We were also able to cascade the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 and apply them to probation practice and developing delivery models. During the later “lockdowns” a more blended approach to offender statutory supervision was introduced, allowing flexibility to ensure a swift response to any escalation of risk of serious harm and/or reoffending. We were also able to facilitate a high level of community doorstep and home visits jointly with partnership professionals. H&S and safeguarding audits have also been undertaken in response to strategic priorities to and provide assurances at executive level.

In June 2021, the unification of the Probation Service across Wales and England has meant that all Accredited Programmes delivery, Unpaid Work delivery and a new Resettlement Model for those leaving prison will become the responsibility for a single, unified Probation Service. Over 2021/2022, our new Target Operating Model will be introduced reinforcing safeguarding as a key priority for our most vulnerable within our communities.

## **Barnardo's Cymru**

Barnardo's Cymru continues to engage with and contribute to the work of the board, ensuring information and learning is distributed across the organisation at a National and Regional level. This year Barnardo's has also provided representation on the Policy, Procedure & Practice Management sub-group contributing to the development of policy and practice guides. Barnardo's uses a variety of forums to distribute information from the board such as internal strategic performance reviews, operational managers meetings and practitioners annual Safeguarding events. Learning from CPR/APR's are shared both at a strategic and practitioner level across the organisation and there is a dedicated Safeguarding Practice group chaired by the safeguarding lead for Barnardo's Cymru which seeks to embed any recommendations into practice tools and guidance. The Safeguarding lead for Barnardo's Cymru in partnership with the organisations training unit has revised content of mandatory safeguarding modules in order to be able to offer Safeguarding level one and two courses via digital platforms, this has ensured all staff have maintained their mandatory training requirements. Barnardo's Cymru has also ensured that specialist pan Wales services such as Better Futures have contributed to boards sub-groups and ensured reports and learning events have been disseminated to partner agencies and board members.

In respect of service provision since March 2020, Barnardo's continued essential service delivery across the region utilising a covid secure framework. Staff maintained support to service users via



digital platforms as well as onsite duty responses for those in crisis where face to face support was available. Barnardo's also secured additional monies from fundraising to support children, young people and families with emerging needs as a result of the pandemic. This was utilised to provide devices that enabled access to better communication platforms as well as laptops for education and training purposes and wellbeing packs were also issued to support those wider needs resulting from isolation and anxiety.

## **Area Planning Board (APB)**

As part of the response to Covid-19 the Area Planning Board (APB) Team liaised with Substance Misuse Service Providers to ensure that children and young people who access services directly and those whose parents or guardians do were included in the Multi Agency Oversight of Vulnerable Children Group in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

The APB has agreed to begin a Transformation Project in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop a new integrated substance misuse service across the region. The model will link up mainstream and criminal justice substance misuse services to create a fully integrated service. All partners have agreed to commission a consultant (who led a similar project in Dundee recently) to take the lead on the first phase of the project to include consideration of the structure of Advisory Panel, steering group, commission structures, programme, arrange and plan meetings, produce briefing papers, minutes and reports, identify and arrange speakers/evidence providers, identify and prepare good practice presentations/papers, capture and represent evidence from those with lived experience, prepare mid-term and final reports, organise final conference to share recommendations and Liaise with press/media.

The APB is keen to ensure that the appropriate links are made with Safeguarding Teams to ensure that they are properly sighted about children and young people with the substance misuse service area. The APB has requested that assurances are provided to them regarding how this cohort of young people are being safeguarded. The APB would also like assurances of how vulnerable adults are also being safeguarded during this time.

The APB Commissioning, Finance and Performance Sub Group (CFP SG) has 3 actions in its work plan relating to Safeguarding:

1. "Ensure strong governance and monitoring around safeguarding within services and formalise relationships with safeguarding boards"

Members are keen to establish a more formal relationship between the Safeguarding Board and the APB. There is membership on the APB from social services however this needs to be strengthened. It may also be useful if the APB was represented at the Safeguarding Board.

2. “Review Safeguarding policies and procedures and how these are put into practice to give assurances that services are working towards ensuring the people they support can be kept safe”

The APB Team’s Contract Monitoring Officer will be establishing a thematic approach towards reviewing policies and procedures of all the Substance Misuse Service Providers in the region and how these are put into practice. Safeguarding will be covered in these reviews.

3. “Complete case file audit of children and young people services, as well as families services, to be able to give assurances that services are doing everything they can to keep young people safe”

This forms part of the new contract monitoring processes, any issues raised during the audits will be fed upwards as necessary.



## Participation

The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board routinely invites people to participate in its work through engagement of families subject to Practice Reviews. A high proportion of families invited to contribute meet with the reviewers and give a view on how services and intervention could have been improved but also what went well.

