



Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2016/17

(1/4/2016 – 31/3/2017)



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Document author: Lisa Hedley Business Manager

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Contact email: wbsb@npt.gov.uk



Foreword

This is the Annual Report for the year 2016/17 of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board and reflects activity and achievements from our business plan.

It has been a great privilege to be the Board Chairman, firstly during a period of establishment and mobilisation and more recently to oversee the effective delivery of our annual plan. On behalf of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board I can say with confidence that we are established, effective and in place to deliver the functions set out in Part 7 (section 135) of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.

As the report shows, membership and approaches are continually changing to support structures as we strive to achieve delivery of Board functions in new ways of working through the willingness, collaboration, effort and commitment of all the Agencies.

Our key aim is for the Safeguarding Children Board must always be to be effective and have a demonstrably positive impact upon the safety and wellbeing of Children and Young People. Four of many examples I could point to are:

- An Outstanding Board is modern, efficient and responsive.
- Providing real challenge to all of the agencies, individually and collectively. This is the core purpose of a Safeguarding Board.
- Really ensuring that Agencies work together, share information and that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past.
- Anticipating and dealing with safeguarding issues (e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation); not reacting to them.

One of the major challenges for this, or any other Safeguarding Board is to get everyone's attention and thus make a difference. For this reason the WBSCB continues to be run in a very business-like way, with a streamlined, priority-driven programme; and emphasis upon results and outcomes, not process.

The Board is not a Provider Organisation; it is an Enabler. That is to say it is there to make sure that things happen and vice versa. So for example, the Board cannot and should not 'provide' training; but it ensures that where required, agencies do.

The Councils, agencies and public which the Board serves have a right to expect an effective, value for money Safeguarding Children Board, with a clear sense of purpose. That's exactly how we started and will continue.

Nick Jarman

Chairman



Introduction

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB) was established in April 2013 following the direction from Welsh Government to respond to the white paper: Sustainable Social Services: a Framework for Action and the development of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Since April 2016 the WBSCB has become a statutory regional Board with set boundaries and lead authority identification from within the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act 2014. It works with the three local authorities following the Health Board footprint; (Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea), the regional Youth Offending Service, ABMU Health Board, South Wales Police force (two Basic command units), the National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Service, Welsh Ambulance Service, the National Safeguarding Service, Public Health Wales (PHW) and voluntary sector organisations. Since its establishment it has been chaired by the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Director for Social Services. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are also identified as the lead authority with responsibility of establishing a regional Safeguarding Board.

Volume 1 of the Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard People identified the requirements placed on safeguarding boards in terms of accountability and effectiveness. Within this guidance it is identified that each safeguarding board should have an annual plan published no later than 31st March each year and an annual report published no later than 31st July each year. The guidance also identifies what is required within the annual plan and annual report which allows for consistency across Wales. As the SSWA and subsequent guidance was enacted post the requirement to publish an annual plan meeting the requirements Welsh Government issued advice that boards did not have to submit an annual report until July 2017. Therefore, this is the first annual plan written in accordance with the new statutory guidance and will reflect on achieved outcomes and effectiveness based on the annual plan that was in place during 2016/17.

The Governance arrangements within the WBSCB are strong and robust with a clear annual business plan setting out required outcomes. It has a clear and effective management group structure which supports the delivery of its business plan on behalf of the Board. Reports are routinely submitted to the Board to raise risks and issues against the delivery of the plan and for decision and action from the Board. This enables the Board to take ownership of its work at strategic level and provide leadership to the management groups on the delivery of the business plan. The reporting arrangements into each LA's Service Board or equivalent remain inconsistent however each receives progress updates when required. Work on wider governance issues, links with other partnerships and robust reporting mechanisms continue to develop.

The Terms of Reference developed for WBSCB are reviewed annually and promote the requirement for accountability. There are clear definitions for professional challenge and holding to account. Each Board member is required to sign up to a member Role Profile to which they are individually accountable in relation to their contribution to the Board and attendance at Board meetings. The Board also has measures within its Performance and Impact Framework which assist in reporting activity of Board members against elements within their role profiles. This allows the Board to demonstrate multi-agency working at a strategic level.



The Board's business is managed through a dedicated Business Management Unit which is financed through a committed Safeguarding Board budget. The Business Management Unit and associated budgets have undergone thorough review in accordance with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 and the expectation placed on lead agencies to have Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards. Western Bay has a single committed budget which supports a staff structure for both Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards and consists of one Strategic Business and Development Manager, two dedicated Strategic Business Coordinators and a Business Administrator.



Summary and Evaluation of WBSCB's effectiveness and activity

Summary and evaluation of effectiveness aligns with the Board's business plan. The 2016/17 Business plan sets out the difference between its core business which is required in legislation and the work to be undertaken against the agreed strategic priorities. In this chapter, a review of the 2016/7 business plan will demonstrate how effective the Board has been against its strategic priorities and against its overarching priorities. Following on from this a review of individual management group performance will provide readers with an understanding of what has been achieved as its core business.

Review of the 2016/7 Business Plan

In addition to the WBSCB's core business required as Safeguarding Board Functions in Volume 1 – Working Together to Safeguard People – Introduction and Overview the Board focused its attentions on the following priorities with overarching outcomes for each:

- **NEGLECT - All children resident or visiting the region are safeguarded from Neglect effectively and at the earliest opportunity**

The WBSCB has a Neglect Practice Guidance Toolkit which is clear, focussed and is regularly reviewed and updated with links to research and practice learning.

For the past 2 years the Board has worked with national initiatives, contributed to consultation and provided individual interviews to assist the development of a suite of assessment tools for neglect. The Welsh Neglect Project however has yet to produce a single assessment tool or suite of tools for implementation across the country an instead has recommended further research based on the Graded Care Profile 2 and the North Carolina Neglect Assessment. Further exploration of these tools will be considered by the WBSCB over the next 12 months to determine whether a consistent regional approach to neglect assessment can be identified. The Board remains keen to have a tool which will identify, and address indicators of neglect long before the threshold of CP registration are met.

In the meantime, Neglect remains the highest category of child Protection registration throughout the region and is also the highest category for re referrals.

The Board also receives regular performance data in relation to children suffering from Neglect and through 6 monthly analysis reports the Board maintains a watching brief on the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register for neglect. A particular focus for the Board this year has been on early indicators of possible neglect including how low school attendance and children under 5 being managed by health visitors and what preventive measures can be put in place to address the possibility of neglect. Neglect will remain a priority for WBSCB throughout 2017/18 and beyond until we can be more confident that cases are being assessed at the earliest point, neglect is identified early and responded to effectively and consistent assessment and response makes a positive impact on children suffering long term neglect.



- **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – All children and Young People resident or visiting the region who are subject to or at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation are identified and safeguarded effectively, consistently and at the earliest opportunity.**

CSE has been a priority for WBSCB since its establishment and long before it became a National Headline across the UK. As the focus across the UK turned towards CSE the WBSCB proactively escalated this as its number one priority to ensure that the Board was doing everything it could to understand prevalence, interventions and safeguarding services for the most vulnerable young people at risk of CSE.

