



Corporate Safeguarding Group

Bi-annual Report

December 2021

In February 2021 the first Bi-Annual report was shared setting out the work undertaken across the Council in response to the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) Report, dated c. 2019. The work against the WAO work programme has since concluded and the group is now well established with membership from each of the Directorates and the wider Partnerships. Over the course of the last year the group has had oversight of the Council's response to Safeguarding during a Pandemic. This has included regular updates from the Gypsy Romany Traveller (GRT) Working Group – set up to support the GRT communities across Neath & Port Talbot (NPT). There is a need to extend this work to consider equality and diversity more broadly i.e. the Local Authority's (LA) response to safeguarding the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer (or Questioning), Intersex, Asexual (or allies (LGBTQIA+) and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) community. The group has supported the Joint Inspection into Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) across NPT, the findings of which were broadly positive for Children's Services, Education and Youth Justice. The JICPA Action Plan will now be a standing agenda item for the group to oversee. The group also receive updates from Youth Justice and Hillside Secure Children's Home.

Currently the group is developing a suite of safeguarding data to track activity across the LA beyond standard metrics: Training, Safer Recruitment, Reporting and Responding to abuse Intra- and extra-familial harm, professional concerns, escalating concerns (care homes, including Children's care homes etc). The group is also supported by the Social Services Quality and Strategic Practice Group who may embark upon work, such as, audits, dip sampling, Internal learning reviews etc. on behalf of the Corporate Safeguarding Group to consider matters of a corporate safeguarding nature.

Found below are updates from across the LA in respect of Safeguarding activity.

Safeguarding across Directorates and Partnerships

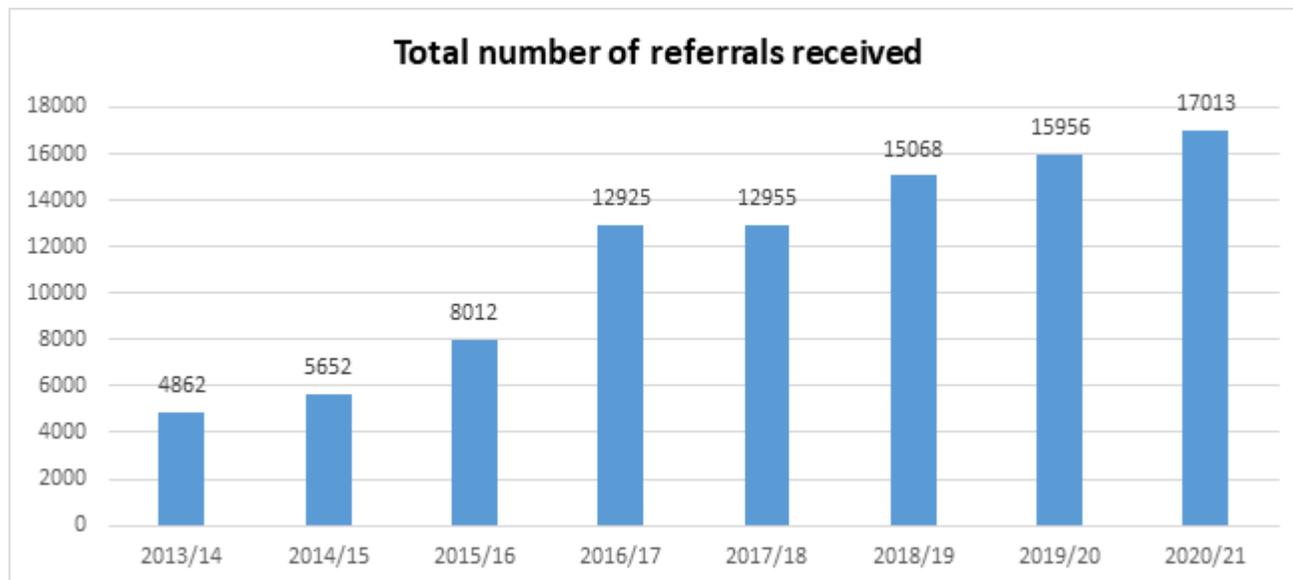
Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The impact of COVID 19 on the vulnerabilities and complexities faced by families continues to be apparent in the referrals that are being received by the Department. Due to an increase in our referral rates, we have taken a service wide approach to ensure the Child and Young People Service (CYPS) Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is adequately resourced and able to respond to our safeguarding responsibilities. Although we will always value the importance of preventative work, in order to be able to respond to the winter pressures we will be prioritizing our statutory responsibilities and safeguarding responses. We continue to see Domestic Abuse as our highest rate of referrals, with Public Protection Notices (PPNs) being our main source of referrals. The contextual influences on our children and young people, and the impact on their emotional health and wellbeing is also a growing area we are increasingly seeing more of in our referrals. This feeds into the work being done by the Safeguarding

