West Glamorgan Safeguarding Boards

Annual Report

2021 – 2022

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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 twelve months as part of our annual plan.

2021 – 2022 has remained a challenging time for all agencies as the Coronavirus has continued to impact the work of all our partners. In addition to this society is experiencing a cost of living crisis, whilst the war in Ukraine and a pending environmental crisis poses further challenges for society and a renewed effort from partners and agencies to ensure people are kept safe. However whilst we experience uncertainty on numerous fronts we are resolute in our aim to make the West Glamorgan Region the safest region in Wales. We recognise that to do this our traditional approach to partnership working must extend to engaging more routinely with the communities across the West Glamorgan region and to achieve this we have set ourselves and ambitious three year plan which can be accessed through this link http://www.wgsb.wales/media/17530/west-glamorgan-safeguarding-board-joint-annual-plan-2022-2025-year-1.pdf?v=20220517163152

As always, we would like to thank the members of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board, and many others for their engagement during the last year. We are still in difficult times and 2022-23 is likely to bring new challenges but with the continued commitment and energy of our partners, we are confident that we will continue to meet the high standards and priorities we set for the Board.

Andrew Jarrett

Director of Social Services – Neath Port Talbot Council

David Howes

Director of Social Services Swansea Council

Eve Davis

Temporary Superintendent South Wales Police

Paul Stuart Davies

Assistant Director of Nursing, Corporate Services – Swansea Bay University Health Board

About the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board

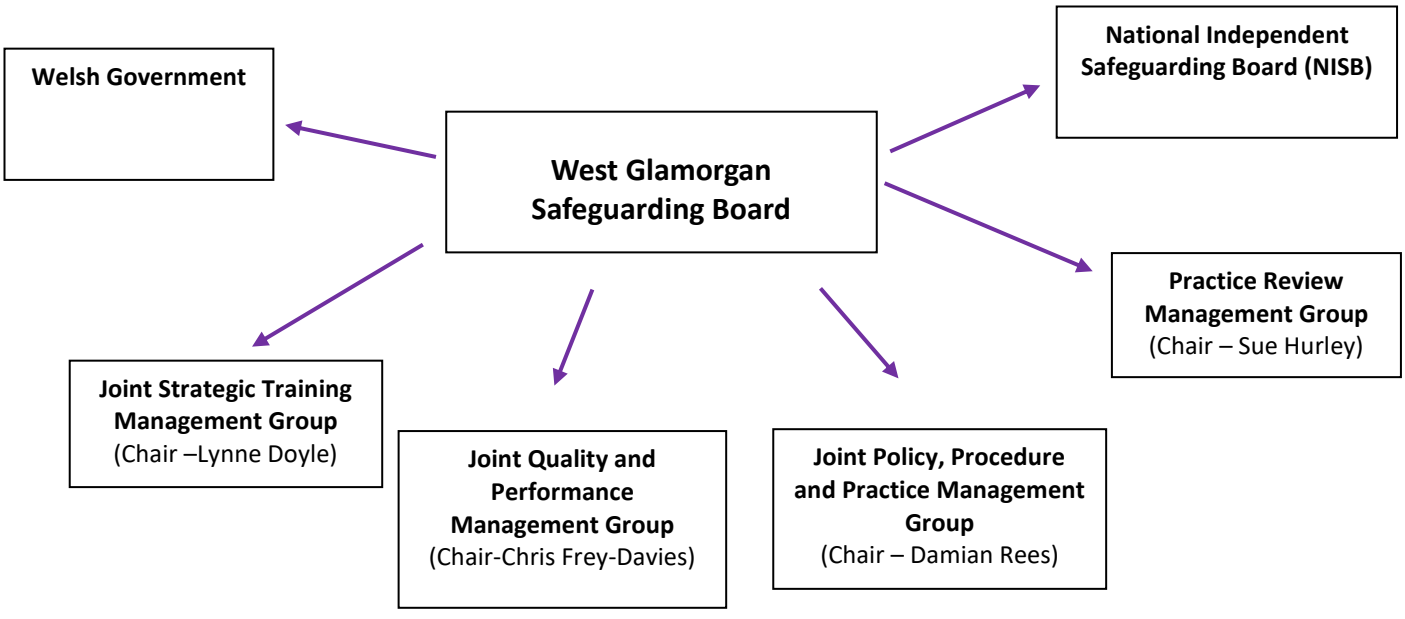
The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB) was established to promote, inform and support multi agency safeguarding for Children and Adults across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

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 2021-22

NAME	POSITION
Chair	
Andrew Jarrett	Director of Social Services Neath Port Talbot CBC
Mark Brier	Chief Superintendent, South Wales Police
Local Authority	
David Howes	Director of Social Services Swansea Council & Chair of Adult's Board
Andrew Thomas	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 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
Swansea Bay University Health Board	
Nicola Edwards	Head of Nursing Safeguarding
Public Health Wales	
Debbie Pachu	Designated Nurse – National Safeguarding Team
South Wales Police	
Sue Hurley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager
Police and Crime Commissioner	
Siriol Burford	Police and Crime Commissioner
Probation Service	
Deanne Martin	Assistant Chief Officer, Head of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot
Early Intervention & Youth Justice Service	
Alison Davies	Principal Officer EIYJS Neath Port Talbot CBC
Jay McCabe	Principal Officer Bays+ & YJS Swansea CC
Secure Estates	
Sian Coffey	Manager Hillside Secure Unit
Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	
Wendy Herbert	Assistant Director of quality and nursing
Third Sector	
Clare Hopkins	Volunteer Services Manager - SCVS

Regional Safeguarding Adult Board Membership during 2021-22

NAME	POSITION
Chair	
David Howes	Director of Social Services Swansea CC
Paul Stuart Davies	Assistant Director of Nursing, Corporate Services
Local Authority	
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
Swansea Bay University Health Board	
Nicola Edwards	Head of Nursing Safeguarding
Public Health Wales	
Debbie Pachu	Designated Nurse – National Safeguarding Team
South Wales Police	
Sue Hurley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager
Beth Aynsley / John Lane	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager
Probation Service	
Deanne Martin	Assistant Chief Officer, Head of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot
Third Sector	
Danielle Lock	Volunteer Services Manager - SCVS
Prison Service	
Rob Denman / Brian Ward	Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
Wales Ambulance Service Trust	
Rhiannon Thomas	Senior Professional Safeguarding Children and Adults
Care Home Providers	
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 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 we continued this year once again with a covid-related approach.

Safeguarding Priority Outcomes 2021/22

The last year (2020 – 2021) led the Safeguarding Board into unchartered waters: a global pandemic. As a result of this, the Board changed its intended Plan for 2020 – 2021 developing a plan to respond to uncertainty. The pandemic dictated the need for a flexible approach, whilst reinforcing the need for Safeguarding to remain a priority for all agencies and organisations across the region. Much has been learnt over the course of the last year with agencies and organisations being pushed and tested to their limits in response to these unprecedented times. There will undoubtedly be much more to learn moving forward and it is not yet possible to know what impact the pandemic has had on individuals, families and communities across the region. As we will remain in pandemic status for some time to come, it is important that we continue to view safeguarding through the lens of uncertainty and this is reflected in our plan for 2021/2022.

Therefore, looking forward into the new financial year our priorities will remain unchanged and will be carried forward, our focus sharpened by our experiences of 2020/21 and our motivation, commitment and resolve undeterred as we navigate the adaptive phase.

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**
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. To oversee and review the efficacy of measures taken by agencies as they realign governance, processes and practice to respond to Covid 19.	An understanding of how Covid 19 is impacting upon Practice, Services, Families and Communities	A suite of data to allow the virus to be tracked across the region to inform response and to pre-empt safeguarding issues arising.	QPMG
		A suite of data to ensure changes to practice are monitored, understood and responded to by the Board	QPMG
To ensure the response to Covid 19, across the region, is measured, legal and consistent and that safeguarding remains the golden thread.	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 undertake reviews (Adult/Child Practice/Multi Agency Professional Forums) in accordance with the guidance. Reviews/Learning will extend to identifying early learning, in respect of abuse and neglect arising over the course of the pandemic	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

How have we made a difference?

Quality Performance Management Group (QPMG)

The QPMG was established to '…monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB) and local organisations, individually and collectively…' (QPMG ToR, dated 2021). The aims of this group being:

- Promote high standards of safeguarding work, in line with the Boards Strategic Priorities
- To foster a culture of continuous improvement and learning
- Identify and act on areas for improvement
- Identify good practice to inform learning
- Provide direction to local audits in respect of specific themes to be subject of the audit process
- Co-ordinate senior regional response to high risk providers, business continuity and safeguarding issues
- Look at themes of strategic issues which will then be fed back to the Board.
- Ensure the consistency of policy and practice throughout the two local authorities.

The group is well established with good attendance from across the partnership over the past year, despite the pressures brought about by a global pandemic, subsequent post-pandemic pressures and the current cost of living crisis, which has and will undoubtedly continue to impact upon safeguarding practices locally, regionally and nationally as more individuals, families and communities are plunged deeper into poverty.

Summary of the work undertaken by QPMG over the year 2021 – 22.

Over the course of the last year, the QPMG has continued to monitor and seek assurance from matters arising pandemic and post-pandemic. The key assurance the group has sought is in respect of each agencies capacity and capability to fulfil its safeguarding functions. Whilst pressures are notably acute across Health and Adult Social Care, no agency has reported these pressures to be undermining the delivery of their safeguarding duties and responsibilities. The group does not currently receive any data from CAMHS, although the Health Board do report[1] on CAMHS referrals by LA, Child attendance at ED by presentation (overdose, self-harm, other etc.) and by age of presentation. The respective EDT teams also keep data on the use of S136[2], which has shown an increase in the number of children being detained and taken to a place of safety by police. The data set in respect of Mental Health (Child and Adult) is under-developed and this needs to be considered moving forward as we become increasingly concerned for the emotional well-being and mental health of young people[3] and adults across the region post-pandemic and as we find ourselves in the midst of a cost of living crisis. Both Local

[1] Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2021 – 22.

[2] S136 Mental Health Act 1983 gives police emergency powers if they think a person has a mental disorder, they are in a public place and need immediate help. They can take the person to, or keep them in a place of safety, where their mental health will be assessed.

[3] https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/may/22/record-420000-children-in-england-treated-for-mental-health-problems

Authorities are beginning to see an increase in referrals for children who are suffering emotionally and mentally and assurances are required as to the response and support available for all. We must however treat with caution the data (patterns and trends) presented as many of these issues were present and acute pre-pandemic and it may well be sometime before we fully understand the true impact of the pandemic across society.

Few Professional Differences were raised over the course of the last year, two in total. Both related to challenging the effectiveness of Child Protection (CP) plans: both neglect cases. One was raised by the CP Chair and the other Education. Both were resolved at Stage 1. The CP conference complaints process was triggered following a parent complaining about the outcome of a conference: specifically the registration category. This led to a review being undertaken of said decision. The complaint was upheld and the conference re-run. Whilst it is pleasing to see some challenge in the system, for the amount of activity that is undertaken across Children Services, the level of challenge seems too low (0.02% based solely on CP reports received, thus significantly lower again if one were to factor in open cases: Child in Need and Children Looked After). It is acknowledged, albeit anecdotal, that challenge does take place at an informal level, which leads to resolution, but this then results arguably in lost learning. There are also other forums within which partners may challenge practice, for example, peer review, MA QA activity, CPR, APR & MAPF. But there is a need for organisations and the Safeguarding Board to consider how feedback loops are developed and subsequently built into the system to elicit learning more easily and routinely.

The group identified a gap in the response to vulnerable dependent drinkers following which a presentation was received specifically looking at 'How to use legal powers to safeguard highly vulnerable and dependent drinkers in England and Wales'[4]. This work has been shared with the Chairs of Safeguarding Boards across Wales, Welsh Government and the Wales Safeguarding Project Board with each invited to consider the aforementioned report and distil and convert into Practice Guidance to compliment the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2019).

The group has overseen the work set out in the CSA National Action Plan and this, now complete, is to be returned to Welsh Government. The group will continue to monitor and seek assurances on all work undertaken in respect of CSA. For example, the group will undertake further work on Objective 8: Action 26 of the aforementioned plan, 'Consider the implications of the findings of the research Exploring the scale of CSA in social care records: Wales File Study in reviewing the likely prevalence of CSA in the region' and seek assurance from education in response to the recent report published by Estyn, 'We don't tell our teachers – Experiences of peer-on-peer sexual harassment among secondary school pupils'[5]. This work crosses over into recent local and national findings in respect of CSA and harm outside the family home.

The group has received regular updates and assurances from the Youth Justice teams across the region following recent Inspections. We have also received an update from NPT and Swansea LA following recent Inspection and Inquiry: JICPA and IICSA respectively. The group will next seek assurance from all partners following the IICSA publication, 'Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks'[6] and the anticipated final IICSA report (yet to be published). The group is sighted on the work of the Corporate

[4] https://alcoholchange.org.uk/publication/how-to-use-legal-powers-to-safeguard-highly-vulnerable-dependent-drinkers
[5] https://www.estyn.gov.wales/thematic-report/we-dont-tell-our-teachers-experiences-peer-peer-sexual-harassment-among-secondary
[6] https://www.iicsa.org.uk/reports-recommendations/publications/investigation/cs-organised-networks

Safeguarding Team at Swansea Bay University Health Board. The Partnership Boards continue to provide quarterly updates on their work and this has led to collaborations across practice within the region and beyond.

The Self-Assessment has been reviewed and stood-down pending the trial of the Safeguarding Maturity Matrix across Gwent Safeguarding Board and a steer from the NISB and Welsh Government as to what this may look like moving forward. There is currently no clear direction from guidance or either of the above bodies as to how the Safeguarding Boards across Wales should embark on Self-Assessment activity consistently on a pan-Wales footing. The Welsh Safeguarding Boards are behind the curve in relation to self-assessment when one looks at how advanced, mature and embedded self-assessment is across the English Safeguarding Boards. Ultimately, there is no means of measuring or comparing the performance of the safeguarding boards across Wales.

