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THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 10.00 AM ON THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2024** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Emma Bryer
Telephone (direct line):	01267 224029
E-Mail:	ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.	
The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:- https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home	

Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 7 Members

Cllr. Gareth John (Chair)

Cllr. Bryan Davies (Committee Member)

Cllr. Karen Davies (Committee Member)

Cllr. Alex Evans (Committee Member)

Cllr. Meinir James (Committee Member)

Cllr. Hefin Jones (Committee Member)

Cllr. Denise Owen (Committee Member)

LABOUR GROUP - 4 Members

Cllr. Crish Davies (Committee Member)

Cllr. Michelle Donoghue (Committee Member)

Cllr. Philip Warlow (Committee Member)

Cllr. Janet Williams (Committee Member)

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 3 Members

Cllr. Louvain Roberts (Committee Member)

Cllr. Fiona Walters (Vice-Chair)

Vacancy (Committee Member)

UNAFFILIATED 0 Members

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
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- 11. THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023** 105 - 180
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Agenda Item 4

Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee

21st March 2024

Subject: Children's Service Budget Position

Purpose: Set out the current demand on Children and Families Services, the overall strategy for Children's Services to manage future demand, meet statutory obligations and achieve a balanced budget.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason(s)

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet / Council for consideration.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services – Cllr Jane Tremlett

Directorate:
Education and Children's Services

Name of Head of Service:
Jan Coles

Report Author:
Jan Coles

Designations:

Head of Children and Families

Head of Children and Families

Tel Nos.

E Mail Addresses:

JColes@cararthenshire.gov.uk

JColes@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
21st March 2024

Children's Service Budget Position

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Background

In the first quarter of 2023-2024 Children's services reported a projected overspend of £5.3 million against an overall budget of £23 million.

As a result, a review was commissioned and led by the Statutory Director of Social Services to undertake an analysis in relation to the drivers of the demand and focus on areas where there has been significant overspend.

A Transformation Plan has been developed from that analysis which aims to manage future demand and achieve a balanced budget.

Context

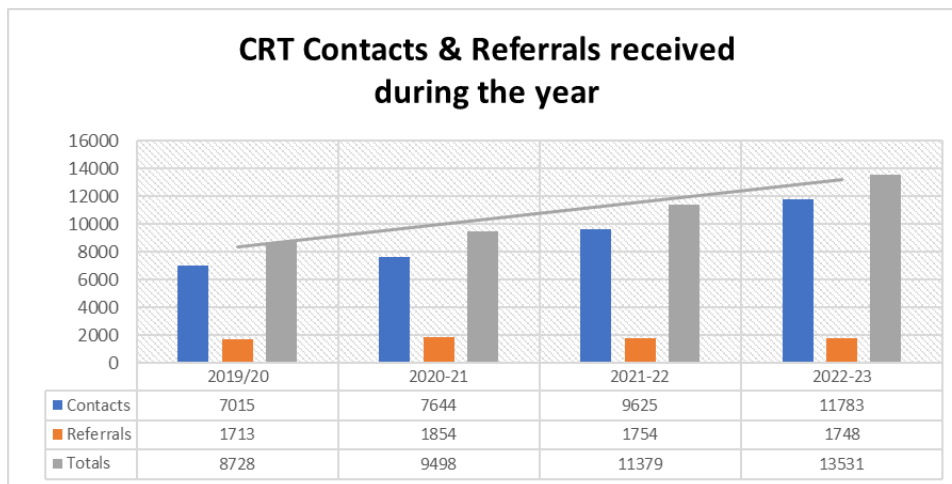
Our Children's Social Services are located within an integrated Education and Children's Services Department. We have routinely had the lowest rate of Children Looked After in Wales and have also maintained low numbers of children on the Child Protection Register. In addition, we have delivered strong performance across all national performance indicators.

This has been achieved through our strategy to invest in prevention and early intervention services as well as being early adopters of innovative approaches to safeguarding. We have a strong workforce who are trauma informed and work in an attachment aware model, which keeps children and young people at the forefront of what we do.

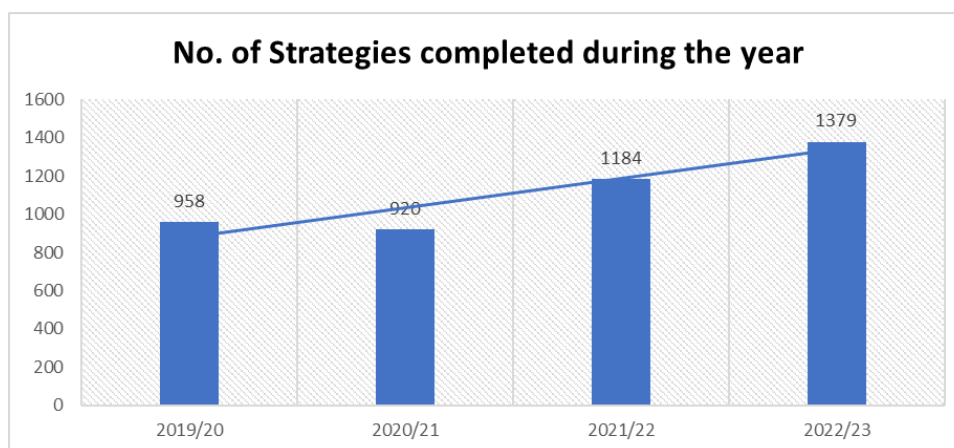
Implementing a systemic way of working with families using Signs of Safety consolidated early gains of keeping families together. The historic stability of our workforce and leadership at all tiers has assisted us in implementing this model and achieving excellent outcomes for children and as a result Carmarthenshire spends less per head on children's social care than any other authority in Wales.

Increasing Demand

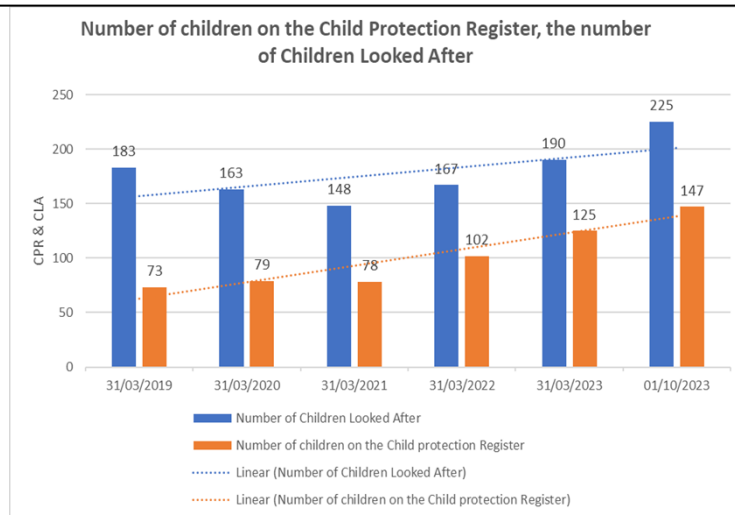
- a) Since 2019/20 we have seen a 68% increase in contacts and referrals received via our 'front door' for Children's Services. This rise started soon after the COVID 19 pandemic where we have seen the demand and complexity increase. This reflects national trends which have driven up the demand for support from Children's Services.



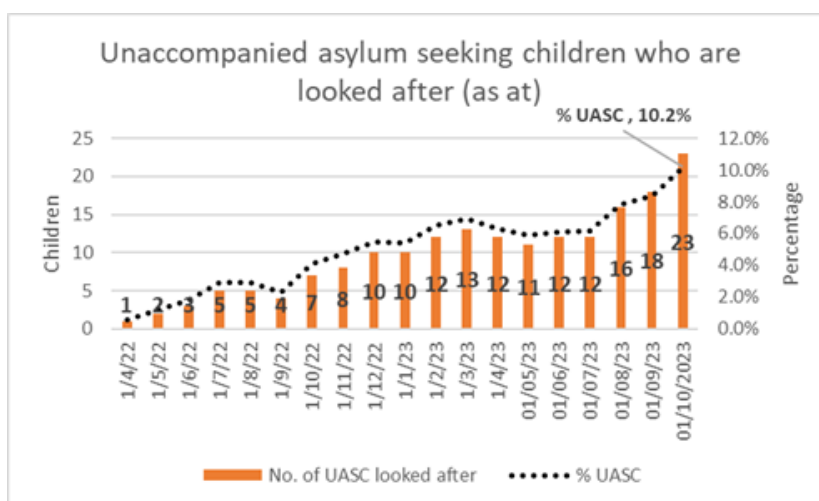
- b) Between 2019 and 2023 there has been an increase in the number of strategy meetings of 44%, and Section 47 investigations of 140%



- c) Since 2020-21, the number of children subject to a child protection plan and children looked after has seen an increase of more than 10%.



d) In 2022 the Home Office introduced a mandatory transfer scheme replacing the voluntary transfer scheme that operated previously. Prior to that we did not receive any unaccompanied asylum-seeking children UASC. Since 2022 the number of UASC for whom we are responsible has grown and now accounts for more than 10% of our Children Looked After (CLA) population.



Service Delivery

a. **Local Authority Foster Care:** Historically, Carmarthenshire has managed the majority of CLA within local authority foster care placements. This has reduced the reliance on independent fostering agencies (IFAs) and residential children’s homes. The increased demand for foster placements has come at the same time as our number of in-house foster carers has reduced and we are operating with a reduction of a third of foster-carers.

In addition to increasing reliance on external provision, the reduction in foster carers has meant we have been less able to match children to placements that can meet their needs. Consequently, foster carers have been asked to care for more children than their original registration agreed, or care for children whose needs cannot be fully met by the carers in placement.

b. **Use of Residential Homes, Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) and Operating Without Registration arrangements (OWR):** As the availability of foster care has

declined the use of IFAs, residential children's homes as well as placements operating without registration (OWR) have increased.

Operating without registration OWR's are placements which are delivered and staffed by the local authority and agency workers, often in an emergency, where there is no safe alternative to accommodate a child. We have also seen an increase in the number of children who have very complex needs and have come into our care from clinical or secure settings. These children require a high level of support and often very specialist services to keep them safe.

The private sector dominates the provision of residential care for children. In this sector, where provision is complex to provide, the market has served children and Council budgets poorly.

To address these market failures Welsh Government will make it unlawful for Local Authorities in Wales to place children in private 'for profit' residential care homes beyond 2026. As a direct result of this Carmarthenshire has insufficient capacity within its residential services for children to meet the current and projected demand and there is no prospect of private investors creating quality provision in the county.

As a result, and to meet our statutory obligations Carmarthenshire will need to develop local options that provide the care our children need. The ambition of the Department to grow the range of residential services delivered is already underway. Until we have developed our own residential homes, we will be reliant on private residential homes.

- c. **Support for Disabled Children:** Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 if you are a disabled child, the Local Authority must assume that you need care and support and should make sure you have a 'needs assessment' to work out what your needs are. It is not surprising therefore that whilst the number of referrals through our front door has remained relatively stable, we have seen a greater demand for assessment for disabled children.

In Carmarthenshire, we meet the needs of disabled children and their families through a range of short break and community support services. These services are allocated following an assessment of need.

Workforce

In addition to the increased demand for services there is a national crisis in recruitment and retention of social care staff, including social workers. Since 2021 this has impacted on Children's Services who have had to deploy up to 14 agency social workers in our social work teams to manage effectively. Whilst this is lower than many authorities it does present a risk to the service if not addressed.

Impact on Spend

Whilst Carmarthenshire's spend per head on Children's Social Services is lower than other local authorities in Wales, we maintain a relatively high number of social worker posts per head of population. Most authorities in Wales are experiencing significant pressures in relation to commissioning costs and reported higher levels of need.

Numerous additional grants were made available from Welsh Government, during the Covid period. Where permissible these were used to cover service costs and therefore served to

manage the overspend position within Children's Services. These grants are no longer available or are now fully committed.

In the first quarter of 2023-2024 Children's services reported a projected overspend of £5.3 million against an overall budget of £23 million. (Net of Grants) As a result, a review was commissioned and led by the Statutory Director of Social Services to undertake an analysis in relation to the drivers of the demand and focus on areas of significant overspend.