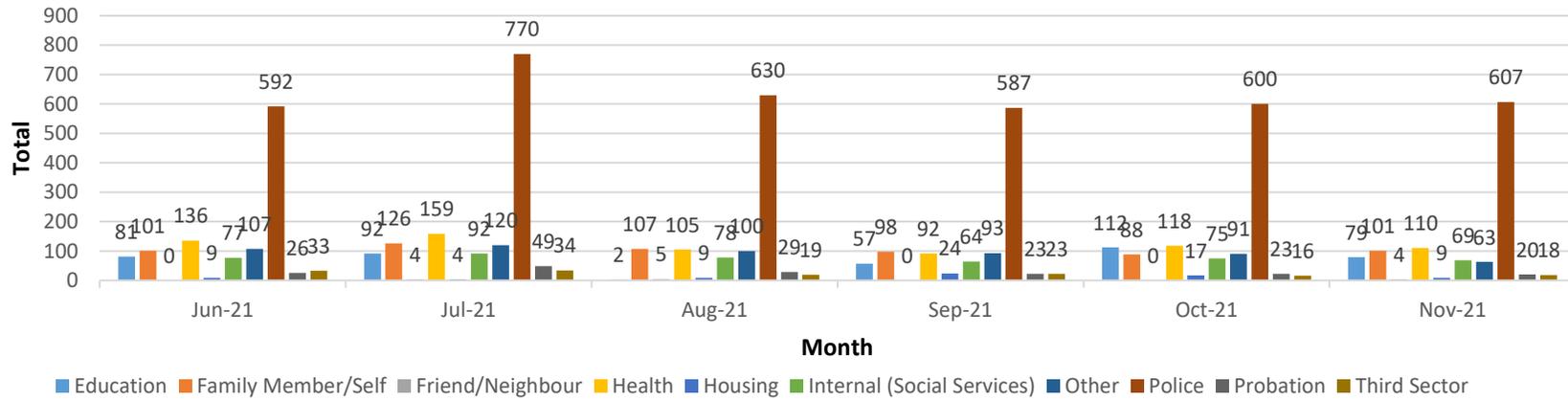
Principal Officer is looking at how we respond to harm outside the family home as a collective group, which is now extended to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and wider Council. The impact of deprivation, unemployment and poverty, further compounded by the pandemic, is also a consistent theme we see in our referrals coming into the service. We are working with staff, partners and families to understand the holistic impact of poverty and that this does not necessarily have a direct link with concerns in relation to “neglect” albeit they do, at times, manifest in similar ways. Having an understanding of the impact on children and young people is the key theme when we analyse the information gathered and produce care and support plans.

Since the last update, we have moved to a live call system which allows contact officers to pick up calls from the public into Social Services – this is working well, with generally positive feedback from the public. Recruitment is currently taking place within Adults SPOC in line with the remodelling of Adults Social Care.

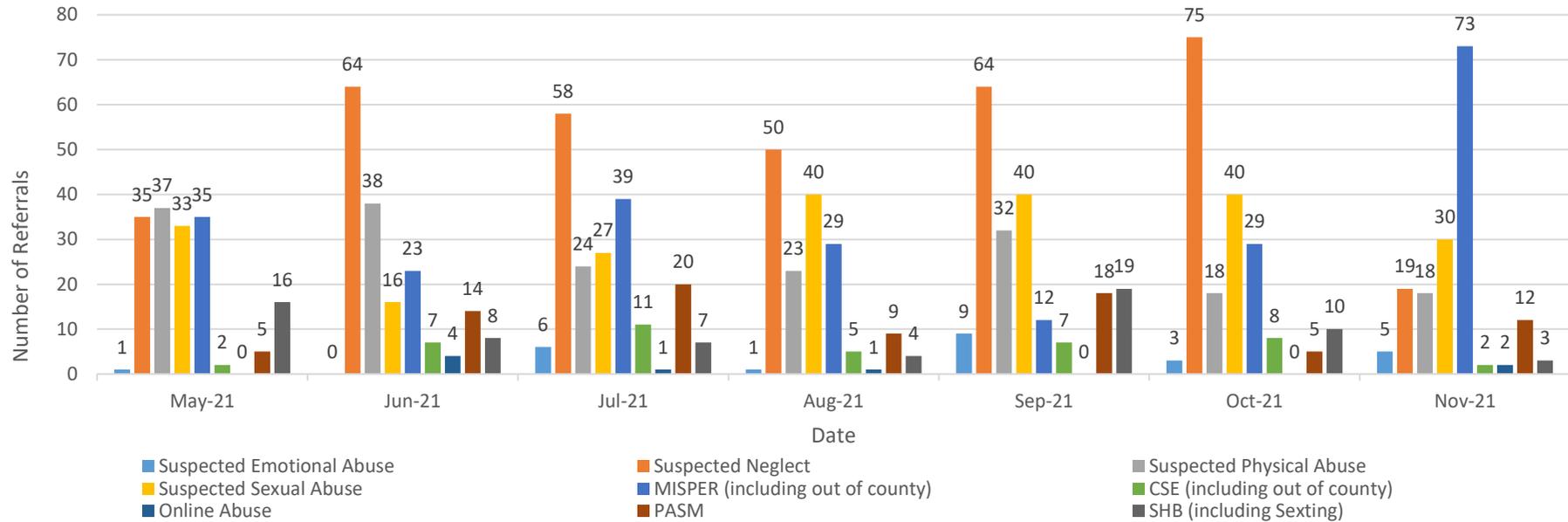
High Level Data – CYPS SPOC



Referrals by Source (Jun 2021 to Nov 2021)