Throughout 2016/17 CSE has sat high on each Board agenda and a comprehensive set of performance data has been delivered. The WBSCB can be confident through data analysis and reporting that it is achieving the requirements from the All Wales CSE Protocol to actively enquire about CSE activity, that the protocol is applied consistently and training is being delivered to identify and address activity. The Board regularly exercises its duty to hold to account using the performance data to address matters such as high numbers in one area and police response to individual cases.

In May 2016 the Board received a presentation from Barnardo's in relation to the Gwella Project. This project will be 3rd sector grant funded and will work across the regional safeguarding board areas in Wales. It is a 3 year project which will work closely with SCBs to:

- Map what's out there and what is needed
- Identify local pressures and regional themes and issues
- Develop consistent EIP solutions/approaches to responding to childhood trauma and abuse.

The board were advised that the 1 year of the project would be a valuable resource to the Board in delivering on the national CSE action plan. The project will then develop into a resource to advise on practice and become a SPOC (Single Point of Contact) for CSE and sexually harmful behaviours. An annual data report is appended to this report identifying CSE data and analysis throughout 2016/17.

- **DOMESTIC ABUSE - All Children and young people are safeguarded so that they develop healthy relationships with successful futures.**

The implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015 has provided the Board with a platform from which to identify and safeguard children from the impact of Domestic Abuse. The Board has developed relationships with the local Community Safety Partnerships across the region to establish performance information and contribution to the safeguarding agenda from the local



Domestic Abuse Forums. During the Safeguarding Conference held in November 2016 the Boards linked with AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse) to deliver a powerful message to practitioners on involving family members in Domestic Homicide Reviews. The Boards have also established mechanisms and reporting frameworks with the local CSPs to be notified, invited to contribute and consulted upon (where appropriate) during Domestic Homicide Reviews. Due to the skills and experience within the Business Management Unit it has been involved in supporting local CSPs in managing 2 DHR cases which are due to be completed in 2017.

- **NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES - All Children and young people affected by New Psychoactive substance misuse issues are able to make informed choices in order to prevent and reduce the harm associated with the use of NPS**

The Board made links with the Western Bay Area Planning Board and has actively contributed to the work plan of the children and young people's sub group. The criminalisation of NPS has assisted in promoting the message of risk to young people.

Child Practice Review Management Group

The Child Practice Review Management Group (CPRMG) is chaired by the Designated Nurse within the National Safeguarding Team Public Health Wales. In January 2013 the Child Practice Review Guidance which replaced Chapter 10 Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004 was implemented. The CPRMG meets monthly and has developed referral and decision making processes to manage cases consistently across the region. The processes are aligned with the National Child Death Review processes and PRUDiC processes to ensure that all child deaths are reported via this group. In addition the CPRMG is notified of any community safeguarding incidents reported to the Youth Justice Board by the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.

The CPRMG has a process by which Multi Agency Professional Fora take place in specific cases where it has been identified that lessons for future practice can be learned. These processes allow a much more transparent and robust approach to reviewing cases that do not meet the threshold for child practice review. Activity within this group remains high and most of the training CPR reviewers in the region have now had experience of reviewing or chairing a Child Practice Review (CPR) or Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF).

Between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017 the CPRMG has considered 6 individual cases for review. The result for each case considered is outlined below:



How many cases have been considered for Review during the year?	6 cases
How many cases considered were referred to multi agency professional forums?	0
How many were recommended to WBSCB Chair for concise or extended review?	1 (Extended)
How many reviews were completed during the year?	1 (commenced during 2015/16)
How many concise or extended reviews were completed within the 6 month timescale?	0
Were all learning events attended appropriately?	Learning events took place throughout the year in relation to CPRs commenced 2015/16. Of these learning events most were appropriately attended. Where it was identified that key staff had been unable to attend individual interviews were held to capture views.

- Extended CPR – 1
- Concise CPR – 0
- Historical CPR – 0
- Multi-Agency Professional Forum – 0
- No Review – 5

Of the 5 cases where no review was taken forward it was identified that 2 cases were for out of area children and so referrals for CPRs in the provider authority were made. Two did not meet the criteria and another one was referred to Quality and Performance for an audit on professional abuse meetings.

Timescales clearly remain an issue for completion of CPR reviews. Whereas the time to undertake a CPR has significantly reduced from when we were undertaking Serious Case Reviews, the process is resource heavy. Within Western Bay we are lucky to have a pool of trained reviewers and chairs who willingly undertake the practise reviews as an addition to their working roles however this does regularly impact on availability to attend panel meetings, undertake learning events and write reports. Furthermore, with austerity measures and an increase in demands back at organisational level the ability to prioritise practice review work has been impeded.



Liaison with Family: All reviews have complied with the requirements to involve the family and allow them opportunity to contribute to the report. Reviewers have been to family homes, foster homes and prison in order to ensure the views of the subjects identified in the Child practice Reviews is included. This approach has been considered and welcomed by families.

Policy Procedure Practice Management Group

The Policy Procedure Practice Management Group (PPPMG) is chaired by the Assistant Nurse Director for Safeguarding within ABMUHB and has a focussed work plan and library. In 2016/17 the group has developed and recommended ratification on and has implemented the following protocols/practice guidance document:

- Supervision of Parents & Carers of children and young people admitted to hospital where there are safeguarding concerns

During this year the group has also commissioned several protocol reviews and have been able to re recommend ratification on the following:

- Child Protection Register Enquiries
- Childhood Obesity and child protection concerns
- Birth planning guidance

The group has also been involved in national consultations on the development of CSE protocol including the definition and continues to link with Welsh Government on the revision of the All Wales Protection Procedures.

Quality & Performance Management Group

The Quality & Performance Management Group (Q&PMG) is Chaired by the manager of the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service (YBYJS).

Throughout 2016/17 the group has taken a more thematic approach to quality monitoring and audit and has allowed the other management groups to influence its work plan. Audits were undertaken to assist the protocol review for CPR Enquiries, and birth planning guidance. It also continues to review and analyse performance data for reporting to the Board. Other work undertaken by this group is as listed:

- A scoping exercise into internal safeguarding audit processes within agencies
- Audit of Early Intervention and Prevention Strategies for consistency
- Neglect audit
- Reviewed out of county LAC placement plans
- Reviewed what CSE work is undertaken with schools in PSE lessons
- Considered the recommendations from the PHW Audit of CP Paediatric Services in Wales



Joint Strategic Training Group

The Joint Strategic Training Management Group (JSTG) is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding Children for the ABMUHB.

The JSTG is accountable to both the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB) and the Western Bay Safeguarding Adults Board (WBSAB) as appropriate, and supports them in the requirements placed upon them in assuring the availability of appropriate training and multi-agency training amongst board partners.