Children and Families Services Transformation Programme

Children's Services Transformation Programme										
Ref	Summary	Revenue Budget Required		EXPENDITURE REDUCTION IMPACT			BUDGET REDUCTION IMPACT			
		2024-2025	2025-2026	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Additional Capacity	Additional Posts across the service to meet increased demand	£ 624,872.00	£ 208,292.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Traineeship Programme	15 New 'Masters' Traineeships to address social work vacancies and reduce use of agency	£ 842,728.00	£ 300,400.00	£ 398,751.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 93,751.00	£ 713,805.00	£ 200,538.00
UASC	Increased capacity and new model of accommodation to reduce current level of overspend against Home Office Budget	£ 385,636.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 385,636.00	£ -	£ -
New Children's Homes	Staffing for new residential homes phased over 2 years. Income target of 1 X12 week placement @10K/week	£ 1,284,862.00	£ 1,283,817.00	£ 630,000.00	£ 624,000.00	£ 832,000.00	£ 60,000.00	£ 120,000.00	£ 120,000.00	£ 120,000.00
Transport	Business case to reduce overspend on taxis and replace taxi usage entirely by 25-26 with inhouse service	£ 188,887.00	£ -	£ 25,000.00	£ 25,000.00	£ 25,000.00	£ 200,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Fostering	Increase in Fostering and SGO allowances and additional staff required to increase recruitment and retentions of carers	£ 729,234.00	£ -	£ 400,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ 32,500.00	£ 65,000.00	£ 65,000.00	£ 65,000.00
Garregbyrd	Staffing required to eliminate use of agency and overtime by 25-26	£ 240,000.00	£ -	£ 300,000.00	£ 100,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Disability Services	Budget required to meet the existing spend and then reduce budget via commissioning/rightsizing/policy work by 100K/year	£ 1,083,614.50	£ -	£ 1,039,988.00	£ -	£ -	£ 100,000.00	£ 100,000.00	£ 100,000.00	£ -
Core Systems and Services	Investment in business support/performance/finance required to support delivery of programme objectives and efficiencies	£ 150,000.00	£ -	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
	Grand Total	£ 5,529,833.50	£ 1,792,509.00	£ 2,888,739.00	£ 849,000.00	£ 957,000.00	£ 392,500.00	£ 764,387.00	£ 998,805.00	£ 385,538.00

Governance

The Transformation Programme is being delivered by Children and Families Services through workstreams chaired by Senior Managers. The workstreams report into a fortnightly Programme Board, chaired by the Statutory Director of Social Services. The Programme Board reports to CMT and there will be monthly liaison meetings with Unions.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed:



Head of Children and Families

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NONE

2. Finance

The Budget Working Group report recommends that investment is needed to ensure the continued safe operation of Children and Families Services. The report recommends that £5.5m in 24-25 and £1.8m in 26-27 is required to manage the increased and changed demand.

5. Risk Management Issues

There are risks associated with unmanaged demand in Children and Families Services including risks to children and young people, reputational risk and risks to the Council budget. The Children and Families Transformation Plan puts in place measures to effectively manage current and future demand safely and effectively.

6. Physical Assets

The Transformation Plan includes a recommendation to implement a Strategic Programme for Residential Services which will include the acquisition, refurbishment and development of new children's homes.

7. Staffing Implications

The Transformation Programme sets out plans to increase the capacity of Children and Families Services to manage the increased demand. This includes creating and recruiting into new roles.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
YES

Cllr. Tremlett is provided with regular updates on implementation and opportunities to question and challenge progress.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21ST MARCH, 2024

SUBJECT:

PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE

Purpose:

The committee has requested an update report on the development of a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the update report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice.

Reason(s)

To seek assurance that the development of a prevention strategy is under way.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Chris Harrison Report Author: Kelly White	Designations: Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning Service Delivery Manger for Prevention and Wellbeing, Hywel Dda Health Board	E Mail Addresses: Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk kelly.white@wales.nhs.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Prevention Strategy Update

Introduction:

The committee has requested an update on the current position of the development of the Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

Background:

There is currently no prevention strategy in place in for Carmarthenshire or for the Hywel Dda Region and the closest report of a similar nature was the 'Prevention, Early Intervention, Promoting Independent Living Carmarthenshire: A Resilient Community' developed in 2016 therefore it is now timely to review and update our position and develop an updated prevention strategy which takes account of our current position and sets out our prevention vision for the future.

Since the development of the above strategy there has been a significant number of changes which include but is not limited to:

- The impact of Covid on services and on the citizens of Carmarthenshire
- The refreshed Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability report for West Wales
- The Wellbeing Assessment
- Welsh Governments Rebalancing Care and Support White paper
- Strategy development including unpaid carers, dementia

Therefore, it would seem appropriate to take the opportunity to take stock and develop a new strategy.

Current Position

Regional & local governance arrangements have matured with the development of a Regional Preventions Board - a subgroup of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board. The Board spans the governance arrangements of the RPB and the respective PSBs in the region. This reflects shared legislative responsibilities relating to promoting prevention and wellbeing. Our Local Preventative Board feeds into this governance structure.

There is a strong work programme progressing the development of preventative/community-based initiatives working with third sector organisations and CAVS, this also includes the development of social and micro enterprises.

We have implemented a new Community Preventative Services model - Carmarthenshire's Third Sector Preventative Services, which is part of a wider community model of care and support, providing the structure and central pathways to support. The model is designed to build seamless links between services that help people of all ages stay independent within their communities for as long as they are able or wish and if needed to access more formal care and support when the time comes. The recent development and recommissioning of our third sector preventative services into five locality areas has enabled support providers to work in partnership together and with local communities to provide holistic, innovative, and flexible support to improve and maintain people's health, well-being, and independence, through social integration and the strengthening of community relationships. Each locality area has a lead third sector provider, who together with other third sector partners is responsible for developing initiatives & responding to community needs. The Connect2Carmarthenshire platform captures all the activity and offers.

We have launched our micro enterprise and social enterprise development which aims to diversify the market and provide a wider range of opportunities for personalised care & support.

Enhanced through additional Grant Funding, including Shared Prosperity Fund the preventative services model has been enhanced further and enables preventative services to further develop the model by increasing knowledge and skills on how to connect with 'harder to reach groups' including people who live in rural areas, males, the farming community and people of other languages.

The Regional Carers Strategy has been refreshed reflecting what is important to unpaid carers. The strategy highlighted four key priority areas for carers and is available on the West Wales RPB web site ([Carers Strategy – West Wales Regional Partnership Board \(www.rpb.org.uk\)](http://www.rpb.org.uk))

Within the Adult Social Care division, the prevention agenda is one we need to progress at pace during 2024. There are examples of innovative practice in day services where community and leisure facilities have been utilized to prevent people needing to attend a building-based service. There are examples of creative intervention by the community teams such as wellbeing pathways in the Community Mental Health teams to provide information and support at an earlier point to prevent the need for statutory intervention. Additional capacity has been created within the substance misuse team focusing on prevention and harm reduction. A collaborative approach is being developed and progressed with regard to suicide prevention.

Recognising the importance of the preventative agenda, the newly appointed Service Delivery Manager for Prevention and Wellbeing who came into post on the 20th of September and will be leading on the development of the Preventative agenda, including the strategy. The initial phase of this development has been meeting with key stakeholders and understanding the Carmarthenshire landscape with regards to prevention.

Next Steps

The Carmarthenshire Prevention Group met on the 11th of January where a key agenda item was to define the scope and remit of the strategy as well as the intended audience. The strategy will be one that covers all ages and will provide the public and key stakeholders with Carmarthenshire's plans and focus around prevention & wellbeing for the next five years.

Members of the prevention group were asked for nominations to be part of the Prevention Strategy Development task and finish group. These have now been provided and the first meeting will be held in March (date to be confirmed depending on diary availability) This will ensure that the strategy includes views and information from across Health and Local Authority teams and that it meets the expectations of all key stakeholders.

We will be engaging citizens, third sector partners and stakeholders throughout the project to ensure that the new Prevention Strategy is developed, shaped and owned by the people of Carmarthenshire.

Timeline for Development:

Dates	Tasks
Oct-Dec 23	Identify Key Stakeholders Make connections with relevant partners Understand the current prevention provision Review other key policy documents which have an impact Review other prevention strategies from across other sectors/areas
Jan 24	Define the scope and remit of strategy Understand the audience (public/staff/services) Set up Prevention Strategy Delivery Group
Jan 24 – Jun 24	Prevention - Initial Feedback from citizens survey undertaken Monthly Delivery Group Meetings – to review progress and provide input and feedback. Stakeholder mapping Completed and approved by Task & Finish Group Governance Agreed Communications Plan Devised
July 2024 – September 2024	Initial Draft of the Prevention Strategy prepared for review at the Carmarthenshire Prevention Group. Amendments made following feedback. Equality impact Assessment Completed Public Consultation Undertaken
Oct 2024	Approvals Process Completed
Nov 2024	Publication of Carmarthenshire’s Prevention Strategy
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Chris Harrison**

Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The prevention strategy will make reference to all relevant council and health strategies which are linked, this will include the Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-27, the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan 2023-28 and 'A Healthier Mid and West Wales' and will ensure that it aligns with the strategic direction of the council and the health board.

Once the strategy has been developed consideration will be given to statutory requirements in relation to the Welsh Language and Equalities including the completion of an equalities impact assessment where appropriate.

2 Legal

Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

- ▶ Fundamental principles - Voice & Control; Prevention and early intervention; Well-being; and Co-production
- ▶ Part 2 of the Act details the requirement to promote social enterprises, co-operatives, user-led services and the third sector

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – Resilient Wales; A Healthier Wales; More equal Wales; Cohesive Communities. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places further emphasis on planning for the future, joint working across public service organisations, and working better and more closely with people and communities.

- ▶ Framework for community resourcefulness (Social Care Wales); social prescribing framework (Welsh Government); community movement (Coalfields Regeneration); community ownership (Building Communities Trust/Cwmpas)

3. Finance

It is acknowledged that budgetary pressures will be a key challenge, however in addition to existing budgets, resources such as the Regional Integration Fund (RIF), the Shared Prosperity Fund and Carmarthenshire Cluster Funds are supporting the delivery of preventative services. By working with third sector organisations, we will also be able to capitalise on other funding opportunities which the statutory sectors are unable to access.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**
YES

Include any observations here

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
PEIPIL Action Framework	1	Available on request
Prevention, Early Intervention, Promoting Independent Living Carmarthenshire: A Resilient Community	2	Report.pdf (gov.wales)

Agenda Item 6

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21ST MARCH 2024

SUBJECT:
**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR
 DISABLED CHILDREN**

Purpose:

To describe our current arrangements for supporting disabled children and their families. The report will set out the current service model, demand for services and how resources are allocated.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director.

Reason(s)

There has been a significant increase in demand for assessment and support from families with disabled children since the COVID19 pandemic. This has resulted in long waiting lists for our residential short breaks provision at Llys Caradog and Blaenau and a sharp increase in expenditure on direct payments and community support.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

<p>Directorate</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Jan Coles</p> <p>Report Author: Kelvin Barlow</p>	<p>Designations: Head of Children and Families</p> <p>Senior Manager</p>	<p>E Mail Addresses: jcoles@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>kelvinbarlow@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The report will provide an overview of our services for disabled children and their families. This will summarise our duties as children's services, our current team structure and illustrate the challenges we face of meeting an increasing demand for services.

Whereas services are allocated following a statutory assessment, the council do not have a policy to guide the allocation of the available resources to ensure:

- This is done in a fair and transparent way,
- This provides good outcomes for disabled children and their families
- Our services provide good value

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21ST MARCH, 2024

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR
DISABLED CHILDREN**

Purpose of the Report

The report will provide an overview of our services for disabled children and their families. This will summarise our duties as children's services, our current team structure and illustrate the challenges we face of meeting an increasing demand for services.

Duties

The duties upon Children's Services in respect of disabled children and their families are complex.

- Children with disabilities were classified as ['children in need'](#) under the Children Act 1989. They were therefore entitled to services under the 1989 Act, but also to extra services because of disability, under [schedule 2 part 1 paragraph 6](#) of the Act. Provision of section 17 services was discretionary. This has changed under the **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014**.
- **Children with disabilities and their carers** who need care and support will be assessed under Part 3 of the Act.
- The **definition of 'disabled'** is taken from the Equality Act 2010: having a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on a person's ability to do normal daily activities
- If you are a **'disabled child'** the Local Authority has to assume that you need care and support, and should make sure you have a 'needs assessment' to work out what your needs are.
- Local councils should provide parents of disabled children with a short breaks services statement informing them what kind of short breaks are available, e.g. home sitting, respite by foster carers, etc.

Service Configuration

0-25 Disability Team

A review of our Disability Services undertaken by IPC in 2016 highlighted the need to remodel our service to improve outcomes for disabled children and their families. Following an extensive period of development and consultation a 0-25 model was implemented in 2020.

The model built upon our existing strengths by:

1. Bringing together the Children's Disability Team and Transition Team into one **0-25 team**.
2. Creating an Early Intervention and Prevention Team, working from 0-25.
3. Bringing residential services for disabled children together into one service.
4. Implementing systemic practice and a multi-disciplinary approach across the service.
5. Increasing the role of specialist health staff to work with children up to the age of 18.
6. Bringing Educational Psychology into the supervision and case management of all disabled children and young people.

The aim was to enable us to deliver:

1. A single point of contact for referrals from 0-25
2. A consistent care pathway for through service from 0-25
3. We develop residential services that are fit for purpose and meet the future demand
4. We ensure that young people can continue their education in Carmarthenshire when they leave school
5. Services for children and young people are based on need not on age
6. The development of a clear local offer

This joint model was agreed by Education and Children's Services and Communities and subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between Directors.