REFERRALS OF A CP NATURE (MONTHLY)



REFERRAL REASON / DATE	Suspected Emotional Abuse	Suspected Neglect	Suspected Physical Abuse	Suspected Sexual Abuse	MISPER (including out of county)	CSE (including out of county)	Online Abuse	PASM	SHB (including Sexting)	Total
May-21	1	35	37	33	35	2	0	5	16	164
Jun-21	0	64	38	16	23	7	4	14	8	174
Jul-21	6	58	24	27	39	11	1	20	7	193
Aug-21	1	50	23	40	29	5	1	9	4	162
Sep-21	9	64	32	40	12	7	0	18	19	201
Oct-21	3	75	18	40	29	8	0	5	10	188
Nov-21	5	19	18	30	73	2	2	12	3	164
Total	25	365	190	226	240	42	8	83	67	1246

Social Services Children & Adult Services Safeguarding

COVID

The Local Authority continues to exercise its safeguarding functions, across Children and Adult Services, during these times. The COVID Safeguarding Guidance has been reviewed and revised by the Safeguarding Board.

General patterns, trends, themes

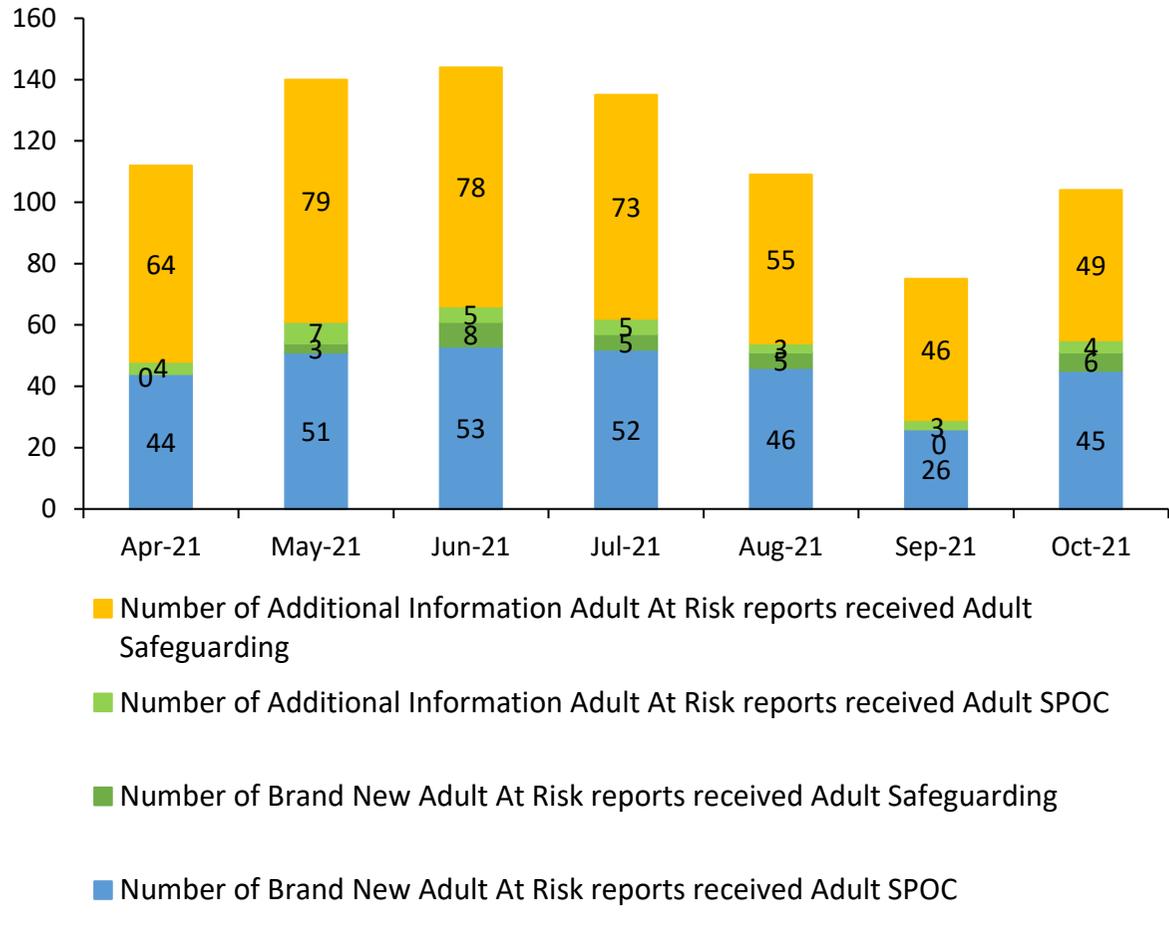
The most current trends and themes across Safeguarding and Children's Services are Neglect and Emotional abuse (Domestic Violence and Abuse -DVA) being the most prevalent risk factors in play. To address these areas of practice the Local Authority is now working with the University of Birmingham to develop a rigorous, robust, comprehensive, evidence-based and accessible neglect toolkit to inform practice across decision making through to intervention. A review of the response to DVA across the LA is currently being undertaken locally, which includes survivor groups and partner agencies.