Whilst there has been some audit activity (Exploitation, Strategy Discussions and Meetings) this work has been thwarted by the groups focus on the pandemic response and post-pandemic related issues (staffing difficulties). The annual plan for 2022 – 2025, coupled with the proposed development day will refocus the group and the Board and will undoubtedly shape the QPMG work-stream. The Board will need to ensure moving forward that it has line of sight on practice from a rolling programme of audits, to include[7]:

- Children who have been on the child protection register for more than 2 years
- Children who have been deregistered in the last 12 months
- Children subject of child protection conferences but not registered
- Children with repeat registration within 12 months
- Children on the register who were subject to a Child in Need Plan up to 12 months prior to registration (likely to be neglect due to parental problems)
- Working with uncooperative service users
- Children who regularly go missing
- Looked after children subject to a strategy meeting
- Children on the register, or deregistered within the last 2 years, subject to repeat referrals relating to abuse or neglect

The group continues to over-see those actions to fall-out of the Child- and Adult Practice Reviews, including MAPFs.

The work of the group covers over a vast area of practice: child and adult, such is the ever growing world that is safeguarding. The data is limited to that held by the Local Authorities and this needs to be further developed to ensure the line of sight held by the Board meaningfully captures the breadth, complexity, uncertainty and unpredictability of the safeguarding system. This then needs to be married with lived experience. The latter, qualitative data capture, is significantly under-developed across the partnership and therefore it is difficult to measure impact and difference made. The Annual Plan (2022 – 2025) provides us with an opportunity to remedy this and focus the partnership to develop a more granular suite of broader data.

[7] SSWBA 2014 Working Together to Safeguard People, Volume 2 – Child Practice Reviews https://gov.wales/safeguarding-children-guidance-child-practice-reviews

As to data more generally, this requires further deliberation as to what is meaningful data and how the Board and partners identify it, mine it and use it: collectively. The report is light on data from: probation, housing, CAMHS, mental health, prison service, Education (Swansea & Private), FE/HE, Universities, voluntary and third sector and faith organisations. The Board is well placed to direct and co-ordinate multi-agency data capture and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Tracker (MAST) proof of concept will give rise to further conversations in respect of digital solutions. The Board must embrace big data and the change this will undoubtedly bring about but this introduces new challenges i.e. ethical considerations.

And finally, the work of the QPMG would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of its members who attend routinely to contribute to the work outlined above. The work of the group is reliant on all to undertake QA tasks but this is undermined by some organisation not having established QA teams/arrangements, which result in delays or incomplete audit activity. Organisational pressures also need to be factored into the additional work asked of the Board, hence the importance of aligning future QA work across the partnership. It is anticipated that a forthcoming development day will assist to streamline future QA programmes and that the discussions and observations that stem from this QA report will now drive the future work of the Board. We recognise as a group that, “Most great learning happens in groups. Collaboration is the stuff of growth.” (Ken Robinson).

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 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 ensure that as a group it is interconnected with the other subgroups within the Safeguarding Board to support the Board meeting it’s objectives.

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 2021/22

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 remained the same as the previous year - to develop and review regional policy, procedures and guidance on how services would continue to operate during the height of the ongoing pandemic. The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Guidance during COVID 19 was created and circulated to all Safeguarding Board partners.

What work we have undertaken in 2021/22

WGSB Memorandum of Understanding – This memorandum has been developed for WGSB members. It provides a clear framework for Board members to escalate significant safeguarding practice issues, which impact not only the citizens of West Glamorgan but also Board partner agencies.

Adult At Risk (AAR) Decision making tool – The Adult at Risk (AAR) Decision Making Tool is to support decision making alongside practitioners using their professional judgement. This document is used in conjunction with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

WGSB Non-Recent Historical Abuse – This document is to help organisational responses to allegations made by an adult of abuse experienced as a child.

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

WGSB Interim DoLS Guidance pending LPS 2022 – This document is to provide guidance about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, whilst also providing details regarding how these safeguards link into the Mental Capacity Act 2005. It provides information about the specific roles in these processes, their responsibilities and how they should be applied when a resident or a patient is situated in, or is due to be situated within a care home or hospital in a way that is or may be deemed a deprivation of liberty.

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. These events have proved to be a success and attendees have engaged well with the new process.

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.

In March 2022, the WGSB commissioned Practice review training with Barbara Firth. This training was commissioned as there was a lack of trained reviewers and chairs to allocate to reviews. It was delivered to extend skills and competence and build confidence in undertaking the role of the reviewer or chair in practice reviews. The training was well received and has increased our pool of trained staff to be able to support the reviews.

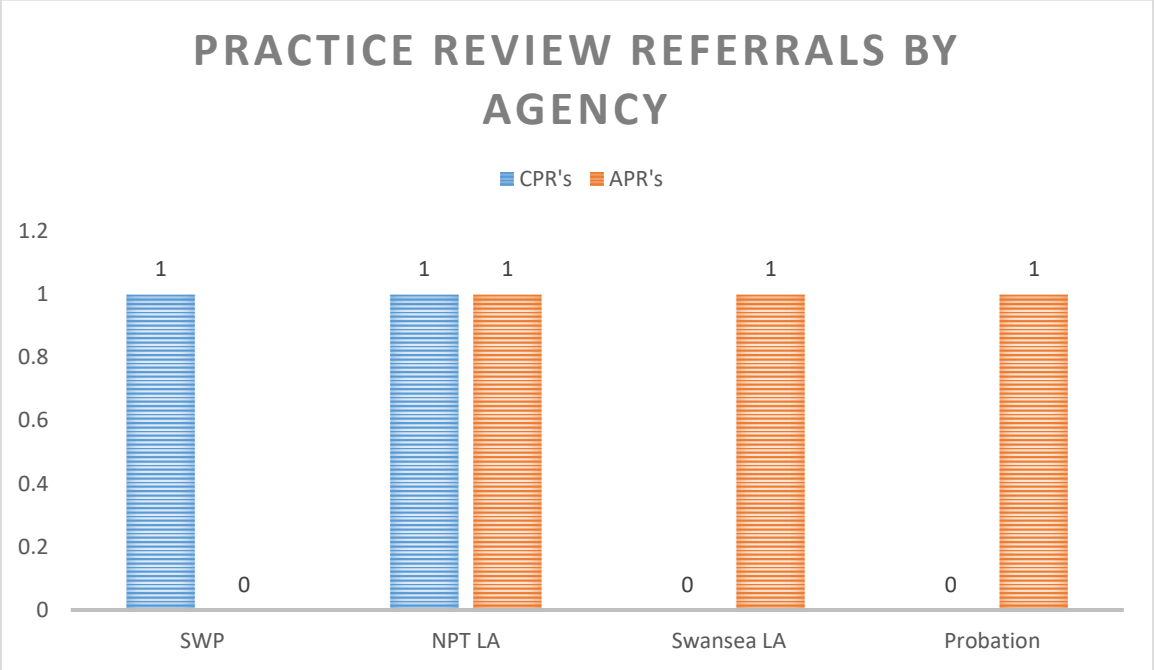
During 2021-22, the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board PRMG received:-

2 Child Practice Review Referrals – 1 progressed into a concise CPR, and 1 Multi Agency Professional Forum (MAPF).

3 Adult Practice Review Referrals – 1 progressed into a MAPF, 1 didn't meet the criteria and 1 didn't have enough information and would be delayed until the next meeting, which is out of the scope of this report.

During the last financial year, the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board published 2 Adult Practice Reviews.

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 (MOSOVO) Unit, Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Unit, Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management and Domestic Abuse Offender Managers (DAOM).

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 of portfolio areas that cover both Public Protection and Community Safety.

Safeguarding Board Sub-group activity remained constant and responsive to the changes brought by the Pandemic, with a seamless transition to video conferencing, allowing South Wales Police to provide a high-level service throughout the many challenges that the pandemic posed.

Between April 2021 and March 2022, Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot BCU Public Protection Unit has been involved in several 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.

South Wales 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 rose effectively to the challenge presented by COVID-19, and as we now look beyond the pandemic, we seek to improve our response across the Safeguarding arena with efficient and effective working strategies and interventions.

In terms of investment, a further uplift in resources is 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 involved in the exploitation of citizens within Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot.

South Wales Police have continued to support the chairing arrangements for the Safeguarding Board, in February 2022 Mark Brier stepped down as Vice Chair of the Children's Board and the role was taken over by Temporary Superintendent Eve Davis.

Swansea Bay University Health Board

Over the past year, Swansea Bay University Health Board Corporate Safeguarding Team has remained committed to supporting staff to ensure that Safeguarding remains everybody's business. Due to the pandemic this has been a time of significant uncertainty for colleagues and the public and we have worked together to ensure that Safeguarding remained at the forefront of our work.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and being able to access relevant information quickly and easily ensures staff are able to carry out their Safeguarding duties. The Health Board Safeguarding SharePoint, has been added to the Quick Links section of the Intranet providing staff with a central "go to" point, and enabling staff to find all the relevant information needed to ensure our patients are Safeguarded. Safeguarding is also included in the Consultant Connect Telephone Advice & Guidance service providing healthcare professionals in Primary and Secondary Care with a means to access Safeguarding advice and support Monday Friday 8am-8pm (excluding bank holidays). A Guide to Safeguarding Processes during the COVID-19 pandemic was developed for staff. The Guide has been reviewed and updated regularly.

SAFEGUARDING MATURITY MATRIX (SMM)

NHS Wales has an essential role in ensuring that all adults and children receive the care, support and services they need in order to promote a healthy, safer and fairer Wales. Measuring the effectiveness of health services in the contribution to Safeguarding adults and children is difficult and complex.

The Safeguarding Maturity Matrix (SMM) is a self-assessment tool which addresses the interdependent strands regarding Safeguarding: service quality improvement, compliance against agreed standards and learning from incidents and reviews. The self-assessment tool is completed by each NHS Health Board and Trust annually and the Improvement Plans and scores submitted to the National Safeguarding Team to inform the national report through the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network to the Chief Nursing Officer in Welsh Government. The aim of capturing and collating a national SMM is to provide assurance, share practice and drive improvements towards a 'Once for Wales' consistent approach to Safeguarding across Wales.

A Peer Review process is in place to further strengthen the assurance process and aims to help partner agencies reflect on and improve Safeguarding services in partnership with their colleagues in neighbouring Health Boards and Trusts. It ensures that learning is embedded across Wales by giving opportunity to share issues and areas of success.

Swansea Bay UHB completed SMM Improvement Plan was submitted to the National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales in October 2021. Swansea Bay UHB were paired with Cardiff & Vale UHB for the Peer Review process, which was completed in November. The SMM 2021 report and the Network Work Plan for 2022/2023 is presented to the Chief Nursing Officer/Nurse Directors Forum for approval.

JOINT INSPECTORATE REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS (JICPA)

On 17th May 2021, SBUHB and their respective partners were issued with a notice for a Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation), Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) and Estyn undertook a Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) 28th June- 2nd July 2021. This was the second pilot inspection utilising this joint approach in Wales, the first was completed in Newport in December 2019.

The Health Board received the JICPA findings letter on the 16th September and contributed to the multi-agency response led by Neath Port Talbot Local Authority. The multi-agency JICPA Action Plan was submitted to Care Inspectorate Wales on the 14th October 2021. The Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements final letter and Joint Action Plan was presented to Neath Port Talbot Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Committee/Cabinet on the 9th December. The progress against the Action Plan has been monitored by the Health Board Safeguarding Committee.

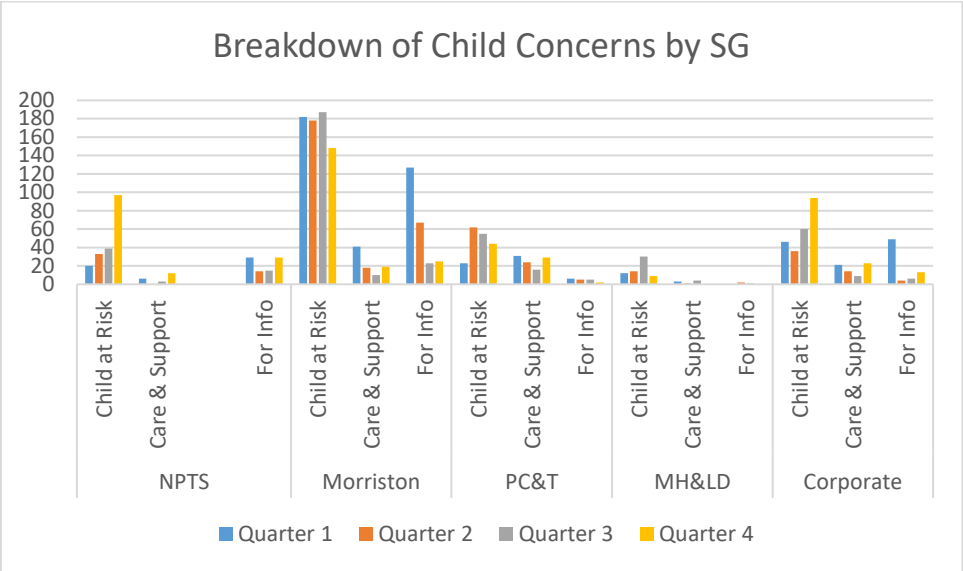
SAFEGUARDING REPORTS/ REFERRALS

In accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, the Children Act 1989, 2004 and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, 2019, the Health Board has a statutory obligation to report children and adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Reports made in respect of suspected adult and child abuse/neglect are sent to the relevant Local Authority and it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to investigate. However, Health Board employees are engaged through making the Report, attending Strategy Meetings and Case Conferences as well as contributing to and actioning any Adult/Child Protection Plans. The Corporate Safeguarding Team request a copy of all Reports submitted in order to collate and monitor the Health Board Safeguarding activity.