### Junior Safeguarding Board (JSB)

The purpose of the JSB is for children and young people to have the opportunity to voice their concerns about safety in their school, homes and communities. The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board and officers supporting the Junior Safeguarding Board work closely to ensure the issues that are deemed important by children and young people across West Glamorgan are addressed. It has been a priority of officers supporting the JSB to establish joint ways of working to facilitate the participation of children and young people, and a feedback mechanism between children and young people in West Glamorgan and the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board, and vice versa.

Established in January 2019, the Junior Safeguarding Board (JSB) comprises of representatives from secondary school across the West Glamorgan region including schools for children and young people with additional and complex needs. When the JSB was set up in 2019, pupils from across NPT would meet each term to discuss the safeguarding issues they faced at home; school; in their community; and online. From these initial discussions the young people decided that they wanted to champion two broad issues that were important to them, these two broad issues were further developed and focussed on:

- Bullying & Pressures  Stay Safe in Sport
- Equality and Discrimination  LGBTQ

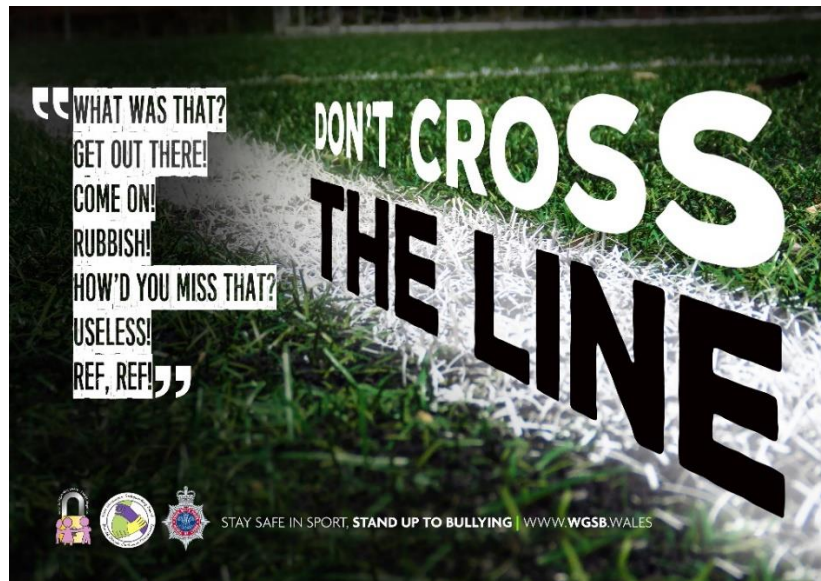
Due to the restrictions that Covid-19 imposed in 2020-21, in relation to schools being closed and the barriers of being able to meet young people face to face, the work of the Junior Safeguarding Board has had to adapt. Notwithstanding these challenges, throughout the year, officers have continued to work behind the scenes to champion safeguarding issues for children and young people in Neath Port Talbot in a number of ways.

### Stay Safe in Sport Campaign

As a group the JSB felt that children and young people experience too much pressure in relation to sporting activities, that they are victims of verbal and physical abuse, and wanted to champion a campaign to discourage such negative on pitch and side line behaviour so they can feel confident and enjoy sport.

Whilst Covid-19 presented many challenges, it was still important to progress this issue and continue to lobby various organisations in anticipation of a partnership approach to highlighting this issue. South Wales Police were very keen to get on board to support this work with the local authority and the Neath Port Talbot Children's Rights Unit. A workshop session was developed where JSB members and Police Youth Volunteers came along (virtually) to discuss how they wanted to address the problem and gave their views and ideas for an awareness campaign. Taking on board the young people's comments and ideas, a graphic designer was commissioned and three different

campaign ideas were developed. The initial concepts were shared with the young people and based on their feedback one idea was further developed into a campaign with a suite of three visuals, see below.





The 'Stay Safe in Sport' campaign was launched in National Safeguarding Week 2020, all stakeholders involved in National Safeguarding Week across the West Glamorgan area were provided a toolkit. The campaign aimed to:

- raise awareness of the issues children and young people face in relation to safeguarding in sport and side line behaviour
- provide marketing assets for key stakeholders to use to spread the word
- encourage coaches, parents, referees, children and young people to speak up

### **Pitchin', in the Kitchen: Opportunities for Care Experienced Children and Young People**

Pitchin', In the Kitchen is a set of activity packs designed to build relationships and combat feelings of isolation that young people have seen as a priority during lockdown. These packs were created in collaboration with the amazing Care Experienced young people of Swansea, Swansea Children's Services Team and Mess Up The Mess Theatre Company, as part of a Well lawn project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. In the midst of Covid19 lock-down, Mess Up The Mess met with young people over Zoom; a very different way of working but still a lot of fun.