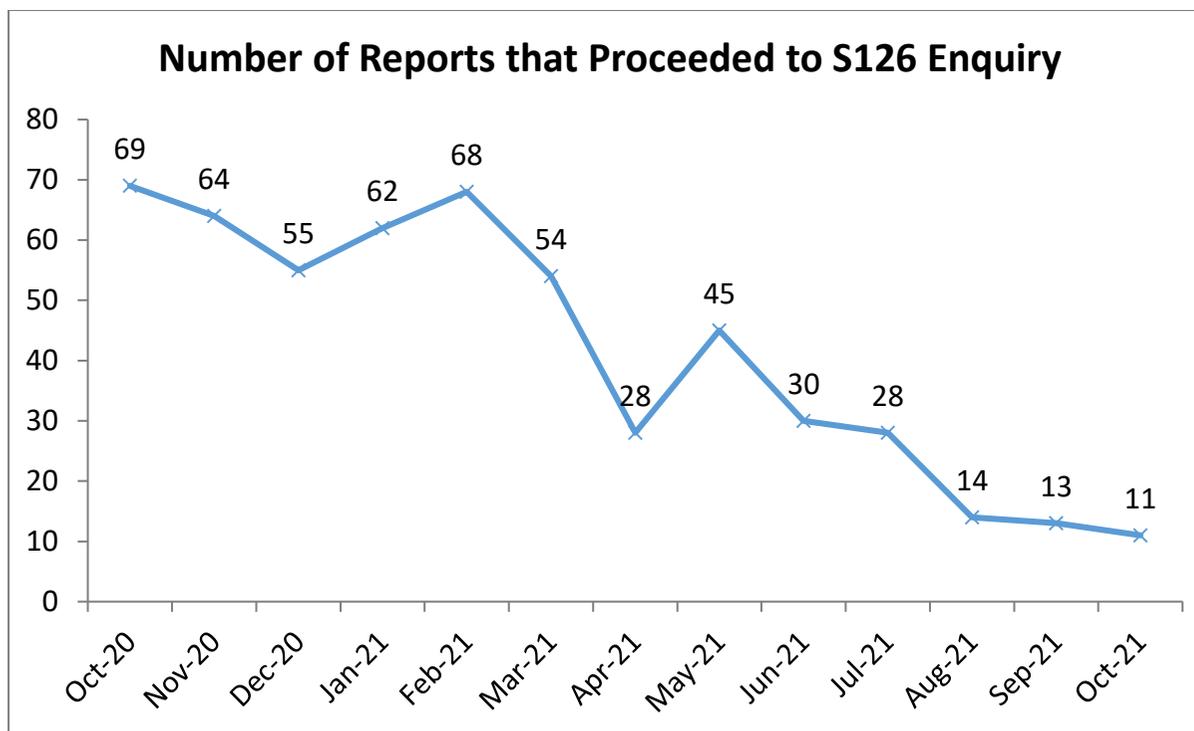
Work has begun in earnest on the JICPA Action plan. The early work has sought to increase the awareness across the partnership of contextual safeguarding via a briefing note and presentation to the partnership through the CSP. A Working group is to be set up off the CSP and Local Operational Safeguarding Group (LOSG) to support the embedding of the approach across all service areas: waste management, housing, licencing, ASB teams, local policing teams, schools etc.

The number of Adult at Risk (AAR) Reports see two emerging trends. The first is that new reports of suspected abuse have remained relatively stable month-on-month, whilst there has been a reduction of AAR reports on cases open to the department. (See Table 3(2)). Furthermore the number of AAR converted to S126¹ enquiries has reduced. The main reason for the reduction in S126 enquiries is the separating out of Professional Concerns from the AAR process. The Local Authority is currently piloting a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DOS) post. This Officer responds to and coordinates all activity in respect of professional abuse across Adult Services.