Safeguarding Children Reports to Local Authority

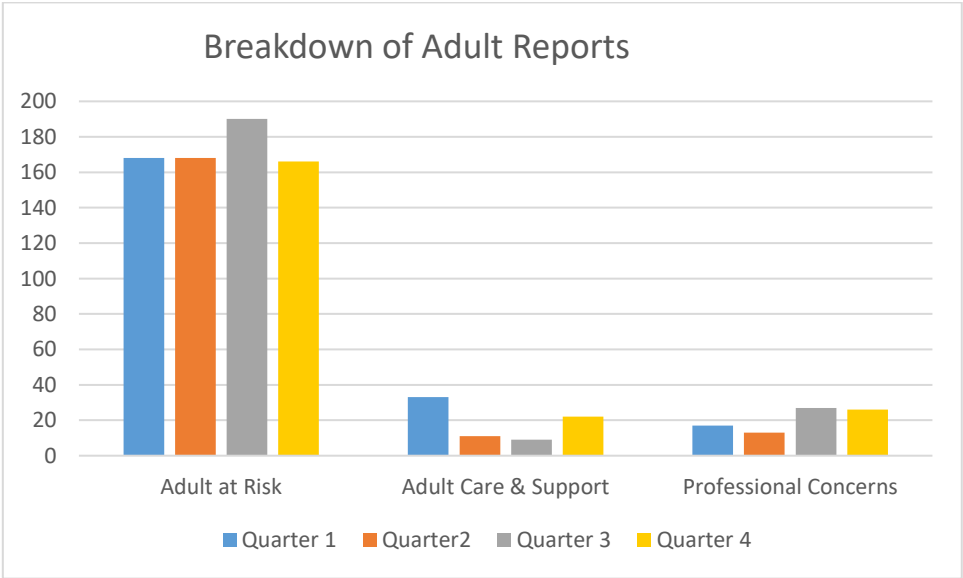
The Table below demonstrates the breakdown of Children Reports submitted to Local Authority and copied to the Corporate Safeguarding Team.



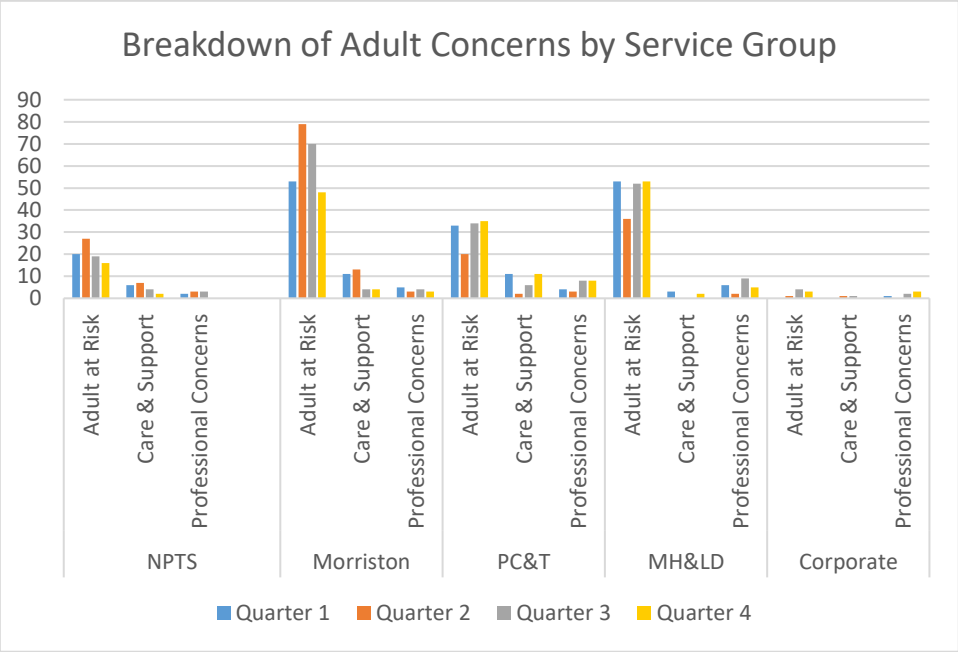
Morriston Service Group completes the majority of Safeguarding Children Reports. This is attributed to the number of children that are seen in the Emergency Department (ED). Safeguarding Children Reports completed by CAMHS colleagues are reported under Corporate in the above Table. It should be noted that Morriston Service Group and CAMHS submit reports to the Local Authority for "information only" purposes. The sharing of reports for "information only" has been questioned by the Corporate Safeguarding Team. Morriston and the Corporate Safeguarding Team continue to work with staff to provide training and awareness raising to address this issue and to ensure the appropriateness of Reports to Local Authority. It should be noted the numbers of reports shared for "information only" has reduced significantly since Quarter 1 as training continues with staff. A referral form specifically for 'information only' purposes has been developed and agreed with Local Authorities and this will be introduced in July 2022.

Safeguarding Adult Reports

The Table below demonstrates the breakdown of Adult Reports submitted to Local Authority and copied to the Corporate Safeguarding Team.



The table gives a breakdown by Service Group of the number of reports made. Numbers of reports submitted remains; however, there are occasions when there has been a notable increase. These increases are usually attributed to a known concern that the Corporate Safeguarding Team are supporting the Service Group with. Such as an increase in the number of reports submitted by Primary, Community & Therapy Service Group in May 2021, attributable to residents in Care Homes where Safeguarding concerns were identified in relation to indicators of neglect. The Corporate Safeguarding Team continue to monitor and report on themes identified.



It is a legal requirement of the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014) that initial enquiries into Adult at Risk Reports are completed within seven working days. Breaches are monitored by the Safeguarding Committee and the Service Groups are required to provide an explanation for any breach and to identify action to reduce the risk of future occurrence. This is essential as Local Authorities are required to submit monitoring forms to Welsh Government and require justification from the Health Board regarding any delays in cases where the initial enquiries have been delegated to the Health Board.

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT/DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) /LIBERTY PROTECTION SAFEGUARDS (LPS)

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) was implemented in October 2007, with the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) subsequently coming into effect in Wales and England on the 1st April 2009. Changes to the Mental Capacity Act were made in 2019, resulting in the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill becoming an Act of Parliament – the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019. As part of this, the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) were introduced to replace DoLS, having the same goals, but intended to make the authorisation process more efficient thereby ensuring compliance with the law, and aiming to keep the cared-for person at the centre of the decision-making process. SBUHB supports a significant number of patients who may lack capacity and therefore having impaired decision-making abilities, therefore it is essential that arrangements are in place.

Liberty Protection Safeguards implementation arrangements

A NHS Wales Task & Finish group was established in 2019 as a sub-group of the Safeguarding Network, Public Health Wales with the aim to:

"Develop a 'Once for NHS Wales' approach in understanding, shaping and supporting the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and Liberty Protection Safeguards to increase awareness of best practice, safe care and less restrictive options for some of the most complex client groups"

The Welsh Government have indicated that an all Wales training package will be developed. Work is underway to review a draft workforce plan and training framework. Bespoke training has been commissioned with Swansea University supporting this work and areas are asked to nominate between key individuals who will provide assessments and support the development of this work.

SAFEGUARDING ALLEGATONS/ CONCERNS ABOUT PRACTITIONERS AND THOSE IN POSITIONS OF TRUST

The Health Board recognises every staff member has a duty to Safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and protect them from abuse by staff. All allegations of abuse of children or adults at risk by a Health Board employee are taken seriously and treated in accordance with the appropriate policies and legislation. Action within a multi-agency approach is taken against those who deliberately abuse children or adults at risk (or any person in our care) including prosecution, disciplinary action and notification to professional regulators. Support is offered to staff within this process.

The Table below identifies the number of Professional Concern allegations involving Health Board employees reported to Local Authority. During the reporting period, 136 cases have been referred and reported to the Corporate Safeguarding Team and Local Authority. 53 have not met Local Authority threshold and are being managed through Health Board internal processes.

Of the cases that have progressed to a Professional Strategy meeting under the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, 2019. As of the 1st April 2022 seventeen cases were open with ongoing meetings planned due to internal disciplinary and police investigations being conducted.

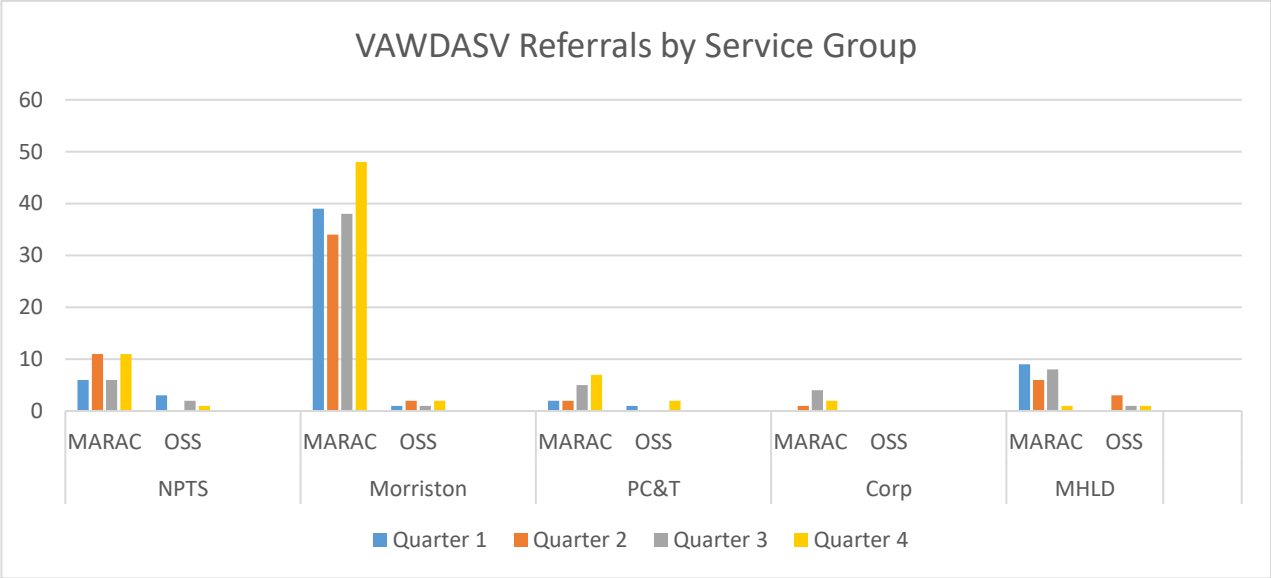
Outcomes for the closed cases are as follows:
Substantiated: 37
Unsubstantiated: 25
Unfounded: 2
No outcome: 1
Inappropriate referral: 1

The main themes relating to the concerns that led to a Professional Strategy Meeting being convened by the Local Authority within the reporting period are:

- Conduct issues
- Police investigations relating to an employee of the Health Board
- Domestic abuse

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

The Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) (Wales) Act 2015 sets out statutory requirements for NHS bodies and other relevant authorities; one of the key mechanisms for delivering the Act is the National Training Framework (NTF).



During the reporting period, there have been 240 MARAC referrals, and 21 referrals have been made to the One Stop Shop, across the HB MARAC referrals have doubled since the last reporting period. Morriston Service Group continues to complete and submit the majority of referrals and Safeguarding Specialists continue to promote the "Ask and Act" Pathway. The Corporate

Safeguarding Team have been supporting the Domestic Abuse Unit's (DAU) implementation of an online reporting tool for MARAC referrals. There were initially a number of technical issues reported, however the reporting tool is now working as intended. Early indications suggest police response times have improved which increases the safety of the victim, however as the online tool does not automatically send a notification of the referral to the Corporate Safeguarding Team which has raised some concerns that they are not being received. The team have worked with the DAU to ensure notification is sent to the HB so that referral trends can be monitored and any concerns addressed in a timely manner. Notifications have improved and the team continue to monitor referrals.

Funding has been secured for the HB to employ a Health Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA). The funding is available until March 2025 and an IDVA has been appointed and commenced in post April 2022 providing support to patients and staff through advocacy and training.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the UK under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and the Serious Crime Act 2015. It is mandatory for NHS staff to report all cases of FGM in children to the Police and Social Services. The All Wales FGM Clinical Pathway gives staff guidance and has been incorporated into the Health Board's FGM Policy.

There have been 33 FGM cases reported during the period, all cases relate to adults. There has seen an increase in disclosures to almost pre-pandemic levels, which is thought to be due to services resuming face-to-face consultations. FGM is included in Safeguarding training to raise awareness of the issue.

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

The Corporate Safeguarding Team continue to engage with the Contextual Safeguarding multiagency work in Swansea. The Health Board is represented at the Strategic Contextual, Missing, Exploitation and Trafficking (CMET) meetings. Members of the Extended Safeguarding Team attend the Operational Group and feed back to the Corporate Safeguarding Team if there are any concerns to be escalated. When Safeguarding concerns are identified regarding individual children and young people discussed in these meetings the relevant health professionals/services are notified including ED, Sexual Health, School Nursing, LAC and CAMHS to increase practitioners' awareness. Within ED, strategies have been developed for a number of the Children and Young People who are "regular attendees" and deemed potentially at risk.