The pack was created in partnership with a team of artists, and cake designers to make the young people's vision come true. The young people have been vital to designing this pack from start to finish. The pack contains a number of activities including opportunities to have fun, bake together, play together, and laugh together – in either the real or virtual world. Anyone who would like to check out the tasty recipes or fun activities that bring people together and make them feel extra special, you can find Pitchin', In the Kitchen at <http://messupthemess.co.uk/pitch-in>

This project has been fundamental to the principle of participation, not only in listening to what matters to children and young people, but also in supporting them to feel connected and part of a community, in times where it is easy to feel isolated. This work has been instrumental during lockdown for social care practitioners, who have made effective use of it to build rapport and relationships with children, young people and families, where they usually do so face to face.

## JSB Newsletter

In order to maintain engagement with school pupils and members of the JSB, five online newsletter updates on safeguarding issues have been produced and sent out to schools. Packed full of information, some of the content included:

- Children's Rights
- Competitions - toptips2survivelockdown; Child Net Film (Safer Internet)
- Consultations/Surveys – Unicef; Children and Young People Education Committee; Coronavirus and me; Welsh Youth Parliament; Mental Health and well-being website.
- Launch of NPT Young People website
- Anti-bullying week
- Launch of 'Stay Safe in Sport' campaign
- National Safeguarding Week
- Girls Rights
- LGBTQ updates
- JSB Member focus

<https://sway.office.com/WsAHKpNT0oeJT4K?ref=Link>

"I like the JSB because they are very real. They don't try to sugar coat issues that affect children & young people and they seriously care about trying to fix the problems." **Oisin, JSB member.**

## LGBTQ

### Equali-Tea with the JSB resource

Members of the JSB raised LGBTQ as something they'd also like to champion. To support this issue, a pilot resource for schools was developed towards the end of the first quarter of 2021. The 'Equali-Tea' interactive and engaging pilot resource will be shared in the spring term with schools and groups across the West Glamorgan region, young people will be asked to try out the resource and share their feedback so that it can be developed further. The pilot resource includes:

- A quiz
- Conversation starters
- Scribble pad

Feedback from young people on the resource will be used to co-produce the final resource. Once it is finalised, it will be rolled out to all schools and special interest groups in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Young people will be encouraged to run the workshop with the support of adults, they will be given the opportunity to have a voice, and feedback their experiences and issues. Officers from both local authorities will collate the feedback, analyse themes and develop an action plan with young people on the issues that need addressing and this will be raised with those that can make a difference.



Equali-tea with the  
JSB Infographic.pdf

### **‘Preparing to be a board member’ training**

Members of the JSB were given the opportunity to attend **ONLINE** ‘Preparing to be a board member’ training delivered by Neath Port Talbot Children’s Rights Unit. Three members of the Junior Safeguarding Board attended the training in August 2020 and on external verification of their workbooks they all achieved a **Level 1 CQFW** qualification (Accredited by Agored Cymru). The qualification provides young people with the skills and knowledge to undertake their role; it will empower them to develop a sense of ownership; enable them to realise their potential to participate in decision-making; and give them the confidence to speak up. It will also equip them with the knowledge and skills to become a trustee in the future.

"I attended the get on board training to boost my opportunities in college and university to get on to my preferred course. I really liked how interactive it was and really recommend it to anyone who likes to learn more about charities." **Cerys, JSB member.**

### **Recognition for commitment**

Kindness Award - JSB members were awarded with a ‘Kindness Award’ for championing safeguarding issues in their community.



Volunteering Award - In recognition of their commitment to volunteering, JSB members were awarded with a certificate acknowledging their outstanding contribution to volunteering.





## The Right Way: Social Care

Young people from both regions of the West Glamorgan JSB have been involved in the development of work highlighted as good practice in the Children's Commissioner's for Wales newest resource, 'The Right Way: A Children's Rights Approach to Social Care in Wales'.

As well as Pitchin' in the Kitchen, which was cited as good practice, in Swansea, recognised work included:

The development of a template to establish rights based agreements between organisations and children within social care services and/or individual children and their lead worker. This is an extension of work between Corporate Parents and care experienced members of the JSB in Swansea, of which the Children's Commissioner's office have chosen to professionally design and use this session plan, and will be promoting it on the social care section of the their new website as a best practice resource for others working in the field.

## National Safeguarding Week

Members of the JSB played a key role in planning National Safeguarding Week November 2020. As well as the launch of the 'Stay Safe in Sport' campaign and 'Pitchin' in the Kitchen Project, training was provided for Foster Carers from the Western Bay area to attend a Relationship workshop facilitated by Brook, the UK's largest healthy relationships and sexual health charity. The outcome was to further educate Foster Carers to support young people in care.