¹ Under s.126 of the **Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales)**, Social services has the lead role in making enquiries into cases of abuse or neglect to an adult at risk, where criminal activity is suspected, the early involvement of the police is essential to clarify whether a criminal investigation may be appropriate.

Number of Adult at Risk Reports Received during the month





Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)

A suite of data is attached below in respect of the current DoLS position. This work is currently well managed between the team. An agency is being used to support with Best Interest assessments in a bid to clear the backlog for the introduction of LPS, a matter further discussed below. Month on month has seen a reduction in breaches (Assessments over 21 days) to zero.

A Working Group has been set up through the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board to prepare for the rollout of LPS. This group meets monthly and is a Regional Group, which includes Health. The work of the group has been impeded by the absence of any Regulations or Codes of Practice pertaining to LPS and a recent letter from Welsh Government indicated that the roll-out of LPS will now be extended beyond April 2022. It is anticipated that this will be late autumn 2022. That said, the group is now focusing its efforts on streamlining the approach, paperwork,

processes, protocols across the Region to ensure consistency re. Mental Capacity and Best Interest Assessments and meetings. The Safeguarding Board has recently revised the DoLS Guidance for the region. The group will receive a presentation from CoLiberty who offer a digital solution to streamline the process for DoLS. CoLiberty have also developed the software for the LPS launch and have been working with Government (UK and Wales) lawyers and policy writers to draft the much anticipated Regs and CoP. An exercise is currently underway to map demand and capacity across the Region (SSD and Health). Training has already been delivered to Strategic leads across the Region to support systems reconfigurations for LPS.

Monies received to date, and more recently, have been used effectively to manage the current DoLS demand on the Service and would have seen the LA in a good position to receive LPS in spring 2022, however, if the timetable is to be extended for implementation then this work will need to be reviewed in the New Year and re-projected.

Through recently received funding and the Working Group, training has been sourced for all Adult Services and sections of Children's Services (Child Disability – CCDT; Children Looked After - CLA. The training will focus on 'Preparing for LPS: Assessing Mental Capacity and Best Interest in Practice'.

Children & Adult Services are currently reviewing the use of Community Welfare Orders across the Service as this gives some projected rough figure as to the demand and capacity pre. LPS.

Quality Assurance

The Quality Practice Strategic Group continues to meet fortnightly and attached under Appendix 1 are the last two quarterly reports from the group outlining the work undertaken to date. This group is now well-established across Children's and Adult Services.

Training Department

Mandatory Group A Safeguarding Training

A new Wales Safeguarding Procedures interactive online training has been launched as part of National Safeguarding Week 2021, the training module is aimed at those working in the public and third sectors in particular.

This new training will be mandatory safeguarding training for all council staff. It is now available to partner organisations of all regional safeguarding boards to implement.

The training module has been developed by Social Care Wales in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, which launched in 2019. The procedures detail the essential roles and responsibilities for practitioners to ensure that they safeguard children and adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

The new training module will enable everyone to:

- Explain the term 'safeguarding'
- Recognise abuse or the risk of abuse, harm or neglect
- Know what actions to take if they witness or suspect abuse, harm or neglect, or if someone tells them they are being abused
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the laws concerning safeguarding
- Recognise that they have a duty to report abuse, harm or neglect.

This will be hosted on Learning@Wales (shared services) which provides the necessary reporting aspects for compliance with safeguarding training. Each learner will be given a certificate on completion of the module.

Partnership working

Through a number of forums partnership working remains strong and effective at this time. Peer Review continues to see partners come to the table to discuss matters arising across various cases. The Local Operational Safeguarding Group comes together quarterly to oversee all Safeguarding Practice across the LA (Children and Adults). Triangulation meetings and Community Risk Profile meetings continue to drive the response to responding to harm outside the family home. The Safeguarding Board continues to meet Quarterly and is predominantly concerned with matters pertaining to COVID. The Local Authority is currently involved in two live Child Practice Reviews (Two Neglect) and an Adult Practice Review (Modern Slavery). We are also involved in two Multi-Agency Professional Forums (Criminal Exploitation & Pre-birth) and continue to hold Internal Learning Reviews, the most recent on a Neglect case that was referred to Board for a practice review and is noted above.

The Area Planning Board (APB) (a regional partnership Board responsible for the commissioning and delivery of substance use services) is embarking on a journey to transform the way services are delivered; the vision is for a holistic public health approach. There are several strands to this work but the APB has commenced work on establishing a Western Bay Substance Use expert panel. The APB has contracted Figure 8 Consultancy to lead on this work and a plan is being developed around the public facing side of the panel, alongside establishing the panel itself and appointing a Chair.