PROCEDURAL RESPONSE TO UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD (PRUDiC)

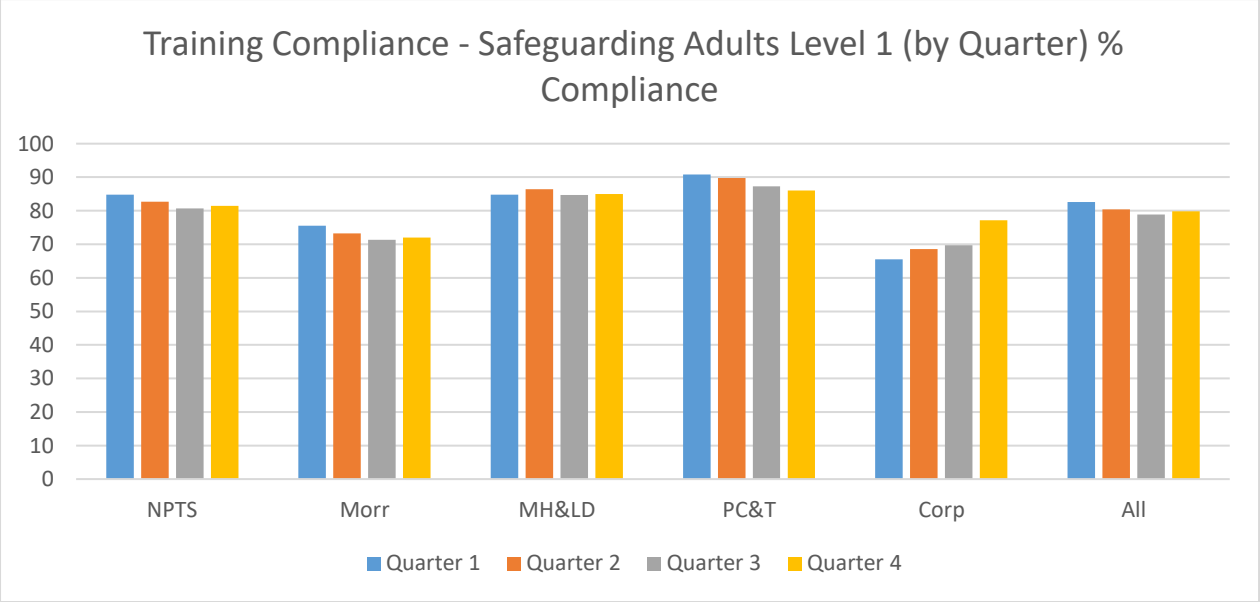
PRUDiC is a multiagency response to the unexpected death of a child and is a process of communication, collaborative action and information sharing in order to determine patterns and trends and identify opportunities for further prevention. In addition to this the PRUDiC aims to ensure families and staff involved are adequately supported.

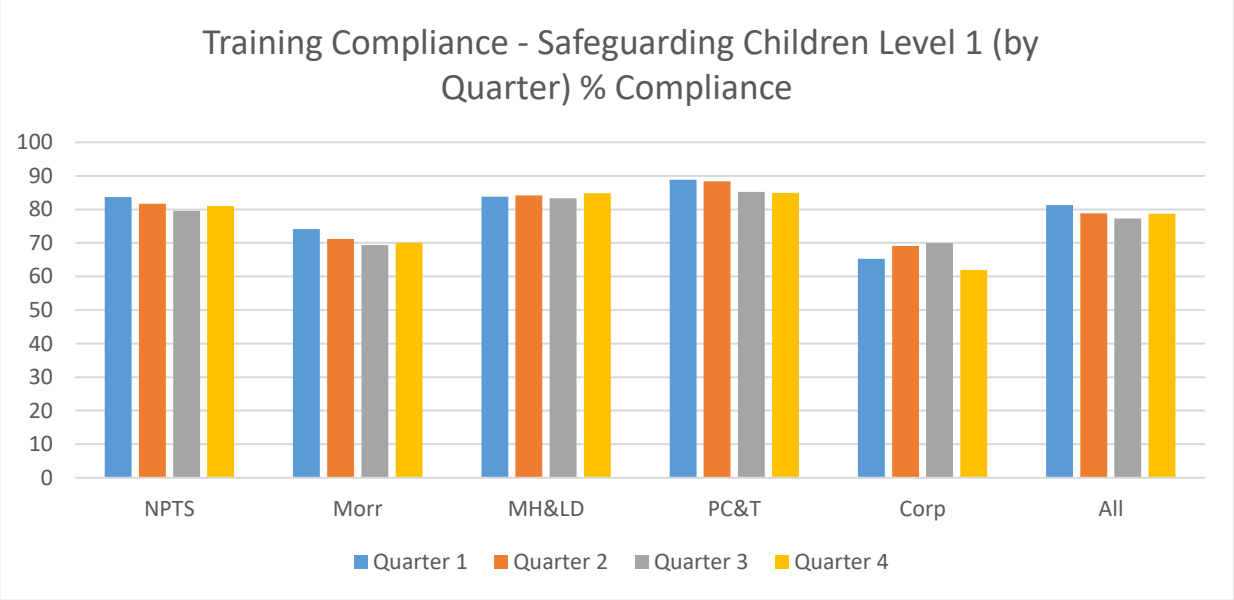
During this reporting period there have been four unexpected child deaths. PRUDiC meetings were convened and chaired by South Wales Police, the deaths are reported to the National Child Death Review Programme, Public Health Wales. No themes have been identified due to the low number.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Level 1 & 2 Safeguarding Adult and Children Training

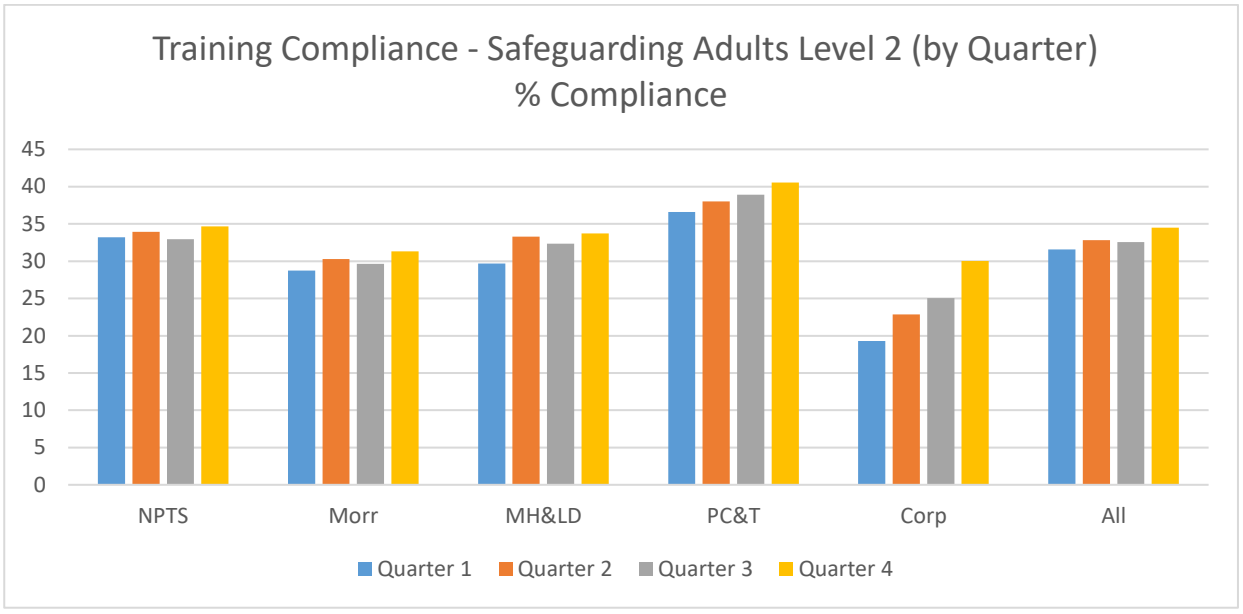
Level 1 and 2 Safeguarding Adult and Children training is provided via e-learning. Compliance is monitored by the Safeguarding Committee via information provided quarterly to the Committee by each Service Group (SG).

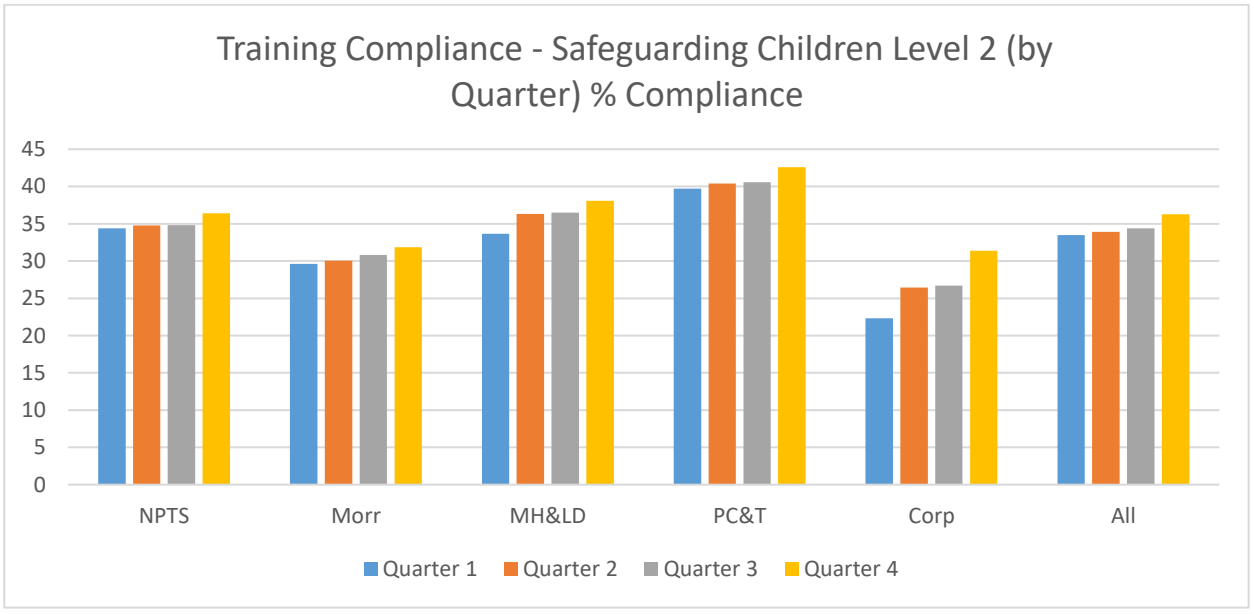




Most of the SGs have maintained their Safeguarding training compliance around the Health Board total average training compliance throughout the year, as evidenced in the Tables above. Morriston and Corporate SGs compliance with Safeguarding Children Level 1 has remained below the Health Board average across the reporting period. It is important to acknowledge the impact of the pandemic and the number of changes to staffing levels across all SGs within this reporting period.

Level 2 Training





All SGs have maintained their Level 2 Safeguarding training compliance around the Health Board's total average during the reporting period. Corporate SG was below the Health Board average in both

Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Level 2, and Morriston SG also being below the Health Board average in Safeguarding Children Level 2. Staffing changes and the pandemic have impacted on training compliance.

Level 2 Safeguarding Children and Level 2 Safeguarding Adult training is now mandatory for all SBU staff and it is expected that compliance at Level 2 Safeguarding Adults and Level 2 Safeguarding Children will improve as a result.

Level 3 Safeguarding Training

Level 3 Safeguarding People Training and "Ask and Act" Training continues to be delivered in a blended format, via Microsoft Teams as well as face to face, whilst adhering to all social distancing measures. As well as Health Board wide training, the Emergency Department at Morriston Hospital, Paediatric Nursing and NICU receive in-house Safeguarding training, delivered by the Extended Safeguarding Team.

In total 53 Level 3 Safeguarding People Training sessions have been delivered in the reporting period with 1037 staff attending. This includes training delivered to staff on Nurse Induction. The Corporate Safeguarding Team will continue to monitor attendance at Level 3 Safeguarding People training.

In the reporting period, a total of 526 staff attended "Ask and Act" Group 2 training. This includes sessions delivered as part of the Nurse Induction Programme. Additional dates have been advertised via the Safeguarding and Learning and Development pages on the Health Board Intranet including additional dates provided by third sector specialists as part of additional Welsh Government funding allocated to support the Health Board in its delivery of this specific training.

In addition to Group 2 "Ask and Act" training, the roll out of Group 3 Champion training has commenced. This is being delivered on a multi-agency basis across West Glamorgan. Sessions are attended by Health Board and Local Authority staff. These sessions are co-facilitated by trainers from

the Health Board, Local Authority and third sector specialists. Feedback from attendees has indicated that having multi-agency attendees is beneficial to the learning.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Training

FGM training and updates continue to be delivered to staff in priority areas: Paediatrics; Neonates; Midwifery; Gynaecology; Health Visiting; Integrated Sexual Health and Primary Care. FGM is included on the Level 3 Safeguarding People training, as well as Ask and Act Group 2 Training. These sessions aimed to raise awareness of the data reporting tool and the All Wales Clinical Pathway (FGM), thus ensuring that Health Board staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to FGM.

CSE Training

Identified priority areas (Midwifery, School Health Nurses, Paediatrics and Integrated Sexual Health Services) continue to receive CSE training and updates within their Service Groups. In addition the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board developed multi-agency Exploitation Training which includes CSE training for key professionals. As a response to the pandemic and the need to deliver training in a safe way, this training was been split into 4 smaller sessions and 6 Health Board staff attended a pilot, delivered by Health Board and Local Authority trainers. From April 2022 Exploitation Training will resume as a one full day training, co-facilitated by Health Board trainers as a multiagency training.

SAFEGUARDING SUPERVISION

Safeguarding Supervision and support is an essential component of clinical governance (Welsh Government Health and Care Standards 2015. Safe Care 2.1, Effective Care 3.1, Individual Care 6.3 Staff and Resources 7.1). The Health Board has a duty under section 28 of the Children Act to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Effective supervision is important in promoting good standards of practice and to supporting individual staff members. In addition the Health Board has a responsibility to ensure staff feel supported in their safeguarding children role (Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2013, All Wales Safeguarding Supervision Policy 2017).