The group have ensured that training has been undertaken throughout agencies on several topics including;

- *CSE*
- *Operation Jasmine*
- *Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)*
- *Domestic Abuse Awareness*
- *Ask & Act*
- *Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014*
- *VAWDASV Act 2015 (Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act).*

The work plan has been developed for 2016/17 which continues to Focus on CSE, Operation Jasmine and Domestic Abuse as well as the following additional topics;

- *Safeguarding Awareness Raising Workshops / Practice Review Recommendations*
- *Performance Management Information on Training*

The group have also agreed on a regional Safeguarding Training Needs Analysis which will be linked in with the work being carried out on the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 in relation to Part 7.



Appendix 1: Budget

2016/17 Projected Budget And Expenditure		
Notes	Income And Expenditure	Original Budget 2016/17
INCOME – Funding		
Local Authority Contribution 60 % = £89,406		
Breakdown as per population:		
	Swansea 46%	41,127
	NPT 27%	24,140
	Bridgend 27%	24,140
	ABMUHB	37,253
	South Wales Police	14,901
	National Probation Services	3,725
	Community Rehabilitation Services	3,725
1	Total Funding	149,010
2	Contribution from Reserve	18,288
3	Further Contribution From Reserve	18,022
	TOTAL INCOME	185,326
EXPENDITURE		
Staffing Costs:		
	Strategic Business Manager	49,779
	Business Coordinator	33,359
	Business Coordinator	32,940
	WBSBs Administrator	21,945
	Total Staffing Cost	138,023
Serious Case Reviews/CPRs		
	Average 7 CPRs per year @ £1500	10,500
	Average 7 APRs per year @ £1500	10,500
	Chronolator Licence	1,200
4	Total SCR Costs	22,200
Development:		
	Annual Conference (SAB/SCB Combined)	12,000
	Multi-Agency Practice Learning Workshops	3,000
	Communication/Training	5,000
	Total Development Costs	20,000



Admin		
	Travel/Subsistence/Mobiles	3,000
	Office Equipment/Stationery/Support & Licences	2,100
	Total Admin Costs:	5,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		185,323

Notes:

1. No increase in total budget however agency contributions have been impacted due to legislated funding formula
2. Reserves carried forward as agreed 2015/16
3. Further reserves identified due to reduced staff compliment during financial year
4. Expenditure for CPRs has significantly changed compared with SCR's it is anticipated that APRs have increased in numbers. This spend varies year on year and is difficult to predict.



Appendix 2 – Membership

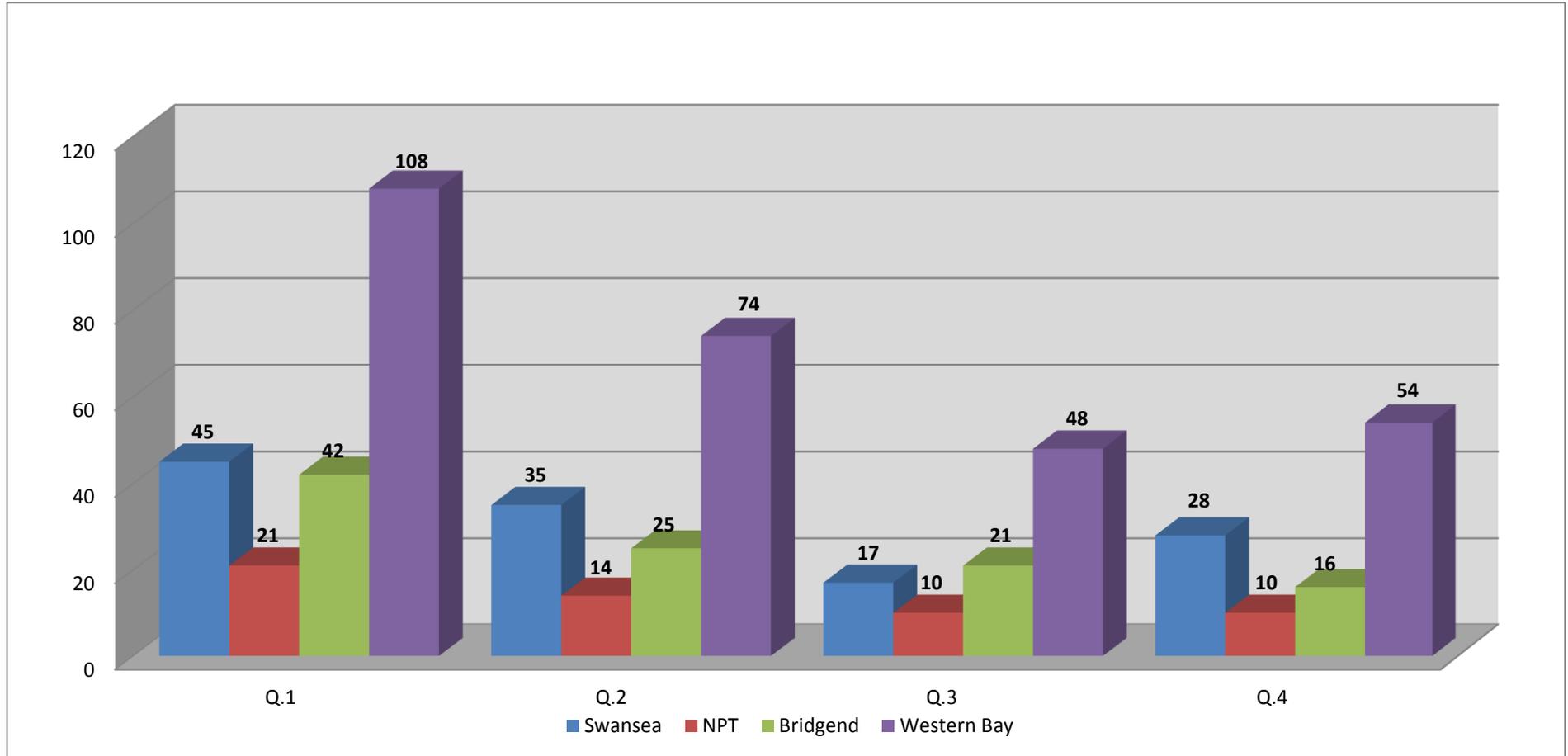
Organisation	Post	Name	Area of Responsibility
NPTCBC	Director of Social Services Health & Housing	Nick Jarman	Chairman
NPTCBC	Principal Officer, Safeguarding and Reviewing Service, Children and Young People Services	Alison Davies	
South Wales Police	Superintendent	Liane Bartlett	South Wales Police representative/Vice Chair
South Wales Police	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager	Sue Hurley	South Wales Police representative
National Probation Service	Assistant Chief Executive	Eirian Evans	Probation Service representative
National Probation Service		Emma Richards	Probation Service representative
Children's Safeguarding Services Public Health Wales	Designated Nurse Child Protection and Looked After Children	Daphne Rose	Public Health Wales and Child Practice Review management Group representative
NSPCC	Services Manager	Karen Minton	Voluntary sector representative
Barnardo's	Strategic Manager	Sarah Bowen	Voluntary sector representative
CVS	NPT CVS	Claire Hopkins	Local Voluntary Sector representative across WB
Youth Offending Service	Youth Offending Services Manager	Caroline Dyer	Western Bay Youth Offending services and Quality & Performance Management Group representative
Prison Service	Head of YPU	Jason Evans	Person and youth offending services Bridgend
Bridgend Local Authority	Director of Social Services & Lead Director for CYP	Susan Cooper	Local Authority representative Bridgend CBC