The APB in its commissioning and monitoring role:

- Has commenced work on changing the way people access advice and treatment by looking at a brand new first point of contact system. The route into services will be extended so that service users can access using several different means. The launch date is early 2022.
- Has noted that since May 2021 the health board has had to implement a waiting list for prescribing services. As of the end of September 2021, there were 49 people waiting to access clinical treatment, 34 of who had been waiting over 20 working days (Welsh Government KPI target), the average being 8 weeks, with the longest being 17 weeks. The waiting list is linked to capacity issues caused by staffing absences and vacancies. The Health Board is taking action to address.
- The assertive outreach run by Adferiad (previously WCADA) has been effective in providing support to some of the most vulnerable people in NPT, working in partnership with housing and criminal justice partners.
- Funding via the Home Office ADDER project has enabled the extension of the Rapid Access Prescribing Service (RAPs) for another 18 months, this is provided by Dyfodol. Alongside this a new treatment provision for those moving on from Dyfodol has also been

funded. The project is also providing a service user involvement and communications officer who will ensure that service user voices are heard and considered in the development of services in the region.

- A new case management information system has been implemented across Western Bay for all Substance Misuse (SM) service providers. It is part of the National Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) across health and social care and Western Bay is the pilot area for the SM element of the system. Issues have been identified by staff and these are being worked through with the WCCIS team in Swansea Council.

Local Drugs Market

As seen consistently across Wales there are correlations between drug markets and areas that are ranked highly on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. Data and intelligence from South Wales Police suggest that the majority of drugs seized in Neath and Port Talbot are Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin and Benzodiazepines. Again consistent with other areas in Wales, cannabis remains the most reported drug seized in Neath Port Talbot. Benzodiazepine type drugs being the second most seized drug, with 20% of all occurrences relating to the seizure of this drug. Concerning to the area is the reports suggest that benzodiazepine type drugs can be bought for as little as 30p per tablet. Purchase intent is usually for diazepam (sedative effects) but national and local evidence suggests that these tablets contain far more potent substances such as; Etizolam and flubromazolam which are 8-10x and 50x respectively more per potent in relative doses compared to diazepam, which many consumers of the tablets are unaware of.

There have been no reports from service users that substances have been difficult to obtain, with heroin, cocaine (crack cocaine and powdered cocaine), benzodiazepines and amphetamine all readily available in NPT. There has been no noted price increase or decrease for substances either which evidences to us that demand and supply patterns have remained consistent. There has been no reports of increases or decreases in “quality” in substances either which further evidences anecdotally that drug markets have remained somewhat stable. The recent “*Public Health Wales; Drug Mortality Report*” evidenced that Swansea Bay UHB area has nearly double the rates of heroin/morphine related deaths to any other area in Wales. Another concerning finding from the same report was Swansea UHB has nearly double the cocaine related deaths compared to any other area in Wales. It has been noted that the demand and supply of cocaine at the moment is an astronomically high level. The supply is diverse and can cost over £95 a gram in some areas of NPT. There is also large demand for crack cocaine which, although is cheaper for the user, is far more addictive. All this is leading to the expansion of cocaine supply and as a result, means NPT is a sought after area for

organised crime groups who operate large operations of county lines. In recent months we have also seen the increase in ketamine and MDMA use, upon review this is likely to be down to night time economy and students returning to the area and the easing of restrictions.

Case Review Coordination of fatal and non-fatal overdoses:

- A Drug Poisoning Task Force meets monthly to review and allocate non-fatal overdoses and monitor the fatal review process. From October 2021 the fatal review process- All fatal cases are reviewed by an Independent Review Panel. Lessons learned and recommendations are submitted to senior managers who will ensure they are implemented within their service. The review panel is independent of services therefore cases can be reviewed robustly and recommendations strengthened.
- The Office of National Statistics recently published their Deaths related to Drug Poisonings report 2020. Swansea Bay UHB area recorded the highest proportional increase in deaths across all HB areas in Wales. This was reported to the APB Commissioning, Finance and Performance Sub Group who decided that this should be escalated to the APB as a matter of concern as the increase is despite a lot of innovative work that has gone on over the past 3 years since the Critical Incident Group was established.
- The Case Review Coordinator ensures that all non-fatal overdoses reported to her are covered by the APB 72 hour response protocol, where outreach workers attempt to make contact with service users to provide, as a minimum, harm reduction advice and brief interventions. Some of these cases have then followed up by coming in to more formal treatment.

Harm Reduction

- The Community Safety Partnership key priorities are; Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), Anti-Social Behaviour (ASBe), County Lines, Substance Misuse and Scams. These are standing items at the quarterly meetings. At the most recent meeting, a presentation was given on Contextual Safeguarding and the creation of a working group to strengthen links between the CSP Board and Safeguarding arrangements. At future meetings, Criminal Exploitation will have more focus, with information shared from South Wales Police.
- VAWDASV Leadership Group and its sub groups remains focused on delivering the NPT Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy with the key areas of work being; Communications, Engagement and Awareness Raising; the roll out of Healthy Relationship Lessons across all schools; and a review of arrangements around high risk victims, specifically the MARAC process (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