The Corporate Safeguarding Team continues to contribute to supervision arrangements as follows:

- Daily *ad hoc* Safeguarding advice and support for children and adults;
- One to one individual planned Safeguarding supervision for Safeguarding Children Specialists across the Health Board;
- Peer group review - monthly for Safeguarding Children practitioners
- Support groups for Safeguarding Adult practitioners

A review of Child and Adult Practice Reviews undertaken by Public Health Wales in 2018 highlighted the lack of appropriate supervision as a contributing factor in the failings of staff in recognising and responding to signs of abuse. Health Inspectorate Wales report into the handling of the allegations against Mr W emphasised the need for robust Safeguarding supervision. As a result of this the Corporate Safeguarding Team completes an annual audit of Safeguarding Supervision arrangements

within the Health Board to ensure these standards are being met. The findings of this audit and recommendations are reported to the Safeguarding Committee.

The Corporate Safeguarding Team have facilitated Safeguarding Supervision Training with attendees from Swansea Bay UHB, Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and Cardiff & The Vale UHB. A training package, that had been developed by the National Safeguarding Team Public Health Wales, was reviewed and enhanced, enabling a full training day to be facilitated, covering all forms of Safeguarding Supervision. Two separate training days have been held and a total of 17 staff from across the three Health Boards attending.

MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

Information sharing is key to successful outcomes for both adults and children and has often found to be lacking by Practice Reviews. The Head of Nursing – Safeguarding (Named Nurse) and the Assistant Director of Nursing, Corporate Services both attend and contribute to the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board. There are a number of sub-groups associated with this Board to which members of the Corporate Safeguarding Team actively contribute. Examples of multi-agency work are illustrated below:

- Review work has included multi-agency guidance and updates on case law;
- Review of many policies and participation in joint audits;
- Participation in Adult and Child Practice Review processes and Domestic Homicide Reviews as panel members, chair and reviewers;
- Involvement in Learning Reviews and Extraordinary Board Meetings and the facilitation of learning outcomes/recommendations;
- Participation through Regional Board Policy, Procedure and Practice (PPP) sub-group and contribution to consultations
- Involvement in JICPA Neath Port Talbot Local Authority

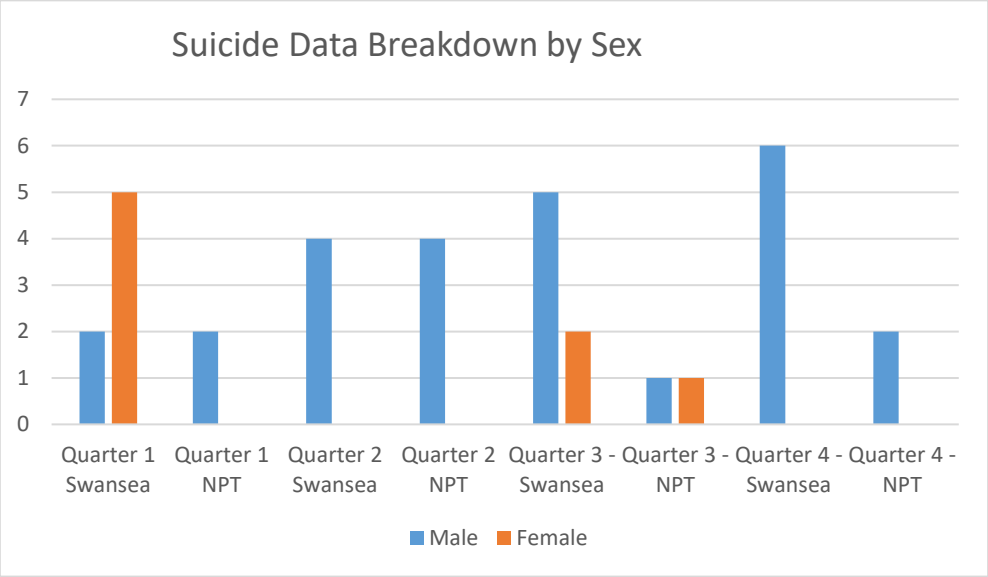
SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM PREVENTION

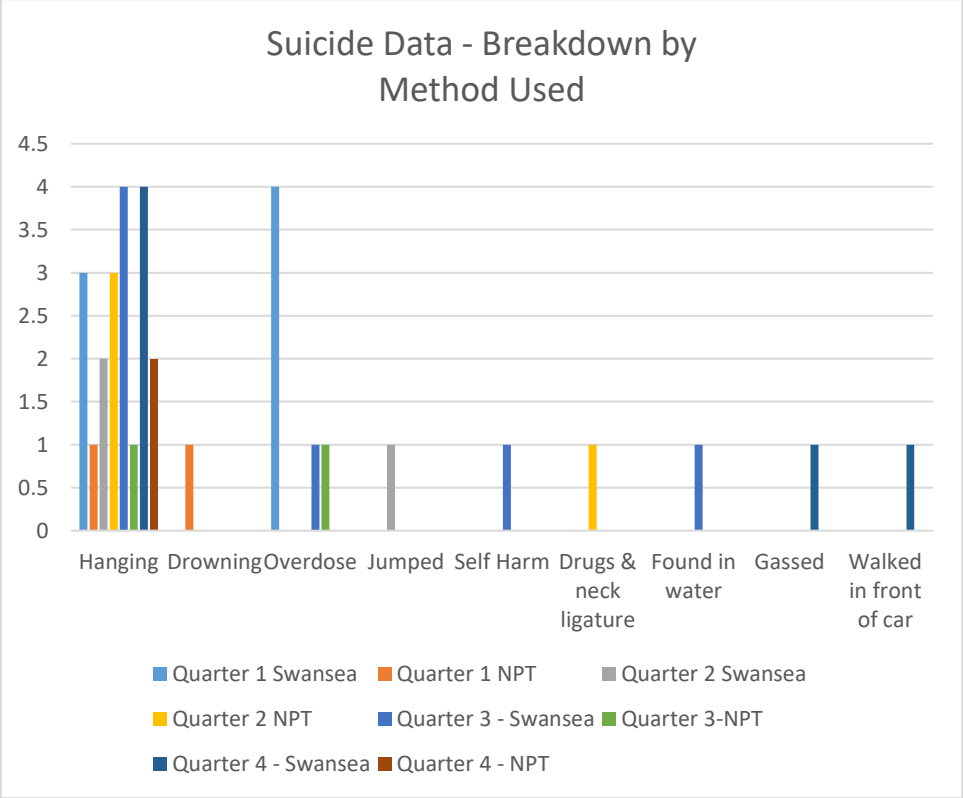
The Wales National Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Talk to me 2' developed by the National Advisory Group (NAG) on Suicide and Self-Harm sets out the strategic aims and six key objectives to prevent and reduce suicide and self-harm in Wales. Three Regional Fora, (North Wales, South East Wales and South & West Wales) have responsibility for their Local Suicide Prevention Strategies. The South & West Wales Regional Forum is attended by a member of the Corporate Safeguarding Team.

Rapid Response to a Suicide of an Adult

The Corporate Safeguarding Team and the Mental Health & Learning Disability SG, as appropriate, contribute to the regional Rapid Response to Suicide Meeting process led by Local Authority. The below tables indicate details of the Rapid Response to an Adult Suicide meetings that the Health Board have

been invited and contributed to in the reporting period. It is proposed that the Rapid Response to a Suicide of an Adult Meeting Terms of Reference be amended to include significant suicide attempts and the sudden death of a person under the age of 21 years.





Training and Learning

In 2021-22 the WGSB has continued to deliver training on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019, across Children and Adult Services.

In NPT, the Social Care Wales basic awareness of safeguarding e-learning was rolled out to all staff. In Swansea, Safeguarding Adults' level 2 and level 3 has been updated to reflect the changes to the safeguarding process in light of the implementation of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. Virtual or face-to-face training at a higher level has been delivered to social care frontline staff and has been updated to reflect the changes.

Learning events in relation to child and adult practice reviews has continued to take place and good practice disseminated.

Specialist training in Child Sexual Abuse was commissioned from the Lucy Faithful Foundation on the following topics:

- 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 abusers and the internet

Training was also delivered on Sexual Violence Disclosures by local specialist services:

- An Introduction to Domestic Abuse
- The Edge Project: Domestic Abuse Awareness, Equality & Inclusion
- Sexual exploitation awareness
- The Effects of Domestic Abuse on Survivors (Adult & CYP)

Specialist training on Sexual Violence Disclosures was attended by regional multiagency workers and volunteers.

Rationale for training:

- To update on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (WSP) 2019
- To ensure that all partners follow rigorous and consistent safeguarding practices in response to Welsh Audit Office recommendations
- To achieve consistent and quality safeguarding practice across children and adult services
- Contribute to raising awareness of abuse, neglect and harm and to the delivery of safe and effective safeguarding measures across the sector.
- To respond to the 2020 recommendations of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse
- To develop a robust response to exploitation across children and adult services
- To support contextual safeguarding, extra familial harm and the following:
    - Modern Slavery Act 2015
    - County Lines Violence,
    - Exploitation & Drug Supply. National Briefing Report 2017
    - Safeguarding and

- Promoting the Welfare of Children who are at Risk of Abuse through Sexual Exploitation All Wales Protocol 2013
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- The Prevent Duty

We have continued to deliver an interactive training pack that covers awareness of county lines, child sexual exploitation, trafficking, radicalisation and hate crime for both adults and children. This includes the common themes of vulnerabilities, risk factors, grooming, methods of coercion and control and ACEs across all these issues and also emphasises their links with 'safeguarding'. It also meets the requirements of the workshop to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP).

Specific training was also delivered on modern slavery and first responders across the region.

Partners: NISB; Social Care Wales; ADSS; Police; Health; Regional Safeguarding Board; WCVS; local authorities. Statutory services such as education, youth service, youth offending, health, police, probation and housing. Third sector partners such as Calan DVS, Thrive Women's Aid, Hafan Cymru and New Pathways West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, South Wales Police, Health, probation, and third sector partners. Western Bay Regional Ask and Act Steering Group; National Ask and Act Steering Group.

Other Activity:

Swansea continued to offer regular virtual training days for Child Protection/Safeguarding Levels 2 & 3 and Named Safeguarding Person. These full day training sessions were accessible to both in house staff and multi-agency partners.

All of the CP/Safeguarding training dates offered had a high level of attendance. Swansea Adults Services have delivered internal Safeguarding Level 2 training to internal and external staff on a monthly basis. Swansea continue to offer interactive virtual Exploitation training sessions, which are available to both in house staff and our multi-agency partners.

In Swansea 1,167 staff have completed the Level 1 mandatory Safeguarding Children e-Learning, developed by Swansea training department. 29 Child Protection/Safeguarding virtual training courses Level 2-4 were delivered to a multi-agency audience. A total of 395 professionals from various settings have been trained in Levels 2-4. 17 courses were delivered on Child Protection Level 2 and were open to LA staff and multi-agency partners with 264 attendees. Nine courses were provided for Child Protection Level 3 training and were again open to LA staff and multi-agency partners to attend with 124 attending. Three Named Safeguarding Person training days were provided, and a total of 7 LA and multi-agency staff completed the training.

In addition to these, a further four half day training courses 'Safeguarding adults and children at risk of exploitation' have been delivered.

In NPT, prior to Safeguarding Group A eLearning module being released, internal and external staff completed the NHS eLearning Safeguarding Level 1 – total 12 staff. Safeguarding Level 2 – total 57 staff. A total of 1474 staff have now completed the Mandatory Safeguarding Group A e-learning module. Group C Assessment in Child Protection Practice for NPT CYPS social workers (11)

Specific sessions have been provided on:

- WECTU briefing on incels
- WGSB Practice Review Multiagency Event
- Women and problem gambling

Enhanced Understanding of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence for Organisation Champions was completed by five accredited trainers in NPT.

Training officers contribute to the national group for the development of national safeguarding training standards and this work has progressed during 2021-22 to the production of training standards and learning outcomes for the workforce.

Exploitation training

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Exploitation has been completed by a total of 200 individuals in 2020/21. This includes a WGSB regional multiagency group co-delivered with CVS. Additionally, Exploitation e-learning has been completed by 30 staff.

A group have been set up to address delivery of multi agency training. The group have agreed to deliver Exploitation training and will be compiling a list of multi- agency training, which can be co-delivered. The Group will pull together joint experiences of delivery into a new pack, which can be delivered either face-to-face or virtually over one day or several sessions, as different formats work better for different agencies. They will then run another refresher for trainers to share the new pack and can then be rolled out by the Board. Sessions will ideally be jointly delivered by different agencies to a multiagency audience and will help meet the recommendations of the recent Joint Inspection into Child Protection Arrangements for Exploitation.

All Wales Safeguarding Procedures (AWSP) – Role of the Lead Practitioner. One workshop was delivered virtually for 30 staff specifically responsible for undertaking the role of lead practitioner to upskill knowledge in relation to this role and the AWSP.

VAWDASV Act 2015

The aim of the National Training Framework is to increase identification and support for those who experience violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. 'Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors'.

Welsh Government has funded a third partner (Welsh Women's Aid) to develop and deliver the "Ask and Act" training programme. The training programme included the development of a "train the trainer" programme and the delivery of this to a team of local trainers who would further roll out local training on "Ask and Act".

ELearning through the All Wales Academy, NHS Wales ELearning portal has been promoted. In NPT, a 2-hour face-to-face pack has been developed to support staff, who cannot or would prefer not to undertake the e-learning module. The modules meet the requirements set out in Group 1 of the National Training Framework and work has commenced towards meeting the targets set out. Due to

the Covid pandemic 2020-21, all Group 1 training for staff has been via e-learning: 619 NPT workers and 756 in Swansea in 2021-22.

Priority groups of frontline staff have been identified for Group 2 and Group 3 Champions for "Ask and Act". Training rollout for Group 2 has commenced on a regional basis and agency trainers will continue to be identified and accredited over the coming year. Training will be co-delivered with partner organisations. The Training Plan has been further developed to include regional roll out of Group 2 Ask and Act training with Swansea and Swansea Bay University Health Board and a regional Ask and Act steering group with Swansea and SBUHB guides the roll out of Group 2 and 3 training. Local support services are promoted as part of training. Staff are advised on where to refer those who need support and on the new regional Ask and Act pathway for referral. Live training is continually updated to include the latest information on campaigns, services and changes to legislation, where appropriate.