We operate a single point of contact for all referrals for children within Carmarthenshire through our Central Referral Team. This includes services for disabled (including ASD) children aged 0-25.

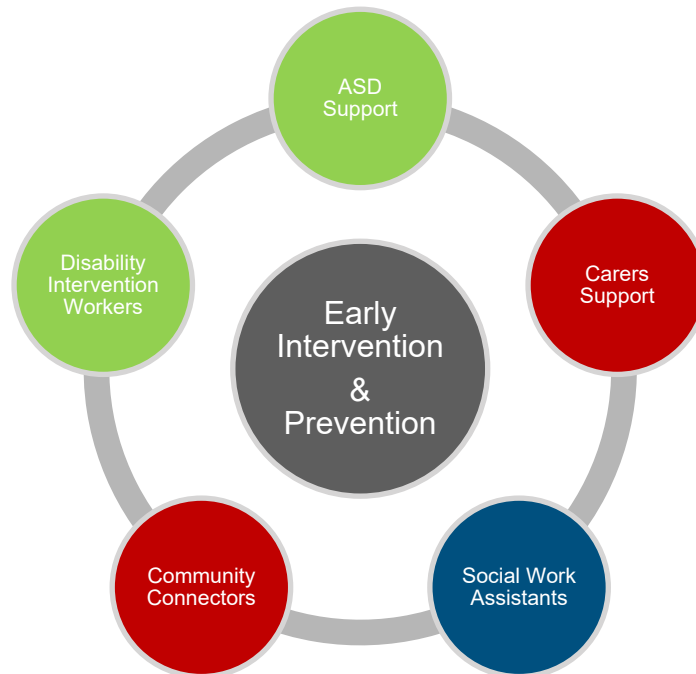
This created 3 separate 'PODs' working with children and young people aged 0-25. A POD is the model developed in Children's Services where smaller teams of workers sharing responsibility for case management.



Cases are reviewed on a cycle within each POD with input from all members. CIW recognised in their Assurance Check visit in February 2021 which had a focus on Disabled Children of the positive outcomes this model was achieving.

Early Help Team

Our Preventative services are overseen by the same manager and have brought together services from Communities and Children's Services to create an Early Help Team.



This brought together staff with different skills and experiences into one team. The ASD support and Carers Support ended due to funding, however Community Connectors transferred from adult social care and a Social Work Assistant had been working in the team on a temporary basis.

Work has been led through the early help team with our parents group to develop our 'local offer' which sets out the services and support available to families in Carmarthenshire. This is now published on our corporate website:

[Local Offer \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

Residential Services

In Carmarthenshire we provide overnight short breaks for children at our residential children's homes at Llys Caradog and Blaenau. We also have a long term residential home for children and young people with autism, learning disability and complex needs: Garreglwyd.

These are all accessed following assessment by our 0-25 team.

In 2018 these services became registered under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA). This has increased the role of the 'Responsible Individual' to ensure there are robust and consistent quality assurance arrangements in place across our services.

We appointed a Residential Services Manager in January 2021. They became the responsible Individual for our 3 existing Residential Children's Homes. This has started a service wide approach to ensure there is consistency of delivery across settings.

Services

In Carmarthenshire, we meet the needs of disabled children and their families through a range of **short break services**. These services are allocated following an assessment of need and can include:

- Overnight Short breaks at our respite centres Llys Caradog and Blaenau
- We also commission organisations to provide support to access community activities or provide domiciliary care
- Specialist Weekend and Holiday Clubs and Activities

Direct payments

We also offer 'Direct Payments.' These are a way for local authorities to help meet individual's eligible need for care and support or a carer's need for support. Direct payments are not a form of income but are paid specifically to buy services, as an alternative to those provided directly or commissioned by the council.

Payments can be made to a person with parental responsibility for a child who has needs for care and support, or to the child who has needs for care and support.

The person to whom the payments are to be made must consent to the making of the payments. Where the direct payments are being made to an adult or a child aged 16 or 17, the local authority must believe the person who is to receive the payments has the capacity to consent to the making of the payments.

In all cases the local authority must be satisfied that making the payments is an appropriate way of meeting the child's needs, that the well-being of the child will be safeguarded and promoted by the making of the payments and that the person who is to receive the payments is capable of managing them by him or herself or with support.

Direct payments to meet a carer's needs

Direct payments can be made to meet the support needs of a carer. The direct payments must be made to the carer himself or herself, who must consent to the making of the payments.

In all cases the local authority must be satisfied that making the payments is an appropriate way of meeting the carer's needs and that the carer is capable of managing the payments, whether by him or herself, or with support.

Preventative Services

Under the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act we provide a range of services which do not require an assessment. These can be considered discretionary and are preventative. This includes:

- Holiday and After School Clubs
- Specialist Advice, Support and Information (via Early Help Team/Tim Camau Bach

Where are we now?

Initially there were positive outcomes of the new model:

1. Transition Social Workers becoming involved in earlier planning for children.
2. Educational Psychology and health workers informing care and support planning based on the knowledge of children statements/IDPs.
3. Social Work assistants providing practical help and support to cases when required.
4. Children's Social Workers continuing to work with children beyond their 18th birthday where that is the right thing to do.

However, the service has reported significant challenges. Specifically:

1. A surge in demand for assessment following COVID
2. An increase in demand and impact on the team of complex family cases where there are child protection concerns including care proceedings
3. Social Work Assistants carrying high caseloads and undertaking assessments
4. An increasing number of social work vacancies and reliance on agency staff
5. Senior workers and managers having to hold caseloads
6. Limited availability of services for community support and short breaks.
7. Preventative services being oversubscribed

The residential services have faced similar challenges, specifically:

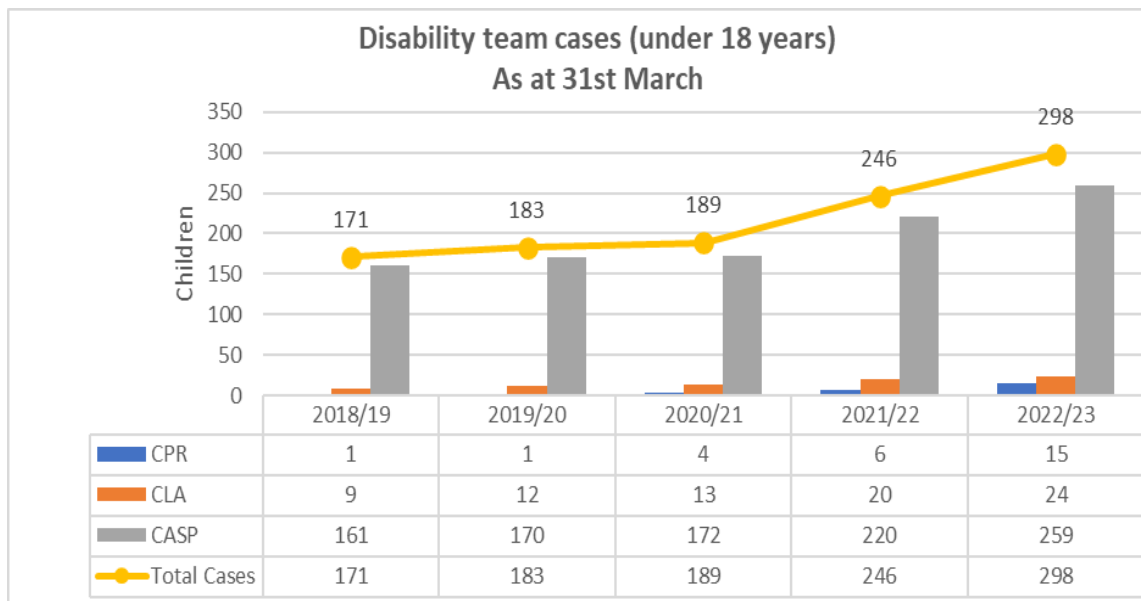
1. A reliance on agency staff and overtime (identified by CIW)
2. Managing emergency placements, rather than planned care
3. Long waiting lists for children requiring short breaks
4. Limited move on from residential services into adult services

The impact of these challenges has meant limited capacity for management oversight, planning and commissioning and a focus on managing operational risk. The current short breaks budget is forecasting an overspend close to £1.03 million.

There have also been changes to management portfolios with an Interim Service Manager overseeing adult Learning Disability services and the Residential Service Manager overseeing a range of new children's home developments and unregistered placements.

It is therefore prudent to review the current service model to evaluate whether it remains 'fit for purpose' and what actions can be taken to address the immediate and medium-term challenges for the service. This is already underway and a series of focus groups have taken place with staff and parents, with further sessions planned for the new year.

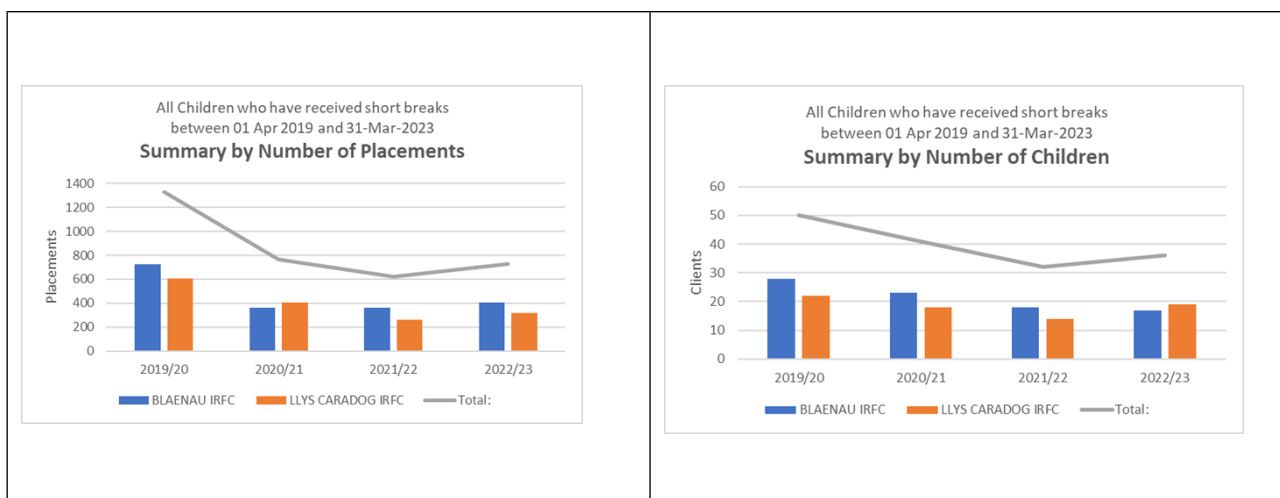
Demand and Expenditure



There has been an increase in demand for assessment for support from the disability team since 2020. This requires further analysis however initial evidence suggests that an increase in awareness in relation to autism and neurodiversity may result in more families approaching the department for support. It is also the case that the COVID 19 pandemic and lockdowns had a disproportionate impact on families with disabled children who have sought support while other services, including schools have not been available.

Residential Short breaks

Our residential short breaks homes at Llys Caradog in Llanelli and Blaenau are registered as children's homes with CIW. They have seen a declining number of nights provided and the overall number of children accessing the service in recent years.



The declining number of nights provided reflects the impact on capacity as a result of restrictions during COVID 19 pandemic. There is also an increasing trend of children

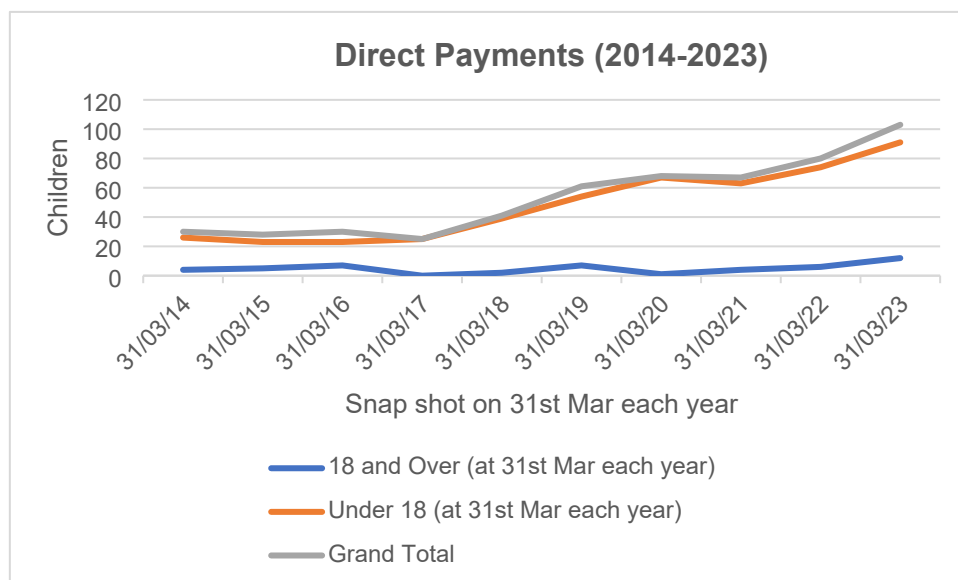
with more complex and challenging behaviours who cannot be safely matched with other children in that environment.