- The Healthy Relationship lesson has been developed with local specialist agencies and signed off by our Youth Council. It forms part of the wider Relationship and Sexuality Education Pack (RSE) that is delivered in all schools. The delivery of these RSE pack and its lessons has been hindered by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. In 2022 there will be a pilot at Llangatwg Comprehensive School to deliver information to year groups who may have missed out on the lessons in recent months. This work is being coordinated by Community Safety, the Youth Service and the Wellbeing Team, with other partners. If this pilot is successful it will be rolled out to other schools.
- The Community Safety Team are coordinating and supporting a review of the Social Services Response to Domestic Abuse Review, chaired by Chris Frey Davies.
- The Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) service remains very busy, following an increase in demand throughout the pandemic and lockdown.
- Community Safety are working with Youth Justice on their Risk Profile Mapping exercise which ties in with work on Anti-Social Behaviour in our communities and youth annoyance.
- A briefing paper and presentation has been delivered to the CSP on Contextual Safeguarding with further training across the Directorates to be rolled out in 2022 in a bid to, though this common approach, create safe spaces across NPT.
- General ASBe in our town centres has significantly reduced following our partnership sub groups and the specially implemented Police operations in the area.

Licensing

Free voluntary safeguarding training was provided by the authority for taxi drivers in 2017/2018, with approximately 80% of drivers taking up the offer. Additionally, as part of the process for applying to be a taxi driver, applicants are asked safeguarding questions as part of the knowledge and suitability test. Welsh Government have indicated that they intend to introduce new primary legislation for taxis within this assembly term, and it is envisaged that safeguarding and disability training, will become mandatory for all taxi drivers in Wales. In the interim period, it is proposed that the taxi driver safeguarding training be resurrected and offered to those licensed drivers that have not received training previously, currently 89 of 296 drivers (30%).

In addition, safeguarding training will be rolled-out in 2022 to the night time economy (hotel staff (front of house and domestic), Public Houses etc.) to create safe spaces across the LA.

Transport

Historically Safeguarding training has been provided to Drivers and Passenger assistants on all contracted transport services for Education and Social Services procured by NPT. However since the start of the pandemic it has not been possible to deliver the training. As a result of this the Transport Unit have worked with the Training section to introduce an online training provision for new Transport Staff.

Large bus drivers must undertake the Certificate of Professional Competence training every 5 years which includes a module on safeguarding. All contracted Bus and Taxi operators renew their DBS every 3 years. They also receive a monthly email reminders with their updated staff list with their Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) expiry dates to ensure their staff continue to have valid a DBS and that any new staff apply for a DBS prior to starting working with pupils or adults. These Email reminders are also sent 3 months prior to the DBS expiry date as an additional measure to remind staff to start the renewal process in good time to ensure they can continue to work.

During the Pandemic NPT introduced guidance for operators to help mitigate the risk of the virus being transmitted while pupils were being transported on contracted vehicles.

Education

Schools have continued to work tirelessly to support all pupils throughout the pandemic and under changing COVID guidance. The need to reduce the non-essential visits to schools, and the increased workload on staff in school, has impacted on the programme of safeguarding peer reviews. These were halted in March 2020 and have not yet resumed. However, in May 2021 a 'virtual review' was successfully trialled in one primary although this would not be the preferred method of continuing the programme.

The Keeping Learners Safe statutory guidance has in its appendices a safeguarding audit tool for schools. This has been used as the basis for the safeguarding reviews although it can be used as a stand-alone self-evaluation audit. In September 2021 schools were asked to submit their completed audits to the Education Safeguarding Officer. These are then being worked through with the school by the school's Education Support

Officer and any concerns or areas of good practice will be fed back to the Education Safeguarding Officer to consider any action/support needed. These will also be fed into the Safeguarding Reference Group for consideration.

Safeguarding Training for Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSPs) in schools was developed for consistency across Wales by the All Wales Safeguarding in Education Group (SEG). This has been rolled out virtually by the Education Safeguarding Officer to 180 staff since October 2020. Updated safeguarding training presentations were produced, during the school summer holidays, by the Education Safeguarding Officer for the school DSP to deliver to all staff. This is delivered by most schools at the start of the autumn term.

The first VAWDASV Group 2 (Ask and Act) training was delivered to school DSPs in October 2021. This was co-facilitated by a trainer from the specialist service provider, Hafan Cymru, and the Education Safeguarding Officer. Funding, which covers the cost of the specialist provider, is managed through the corporate training department and has allowed for a further two sessions to be booked for Spring term 2022.

PREVENT & PROTECT

Prevent – Referrals continue to be made to Channel with the most prevalent themes being: Far Right ideology, males and (Autism Spectrum Disorder) ASD presentation. Outside continue to support the panel and this has been invaluable. Training has been set up for Panel members in the New Year to look at online abuse and how the partnership may better understand and respond to the increasing influence of social media platforms. This work will dovetail into work to embed contextual safeguarding across the partnership. The performance of PREVENT across NPT will be reviewed and subsequently reported on in 2022.