Eight staff members have achieved accreditation to deliver Group 2 and 3. Trainers have also been upskilled with further sessions on specialist VAWDASV areas by our local partners. Adapted virtual delivery of Group 2 Ask and Act with specialist partners has been jointly delivered to 161 participants from Swansea and 226 from NPT in 2021-22.

Group 3 Workplace Champions training is delivered regionally in partnership with Swansea, Swansea Bay UHB and specialist partners. To date the region has 15 champions.

A 'Strengthening Leadership' workshop for Group 6 was attended by 47 managers across the region.

Additional "Lunch and Learn sessions have been held to complement VAWDASV training for staff and partners. These have been attended by 38 staff. Training has continued to be evaluated to ensure a high standard and consistency of delivery.

National Safeguarding Week

The theme for National Safeguarding week was Community Safeguarding, Reset, Renew, Recover. Due to the pandemic, National Safeguarding Week 2021 took place virtually once again. All service areas worked together and produced a large programme of events, which proved to be another successful year.

The programme contained many events including:-

- Ending Physical Punishment Seminar – Hosted by Welsh Government
- County Lines Awareness session hosted by South Wales Police
- SCVS Volunteer consultation session
- Online safety hosted by Digital Communities Wales
- Healthy relationships sessions run by Thrive Women's aid

West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board - Practice Review Learning event

On the 16th November 2021, the WGSB hosted 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 61 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 links below:-

1. English PDF WGSB Programme of events

1. Welsh PDF WGSB Programme of events

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 pandemic has continued to impact schools and pupils' education through 2021/2022 and although restrictions were being lessened in the community Swansea Education Directorate had determined that alert levels remained high in schools with high staff and pupil absences due to COVID-19. This meant that our schools continued with restrictions based on risk assessments and monitoring of class/year group closures was set up to ensure vulnerable groups were responded to and monitored. A period of close communication between the single point of contact for Education and Social Services continued so that when schools moved classes to online learning or needed to close year group's children on the Child Protection Register and Children Looked After were identified and additional safeguards put into place. The LA was able to apply the recommendations from the previous year's evaluation of safeguarding practice through the Pandemic to ensure visibility of pupils at all times.

The Education Directorate continued to support and manage schools throughout the period alongside reviewing and preparing for the implementation of the new ALNET legislation. The Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer for Education Swansea worked closely with colleagues across Wales to develop a single suite of Designated Safeguarding Person training for schools and offered virtual delivery to DSPs, deputies, other senior school leaders as well as pastoral and ALNCo staff. This was alongside the standard delivery of Safeguarding Awareness training that was being offered virtually or face to face if risk assessments allowed.

In April 2021, we were alerted to the Everyone's Invited Website, which raised the profile of peer on peer sexual harassment in schools. An early evaluation of the website identified that the testimonies being submitted and published could not be dated and many testimonies identified experiences outside of school and therefore beyond reasonable knowledge or intervention from schools. However, when the site published the names of schools across the UK the Education Directorate in Swansea supported the 5 schools identified (including 1 primary) to cooperate with Welsh Government's requests for information. With LA assistance, schools were able to provide information on how they respond to peer on peer sexual harassment, violence and abuse against women and girls and healthy relationships. The intention to develop a whole school approach to VAWDASV was agreed and throughout this period, a draft whole school approach was produced.

The focus on domestic abuse and how schools can better support pupils has been enhanced with the full implementation of Operation Encompass. This has been very successful throughout lockdown as well as in usual circumstances. Schools are able to access additional information about what is happening in a pupil's home life enabling a proactive nurturing response to pupils who may have experienced police interventions due to domestic abuse related matters. The model Child Protection

and Safeguarding Policy was revised to include information on Operation Encompass ensuring transparency for families.

Swansea LA were also at the fore front of a new approach to safeguarding with the pilot and subsequent implementation of Contextual Safeguarding recognising the risk to young people from Extra Familial Harm. The multi-agency CMET (contextual, missing, exploited, trafficked) approach was established with a strategic and operational CMET groups to roll out a new way of responding to harm outside of the family home. In particular – anti social behaviour, experimental substance misuse, gang culture, exploitation into criminal behaviours including distribution of illegal substances, knife crime and serious youth violence. A programme of training is being developed and schools are being supported individually with contextual safeguarding in mind when seeking advice. Schools have been encouraged to consider peer group safety, safe spaces in and outside schools, contexts/situations which may pose a risk to young people's safety and are supported to complete a contextual safeguarding referral for response from the operational CMET team.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer works closely with the Principal Social Worker for CMET and has developed a self-assessment tool for schools to complete to help them consider how safe their school is from a contextual aspect. This work remains ongoing.

In May 2021, there was a significant disturbance in the Mayhill area of the city. The coordination of CMET operational colleagues were fundamental in responding to the safeguarding and trauma following this incident all local schools were identified and worked with CMET staff to ensure pupils and staff were supported and the appropriate safeguards applied. Due to the level of impact the incident had across the whole city the Education Directorate took a proactive approach in sending a critical incident bulletin out to all schools signposting for support, assuring the wider school community that any identified pupils and their schools were being responded to and given access to crime reference numbers so that information could be shared appropriately. This approach was extremely welcomed by our schools enabling a fully coordinated and tiered response.

Autumn Term 2021 offered new challenges as pupils attempted to settle back into school life and the Covid Recovery Plan was put into action. Throughout this term pupil absences remained high and in addition increasing staff sickness placed more pressure on our schools. It also became evident that pupils were struggling to settle and a rise in behaviour related exclusions and permanent exclusions required close monitoring. An increase in school related professional concerns was also highlighted this term and the LA are developing strategies in collaboration with schools to promote attendance and inclusion.

In December 2021, Estyn published their "We Don't Tell our Teachers" report following a thematic review across Wales on Peer on Peer Sexual Harassment. A working group was set up to review the recommendations made within the report to local authorities in Wales and a formal response to Estyn and Welsh Government was required by the Director by May 2022. The working group has established an action plan and work is ongoing.

In February 2022, a group of young people were involved in a serious incident in the community which resulted in one person being stabbed and requiring hospitalisation. A coordinated and timely intervention ensured youth workers and local schools affected worked together to provide support to pupils impacted during this incident. This work remains ongoing.

The Education Directorate in Swansea has been in a period of restructure. Changes in leadership and vacancies within the Directorate have impacted on attendance at WGSB sub groups however directorate remains committed to safeguarding and the work of the Safeguarding Board and the capacity and resilience achieved via the restructures will enable greater representation going forward.

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 Education Development 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 Education Development 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 considers appropriate action, and shares safeguarding information and updates.

The Head of Education Development Chairs the Regional Contest Board meetings. Either the Head of Education Development or the Education Safeguarding officer attend Channel panel meetings and ensure any actions are undertaken and that the vital information from education is shared. 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 has been co-chair of the Practice Review Management Group and is now the chair of this group. Education identified a significant number of staff to undertake training for reviewers and chairs so that going forward the Education Safeguarding officer will have the ability to identify staff to participate fully in reviews. As a co-chair/chair she has also 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 practice reviews or 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. The review process had been stalled by COVID-19 but has now resumed with a full timetable of reviews planned for the academic year 22/23.

The Education Safeguarding Officer updates the basic safeguarding training that is delivered by designated leads to the all school 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 a further 100 staff this academic year. 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 has started the roll out of group 2 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 maintains its high level of commitment to, and engagement with, Board Priorities and activities. In line with the Board's Workplan 21-22 schools have worked tirelessly to find new and innovative ways to manage the day to day running of schools and provide a high quality of learning for pupils. Risk assessments have been subject to continuous review to ensure they are compatible with changes to legislation and guidance.

The Education Safeguarding Officer has worked, in all of the management groups, to meet the requirements laid out in the Board's workplan. This has included ensuring practice reviews are able to continue and any learning shared; reviewing and updating any policies and guidance and participating in training and audit work.

In July 2021 a Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) was undertaken with a focus on exploitation. Estyn, the education inspectorate, was one of the inspection bodies participating. The feedback was excellent with acknowledgement of the Education Directorates commitment to safeguarding and child protection. It highlighted that there was close working with other agencies with an ethos that was child-centred with the LA promoting a high level of inter-agency working across schools. There was evidence of close working relationships across services in supporting the needs of highly complex young people and their families.

There was additionally recognition of the work undertaken by the Wellbeing team and Cynnydd workers; the school based counselling service; the vulnerable Learners Service; the Education Welfare Service and the Youth Service. The level of support and training to schools from the directorate combined with the peer review process were also acknowledged as areas of excellent practice.

The preparation for the JICPA highlighted the extent that schools were utilising part-time timetables and external provisions. Often for pupils with associated safeguarding risks. As a result an identified need for a Deputy Education Safeguarding Officer was put forward and agreed by the Director and senior managers. This role would have a primary focus involved in monitoring the use of reduced timetables to ensure they were used appropriately and with clear plans in place for reintegration back to full-time attendance. The new officer would also work with schools to produce and maintain a database of external provisions. This would include details of any safeguarding checks undertaken by schools and safeguarding checks undertaken by the Deputy Education Safeguarding Officer. This will include visiting provisions with a safeguarding audit focus. In addition the Deputy Education Safeguarding Officer will deputise at Safeguarding Board management group meetings and other safeguarding meetings in the absence of the Education Safeguarding Officer.

Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service

The service:
The principle aim of the Youth Justice Service is to prevent offending and re-offending by Children and young people who are under 18 years of age. Section 39 (1) and Section 38 (1,2) of the Crime and Disorder Act requires that statutory partners which includes the Local Authority, Police, National Probation Service and Health co-operate to provide multi-agency Youth offending services to prevent offending by children and young people.

HMIP Inspection
Our HMIP inspection took place week beginning 13th of December 2021 This was the follow on inspection from the previous inspection which lead to the disaggregation of the Western Bay management board, and was the first inspection to include the new NPT YJS management board. The final inspection report (May 12) has been disseminated Our overall rating was good.

Action plan
The action was compiled following the development day held in April and the preliminary inspection report. HMIP have confirmed that the action plan is fit for purpose and feel that we the YJS have responded very well to the points raised in the plan. Today we need to be clear that we are happy with the 5WH (who what where why when and how) responsibilities of the plan and confirm the named officer/ organisations who will be responsible for the objectives. Monitoring arrangement will also need to be discussed.

Andrea Brazier Head of youth Inspections wrote;

'*The Post Inspection Plan is a thorough and detailed response to the recommendations, and I am sure that with the excellent leadership and the commitment of all YJS staff and partners it will be achievable. I have no doubt that progress is already being made.*

We have been approached by professor Carlene Firmin of Durham university to be one of the Youth Justice service in the UK to be involved in the evaluation of Contextualised risk approaches in Youth Justice, We have agreed with Children services that this would be an excellent opportunity and have responded that we would be interested in taking part.

The Youth Justice plan 2022 /2023
Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice (YJ) plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan. A Youth Justice Strategic Plan is required under the provisions of the Crime & Disorder act 1998. Standard requirements are outlined annually and the Plan should be approved locally by the Youth Justice Management Board prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board. The new Youth Justice Strategic Plan will run from 2021-2024 and will be refreshed annually. It links with and contributes to the principles and priorities of the strategic Service plans of key partner agencies.

The first draft of the annual YJ plan has been distributed. The plan takes a prescribed format this year which aims to provide consistency and a uniform across the YOS areas of the UK.
This Youth Justice Plan equally addresses the functions assigned to the NPT youth justice service, including how services prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending. It reflects on how our service takes a strength based approach towards delivering a Child First justice system. It is positive to note that The Youth Justice Board recognises the remarkable response of the sector to the effects of the pandemic on delivery and the support that has been provided to children and young people. The YJB advocates that the importance of partners working together to put plans in place to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic are more crucial than ever. Andrew Jarret chair of the Youth Justice Management Board writes:

'I write as chair NPT YJS management board. I am pleased to ratify the 2022/23 Youth Justice plan and present it to the YJB as the road map for the service out of the pandemic and for the next year. You will be aware that the NPT YJS disaggregated from the Western Bay Youth Justice service in 2019. Since then we have been in the throes of a two year global pandemic and have been following a post inspection action plan (2018).

A new multi-agency management board has been re-convened and oversees the governance of the YJS. A new resource centre has been funded and refurbished and the YJS are very proud to have a community resource for young people called BASE 15.The YJS has demonstrated resilience, consistent and continued improvement, high quality interventions, excellent organisational delivery, good quality out of court disposal work and outstanding governance and leadership. This of course means improved outcomes for children and young people, the communities of NPT and the victims of crime.

As a result of the dedicated work of our young people, the management board, senior managers, the team and our multi-agency partners, two inspectorates: HMIP and the JICPA have recognised that significant progress has been made to move Neath Port Talbot YJS from the lowest rating in its last inspection to the good rating where it sits now.

In effect the service has moved through two of the inspectorate's ratings boundaries in a short space of time (and through a pandemic) and that is to be commended. It is clear the YJS have taken the findings from the last inspection seriously and have prioritised setting up a new and child focused Youth Justice Service (Early Intervention and Prevention). Thus, securing the relevant resources required for children known to the service, and have also developed robust performance management and quality assurance systems. This has been achieved with the engagement of staff and young people, and is testament to the effective governance and leadership arrangements that are in place for the YJS, which were recognised and graded as 'outstanding' by the inspectorate.
COVID 19 proved challenging for everyone The YJS has worked closely with Education and Children Services, professionals from South Wales Police, Probation and Health, to ensure that children and their families continue to be supported during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. As chair of the management board, and director of social services, I am very proud of the improvements made and sustained, and look forward to building on the identified strengths which will further enhance our NPT YJS. "

NSPCC

The NSPCC are full members of the main board. 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 member has contributed to the review and development of policies, procedures and guidance to support effective safeguarding practice. When appropriate the NSPCC has also contributed to practice reviews and ensured the effective dissemination of learning within agency. The NSPCC has recently undertaken a transformational change programme and the outcome of this is now being implemented. The changes that are being taken forward will it is hoped better support the work of the Board with the broadened portfolio of the schools service, direct services and local campaigns now within the role of the Assistant Director in Wales. This along with the combined offer of Childline, Helpline, Training and Consultancy provision and learning resources will enable the whole NSPCC to be utilised to support effective safeguarding.