Also, the services have been required to manage increasing numbers of emergency placements in recent years which are outside of the Statement of Purpose.

There are significant numbers of children on the waiting list for Llys Caradog or Blaenau which reflects the limitations of the current model to meet the increased demand for support. The decrease in availability also helps to explain the shift towards greater use of community services for disabled children.

Direct Payments and Community Support

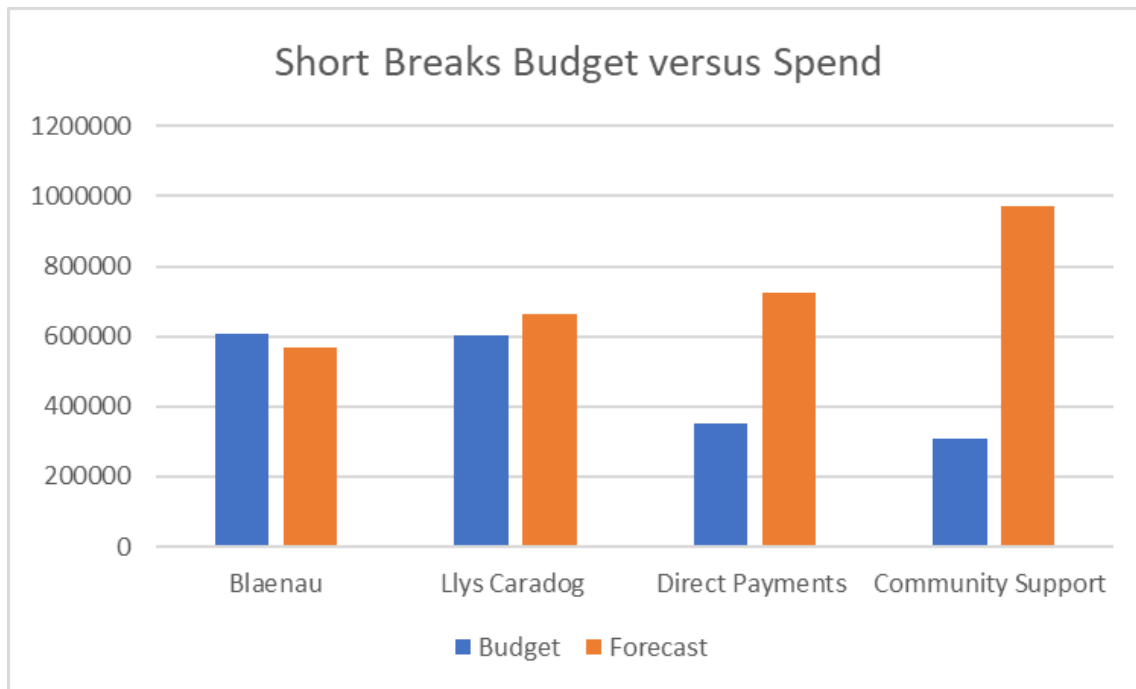
There has been a significant increase in the use of Direct Payments and Community Support for Disabled Children in recent years.



There has been a general increase in use of Direct Payments since 2017. This growth follows the changes since the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The act requires local authorities to consider direct payments as an integral part of meeting people’s needs through care and support planning.

Since 2021 there has been a 50% increase in demand for direct payments. The impact of COVID19 is one factor, whereby Direct Payments provided an option for 1-2-1 as opposed to group support for children which was considered safer.

There has been a similar increase in expenditure in community short breaks. This comprises of support commissioned from 3rd sector/private care providers locally. This is largely undertaken on a ‘spot purchase’ basis and to provide a short break to the family usually by supporting a child to undertake an activity in the community.



The overall level of expenditure significantly exceeds the available budget. This has been a pattern for a number of years, with insufficient budget to keep pace with the growing demand. We have seen a sharper increase in demand since COVID.

There is a lack of policy or guidance to support the allocation of resources for disabled children. This results in workers and managers making decisions on a case by case basis and trying to ensure consistency. A review of services for disabled children in Carmarthenshire undertaken by IPC in 2016 found that there was:

- A mismatch in allocation of resources relative to need
- A mismatch between demand and supply &
- an under use of direct payments in the service.

Following the review, efforts were made to address the systemic issues that contributed to these factors. This included the development of a RAS (Resource Allocation System.) Plans were developed to pilot the system in 2020, shortly before the COVID19 Pandemic which was not able to be implemented.

Next Steps

As part of the review of the service model we will consider with families and other stakeholders the options for modernising the way we allocate resources as a service. This will include consideration of a RAS as well as the development of a short breaks policy.

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21st MARCH 2024**

**Revenue & Capital Budget
Monitoring Report 2023/24**

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

- receive the budget monitoring reports for the Health and Social Services and considers the budgetary position.

Reasons:

- to provide Scrutiny with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st December 2023, in respect of 2023/24.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)
- Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

<p>Directorate: Corporate Services</p> <p>Name of Director: Chris Moore</p> <p>Report Author: Chris Moore</p>	<p>Designation:</p> <p>Director of Corporate Services</p>	<p>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</p> <p>01267 224120 CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21st MARCH 2024

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24

The Financial Monitoring Report is presented as follows:

Revenue Budgets

Appendix A

Summary position for the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee. Services are forecasting a £10,192k overspend.

Appendix B

Report on Main Variances on agreed budgets.

Appendix C

Detailed variances for information purposes only.

Capital Budgets

Appendix D

Details the main variances on capital schemes, which shows a forecasted variance of -£286k against a net budget of £1,907k on social care projects, and a £3k variance against the Children Services projects net budget of £517k.

Appendix E

Details all Social Care and Children's Residential capital projects.

Savings Monitoring

Appendix F

Savings Monitoring Report for 2023/24. This includes detail on the 2022/23 savings proposals that were undelivered as at 31st March 2023.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – A list of the main variances is attached to this report

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Chris Moore** Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Biodiversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES

3. Finance

Revenue – Health & Social Services is projecting that it will be over its approved budget by £10,192k.

Capital – The capital programme shows a variance of -£283k against the 2023/24 approved budget.

Savings Report

The expectation is that at year end £1,432k of Managerial savings against a target of £2,027k are forecast to be delivered. There are no Policy savings put forward for 2023/24.

7. Physical Assets

The expenditure on the capital programme will result in the addition of new assets or enhancement to existing assets on the authority’s asset register.

8. Biodiversity and Climate Change

Some schemes within the Capital Programme relate to decarbonisation measures to help reduce our carbon footprint.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED?
YES

(Include any observations here)

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2023/24 Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
2023-28 Capital Programme	Online via corporate website – Minutes of County Council Meeting 1 st March 2023

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Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Summary

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Adult Services										
Older People	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,445	-26,157	3,701	55,989	1,865	1,614
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,685	-2,525	276	7,435	-54	-313
Learning Disabilities	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,067	-12,000	1,475	38,542	617	939
Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,682	-4,399	234	8,517	683	835
Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,240	-7,503	1,114	4,851	108	35
Children's Services										
Children's Services	29,688	-9,690	2,630	22,628	40,671	-13,700	2,630	29,601	6,973	6,630
GRAND TOTAL	187,484	-62,171	9,430	134,743	201,790	-66,285	9,430	144,935	10,192	9,740

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Main Variances

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Adult Services							
Older People							
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	11,161	-4,401	960	The overspend is the result of external staff agency costs, increased overtime, pay award costs and the setting up of deputy managers in some of the Care Homes to ensure appropriate cover and capacity as a result higher dependency of residents. Some of the overspend has been mitigated by increased income through higher occupancy rates and lower than anticipated premises costs. Moving forward the budget will be adjusted accordingly for 2024/25. In the coming months we will also be developing an in-house agency pilot for the Llanelli based homes that will deliver a more flexible pool of casual staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out in April 2024 with a view, if successful, of deploying across the County in the summer of 2024. This will reduce on-going agency and overtime costs. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit.	951
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	32,242	-14,062	450	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	269
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	1,539	-313	190	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	159
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	10,783	-2,638	745	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	829
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	1,951	-527	-274	Staffing vacancies	-324
Older People - Private Day Services	247	0	145	0	-103	Provision of day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-103
Older People - Other variances					-103		-168
Physical Disabilities							
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	1,443	-314	-210	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at December 2023	-285
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	3,475	-603	311	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	367
Phys Dis - Other variances					-155		-395

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Main Variances

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Children's Services							
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	9,543	-538	1,100	Increased agency staff costs forecast £967k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £375k. This is partly offset by additional grant income	1,119
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	1,103	-252	-93	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-87
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	6,270	-124	1,303	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £623k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £58k, Fostering £746k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £124k	1,138
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	1,683	-1,390	293	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received.	257
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	3,597	-12	3,117	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	2,889
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	2,865	-1,552	254	£254k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £529k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £529k WG grant	225
Respite Settings	1,094	0	1,182	0	88	Increased staffing costs £55k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, increased vehicle costs in relation to additional vehicles needed £16k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £17k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	84
Adoption Services	591	0	1,103	-412	101	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £65k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £36k	136
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	1,747	-208	882	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £360k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £522k	1,040
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	1,024	-619	25	Net overspend mainly in relation to cost of equipment needed for disabled children - grant funded in recent years, but reduced grant available in 2023/24	-46
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	1,322	-205	-86	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to	-123
Other Variances					-11		-1
Grand Total					10,192		9,740

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Adult Services											
Older People											
Older People - Care Management	4,412	-642	675	4,445	4,389	-585	675	4,479	34		19
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	1,319	7,120	11,161	-4,401	1,319	8,080	960	The overspend is the result of external staff agency costs, increased overtime, pay award costs and the setting up of deputy managers in some of the Care Homes to ensure appropriate cover and capacity as a result higher dependency of residents. Some of the overspend has been mitigated by increased income through higher occupancy rates and lower than anticipated premises costs. Moving forward the budget will be adjusted accordingly for 2024/25. In the coming months we will also be developing an in-house agency pilot for the Llanelli based homes that will deliver a more flexible pool of casual staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out in April 2024 with a view, if successful, of deploying across the County in the summer of 2024. This will reduce on-going agency and overtime costs. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit.	951
Older People - Supported Living	109	0	0	109	109	0	0	109	0		0
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	328	18,058	32,242	-14,062	328	18,508	450	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	269
Older People - Private Day Care	35	0	0	35	61	0	0	61	27		22
Older People - Extra Care	677	0	10	687	711	0	10	721	34		0
Older People - LA Home Care	8,387	0	750	9,137	8,344	-0	750	9,094	-43		-74
Older People - MOW's	6	-6	0	-0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	6	1,043	1,539	-313	6	1,232	190	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	159
Older People - Grants	2,554	-2,324	16	246	2,558	-2,324	16	250	4		6
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	116	7,516	10,783	-2,638	116	8,261	745	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	829
Older People - Management and Support	1,704	-303	182	1,584	1,526	-198	182	1,511	-73		-46
Older People - Careline	2,219	-1,077	4	1,146	2,219	-1,077	4	1,146	0		0
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	174	1,871	1,951	-527	174	1,598	-274	Staffing vacancies	-324
Older People - Day Services	852	-92	122	882	706	-33	122	795	-86		-95
Older People - Private Day Services	247	0	0	247	145	0	0	145	-103	Provision of day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-103
Total Older People	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,445	-26,157	3,701	55,989	1,865		1,614

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Physical Disabilities											
Phys Dis - OT Services	883	-301	42	623	761	-149	42	654	31		29
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	13	1,352	1,443	-314	13	1,142	-210	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at December 2023	-285
Phys Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,520	-174	12	1,357	1,448	-141	12	1,319	-39		-268
Phys Dis - Community Support	196	0	1	197	130	0	1	132	-66		-69
Phys Dis - Private Home Care	357	-92	3	268	357	-92	3	268	0		0
Phys Dis - Aids & Equipment	1,129	-424	190	894	1,918	-1,225	190	883	-11		-21
Phys Dis - Grants	163	0	0	163	153	0	0	153	-11		-11
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	14	2,575	3,475	-603	14	2,886	311	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	367
Phys Dis - Manual Handling	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	-4		0
Phys Dis - Independent Living Fund	55	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	-55		-55
Total Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,685	-2,525	276	7,435	-54		-313
Learning Disabilities											
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,195	-410	359	2,144	1,656	-215	359	1,800	-344	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-303
Learn Dis - Care Management	1,057	-37	144	1,163	1,108	-60	144	1,191	29		27
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	81	9,527	14,377	-4,524	81	9,934	407	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	388
Learn Dis - Direct Payments	5,906	-572	23	5,357	5,923	-572	23	5,375	18		41
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	84	9,303	12,742	-2,295	84	10,530	1,227	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	1,314
Learn Dis - Adult Respite Care	1,159	-812	119	467	1,226	-812	119	533	66		80
Learn Dis - Home Care Service	365	-161	4	208	365	-161	4	208	0		0
Learn Dis - Day Services (Local Authority Provision)	2,924	-479	401	2,847	2,686	-281	401	2,806	-40		-39
Learn Dis - Private Day Services	981	-84	11	909	906	-84	11	834	-75		-92
Learn Dis - 0 to 25 Service	570	0	97	667	560	0	97	658	-9		-27
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	24	3,429	3,127	-162	24	2,989	-440	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at December 2023	-338
Learn Dis - Grants	540	-162	5	384	503	-162	5	346	-37		14