## Collaborative working

Officers from Neath Port Talbot Council and Swansea Council meet regularly to discuss projects and collaborative working. Priorities that are specific to each local authority are identified, and joint projects are agreed with clear timescales and responsibilities. Regular joint updates are provided to the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board.



## Board Members and agency contributions

The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board partners have a responsibility to ensure the Board is functioning effectively. Attendance at Board meetings is monitored against the role profiles which members sign up to. The role profile indicates that members agree to attend 75% of Board meetings.

The chairing arrangements for the Board and sub groups are as follows:-

<b>WBSAB</b> Swansea Social Services SBUHB	<b>WBSCB</b> Neath Port Talbot Social Services South Wales Police
<b>Practice Review Management Group (Joint)</b> South Wales Police Education - Neath Port Talbot CBC	<b>Joint Strategic Training Group</b> Training Department – Neath Port Talbot CBC Training Department – Swansea CC
<b>Policy, Practice and Procedure Management Group (Joint)</b> Social Services – Swansea CC SBUHB	<b>Quality &amp; Performance Management Group (Joint)</b> Social Services – Neath Port Talbot CBC NSPCC

During 2020-21 the WGSB met on 4 occasions. There was good attendance from our partners as detailed below:

#### West Glamorgan Safeguarding Children & Adult Board

Agency	18/05/2020	09/09/2020	23/11/2020	12/03/2021
Neath Port Talbot LA	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swansea LA	✓	✓	✓	✓
SBUHB	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Wales Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
NSPCC	✓		✓	✓
National Probation Service (NPS)	✓		✓	✓
Public Health Wales (PHW)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barnardo's	✓		✓	
SCVS	✓	✓	✓	
Youth Justice Early Intervention Service (YEIS)	✓		✓	✓
WAST				✓
HMP Swansea	✓			
NISB	✓	✓	✓	✓

In 2020/21 the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board used the national formula for financial contributions from statutory partner agencies as follows:-

Agency	
<i>City &amp; County of Swansea</i>	60%
<i>Neath Port Talbot CBC</i>	
<i>SBUHB</i>	25%
<i>South Wales Police</i>	10%
National Probation Services	5%
<b>Total Funding £163,900</b>	

## Resources

The above contributions fund the Regional Safeguarding Boards business management unit which consists of a Business Manager, Adult Co-ordinator and Children's Co-ordinator and a part time administrator. The specific costs for the unit are set out below:-

Total costs –	£161,514
Staffing	£146,910
APR/CPR's /Development	£14,604
(Conference, Learning Events and Training)/Admin	

It is acknowledged that resources used to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board 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 Board and its work. This is often in addition to their professional roles and day to day responsibilities. The diverse nature of the Boards work makes this difficult to report on within a quantifiable and measurable resource context and is not always visible to other professionals and agencies. The process, management and publication of child and adult practice reviews, as well as the development of regional policies and protocols are just some examples of Safeguarding Board work and projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise.

## **Other Board Activities**

### **Adult Protection Support Orders**

Adult Protection and Support Orders (APSOs) have been developed within Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act to improve the ability to protect adults who may be at risk.

The purpose of an APSO are:

- (a) To enable the authorised officer and any other person accompanying the officer to speak in private with a person suspected of being an adult at risk
- (b) To enable the authorised officer to ascertain whether that person is making decisions freely, and
- (c) To enable the authorised officer properly to assess whether the person is an adult at risk and to make a decision as required by section 126(2) on what, if any actions should be taken

Regulations specify that Safeguarding Board annual reports should include information on the number of APSO's applied for, how many were made and how effective they were.

To date the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board or its partner agencies have not applied for an Adult Protection Support Order.

### **Guidance and advice received from Welsh Government and National Independent Safeguarding Board**

The Safeguarding Board has actively responded to Welsh Government consultations.

The Board would also like to thank the NISB for their support and attendance at our meetings and we look forward to continuing this work in future.

### **Section 137 Requests for information**

Section 137 of the SSWA provides a Safeguarding Board with the power to request specific information from a qualifying person or body provided that the purpose of the request is to enable or assist the Board to perform its functions. A "qualifying person or body" must be likely to have a real possibility that they hold information which enable the Board to fulfil its functions.

Since enactment the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board have not formally used their powers under Section 137 of the Act. The Boards and their management groups have been able to request information using the agreements within the terms of reference for each and has therefore made many requests for information to support its work in audits, quality assurance and practice reviews. These requests for information have always been acknowledged and the information supplied.