Bridgend County Borough Council	Head of Childrens Services	Laura Kinsey	Children's Services Representative Bridgend CBC
Bridgend County Borough Council	Director of Children's services	Deborah MacMillen	Local Authority representative BCBC
NPT County Borough Council	Lead Director Children & Young People	Aled Evans	Local Authority representative NPTCBC
NPT County Borough Council	Head of Children and young people's services	Andrew Jarrett	Children's Services Representative NPTCBC
City & County of Swansea	Interim Chief Officer Social Services	Dave Howes	Local Authority representative CCOS
City & County of Swansea	Chief Officer Education	Lindsay Harvey	Local Authority representative CCOS
City & County of Swansea	Head of School Support Unit	Nick Williams	Local Authority representative CCOS
City & County of Swansea	Interim Head of Child and Family Services	Julie Thomas	Children's Services representative CCOS
ABMUHB	Assistant Nurse Director	Cathy Dowling	ABMU Health Board representative
ABMUHB	Assistant Medical Director Primary Care	Dr Mat Stevens	Health Board Representative – Primary Care
Swansea Domestic Abuse Forum	Domestic Abuse Coordinator	Ali Morris	Domestic Abuse Forum: Swansea, NPT and Bridgend
ABMUHB	Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children	Virginia Hewitt	Joint Strategic Training Group
WBSCB	Strategic Business Manager	Lisa Hedley Collins	
NPTCBC	Children & Young People	Chris Millis	Local Authority representative NPTCBC

Appendix 3 – CSE Statistics and Analysis 2016/17

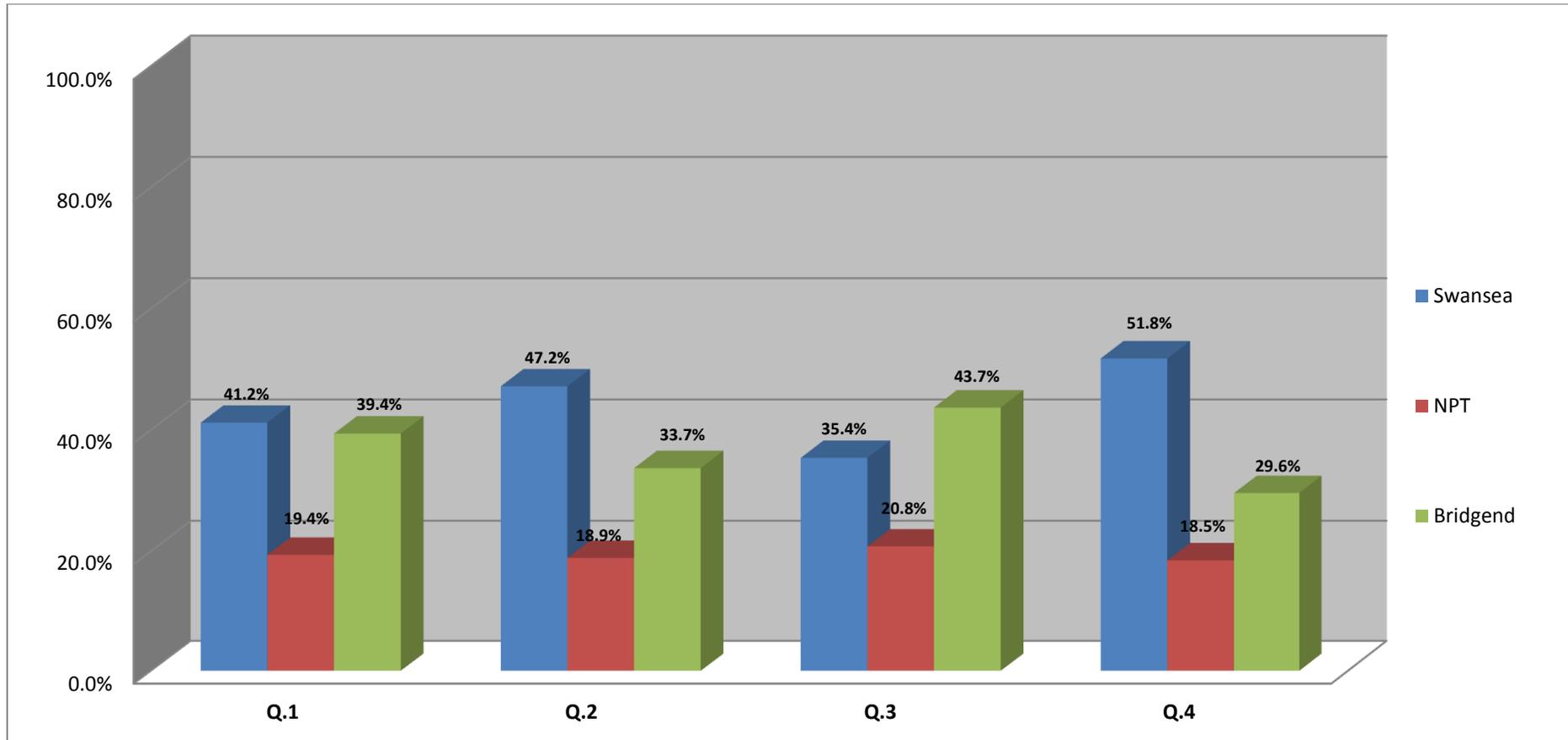
Children at Risk of CSE



Comments/Analysis:



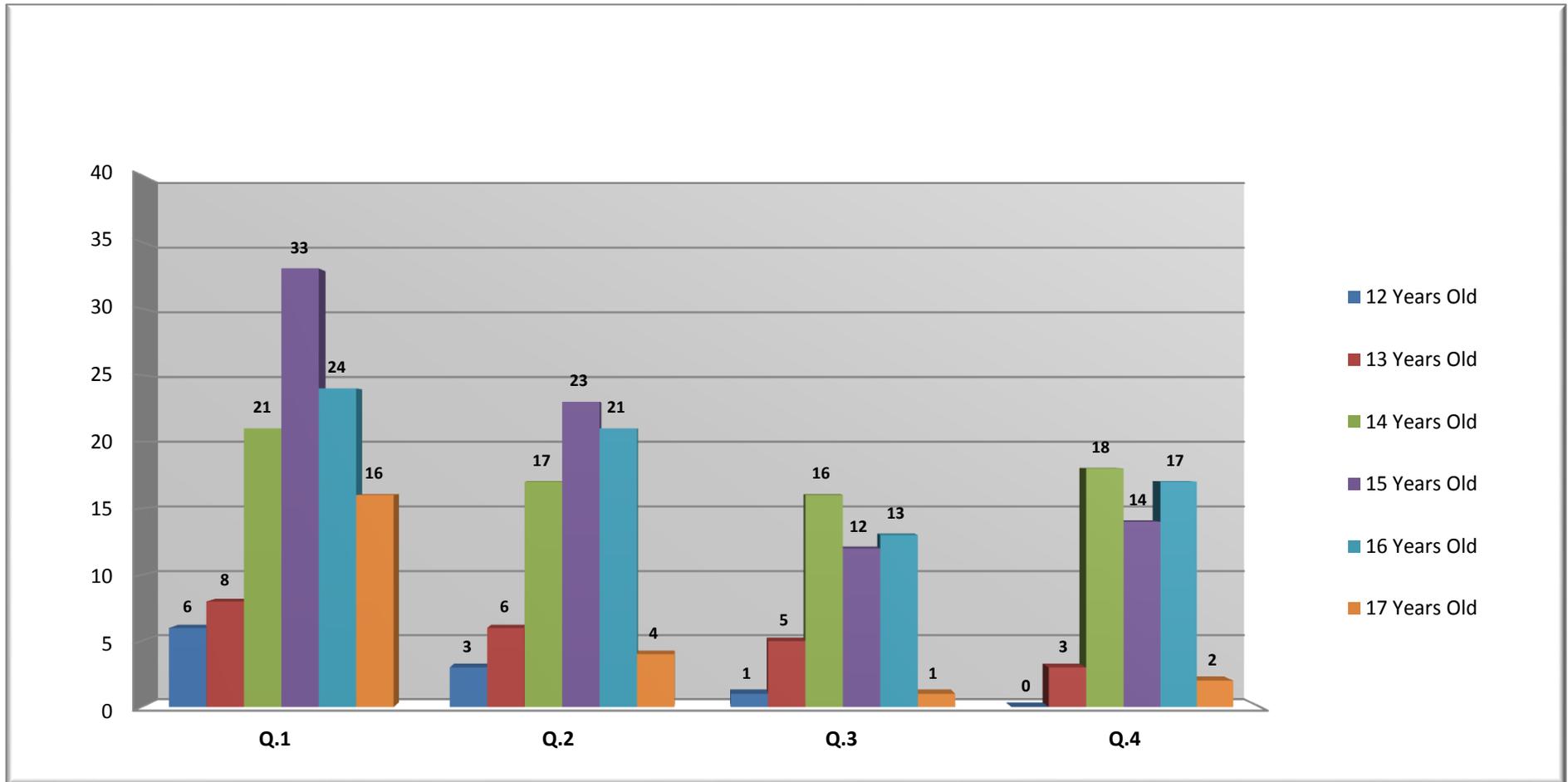
Children at Risk of CSE Broken down by Locality



Comments/Analysis:



Breakdown of Children at Risk of CSE by Age

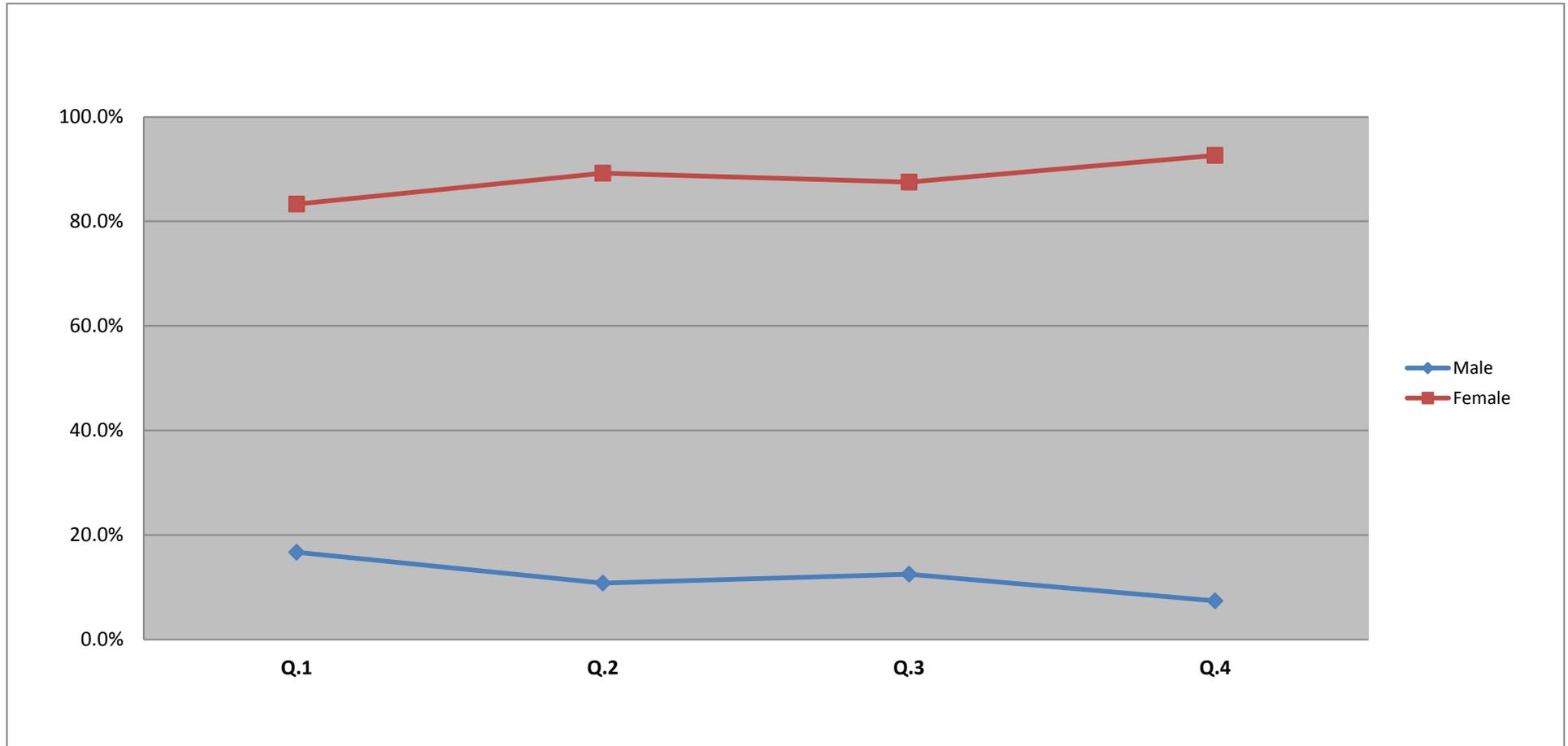


Comments/Analysis:

Most children/Young People identified at risk of CSE fall into the 14/16years age gap. There is however, a significant number (10) children identified under the age of 13. Where sexual offences are disclosed, children under 13 years old would be dealt with differently in relation to legal thresholds under the Sexual Offences Act. The Board may wish to seek clarity and assurance that the thresholds in the Sexual Offences Act have been considered appropriately for these cases.