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	84	1,075	3,239	-2,526	84	798	-277	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts	-195
Learn Dis/M Health - Management and Support	566	-158	38	447	648	-146	38	540	93		68
Learning Disabilities Total	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,067	-12,000	1,475	38,542	617		939
Mental Health											
M Health - Care Management	1,518	-155	83	1,445	1,413	-129	83	1,368	-78	Staffing vacancies	-65
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	41	3,632	7,495	-3,394	41	4,142	510	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	482
M Health - Residential Care Homes (Substance Misuse)	158	-34	0	124	158	-34	0	124	0		0
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	7	1,268	2,131	-446	7	1,692	423	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	541
M Health - Direct Payments	287	-45	1	242	274	-45	1	230	-13		-4
M Health - Community Support	792	-78	13	727	700	-78	13	635	-92	Underspend relating to reduced demand for Community Support care packages.	-77
M Health - Day Services	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0		0
M Health - Private Home Care	92	-29	1	65	92	-29	1	65	0		0
M Health - Substance Misuse Team	501	-261	88	328	416	-244	88	260	-68	Staffing vacancies	-42
Total Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,682	-4,399	234	8,517	683		835
Support											
Departmental Support	4,337	-3,022	799	2,114	4,466	-3,073	799	2,192	78	This relates to the implementation of 2024/25 efficiencies, which are in progress but not expected to be realised this financial year	-19
Performance, Analysis & Systems	698	-162	44	580	694	-162	44	576	-4		-10
VAD/DASV	980	-980	8	8	980	-980	8	8	-0		0
Adult Safeguarding & Commissioning Team	2,100	-219	100	1,981	2,124	-201	100	2,023	42		59
Regional Collaborative	1,515	-1,362	65	218	1,515	-1,362	65	218	-0		-3
Holding Acc-Transport	1,629	-1,886	98	-159	1,460	-1,724	98	-166	-7		9
Total Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,240	-7,503	1,114	4,851	108		35

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Children's Services											
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	1,691	9,596	9,543	-538	1,691	10,696	1,100	Increased agency staff costs forecast £967k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £375k. This is partly offset by additional grant income	1,119
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	71	1,016	1,103	-252	71	923	-93	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-87
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	44	4,887	6,270	-124	44	6,191	1,303	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £623k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £58k, Fostering £746k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £124k	1,138
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	5	5	1,683	-1,390	5	298	293	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received.	257
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	4	473	3,597	-12	4	3,590	3,117	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	2,889
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	115	1,174	2,865	-1,552	115	1,428	254	£254k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £529k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £529k WG grant	225
Respite Settings	1,094	0	117	1,211	1,182	0	117	1,299	88	Increased staffing costs £55k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, increased vehicle costs in relation to additional vehicles needed £16k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £17k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	84
Adoption Services	591	0	37	628	1,103	-412	37	729	101	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £65k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £36k	136
Supporting Childcare	1,675	-1,141	342	876	1,668	-1,150	342	860	-16		-8
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	16	672	1,747	-208	16	1,555	882	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £360k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £522k	1,040
Children's/Family Centres and Playgroups	994	-681	124	437	1,006	-688	124	441	4		7
CCG - Children & Communities Grant	6,502	-6,494	14	21	6,557	-6,549	14	21	0		0

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st December 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	24	404	1,024	-619	24	429	25	Net overspend mainly in relation to cost of equipment needed for disabled children - grant funded in recent years, but reduced grant available in 2023/24	-46
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	25	1,228	1,322	-205	25	1,142	-86	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to	-123
Children's Services Total	29,688	-9,690	2,630	22,628	40,671	-13,700	2,630	29,601	6,973		6,630
TOTAL FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	187,484	-62,171	9,430	134,743	201,790	-66,285	9,430	144,935	10,192		9,740

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Capital Programme 2023/24								
Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for December 2023 - Main Variances								
DEPARTMENT/SCHEMES	Working Budget			Forecasted			Variance for Year £'000	Comment
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000		
SOCIAL CARE	2,244	-337	1,907	1,930	-309	1,621	-286	
CHILDREN	707	-190	517	1,123	-603	520	3	
Flying Start Capital Expansion Programme	190	-190	0	223	-220	3	3	
ICF - WWAL-26 - Ty Magu Safe Accommodation for Children	517	0	517	900	-383	517	0	We anticipate being able to recover costs from WG HCF grant funding.
TOTAL	2,951	-527	2,424	3,053	-912	2,141	-283	

Children						
Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report For December 2023						
	Working Budget			Forecasted		
Scheme	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000

Flying Start Capital Expansion Programme	190	-190	0	223	-220	3
Trimsaran Early Years Centre	0	0	0	1	0	1
Flying Start 2022/24	190	-190	0	220	-220	0
Cylch Meithrin, Carway	0	0	0	2	0	2
Children Services - ICF Funded Projects	517	0	517	900	-383	517
ICF - WWAL-26 - Ty Magu Safe Accommodation for Children	517	0	517	900	-383	517
NET BUDGET	707	-190	517	1,123	-603	520

GRAND TOTAL	2,951	-527	2,424	3,053	-912	2,141
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Variance for Year £'000	Comment
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3	
1	
0	
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0	We anticipate being able to recover costs from WG HCF grant funding.
3	

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2023/24 Savings Monitoring Report
Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee
21st March 2024

1 Summary position as at : 31st December 2023

£595 k variance from delivery target

	2023/24 Savings monitoring		
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	100	0	100
Communities	1,927	1,432	495
Total	2,027	1,432	595

2 Analysis of delivery against target for managerial and policy decisions:

Managerial
Policy

£595 k Off delivery target
£0 k ahead of target

	MANAGERIAL			POLICY		
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	Target	Delivered	Variance	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	100	0	100	0	0	0
Communities	1,927	1,432	495	0	0	0
Total	2,027	1,432	595	0	0	0

3 Appendix F (i): Savings proposals not on target

Appendix F (ii): Savings proposals on target (for information)

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2023/24 Delivered	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR VARIANCE
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000		
Managerial - Off Target							
Education & Children							
Children's Services							
Children's Services	13,075	Children's Services encompasses the Social worker teams, Fostering, Adoption, Early years, Family Support Services, Specialist Care Provision, School Safeguarding & Attendance and Educational Psychology.	100	0	100	Continual review of services, maximising grant opportunities and managing vacant posts without putting the service at risk of not meeting its statutory function.	Service pressures with total forecast overspend circa £6.5m
Total Children's Services			100	0	100		
Education & Children Total			100	0	100		
Communities							
Integrated Services							
Residential Homes	37,452	Residential care homes provide accommodation as well as 24-hour personal care and support for older people and adults who struggle to live independently, but do not need nursing care. Residential care homes help people manage daily life, such as assisting with getting dressed, washing and eating.	50	0	50	Reduction on spend on residential placements, due to robust challenge in relation to those who are eligible for Continuing Healthcare and minimisation of out of county placement.	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.
Total Integrated Services			50	0	50		
Adult Social Care							
Residential and Supported Living	11,129	Supported Living is provided for those individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues who need support with daily living tasks to remain in the community. Support is provided from staff in the setting which can range from a few hours to 24/7 in some circumstances. Promoting independence is a key aspect of supported living.	225	0	225	Step down from residential care to supported living, rightsizing of packages to promote independence, reduction in core costs to mitigate over provision and recovery of non delivery, collaborative opportunities for income generation, use of Shared Lives provision, review of commissioning strategy and charging framework. This is in addition to previous savings not yet delivered due to COVID pressures. Thus overall efficiency required is greater by the service and will need to be performance managed.	Whilst we are making progress in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. There is a lack of accommodation, respite and day provision for those with complex needs and behaviours that challenge. A particular pressure is accommodation solutions for those young people in transition. We are working with colleagues in housing and commissioning to develop more in house provision and have an infrastructure to performance manage this, which will positively impact on the budget. In the meantime, we have no options but to commission with high cost independent providers and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
Direct Payments	4,720	Direct Payments allow service users to receive cash payments from the local authority instead of care services. This can allow the service user more flexibility and control of their support package.	70	0	70	Additional income following new CHC guidance April 2022, better utilise half hour support slots, develop pooled direct payment groups.	Financial pressures from previous years remain.
Total Adult Social Care			295	0	295		
Other							
Management and back office review	800	Management and support functions for Communities Department	150	0	150	Management and back office review	Implementation of 2024/25 efficiency in progress but not expected to be realised this financial year
Total Other			150	0	150		
Communities Total			495	0	495		
Policy - Off Target							
NOTHING TO REPORT							

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2023/24 Delivered	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	

Managerial - On Target

Communities

Integrated Services

Domiciliary Care	17,288	<p>Domiciliary Care is provided to approx. 1,000 individuals in the county in. On average over 11,000 hours per week are delivered by in-house and independent domiciliary care agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 250 individuals receive care from two carers (known as "double handed" care). - Approx. 170 individuals receive a large package of care involving 4 calls per day. - Fulfilled Lives is a model of domiciliary care which has been developed for individuals living with dementia which has demonstrated that the service can maintain people living at home for longer than traditional domiciliary care. The plan is to expand the service to cover the entire county. - The Reablement Service provides short term domiciliary care. The number of clients who receive Reablement is over 500 and 55% leave the service with no long term care package. - Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) and the Carmarthenshire United Support Project (CUSP) are both preventative services which support individuals to maintain their independence without the need for statutory social services. By increasing the proportion of referrals that go through IAA or CUSP, it reduces the demand on statutory services. - The specialist Continence service has been established within Community Nursing. By providing the right continence products to meet the individual's continence needs, it is possible to reduce the number of visits per day of domiciliary care. 	600	600	0	Through robust and regular review of home based packages including review of double staffed packages and implementation of the releasing time to care methodology, we will reduce the number of care hours required. Calculations are based on a reduction of 610 care hours per week per year at a cost of £25 per hour minus an investment of £150K investment in the review team to provide us with additional capacity to conduct reviews. Removal of night service in Extra Care.
Extra Care	857	Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement. There are 4 extra care facilities (Cartref Cynnes, Ty Dyffryn, Plas y Môr and Cwm Aur) for older people. A domiciliary care service is provided to those tenants living in the Extra Care facilities who require care and support. The aim of Extra Care is to avoid or delay the need for a residential care placement. Residential care is provided in local authority and private sector care homes for individuals who can no longer live independently in the community. Depending on the nature of their needs, their placement may be made by the local authority or jointly with the health board, or entirely by the health board if they qualify for free continuing health care (CHC).	50	50	0	Review of existing Policy for Extra Care Lettings with a view to increasing Cat A flats, and consequently reducing spend on residential care. Less provision on site of Domiciliary Care .
Cwm Aur	353	Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement. There are 4 extra care facilities (Cartref Cynnes, Ty Dyffryn, Plas y Môr and Cwm Aur) for older people. A domiciliary care service is provided to those tenants living in the Extra Care facilities who require care and support. The aim of Extra Care is to avoid or delay the need for a residential care placement. Residential care is provided in local authority and private sector care homes for individuals who can no longer live independently in the community. Depending on the nature of their needs, their placement may be made by the local authority or jointly with the health board, or entirely by the health board if they qualify for free continuing health care (CHC).	200	200	0	Decommissioning the current Block contract model of Care in Cwm Aur with a view to repurposing accommodation to be let as standard tenancies. The Care provision will be commissioned in from the community Domiciliary Care providers. This will affect 9 Service users who receive care from the current provider.
Total Integrated Services			850	850	0	

Adult Social Care

Shared Lives	8,371	Shared Lives provides placements for individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues with families that have been approved as Shared Lives Carers.	55	55	0	Reduce offer by providing more efficient alternatives via core services.
Day Services	3,776	As part of the transformation of Learning Disability day service provision, the buildings will provide for those with most complex needs, this will also reduce the reliance on external providers for those with complex needs as more individuals with complex needs are supported by the in-house day service provision.	245	245	0	Fewer buildings will be required as we propose two merge two buildings to create a new skills hub, focusing on training, volunteering ,and employment. We also propose to merge one centre into another to maximise use of resources. This will be a more cost effective strategy for the division, but will also maximise the potential, and improve outcomes for those who use our services.
Total Adult Social Care			300	300	0	