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS) continues to prioritise safeguarding and ensure this ethos remains at the forefront of its work. We have trustee, staff and volunteer teams raising issues and concerns however big or small. We supported the work of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board with regular attendance at meetings, representation on sub groups and supporting Board priorities for the year 2021/2022 in the following ways:

SCVS

- SCVS continues to report to Regional Partnership Board on staff capacity and our ability to meet the demand for service.
- SCVS had weekly and now fortnightly whole team meetings where Covid and emergency response is an agenda item and remains so. This enables us to look at current threats and also make a planned response as we did in November when Omicron began to impact in December. Safeguarding updates, training opportunities or developments are also discussed in the meetings.
- SCVS has an internal communications app with a dedicated channel for safeguarding. This is used to share information internally such as slides from training attended, safeguarding articles, alerting to updated policies and so on.
- During National Safeguarding Week 15th -19th November 2021, using its internal communications app safeguarding channel, Designated Safeguarding Persons chose a theme for each morning and afternoon and shared podcasts, videos, learning sheets on the particular theme to raise the profile of various forms of abuse. Topics covered during the week were: safeguarding, faith and religion, hate and mate crime, county lines, exploitation, modern slavery, domestic abuse, radicalisation & Prevent Duty, FGM & breast ironing, spiking, ACES and suicide. SCVS held a support session for its volunteers with a focus on how their role has changed/ their views on the future of volunteering and what they would like to see/what has worked well, what has been a challenge/ what would they like to see in the future/what have been the gaps.
- SCVS has ensured its kept abreast of messages from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in relation to covid and ensured its services and staff conduct have continued to run in line with these messages.
- To ensure members of the community were not isolated, SCVS via its Our Neighbourhood Approach (ONA) has worked in partnership with Digital Communities Wales and Community Calling to offer IT equipment and mobile phones to those in need to allow them to access health

appointments online, shopping or just stay in touch with family and friends or call for help if needed.

- Existing volunteers and staff have received safeguarding training and know how to escalate their concerns and when necessary, these are escalated to Social Services, Police or the Mental Health Crisis team.
- New volunteers recruited complete an induction and safeguarding training prior to commencing their role.
- SCVS continues to support the local community with its emergency response provision of telephone befriending and allowing those needing to isolate or have hit crisis, access to necessities such as support, food and medication.
- SCVS continue to attend a monthly meeting of those services providing support to people seeking asylum and refuge in Swansea to ensure a continued coherent delivery response.
- SCVS attended Swansea Council Community Response meetings when running during this reporting year.
- SCVS continues to have representation on Community Silver meetings.
- SCVS Communications Officer continues to attend the Test Trace & Protect (TTP) Regional Communications Group.
- SCVS continues to deliver Social Prescribing across Swansea.
- Where SCVS staff are based in GP surgeries, SCVS staff have met with surgery staff to discuss how safeguarding issues will be managed so both parties are aware of the concern and meet their safeguarding obligations and prioritise the needs of the individual concerned.
- SCVS is part of the Health & Social Care Subcommittee with the Better Hiring Institute which is working in partnership with the DBS, NHS, Reed and other partners to improve safe recruitment in the sector by developing a toolkit which when rolled out can be used by organisations. SCVS has contributed to this work over time by meeting with staff who are developing the resources.

<u>SCVS and the Sector as a whole</u>

- In January 2021, the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership was awarded a Welsh Government Coronavirus Recovery Grant to support volunteering activity throughout the region. SCVS coordinated the work to develop a suite of training materials and information sheets and toolkits to be used by volunteer involving organisations as part of their induction of volunteers. Partners involved in the work included: Neath Port Talbot CVS, Swansea CVS, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Neath Port Talbot Council and Swansea Council amongst others.

  The toolkits developed were:

  - Diversifying your Volunteers
  - Friends of park & allotment groups
  - Individual Action to Community Action
  - <u>Volunteer Co-ordinator Guide Toolkit</u>
  - Volunteering in Primary Care/GP Practices Toolkit
  - The Green Recovery

  The training packs for Volunteer Coordinators included:

  - Introduction to volunteering,
  - Understanding the role of the volunteer
  - Volunteering Basics
  - Communication skills

- Dealing with difficult situations
- Introduction to Safeguarding

The information leaflets included:

- All you need to know about volunteer expenses
- Developing Flexible Volunteering Opportunities
- First Steps to volunteering
- Is it volunteering?
- Measuring the impact of volunteering
- Policies and Procedures Checklist for Volunteer involving organisations
- Recognition and Rewarding Volunteers
- Top tips for developing Welsh Language volunteering opportunities
- Undertaking Volunteer Risk Assessments
- Volunteer for a Career
- Volunteering Safely – For Organisations
- Volunteering Safety – For Individuals
- Work Experience vs Volunteering
- Placement or Volunteering

This pack was launched in April 2021.

- SCVS has raised the profile of safeguarding with Grant Awarding bodies and organisations and groups applying for funding that SCVS holds and via the Regional Partnership Board. As part of the due diligence, an organisation now has to provide a copy of their safeguarding policy. If the policy is not up to date or does not cover the pertinent information, the organisation are asked to update the policy as a requirement of receiving the grant.
- Our SCVS Safeguarding Policy Development Guidance sheet continues to be offered to organisations and groups needing to develop their safeguarding policy. It has also been shared with organisations applying for funding.
- SCVS offers support to organisations and groups with development. This support includes supporting them to access DBS checks, consider safe recruitment, support, review or support them to begin writing a safeguarding policy amongst other things.
- During National Safeguarding Week 15th -19th November 2021, SCVS and NPTCVS organised a regional Volunteer Managers Forum meeting using the theme "Community Safeguarding - Reset, Renew and Recover". We discussed the following in relation to safeguarding "How has our volunteer management practice change since the pandemic? What changes were made to projects in order to support beneficiaries/community? What are your thoughts about the pace of the change? What would we wish to keep doing and why? Are there things we want to return back to? If so, what? How did / do we improve volunteers' wellbeing and avoid burn out?" The event allowed various organisations in attendance to understand the work of WGSB, raise the profile of safeguarding and allow organisations to ask questions they may have. During this week SCVS delivered the All Wales Basic Safeguarding Awareness training for the sector. We also delivered our own volunteer induction training which ensures volunteers are equipped to deal with any issues that arise during their volunteering.
- We continue to direct 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 continued access to their eLearning safeguarding and other relevant training for ourselves and other Third Sector Organisations/Groups.
- SCVS has shared training and information that has come from WGSB within our own service and the Sector.
- SCVS has continued to share the information sheets it produced: SCVS Overview for Informal Volunteering on Safeguarding & Confidentiality and SCVS Keeping Safe & Healthy as needed in the community.
- SCVS attends the various WCVA Safeguarding sessions sharing safeguarding knowledge and practice. Sessions are held for CVC staff as well as a wider Third Sector group.
- SCVS and NPTCVS continue to be the referral route for Hospital Discharge for Swansea Bay University Health Board for Community Wellbeing Referrals. SCVS is also part of the virtual ward meetings. The services carry out a wellbeing assessment and referral on to other third sector services based on need eg Swansea Carers Centre, British Red Cross etc. SCVS staff are alert to safeguarding issues and where necessary, follow procedure and raise concerns.
- SCVS continues to offer the All Wales Basic Safeguarding Awareness training to the sector both through it's own open programme of training and where required bespoke sessions for individual organisations.

NPTCVS

Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service
Supporting, promoting and developing the local voluntary sector

- Continued to support partners across the region to share consistent messages around COVID-19 and provide guidance on how to engage with harder to reach individuals.
- Attended the Multiagency Oversight of Vulnerable Children and Young People group meetings to monitor vulnerable people in Neath Port Talbot during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Joined the Local Operational Safeguarding Group which aims to ensure a line of sight on all safeguarding activity across the Local Authority.
- Attended Suicide Rapid Response meetings to review suicides and attempted suicides in Neath Port Talbot which helped to identify individuals who may be affected and ensure support is put in place for them.
- Continued to deliver the Community Wellbeing Service, ensuring patients are discharged from hospital quickly and safely where community support can be provided.
- Supported health services by attending virtual wards and providing a social prescribing service to individuals.
- Provided induction training to all our volunteers, including safeguarding training.
- Worked with funders to deliver safeguarding awareness sessions for groups likely to apply for funding and who need to demonstrate up to date safeguarding policy and procedures in order to meet due diligence requirements.
- Arranged safeguarding training for staff and trustees.
- Revised our Safeguarding policy and appointed a lead trustee for safeguarding,
- Worked with Neath Port Talbot Council to plan for the recovery of local flooding in Skewen.
- Attended Community Safety Partnership meetings which aims to tackle antisocial behaviour and criminal activity in Neath Port Talbot.

- Promoted a range of safeguarding training sessions to our staff, volunteers and members.

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

The year 2021/2022 has focussed on the continued prioritisation of safeguarding by the Probation Service, through the context of the pandemic and towards Service Recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic required a move to an Exceptional Delivery Model across all forms of probation delivery in 2020. In Swansea, NPT the Probation Service embarked on recovery to pre-pandemic operational delivery requirements from late 2021. In the main this has been through the implementation of National Standards, the minimum set of national guidelines which set put the operational requirements for the delivery of probation in the local community. The Probation Service in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot are currently working in a Green status, meaning that all the National Standards are embedded locally.

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. Service Recovery has supported this further, as all people under probation have now resumed face to face contact and other critical activities to safeguarding, such as home visiting, are now fully in operation.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 are now fully embedded in the Probation Delivery Unit and the HMPPS Child Safeguarding Policy (March 2022) has been launched with all operational staff briefed. Furthermore, H&S and safeguarding audits have also been undertaken in response to strategic priorities to and provide assurances at executive level.

The unification of the Probation Service across Wales and England in June 2021 has meant that all Accredited Programmes delivery, Unpaid Work delivery and an enhanced Resettlement Model for those leaving prison have become the responsibility for a single, unified Probation Service. Over 2022/2023, we will finalise the implementation of our revised Target Operating Model, which reinforces 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. Barnardo's is also a member of 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

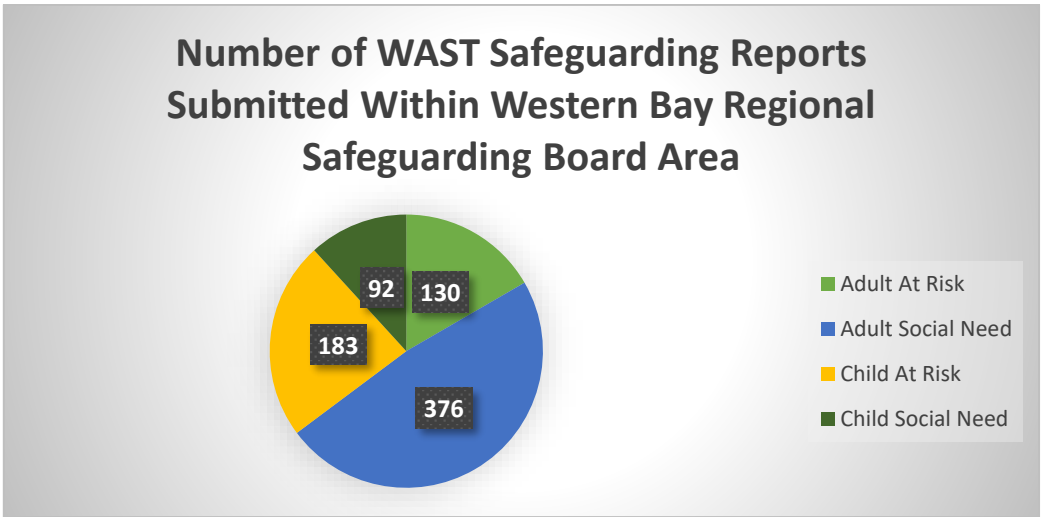
recommendations into practice tools and guidance. Barnardo's Cymru has also ensured that specialist pan Wales services such as Better Futures and Reflect have contributed to boards sub-groups and ensured reports and learning events have been disseminated to partner agencies and board members. Barnardo's Cymru continues to provide a blended offer of both classroom and digital learning spaces to ensure the workforce (including volunteers) is appropriately trained and supported and in respect of service provision, Barnardo's has fully returned to face to face provision although there remains opportunity for children, young people and families to engage in digital support as per their preference.

Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST)

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 2021-22 to prevent, protect and support individuals and their families has indicated that pan Wales there has been a consistent increase in WAST staff submitting safeguarding reports. For the first time WAST are now able to provide the Board with data that is specific to the region.

The following graph illustrates WAST Safeguarding activity during the period 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022 within the Board Region:



WAST have maintained collaborative working and there has been a sustained increase in enquiries from Local Authorities and other partner agencies within the Board Region. We continue to provide representation at all statutory meetings as required. This has continued to strengthen our engagement and partnership going forward.

Learning from the Reviews is coordinated by WAST Safeguarding Strategic Group to ensure dissemination throughout the organisation. All learning is incorporated into WAST Safeguarding training, policies and procedures as appropriate. WAST also utilises 7-minute briefings, bulletins, and

staff are able to access this information via the Safeguarding hub, Trust intranet site and WAST internal social platform Yammer to further disseminate learning.
During the pandemic, WAST safeguarding training has continued to be delivered both virtually and face to face. We continue to review the training packages to ensure suitability for both virtual and face to face delivery depending on needs of staff group within the organisation.