Breakdown of Children at Risk of CSE by Gender (%)

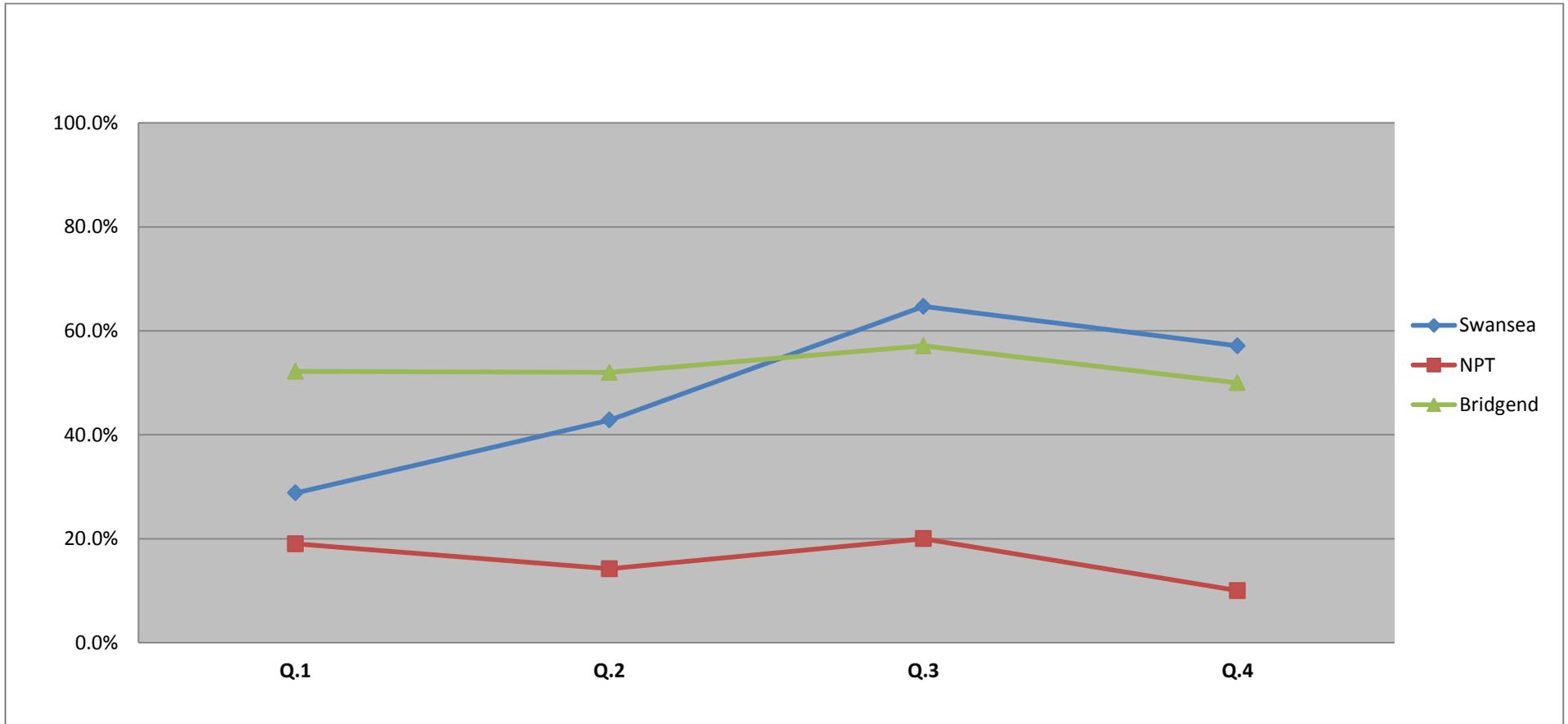


Comments/Analysis:

The majority of CSE cases are identified as girls however there is clear evidence that boys at risk of CSE are being identified. There appears to be a steady identification between genders which suggests that girls are more likely to be at risk of CSE. The Board may wish to consider requesting an audit of CSE referrals made for boys where it was considered they do not meet the thresholds in order to be assured that there is no gender bias.



Percentage of Children at Risk of CSE who are Looked After By Locality

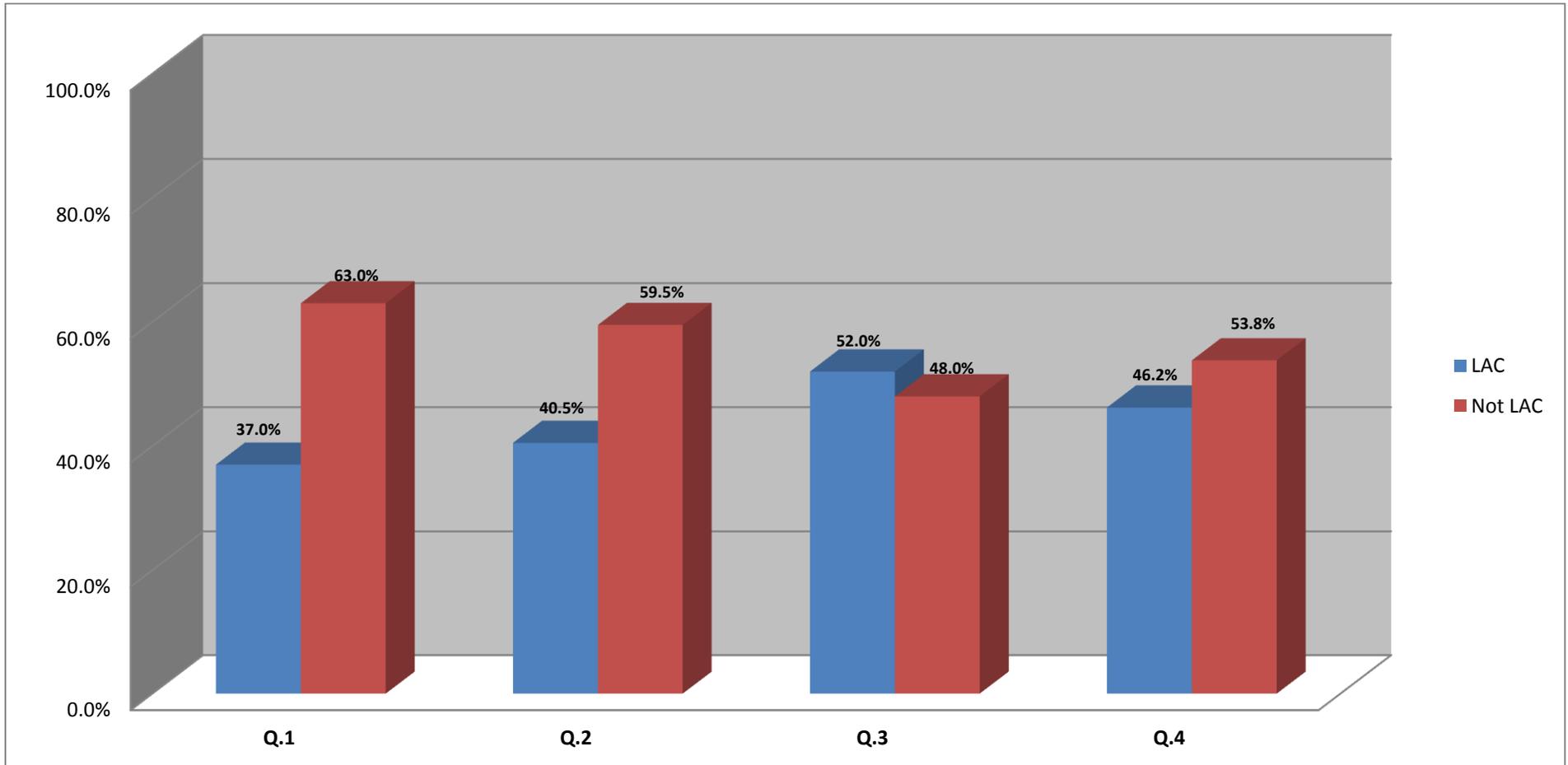


Comments/Analysis:

Over the last 12 months Swansea has seen an increased risk of CSE within its LAC population. This could be in relation to the numbers of OOC children being placed in specialist units within the county boundary identified at risk of CSE. Bridgend appear to have had a steady cohort of children/young people who are looked after and at risk of CSE whereas NPT's looked after children do not appear in high numbers of those at risk of CSE.



Percentage of Children at Risk of CSE who are Looked After Across Western Bay

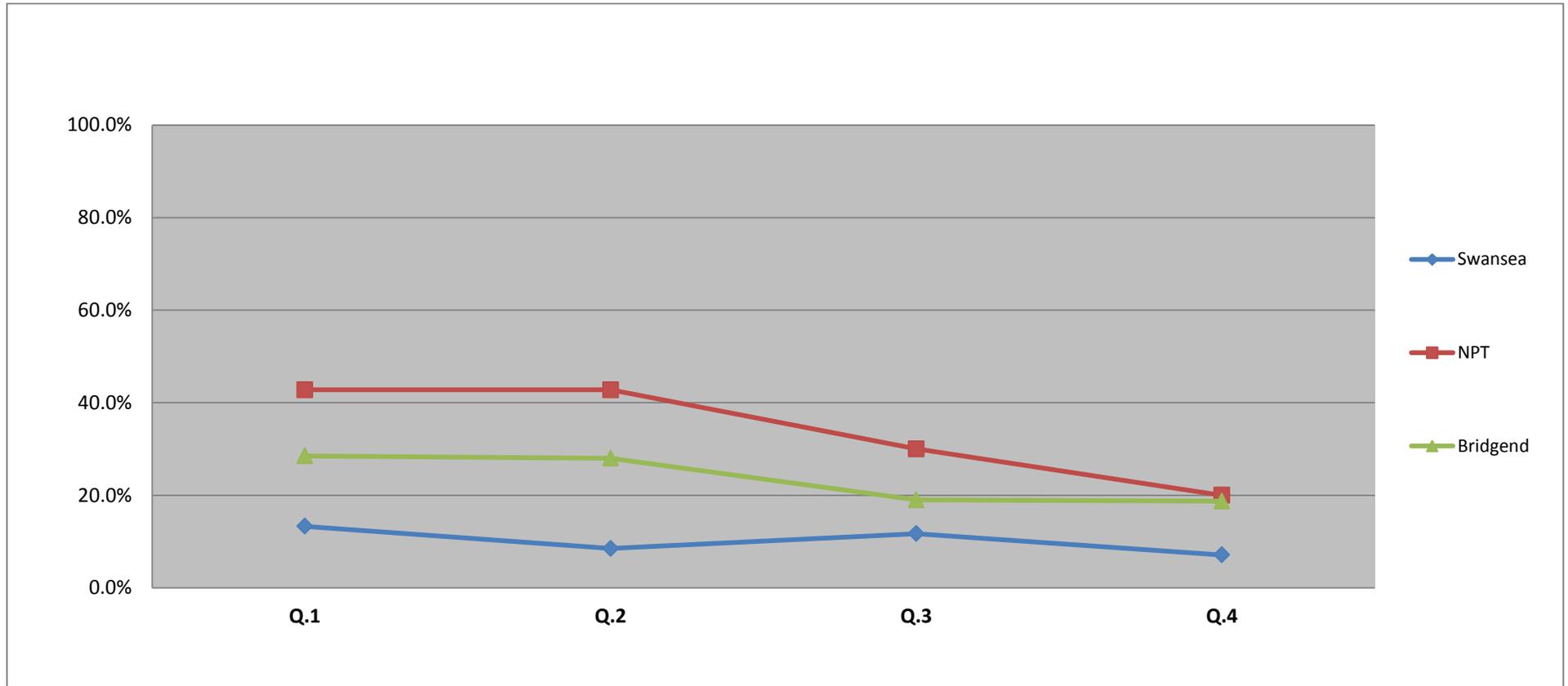


Comments/Analysis:

Throughout the last 12 months children who are not part of the looked after population make up the largest part of the CSE population. The third quarter shows the only time where LAC children appeared in higher numbers of CSE risk. This links directly to the spike in LAC children identified as at risk of CSE in Swansea and NPT at that time. There appears to be a reasonably equal balance of children looked after and not looked after which could suggest that having a looked after status does not necessarily increase risk of CSE.