Protect – Emergency Planning Teams in both NPT and Swansea report into CONTEST on their ongoing work to make places safer, and less vulnerable to attacks. They present information on vehicle mitigation, or large public events and the planning that is involved. There are new duties in respect of the PROTECT element of the CONTEST strategy. Whilst these new duties are still in their very early stages, if they come into place this will mean significant changes for the local authority in terms of venues, emergency planning and large events. There will be a series of measures that will have to be put in place for any venues with over 100 people – of which there will be many across the authority. It is unclear at this stage as to how this will work in practice, and how these duties will be discharged. However, meetings are ongoing between the Home Office, Welsh Government, Local Authorities and the Police as this work progresses.

Youth Justice Service YJS (Early Intervention & Prevention)

This is a brief overview of measures put in place to promote and maximise best practice in terms of safeguarding through NPT YJS. In NPT YJS we have developed a specific work stream in relation to safeguarding incorporating the 2018 inspection action plan recommendations and more latterly the JICPA 2021 action plan to ensure that safeguarding is integral to all practice and all members of the team. The voices of the young people are 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.

The Safeguarding Work stream

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 YJS services across Wales and in Local authorities, we have changed the title to safeguarding champion in the NPT YJS. 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 to the Principal Officer for YJS, who has oversight of all safeguarding concerns identified in the service. Both the operational manager and the safeguarding champion have recently completed safeguarding training and child practice reviewer training in the last quarter. Subsequently, we have a cohort of trained practice reviewers in the YJS.

We have set up a monthly clinic with the leads in Better Futures who provide individual consultation slots for practitioners with any of their cases involving Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB), and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). In this we include Contextualised risk, Missing, Exploitation and Human Slavery and Trafficking for signposting all exploitation, as exploitative behaviours and experiences very often overlap. There are 4 x 1hr slots for practitioners to meet with Better Futures to peer review these cases, which we suspect or have confirmed safeguarding and exploitation concerns. These slots are bookable and managers, senior practitioners, and consultant social worker are available to be called in for further scrutiny where needed.

We also have provided a block of 8 x 2hrs exploitation training from Barnardos for all YJS staff, which brings all staff members up to speed on the new developments, legislation and statutory guidance in relation to exploitation. Each practitioner will have a completion certificate attached to his or her supervision file, and safeguarding will be part of every practitioner's personal development plan going forward as a standing item.

We have developed a multi-agency meeting with our partner organisations called Community Risk Profiling which sits somewhere between contextualised risk and CSE strategies, but may incorporate signposting to both. To be clear this will not supersede or compromise our responsibilities under the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. It will provide us with an opportunity to focus on the mapping of our young people in communities, focusing on potential areas where exploitation may be happening, the type of exploitation and how we disrupt it.

The reason for this is looking at the whole gamut of exploitation and extra familial harm, and the drilling down of all of our CSE, HSB and Criminal Exploitation (CE) cases, which predominately sit in our Youth Justice world. There will be a series of initiatives developed around this. This crosses both operational and strategic boundaries and will be presented at YJS management board, Children Services Management Group (CSMG), Youth Justice Board (YJB) Hwb Doeth, and YMC.

Following the incitement incidents and death of George Floyd in America, last year and more recent media news about institutionalised racism and extremism, I have commissioned training from Welsh Extremism & Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU), including appropriate use of social media for all staff. I have also sent the appropriate policies and procedures to all staff.

There is a monthly Safeguarding Meeting for the Principal Officer (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.

Hillside SCH

Given the number of complex young people currently residing at Hillside and the level of self-harm and criminal damage, there has been a wider discussion between the Senior Management Team (SMT), Safeguarding officers, behaviour management co-ordinator and duty managers to support staff and ensure we are managing the risks posed as best as possible. Refresher training around behaviour management for all staff has been identified as well as training regarding security checks, supervision of young people and searches. Duty managers also undertake a monthly monitoring of their homes and will ensure processes are correctly followed to mitigate any risks.

Hillside have a Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) panel now set up on. The purpose of this group is to consider patterns, trends and themes stemming from the use of RPI at Hillside. The group will seek assurances to be sought and provided whilst providing opportunities for training, development, support and how best to address these. It is proposed that this group will meet bi-monthly to collate incident forms and accompanying documents in relation to the use of RPI in specific circumstances only. Any safeguarding concerns/reports in relation to incidents of RPI can be discussed and scrutinised through this forum.

Hillside continue to work to the Priority Action notices set by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and are due further re-inspection early 2022. All safeguarding concerns continue to be raised with NPT SPOC and the placing LAs. These predominantly relate to allegations made by the children of past abuse and harm. There is currently one member of staff subject to internal investigation owing to a safeguarding matter.

Appendix 1



Q1 Children Young Quality Assurance
People Services Ther Report Q2.docx