Homes and Safer Communities

Day Services - Older People	1,133	Day care for adults typically involves planned activities and support with important aspects of social, health, nutrition and daily living. These support services are typically run by social care professionals and volunteers and are often in non-residential, group settings. Day care enables adults who have care needs, and/or who are at risk of social isolation, to engage in social and organised activities, as well as providing a regular break to carers.	100	100	0	Provision of catering at Garnant Day Centre from centralised catering.
Total Homes and Safer Communities			100	100	0	

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2023/24 Delivered	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Business Support and Commissioning						
Business Support	1,000	The Business Support Division is made up of 130 staff, there are 8 core functions which are critical to supporting the Department for Communities: Collections, Payments, Financial Assessments, Audit & Compliance, Blue Badge, Transport, Buildings & Emergency Planning and Divisional Business Support	40	40	0	Restructure to reduce staffing levels and greater efficiencies in procurement.
Transport	1,605	The service provides transport support for Social Care.	125	125	0	Reduction of fleet, based on demand and efficiencies.
Total Business Support and Commissioning			165	165	0	
Other						
Regional	170	The Regional Collaboration Unit provides support to the West Wales Care Partnership. Funded mainly through Welsh Government Grants, each local authority also makes a contribution to the funding.	17	17	0	Anticipate regional agreement to reduce local authority contribution by 10%
Total Other			17	17	0	
Communities Total			1,432	1,432	0	

Policy - On Target

NOTHING TO REPORT

Savings Monitoring Report - 2022/23 brought forward
Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee
21st March 2024

1 Summary position as at : 31st December 2023

£265 k variance from delivery target

	2022/23 Savings monitoring		
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	150	0	150
Communities	115	0	115
	265	0	265

2 Analysis of delivery against target for managerial and policy decisions:

Managerial
Policy

£265 k Off delivery target
£0 k ahead of target

	MANAGERIAL			POLICY		
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
	Target	Delivered	Variance	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	150	0	150	0	0	0
Communities	115	0	115	0	0	0
	265	0	265	0	0	0

3 Appendix F (iv): Savings proposals not delivered in 2022/23

DEPARTMENT	2021/22 Budget	FACT FILE	2022/23 Not achieved	2022/23 Delivered in 2023/24	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR VARIANCE
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000		

Managerial - Off Target

Education & Children

Children's Services

Garreglwyd ASD Residential Setting	444	Provision of residential care for children aged 11-19 who are autistic and have very complex needs at Garreglwyd Special Residential Unit.	150	0	150	The intention is to generate income at Garreglwyd from the sale of beds / residential places to neighbouring Authorities. There will be 2 spare places / beds from April 2022, which should generate sufficient income to meet the identified efficiency saving if sold at market rate.	Provision required for CCC pupils, therefore income not achievable
Total Children's Services			150	0	150		

Education & Children Total

150 0 150

Communities

Adult Social Care

Residential and Supported Living		Supported Living is provided for those individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues who need support with daily living tasks to remain in the community. Support is provided from staff in the setting which can range from a few hours to 24/7 in some circumstances. Promoting independence is a key aspect of supported living.	115	0	115	Rightsizing of placements to maximise independence and mitigate against over provision, deregistration of residential care to Supported Living. Collaborative opportunities for income including grants	Whilst we are making progress in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. There is a lack of accommodation, respite and day provision for those with complex needs and behaviours that challenge. A particular pressure is accommodation solutions for those young people in transition. We are working with colleagues in housing and commissioning to develop more in house provision and have an infrastructure to performance manage this, which will positively impact on the budget. In the meantime, we have no options but to commission with high cost independent providers and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
Total Adult Social Care			115	0	115		

Communities Total

115 0 115

Policy - Off Target

NOTHING TO REPORT

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST MARCH 2024

SUBJECT:

**2023/24 QUARTER 3- PERFORMANCE REPORT
RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY
CABINET VISION ACTION AND MEASURES**

Purpose:

To examine the report for monitoring purpose of the Cabinet members portfolio.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice.

Reasons:

- Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance
- We need to demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and appropriate interventions implemented

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services

Directorates:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
Names of Heads of Service:		
Jan Coles	Head of Children and Family Services	JColes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Chris Harrison	Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire)	Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Joanna Jones	Head of Integrated Services (joint appointment with Hywel Dda University Health Board)	01267 228915 JJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care	01267 228849 ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:		
Silvana Sauro	Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager	SSauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST MARCH 2024

2023/24 QUARTER 3 - PERFORMANCE REPORT RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY CABINET VISION ACTION AND MEASURES

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report shows progress as at the end of Quarter 3 – 2023/24 of our deliverables for the Cabinet Vision.

- 1. We will develop a formal agreement between the Local Authority and Health Board, outlining collective responsibilities whilst agreeing a new staffing structure in Integrated Services to support our approach to develop strong communities, help people help themselves and provide support when is needed. (CV12)**

Work is progressing in relation to finalisation of the Section 33 agreement between the Health Board and the Council (including any subsidiary companies), but there is further work needed which will include development of service schedules that will underpin the overarching agreement. It is anticipated that there will be a final draft in place by the end of this calendar year. This work is being focused on during the latter end of Q4 23/24 to early part of Q1 24/25 with the initial focus on developing a service schedule for the urgent care pathway (HomeFirst).

- 2. In line with the Cabinet Vision and our Home First approach we will increase the level of supported accommodation to specifically facilitate safe discharge from hospital. (CV14)**

In order to facilitate safe discharge from hospital as well as prevent admission to hospital, the Local Authority is working in partnership with the Health Board to develop step up/step down bedded provision. Excellent outcomes continue to be seen from TPP discharges (87% not requiring ongoing long term care at point of discharge) and continued work is underway to improve the offer at the Community Hospital sites and to develop more of a rehabilitation model than a medical model, this will include the development of a post orthopaedic pathway from Glangwilli Hospital to ensure individuals who have undergone surgery receive the correct level of rehabilitation in the correct setting. There is also a Strategy in place for younger adults to actively develop supported accommodation with a view to reducing the need for high cost residential placements.

- 3. We will develop and implement a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire which will include implementation of the Cabinet Vision to further expand the Delta Connect service to provide proactive technology enabled care to vulnerable people within their own homes together with a package of emergency support, monitoring, and wellbeing calls. (CV15)**

An update on Prevention was provided to the H&SC Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in March 2024. Work is underway to develop an extensive engagement programme for development of a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire. Delta Connect continues to develop and is actively promoted to residents within the County.

- 4. We will work with the Health Board to provide readily accessible and appropriate levels of support to all with Mental Health issues with an expansion of access and support to Children and Vulnerable Adults. (CV16)**

A Single Point of Access was launched by HDUHB in 2022 as part of the 111 service. The LA and Third sector are collaborating with the HB to extend access to wider services as part of this arrangement in 2023. Providing early support children and young people with emotional and mental health issues is also a priority for the Children and Young Person's partnership which is part of the Regional Partnership Board arrangements.

We have established a wellbeing pathway in the mental health teams with a dedicated resource focussing on early intervention and prevention. This project is currently being evaluated, however it is already producing positive outcomes for individuals, and improving access to services.

We are collaborating with colleagues in the Health Board and third sector to develop access and support pathways for individuals with Alcohol Related Brain damage and individuals who have mental health and substance misuse issues.

Suicide and Self harm prevention is now a priority for the Safeguarding Board and Carmarthenshire Safeguarding Operational Group as we have seen incidents of suicide rise across the region. A regional group chaired by the Head of Adult Social Care continues to pilot an immediate multi agency response to suicide, this is being progressed on a local authority footprint to ensure we do all we can to respond to those in crisis. We have also appointed a temporary suicide prevention coordinator post to look at what currently exists in terms of access and support and where the gaps are. This will inform our prevention strategy in Carmarthenshire.

- 5. We will further support a Care Academy giving a career pathway for care work, including professional development and training for young people leaving school. Work to double the number of staff supported to gain a Social Work degree. (CV17)**

We currently have 12 individuals who are undertaking the Care Academy programme. We are soon to recruit the next cohort and have targeted schools and post 16 for this intake. We are supporting approximately 30 staff to undertake Social Work training as part of our "growing our own strategy". We are offering secondments, traineeships and supporting four individuals to access the full time Masters route (three from the Adult Social Care division). Our plan is to support increased numbers to access this route to address recruitment issues in this area.

6. Ensure we have a stable workforce within Children`s Services who are qualified, equipped and supported to undertake their role. (CV17)

All but one of the new senior managers have taken up post with the last external appointee to join in February. Work is now underway to align teams and responsibilities to the new managers. The All Wales Pledge to work together around agency social workers is proving successful in reducing agency fees and supporting permanent recruitment.

7. Develop a sufficient supply of in-house residential placements to support the ambition to rebalance the market and take profit out of children`s care (CV18)

We have begun implementing our strategic programme for developing a sufficient supply of Children`s Homes. Our re-development of a short-term assessment facility in Carmarthen is approaching completion and will open early in 2024. This will help prevent our current need for emergency provision and will be delivered as part of a regional model of safer accommodation. We have also recently completed the acquisition of a new home which will be refurbished and provide a long-term home for up to four children. We will have completed our recruitment by the end of the month. These developments will provide significant capacity to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children, in house. The next phase of our development is to identify an additional property to provide further capacity.

8. We will work with Welsh Government to create and define a National Care Service that delivers national standards of care with local delivery of services to meet our community`s needs. (CV19)

We have received the Welsh Governments summary consultation response in November 2023. We are advised by WG that they are considering the consultation feedback which will inform policy and legislative proposals as part of the Rebalancing Care & Support Programme.

9. Deliver a range of high-quality intervention services so that children, young people and their families have access to support at the right time, keeping families together where it is safe to do so, and prevent the need to become looked after. (CV21)

The re-alignment of the children and family services` senior management team`s responsibilities brings our intervention services together with our accommodation services under one senior manager. This will form the basis of the next stage in the development of this work.

10. Develop the Mid and West Wales (MWW) Regional Adoption Service in line with national, regional, and local priorities including the `good practice` guides. (CV22)

The Mid and West Wales (MWW) Regional Adoption Service continues to develop to ensure it achieves the best outcomes for children placed for adoption whilst also ensuring adopters receive the right support when in need. MWW has worked in partnership with the National Adoption Central Team to develop National Adoption Policies to ensure there is a consistently high-quality adoption service provided throughout Wales. The MWW service provides trauma/nurture timelines and understanding the child days for all children that are placed for adoption. MWW is also offering training to the four local authorities in MWW to ensure childcare social workers embed the good practice guides into their practice to ensure children who are going to be placed for adoption are comprehensively prepared. The MWW regional adoption

service is currently supporting each Local Authority in the region to enhance their support to birth parents and to ensure direct contact is considered for all children with their birth family when placed for adoption. In addition, that birth siblings and parents are provided quality contact when children are adopted.

The service is moving on with developing Welsh Early Permanence in the region with a few adopters being assessed to be dually approved as prospective adopters and foster carers and the service is working closely with the fostering service and with childcare teams to identify possible cases which would be suitable for the scheme.

11. Recruit adopters to meet the needs of children with complex needs and sibling groups so that children who need adoptive placements do not have to wait (CV22)

The Mid and West (MWW) Regional Adoption Service continues to find many adoptive placements within the region for children from the region. There is a general decline in enquiries in Wales from people who would like to adopt, however, MWW uses social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and its own webpage to recruit adopters from the region. The Service has targeted its marketing towards potential adopters who would be interested in adopting sibling groups and children with complex needs. The MWW service has also prepared stalls at several events such as the National Eisteddfod to reach out to provide information to adults in the region who may want to consider adoption. We are working closely with the National Adoption Marketing Team to ensure any marketing is underpinned by the needs of the Mid and West Region.

Unfortunately, the marketing and recruitment officer has left the post, so the service is in the process of recruiting a replacement. These are challenging times in recruiting adopters as there has been a reduction in enquiries and assessments are not happening as quickly as we would like due to complications and delays around checks being carried out in Stage 1. We have a number of sibling groups we are currently family finding for and it will be difficult to meet this demand from within the region.

12. Work collaboratively across the region and with Foster Wales to increase and improve our recruitment and retention of foster carers and increase the sufficiency and range of in-house foster care.(CV22)

We continue to work collaboratively across the region with foster Wales. Most recently on a national foster carer recruitment campaign which has received significant media attention.

13. We will continue to improve the support available to carers across the county.(CV22)

Implementation of new Carers Services ie Information, advice and assistance is now included within Community Preventative Services model. The model also includes a bespoke carers service, in recognition to the specialism required to provide carer specific information, opportunities and support to carers. The development of carers breaks project is underway funded by Regional Integrated Fund(RIF) and Welsh Government Amser Funding. These projects have sought to enhance the health and wellbeing of carers, providing a chance to try new activities, make new connections or reconnect to connections lost, or to learn new skills whilst having a break from the caring role. We have also commenced the commissioning review of replacement care.