Percentage of Children at Risk of CSE on Child Protection Register By Locality

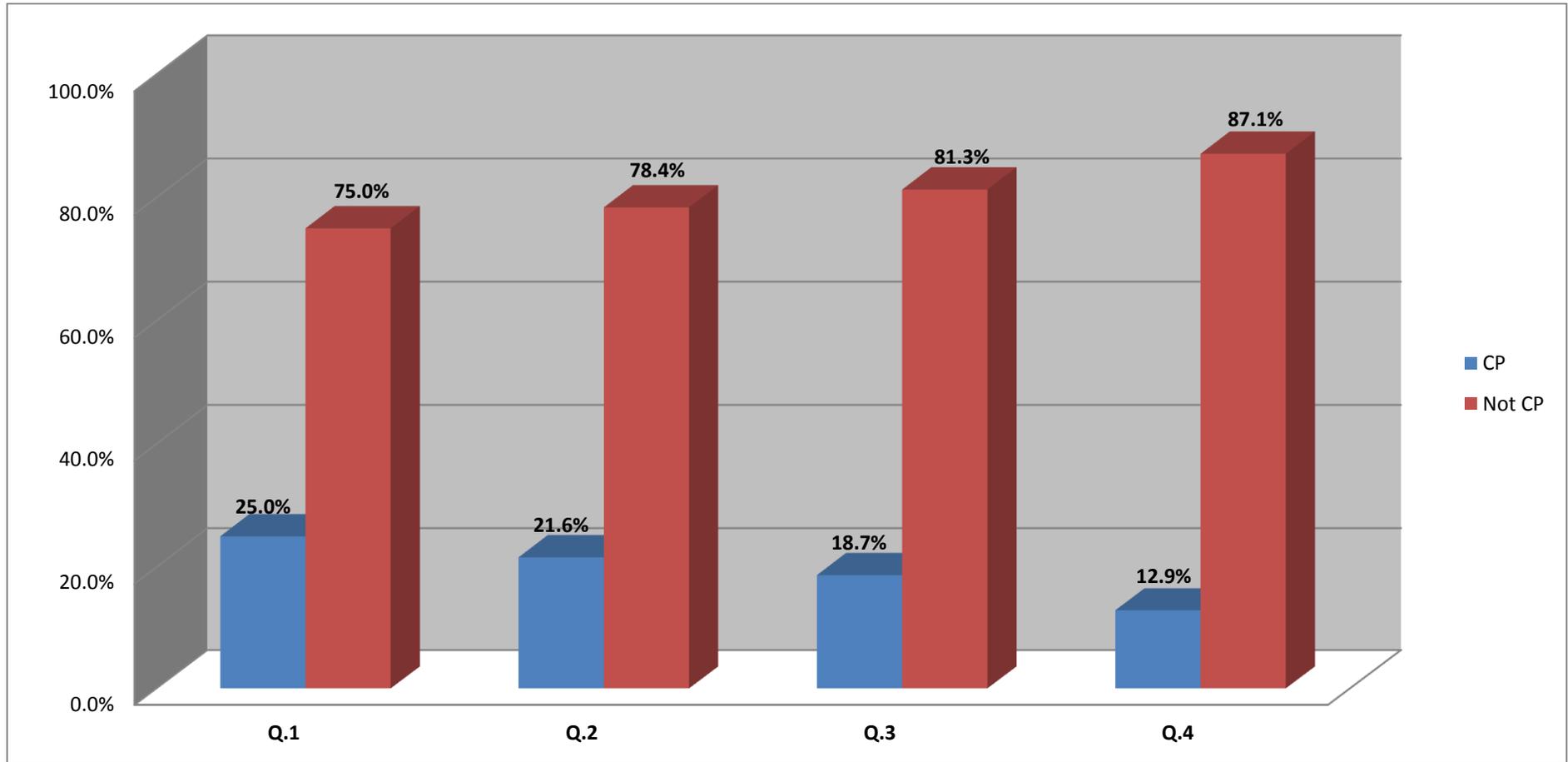


Comments/Analysis:

Numbers of children/Young people identified at risk of CSE and on the child protection register has dropped over the last 12 months. Each locality now has 20% or less children identified as at risk of CSE and on the CPR. Swansea maintaining its low numbers and NPT and Bridgend dropping significantly. This would suggested that agencies are working together to reduce parallel processes and interventions and that there is an increased confidence in the CSE protocol process being applied consistently across the region.



Percentage of Children at Risk of CSE who are on Child Protection Register Across Western Bay

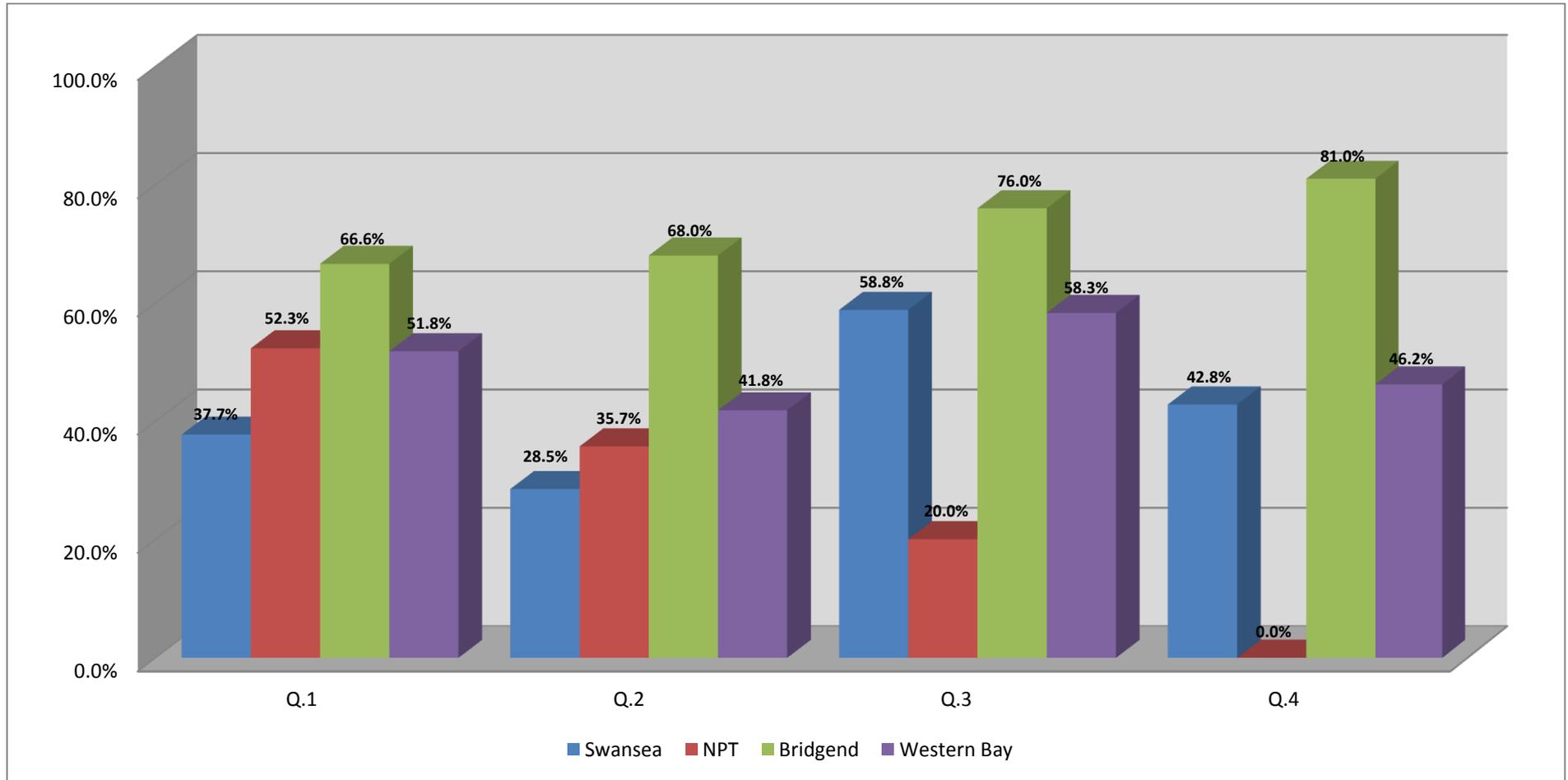


Comments/Analysis:

Overall, the number of children on CPR and identified as at risk of CSE has reduced by half. Indicating confidence and consistency in applying the CSE protocol.



Percentage of Children With History of Going Missing



Comments/Analysis:

Overall half of children/young people at risk of CSE go missing. Numbers vary across the region and the year which supports previous analysis around CSE and missing episodes in that individual cases carry different risks depending on circumstances. BCBC have a higher number of children who are at risk of CSE and go missing however this may be due to how missing children are defined and recorded in that area.