Following on from last year's successful implementation of an electronic safeguarding reporting system (Docworks). WAST have been able to expand the functionality of the system by introducing two additional referral pathways which demonstrates collaborative working across the public and third sector.

Firstly, we have digitalised the Live Fear Free referral pathway which has improved the mechanism of facilitating contact between the Live Fear Free helpline and victims/survivors who may be patients, service users and WAST employees.

In addition to this, we have implemented a pan Wales referral pathway between WAST and the Fire & Rescue Services across Wales. The new system allows ambulance crews to e-refer patients/service users to fire and rescue service home safety teams across North, Mid and West and South Wales for a Safe and Well check.

Both of these pathways were launched during National Safeguarding Week.

Area Planning Board (APB)

Transformation Project

The Western Bay Area Planning Board (APB) in partnership with key stakeholders embarked on the start of its Transformation Project. In April 2021 the APB contracted Figure 8 Consultancy to begin to develop an independent advisory panel which is to be called the Western Bay Substance Use Truth Commission (SUTC). Co-chairs have been recruited and it is envisaged that Commission members will be in place by August 2022.

The SUTC will investigate the key causes and consequences of drug use and drug deaths for individuals and their families; and subsequently recommend robust and realistic policy and practical measures to address these. It will also use, and adapt where necessary, the independent Dundee Drugs Commission Model, incorporating its strengths and good practice, including; research (i.e. identify and investigate the key causes and consequences of drug use and drug deaths for individuals, families, and communities; consider evidence of what has worked locally and elsewhere to combat problematic drug use and drug deaths); community engagement (i.e. seek the views and involvement of all relevant 'community' stakeholders); user perspective (i.e. seek the views and involvement of individuals and families with lived experience); a partnership approach (i.e. assess the effectiveness of the strategic planning and delivery of services co-ordinated across community planning partners as relevant); and focus on practical recommendations for action (i.e. prepare a report for the Western Bay APB and its partners, with recommendations on additional priorities for practical and achievable action to tackle and reduce drug use and drug deaths across the area).

There will be an official launch of the Commission during the summer of 2022 and at this launch event an 'Initial call for Evidence' will be made available via an online survey.

The results of the initial call for evidence, along with evidence gathered from a set of early focus groups and key informant interviews, will be considered by the SUTC at its first meeting following the formal launch in order to agree a set of 'key lines of inquiry'. Subsequent meetings will be held to hear evidence.

The final phase of the SUTC will be the reporting phase where Figure 8 will lead in synthesising all the evidence gathered and write-up a draft of the findings for the SUTC to discuss. The draft report will be shared (for comment) with the Western Bay APB and its partners including Swansea Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, Swansea Bay Health Board, and the South Wales Police Crime Commissioner. Feedback will be considered by the SUTC and a final report produced and submitted to the Western APB and its partners. The report will outline recommendations on additional priorities for practical and achievable action to tackle and reduce substance use and drug deaths across the region.

It is envisaged that there will be significant political interest in the work of the SUTC as the findings will be relevant not just to Western Bay, but also for the rest of Wales

Alongside the work of the SUTC the APB Team will be working with commissioning partners to deliver on interim recommendations arising from the Commission as well as developing an Alliance approach to commissioning a brand new Integrated Public Health model for substance use services across the region.

Service User Involvement

In January 2022 the APB Team welcomed a new member of staff funded by the Home Office via project ADDER. The Service User Engagement and Communications Officer will support the implementation of the ADDER project across Swansea Bay and will scope and review existing opportunities across the partnership landscape, with a view to ensuring opportunities to develop the involvement of Service Users, their families and communities in review of existing and development of new Substance Misuse services.

The post holder will be key in ensuring that Service user voice is integrated in to service provision and development and engage with partners in finding opportunities to effectively engage the community and support people to access services and reduce stigma.

Working in Partnership

The APB Team continues to work in partnership by attending the Local Operational Safeguarding meetings, SV Maracs and participated in the WGSB MAPF relating to substance use prescribing in pregnancy and work will be undertaken with substance use agencies to deliver on recommendations made from the Forum. There is also representation on the APB from key members of the WGSB, however it is hoped that cross-representation can be strengthened.

Harm Reduction

During the year the APB continued to lead the way in Wales with its programme of Harm Reduction initiatives to keep people safe. Western Bay has been recognised for best practice in the following areas:

- Developing a peer to peer naloxone programme

- Being the first police force to carry nasal naloxone
- Being the first A&E department to give out naloxone
- Distributing high numbers of clean injecting equipment
- Delivering a 72 hour outreach programme where services make contact with people who have suffered an overdose to offer harm reduction advice, guidance and interventions.
- Establishing and independent review panel to learn lessons from drug related deaths in the region

Service Developments

During the year the following developments in service provision were achieved:

- The AADAS single assessment service was decommissioned and a brand new Newid First Point of Contact service was developed. The service started on 4th April 2022. The service increases opportunities for people to access substance use services by offering Freephone number, email, website and drop-in to speak to a professional who will then provide appropriate help and support into the appropriate services
- Treatment providers offering a new long lasting opiate substitute medication called Buvidal, which was rolled out during the pandemic.
- Services continue to deliver in alternative ways that were adopted during the pandemic and proved to be beneficial for service users

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

The APB's performance management of services has been amended to ensure that information about how services deal with safeguarding issues is captured quarterly and monitored so that the APB can feel confident that providers have the appropriate policies and procedures in place and have an understanding of what constitutes a safeguarding concern and how to make a referral. Thematic audits around safeguarding by the monitoring officer did not take place in 21/22 as planned but they will take place during 22/23.

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

The Junior Safeguarding Board is a platform for children and young people from across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea to have a voice regarding safeguarding issues in their communities. The JSB actively promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child through workshops, events and campaigns to promote positive change in our communities. Some of the rights chosen by JSB members that are the foundations of the Junior Safeguarding Board are as follows;

- Article 12: You have the right to say what you think should happen and be listened to.
- Article 15: You have the right to have fun, make friends and join groups.
- Article 19: You should not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe.

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. The JSB comprises of children and young people from schools across West Glamorgan including schools that cater for Additional Learning Needs and Complex Needs and community groups.

Throughout 2021-2022 the work of the JSB has had to adapt. Restrictions, due to Covid have limited face to face meetings and school visits. However, officers have continued to work behind the scenes to champion safeguarding issues for children and young people in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot in a number of ways.

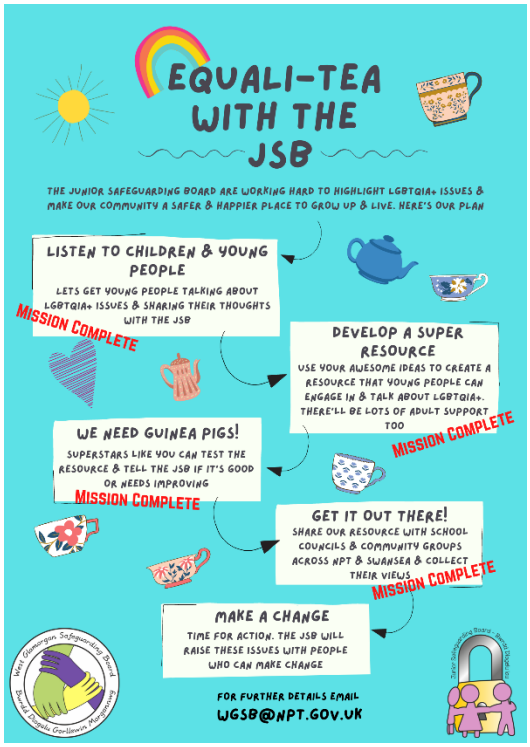
In June 2021, the Junior Safeguarding Board were presented an award at the WGSB Safeguarding Recognition Awards for Inspirational Contribution made by Young People.

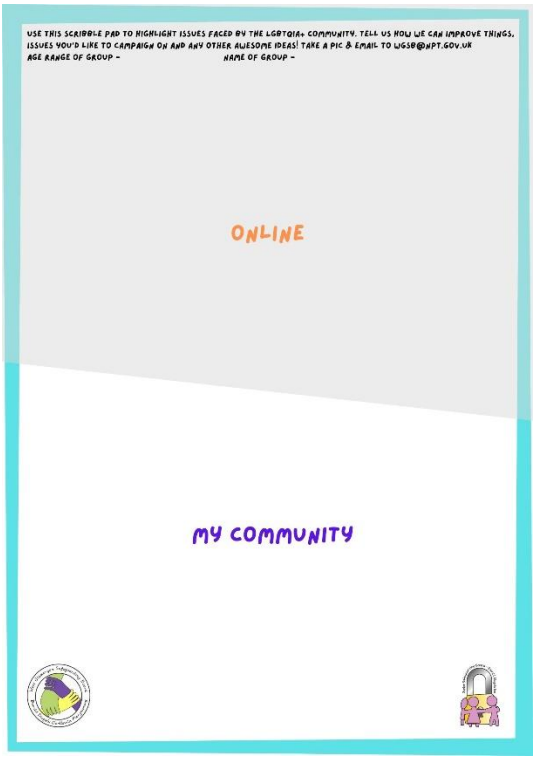
Equali-Tea

The main issue of focus throughout 2021-2022 has been Equality and Discrimination and in particular raising awareness of the safeguarding concerns of the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies. During this period JSB Officers organised and delivered children and young person consultations, fun events for members, feedback opportunities, school visits, collaboration with community groups, resource development, pilot and delivery.

JSB members engaged in participation events to develop a resource pack for schools and community groups to help raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues and educate our communities to be more understanding, supportive and respectful. The initial concept, design, draft and completion of the

resource ‘Equali-Tea with the JSB’ was undertaken during two fun activity days during the summer. Margam Park hosted the first event where young people enjoyed stand up paddle boarding, orienteering, picnic and a consultation workshop. The drafted resource was further improved at Port Eynon where young people engaged in beach art, human hungry hippos, a BBQ and further consultation work.





Margam Park

SUP Boarding on Margam Lake

Beach Art on Port Eynon Beach

One of two sessions at Climbing Hangar Swansea

During February and March 2022 the JSB held 3 online workshops. Cllrs and senior management from across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot were invited to attend the Equali-Tea session delivered by young people. The purpose of the sessions was to provide an update on the work the JSB had been undertaking, raise awareness of the Equali-Tea resource, and engage with professionals and decision makers to inspire them to think about the issues young people face in relation LGBTQIA+, and their role in making a difference. The sessions were extremely well received be attendees.

JSB Newsletter

In order to maintain engagement with school pupils and members of the JSB, online newsletter updates on safeguarding issues have been produced and sent out to schools. The newsletter content includes school events and special speakers, projects undertaken by young people, awareness days held be schools, support information and contact details and more.

Link to JSB Newsletter https://sway.office.com/WsAHKpNTOoeJTy4K?ref=Link

'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. Young people from the Junior Safeguarding Board attended the training in July and August 2021 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.

National Safeguarding Week

Members of the JSB played a key role in planning National Safeguarding Week November 2021. The JSB raised awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues and promotional campaign to launch the Equali-Tea resource to school councils and forums. The resource was hand delivered to schools and community groups and an e-copy provided.

'Stay Safe in Sport' Campaign

In 2020 members of the JSB championed the right to enjoy sport safely and launched their 'Stay Safe in Sport' social media campaign and 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

This message is still relevant in 2021-22 as children and young people continue to participate in sports every weekend, so it's as important as ever that they are can have fun and feel safe and supported. The campaign was shared again in National Safeguarding Week in November 2021.

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.

Emergency Services Project

The JSB have highlighted the need for Emergency Service personnel to be better equipped to communicate with children and young people with complex needs. Working alongside complex needs school Ysgol Maes Y Coed in Bryncoch, the JSB are producing a training video to teach front line Emergency Service personnel how to communicate in British Sign Language. Children and young people with complex needs will be filmed teaching how to communicate essential phrases in the event of an emergency. This project has been a collaboration between Children's Rights Unit Neath, South Wales Police, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Welsh Ambulance Service. Once completed the video will be circulated to training departments and used accordingly.

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:-

WBSAB Swansea Social Services SBUHB	**WBSCB** Neath Port Talbot Social Services South Wales Police
Practice Review Management Group (Joint) South Wales Police Education - Neath Port Talbot CBC	**Joint Strategic Training Group** Training Department – Neath Port Talbot CBC Training Department – Swansea CC
Policy, Practice and Procedure Management Group (Joint) Social Services – Swansea CC SBUHB	**Quality & Performance Management Group (Joint)** Social Services – Neath Port Talbot CBC SWP

During 2021-22 the WGSB met on 4 occasions. There was good attendance from our partners as detailed below:

West Glamorgan Safeguarding Children & Adult Board

Agency	16th June 2021	15th September 2021	1st December 2021	14th March 2022
Neath Port Talbot LA	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swansea LA	✓	✓	✓	✓
SBUHB	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Wales Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
NSPCC				✓
Neath Port Talbot LA - Education	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swansea LA - Education	✓	✓	✓	
National Probation Service (NPS)	✓		✓	✓
Public Health Wales (PHW)	✓	✓	✓	
Barnardo's	✓	✓		✓
SCVS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Youth Justice Early Intervention Service (YJEIS)				
WAST		✓		
HMP Swansea	✓	✓	✓	✓
NISB		✓	✓	✓

In 2021/22 the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board used the national formula for financial contributions from statutory partner agencies as follows:-

Agency	
City & County of Swansea	*60%*
Neath Port Talbot CBC	
SBUHB	*25%*
South Wales Police	*10%*
National Probation Services	5%
Total Funding £	

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 –	£168,109
Staffing	£146,783
Training / Development	£10,031
Supplies / Service	£11,295

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 require 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 affective 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.