The work as detailed above is continuing and good progress is being made.

14. We will invest in local efficient council run services to rebalance the market across all elements of adult and children social care (CV13)

All the Market Stability priority projects as listed previously are progressing within timescale for completion is 31st March'24 except A4. This will be progressed in the next financial year. The council has purchased a previously closed care home and a project plan is in place to consider refurbishment/ redesign requirements with a view to open as a council operated facility at a future date.

Measures:

1. CH/024 Of those children placed on the Child Protection Register during the year, the number of children that were previously on the register in the last 12 months (CV21)

Result: 7.9

Comment: The department has seen an increase in the number of registrations during the year (127) compared to Q3 22/23 (112), an increase of 13.4%

De-registrations and registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. Children are subject to child protection planning and cases are closely monitored particularly where child protection concerns remain high.

Numbers in the cohort are very small which can impact on the end result. Sibling registrations can also influence findings and the addition of a family of five children during Q3 has resulted in the result falling outside of timescales.

Reasons for re-registrations:-

Family 1 x4 - parental alcohol consumption/aggressive behaviour

Family 2 x1 - parental complex mental health/alcohol consumption

Family 3 x5 - concerns around physical and emotional harm

Family 2 x1 - parental complex mental health/alcohol consumption

2. CH/035/036 The total number of days on the Child Protection Register for children who were removed from the register during the year (CV21)

Result: 236.0

Comment: A good result this quarter and within the target of 250.7 days. Also, an improvement in performance compared to the same time last year (263 days).

De-registrations and registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. The aim of the department is to utilise preventative services to reduce the number of children being subject to child protection plans. Prevention is key to practice. The childcare teams are supported in this work by the Family Intervention Service, Integrated Family Support and Edge of Care Teams.

Figures are closely monitored at the Audit and Evaluation Group.

3. 3.4.2.6 The percentage of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that attend the initial consultation of the programme (CV23)

Result: 38.1

Comment: Challenges with throughput have limited the number of people we can get through the program in Q1 and Q2.

4. PAM/015 The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (CV23)

Result: 280

Comment: Demand for adaptations is high, we currently have a backlog of enquiries which is having an adverse effect on the average days to complete adaptations.

5. ASC-001 Number of people waiting in hospital for domiciliary care (CV14)

Result: 28

Comment: This is an increase from Q2 due to winter pressures. There has been a steady flow in discharging patients from hospital into domiciliary care.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED:

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed:

Jan Coles	Head of Children and Family Services
Joanna Jones	Head of Integrated Services (joint appointment with Hywel Dda Health Board)
Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care
Chris Harrison	Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Cabinet Visions will be monitored Quarterly throughout the year. All Actions will be put into our Performance and Improvement Monitoring System (PIMS). This means that all information can be analysed and sorted as required.

2. Legal

The **Well-being Future Generations Act (2015)** requires that functions of the council should maximise their contributions to the Well-being Objectives set by the Council.

The **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021** focuses on the extent to which we are meeting our '*performance requirements*'. That is:

1. exercising our functions effectively.
2. using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
3. governance is effective for securing the above.

As noted in the Act:

Scrutiny committees are a key part of offering constructive challenge to how a council is performing and how it organises itself in the delivery of sustainable services.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**
YES

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Cabinet Vision Statement		Cabinet Vision Statement 2022 - 2027 (July 2022) (gov.wales)
Corporate Strategy 2022/27		https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s69968/Report.pdf

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Agenda Item 9

Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee 21 March 2024

2023/24 Quarter 3 - Performance Report (01/04/23-31/12/23) relevant to this Scrutiny

Purpose:

To examine the report for monitoring purposes.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Review and assess the information contained in report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reasons:

- Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance.
- We need to demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and appropriate interventions implemented

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Jane Tremlett Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Directorates:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
Names of Heads of Service:		
Jan Coles	Head of Children and Families Services	JColes@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Chris Harrison	Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire)	Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Joanna Jones	Head of Integrated Services (joint appointment with Hywel Dda University Health Board)	JJones@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care	ABracey@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:		
Silvana Sauro	Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager	SSauro@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023/24 Quarter 3 - Performance Report relevant to this Scrutiny

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report shows the progress as at the end of Quarter 3 - 2023/24 of our deliverables (Actions and Measures) linked to the Corporate Strategy and our Well-being Objectives.

Corporate Strategy 2022-2027

WBO 1	Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)	
WBO1a	Thematic Priority: Healthy Lives – prevention /early intervention	
WBO1b	Service Priority: Early years	
WBO1c	Service Priority: Education	
WBO 2	Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)	
WBO2a	Thematic Priority: Tackling Poverty	
WBO2b	Service Priority: Housing	
WBO2c	Service Priority: Social Care	
WBO 3	Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)	
WBO3a	Thematic Priority: Economic Recovery and Growth	
WBO3b	Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency	
WBO3c	Thematic Priority: Welsh Language & Culture	
WBO3d	Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion	
WBO3e	Service Priority: Leisure & Tourism	
WBO3f	Service Priority: Waste	
WBO3g	Service Priority: Highways & Transport	
WBO 4	To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)	
WBO4a	Organisational Transformation - Overarching	
WBO4b	Organisational Transformation - Efficiencies and Value for Money	
WBO4c	Organisational Transformation - Income & Commercialisation	
WBO4d	Organisational Transformation - Workplace	
WBO4e	Organisational Transformation - Workforce	
WBO4f	Organisational Transformation - Service Design & Improvement	
WBO4g	Organisational Transformation - Customers & Digital Transformation	
WBO4h	Organisational Transformation - Decarbonisation and Biodiversity	
WBO4i	Organisational Transformation - Schools	
5	Core Business Enablers	
5a	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	
5b	Marketing & Media including customer services	
5c	Legal	
5d	Planning	
5e	Finance	
5f	Procurement	
5g	Internal Audit	
5h	People Management	
5i	Democratic Services	
5j	Policy & Performance	
5k	Electoral Services & Civil Registration	
5l	Estates & Asset Management	
5m	Risk Management	
5n	Business Support	

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed:

Jan Coles	Head of Children and Families Services
Chris Harrison	Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire)
Joanna Jones	Head of Integrated Services (joint appointment with Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies *to take all reasonable steps to meet their Well-being Objectives*.

The **Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021** places specific duties for the Council:

Duty	Response
Duty to keep performance under review	We will maintain quarterly performance monitoring throughout the year. This report addresses this duty
Duty to report on performance – based on self-assessment approach	We are addressing this duty in our Annual Report on our progress on our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives and as part of our monitoring arrangements. We must self-assess the extent to which we are meeting our ' <i>performance requirements</i> ': <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. exercising our functions effectively. 2. using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively. 3. governance is effective for securing the above.
Duty to arrange a panel performance assessment	This duty came into force from May 2022. We must arrange for a panel to undertake an assessment, at least once during the period between two consecutive ordinary elections of councillors to the council, of the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements.
Duty to respond to a panel performance assessment report	

2. Legal

In our published Well-being Statement, we are committed to monitor our Well-being Objective action plans.

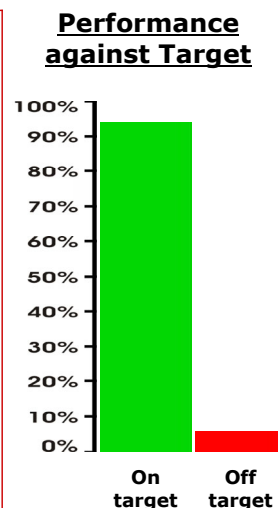
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	YES
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:	
Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 <i>Developing Carmarthenshire Together: One Council, One Vision, One Voice</i>	<u>corporate-strategy-2022-27.pdf (gov.wales)</u>

Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Health & Social Services scrutiny - Quarter 3 2023/24

Filtered by:
Organisation - Carmarthenshire County Council
Source document - Corporate Strategy 2023/24

The table below provides a summary progress against target for the Actions and Measures contained within the selected document

		Total	On target	Off target	Not reported	Not available	Annual / Not started	% on target	Overall % on target
WBO1.Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)	Actions	11	11	0	0	N/A	0	100%	89%
	Measures	8	6	2	0	0	0	75%	
WBO2.Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)	Actions	15	15	0	0	N/A	0	100%	100%
5.Core Business Enablers	Actions	1	1	0	0	N/A	0	100%	100%
Overall Performance	Actions and Measures	35	33	2	0	0	0	94%	



There is one measure without a target set which is not included in the above table, details of which can be seen on page 10

OFF TARGET

Theme: WBO1.Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well) Sub-theme: WBO1a - Thematic Priority: Healthy Lives – prevention / early intervention							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The number of children who were added to the child protection register during the collection year: a. all children b. children previously registered under any category, at any time during the previous 12 months (CV21) CH/024a & b	Not applicable		Q3: 7.1 End Of Year: 5.9	Target: 7.2 Result: 10.9	Target: 7.2 Result: 5.4	Target: 7.2 Result: 7.9 Calculation: (10÷127) × 100	Target: 7.2
Comment	The department has seen an increase in the number of registrations during the year (127) compared to Q3 22/23 (112), an increase of 13.4% De-registrations and registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. Children are subject to child protection planning and cases are closely monitored particularly where child protection concerns remain high. Numbers in the cohort are very small which can impact on the end result. Sibling registrations can also influence findings and the addition of a family of five children during Q3 has resulted in the result falling outside of timescales. Reasons for re-registrations:- Family 1 x4 - parental alcohol consumption/aggressive behaviour Family 2 x1 - parental complex mental health/alcohol consumption Family 3 x5 - concerns around physical and emotional harm						
Remedial Action	To continue to utilise preventative services to reduce the number of children being subject to child protection plans. Prevention is key to practice. The childcare teams are supported in this work by the Family Intervention Service, Integrated Family Support and Edge of Care Teams. To closely monitor figures at the Audit and Evaluation Group.						
Service Head: Jan Coles			Performance status: Off target				☹️
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The total number of children looked after at 31st March who have experienced 3 or more placements during the year CH/043	Not applicable		Q3: 6.5 End Of Year: 7.4	Target: 6.8 Result: 3.1	Target: 6.8 Result: 5.3	Target: 6.8 Result: 7.3 Calculation: (18÷247) × 100	Target: 6.8
Comment	18 children looked after on 31st December required placement moves during 01/04/23 - 31/12/23 Reasons:- 1 16yr old returned home which broke down. Placed in foster care but eventually moved into supported lodgings 2 12yr old twins accommodated in an emergency then a short term placement. Due to challenging behaviour and lack of experienced foster carers with vacancies they experienced a number of moves 1 16yr old with mental health concerns accommodated. A house was set up as the service were unable to attain specialist residential /foster placements. Now placed in an independent children's home to meet needs 2 siblings required temporary change of placement but returned to original foster placement after a six week holiday by carers 2 3yr old twins were placed in an emergency then short term placement. Due to the demands on the service and unavailability of foster placements, an independent fostering agency was sought						
Remedial Action	1 11yr old accommodated due to several serious offences and aggressive behaviour. Settling in a children's home 1 13yr old accommodated due to risky behaviours. Several temporary placements from where child absconded and stole from carers. Now in residential care 1 12yr old rehabilitated home then LAC again due to risky behaviours. Now in residential care 1 12yr old in placement terminated by connected person then placed with in-house foster carers 1 8yr old to remain in care as part of court process 1 15yr old asylum seeker refused placement but happy with new agency foster carer 1 17yr old asylum seeker chose to live in different areas 1 16yr required to leave children's home due to assaults on staff resulting in subsequent placements with Ty Magu staff 1 17yr old in supported lodgings breakdown then living independently followed by return to parent. Settled in new lodgings 1 11yr old in long term foster placement breakdown followed by a number of in-house placements						
Service Head: Jan Coles			Performance status: Off target				Page 72 ☹️

ON TARGET ETC.

ACTIONS - Theme: 5.Core Business Enablers			
Sub-theme: 5j - Policy & Performance			
Action	16497	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will work towards the World Health Organisation Age-friendly Communities Framework, by completing the application process and mapping of local evidence		
Comment	All local Authorities in Wales have received funding from the Welsh Government to work towards membership of the World Health Organisation Age-friendly communities framework. Our Ageing Well Policy Officer is currently researching the eight domains of Age-friendly communities and the work done by CCC so that we can submit as evidence. We are also working on an action plan to progress the work further.		
Service Head: Jason Jones		Performance status: On target	

Theme: WBO1.Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)							
Sub-theme: WBO1a - Thematic Priority: Healthy Lives – prevention /early intervention							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The number of new assessments completed for children during the year, that were completed within statutory timescales CH/006a/012	Not applicable		Q3: 86.3 End Of Year: 83.0	Target: 83.6 Result: 92.7	Target: 83.6 Result: 89.7	Target: 83.6 Result: 88.9 Calculation: (2680÷3014) x 100	Target: 83.6
Comment	<p>A very good result this quarter and exceeds the target of 83.6%</p> <p>The department has re-looked at the recording and reporting formats of completed assessments during the year to include relevant data as per WG guidance plus interpretation of guidance in line with local practice. Metrics remain a work in progress across Wales and are therefore prone to change. Ongoing meetings continue between Welsh Government and local authorities to decide and finalise collection and reporting methods.</p> <p>Continued.....</p>						
Remedial Action	<p>Children’s Services has developed a quality framework to monitor the quality of assessments to ensure they are outcome focussed, co-produced and evidence the voice of the child. Service Managers audit assessments on a monthly basis to ensure that plans formulated are developed in partnership with families to set outcomes which are achievable for families. Service Managers ensure that assessments include direct work with children and record their wishes and feelings in respect of their lived experiences and the support they are receiving. The assessments are audited to ensure they reflect the five principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act: -that families have a voice and control over intervention, a focus on wellbeing, social workers work with families to co-produce assessments and plans, work undertaken with families has a multi-agency approach and families are provided with early intervention and preventative support. Managers feedback any required improvements and training.</p>						
Service Head: Jan Coles				Performance status: On target			

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The total number of days on the Child Protection Register for children who were removed from the register during the year (CV21) CH/035/036	Not applicable		Q3: 263.0 End Of Year: 250.9	Target: 250.7 Result: 239.8	Target: 250.7 Result: 239.5	Target: 250.7 Result: 236.0 Calculation: 29030÷123	Target: 250.7
Comment	<p>A good result this quarter and within the target of 250.7 days. Also, an improvement in performance compared to the same time last year (263 days).</p> <p>De-registrations and registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. The aim of the department is to utilise preventative services to reduce the number of children being subject to child protection plans. Prevention is key to practice. The childcare teams are supported in this work by the Family Intervention Service, Integrated Family Support and Edge of Care Teams.</p> <p>Figures are closely monitored at the Audit and Evaluation Group.</p>						
Service Head: Jan Coles				Performance status: On target			
			2022/23	2023/24 Target and Results			

Measure Description	Comparative Data						
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The total number of children looked after at 31st March who have experienced one or more changes of school during the year (excluding transitional arrangements, moves associated with adoption or moves home) CH/044	Not applicable		Q3: 0.8 End Of Year: 2.3	Target: 4.0 Result: 0.9	Target: 4.0 Result: 1.6	Target: 4.0 Result: 2.1 Calculation: (3÷140) × 100	Target: 4.0
Comment	<p>Education stability of Children Looked After remains excellent. Figures have historically been very low in this metric.</p> <p>Reasons for changes:- 1 young person requested a change of school to be closer to the foster home 1 young person requested a change of school to be in the catchment area and already knowing pupils who attend 1 child changed school to be closer to the foster home</p> <p>Hard work is undertaken with social workers, schools, foster carers and other professionals to maintain children within their original school and community. This provides children with consistency in terms of the education to best meet their needs.</p> <p>The rurality of Carmarthenshire means that children may be travelling some distances to school, when appropriate, which has an impact on higher transport costs as foster placements may be located across Carmarthenshire.</p>						
Service Head: Jan Coles			Performance status: On target				

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO1.Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)
Sub-theme: WBO1a - Thematic Priority: Healthy Lives – prevention /early intervention

Action	16247	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Develop the Mid and West Wales (MWW) Regional Adoption Service in line with national, regional, and local priorities including the 'good practice' guides. (Cabinet Vision 22)		
Comment	<p>The Mid and West Wales (MWW) Regional Adoption Service continues to develop to ensure it achieves the best outcomes for children placed for adoption whilst also ensuring adopters receive the right support when in need. MWW has worked in partnership with the National Adoption Central Team to develop National Adoption Policies to ensure there is a consistently high-quality adoption service provided throughout Wales. The MWW service provides trauma/nurture timelines and understanding the child days for all children that are placed for adoption. MWW is also offering training to the four local authorities in MWW to ensure childcare social workers embed the good practice guides into their practice to ensure children who are going to be placed for adoption are comprehensively prepared. The MWW regional adoption service is currently supporting each Local Authority in the region to enhance their support to birth parents and to ensure direct contact is considered for all children with their birth family when placed for adoption. In addition, that birth siblings and parents are provided quality contact when children are adopted.</p> <p>The service is moving on with developing Welsh Early Permanence in the region with a few adopters being assessed to be dually approved as prospective adopters and foster carers and the service is working closely with the fostering service and with childcare teams to identify possible cases which would be suitable for the scheme.</p>		
Service Head: Jan Coles		Performance status: On target	
Action	16248	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Recruit adopters to meet the needs of children with complex needs and sibling groups so that children who need adoptive placements do not have to wait (Cabinet Vision 22)		
Comment	<p>The Mid and West (MWW) Regional Adoption Service continues to find many adoptive placements within the region for children from the region. There is a general decline in enquiries in Wales from people who would like to adopt, however, MWW uses social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and its own webpage to recruit adopters from the region. The Service has targeted its marketing towards potential adopters who would be interested in adopting sibling groups and children with complex needs. The MWW service has also prepared stalls at several events such as the National Eisteddfod to reach out to provide information to adults in the region who may want to consider adoption. We are working closely with the National Adoption Marketing Team to ensure any marketing is underpinned by the needs of the Mid and West Region.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the marketing and recruitment officer has left the post, so the service is in the process of recruiting a replacement. These are challenging times in recruiting adopters as there has been a reduction in enquiries and assessments are not happening as quickly as we would like due to complications and delays around checks being carried out in Stage 1. We have a number of sibling groups we are currently family finding for and it will be difficult to meet this demand from within the region.</p>		
Service Head: Jan Coles		Performance status: On target	
Action	16249	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Develop a sufficient supply of in-house residential placements to support the ambition to rebalance the market and take profit out of children`s care (Cabinet Vision 18)		
Comment	A strategic programme to ensure the sufficient supply of placements for children in care in Carmarthenshire has been developed. This includes a children`s home providing short-term assessment placements for up to 3 children and two children`s home providing up to 8 long-term placements.		
Service Head: Jan Coles		Performance status: On target	

Action	16252	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Work collaboratively across the region and with Foster Wales to increase and improve our recruitment and retention of foster carers and increase the sufficiency and range of in-house foster care. (Cabinet Vision 22)		
Comment	We continue to work collaboratively across the region with foster Wales. Most recently on a national foster carer recruitment campaign which has received significant media attention.		
Service Head:	Jan Coles	Performance status:	On target
Action	16253	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Deliver a range of high-quality intervention services so that children, young people and their families have access to support at the right time, keeping families together where it is safe to do so, and prevent the need to become looked after (Cabinet Vision 21)		
Comment	The re-alignment of the children and family services` senior management team`s responsibilities brings our intervention services together with our accommodation services under one senior manager. This will form the basis of the next stage in the development of this work.		
Service Head:	Jan Coles	Performance status:	On target
Action	16254	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Ensure we have a stable workforce within Children`s Services who are qualified, equipped and supported to undertake their role. (Cabinet Vision 17)		
Comment	All but one of the new senior managers have taken up post with the last external appointee to join in February. Work is now underway to align teams and responsibilities to the new managers. The All Wales Pledge to work together around agency social workers is proving successful in reducing agency fees and supporting permanent recruitment.		
Service Head:	Jan Coles	Performance status:	On target
Action	16380	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will Develop a Transition Guide with and for young people with disabilities and their families to support them to navigate through the transition process to adulthood		
Comment	The transition guide is completed but awaiting translation before we officially launch. The plan is to launch in March 2024.		
Service Head:	Jan Coles	Performance status:	On target

Theme: WBO1.Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)
Sub-theme: WBO1b - Service Priority: Early years

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The % of child attendance at an allocated Flying Start free childcare placement for eligible 2-3 year olds to prepare for school readiness. 9.1.8.1	Not applicable		Q3: 71.2 End Of Year: 72.5	Target: 75.0 Result: Not available	Target: 75.0 Result: 73.3	Target: 75.0 Result: 76.8 Calculation: (46234 ÷ 60176) x 100	Target: 75.0
Comment	Thrilled to have reached this target!						
Remedial Action	We will continue to work with families to maintain these rates and hopefully improve further.						
Service Head:	Jan Coles	Performance status:	On target				

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The % of families with additional social welfare needs linked to poverty, living in a Flying Start area receiving time specified interventions from the wider Flying Start Team 9.1.8.6	Not applicable		Q3: 95 End Of Year: 96	Target: 95 Result: Not available	Target: 95 Result: 98	Target: 95 Result: 96 Calculation: (130 ÷ 135) x 100	Target: 95
Comment	Thrilled to have reached this target!						
Remedial Action	Will continue to provide time specified interventions to the families living in Flying Start areas.						
Service Head:	Jan Coles	Performance status:	On target				

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year

	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	2	Quarter 3	Year
The % of unauthorised absence at an allocated Flying Start free childcare placement for eligible 2-3 year olds to prepare for school readiness 9.1.8.8	Not applicable		Q3: 1.53 End Of Year: 1.36	Target: 2.00 Result: Not available	Target: 2.00 Result: 2.07	Target: 2.00 Result: 1.50 Calculation: (900÷60176) × 100	Target: 2.00
Comment	Thrilled to have reached this target!						
Remedial Action	It is an achievement to get families to report absence and encouraging to see families are engaging with the childcare settings and reporting absences appropriately.						
Service Head: Jan Coles	Performance status: On target						

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO1.Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)
Sub-theme: WBO1b - Service Priority: Early years

Action	16250	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Work towards addressing the gaps in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-27, promote and further develop Welsh Medium childcare and support the sector to recover from the Pandemic. (Cabinet Vision 2)		
Comment	<p>Our 5th Statutory Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was submitted to Welsh Government on 23/6/22. Arad Research were commissioned by Welsh Government to undertake an independent, impartial review of all 22 Local Authority Assessments. In mid November 2023 we received high level feedback on our submission which reported that a comprehensive Assessment has been conducted with an Action Plan to reflect intended outcomes.</p> <p>Our CSA Action Plan for 2023-24 mid-year review has been completed in Qtr3. An Additional Sustainability Funding round will be run and reported in Qtr 4.</p> <p>We continue to encourage new potential childminders to attend briefing sessions. 2 enquiries were received, and 2 briefing sessions were delivered in Qtr 3. All potential childminders are directed to Pacey to commence IHC/PCP Qualification course. No new candidates have enrolled in Qtr 3. Application Support and IHC/PCP course support is given to prospective childminders, and on an ad hoc basis to smaller groups or an individual basis and follow up support for candidates also given either by 1-1 teams meetings, telephone, e mail and Face to face. There have been no new CIW childminder registrations in Qtr3. There have been six de-registrations; 1 retired, 1 found new employment and 4 were long term suspended childminders. 3 were from targeted areas. No childminder has increased/decreased their registered places. There are currently a total of 82 registered childminders with a total of 666 childcare places.</p> <p>WG Childminding Review Working groups established with Carmarthenshire Childcare and Play Team participating in working group 3 reviewing Childminder Demand, Viability and Sustainability. Meeting attended 5.10.23 and captured current support practices and areas of consideration. Working Group feedback to the Childminding Recommendations Review Group. A second working group meeting has been arranged in Qtr4.</p> <p>We continue to promote Welsh language development opportunities for the childcare workforce sector through promoting CAMAU as well as umbrella organisations language support initiatives for parents such as Clwb Cwtch. Information is shared with providers through our website and through regular email communications. Welsh Language page on FIS website continues to be updated. WESP strategy group meetings are attended. The new Early Years Welsh Language Officer has now visited all Flying Start settings and has developed an Action Plan for each setting. Resources have been shared and settings are supported with a new monthly Welsh Newsletter. The Newsletter is being shared with the wider generic Childcare Sector as well as the Flying Start and Education approved settings.</p>		
Service Head: Jan Coles	Performance status: On target		
Action	16376	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Implement the phased expansion of Flying Start in line with Welsh Government guidance.		
Comment	<p>The Flying Start childcare phased expansion has continued to progress. Concentration has been on new areas ensuring the childcare providers are commissioned to register eligible children for childcare. Eligible families are informed via targeted postcard mailing shots and then they are invited to complete a self-registration form. Llandoverly 1 & 2 were the new areas added during quarter 3. Thirteen new areas were identified for the expansion of which 8 are now fully enrolled. A newly appointed Welsh Language officer has started to work with all childcare providers across Flying Start promoting Welsh Language, culture, and environments. Work has been ongoing with visits to potential childcare providers to promote Flying Start Carmarthenshire. Expansion commissioning and capital subgroup meetings have continued to review progress and plan the next steps.</p>		
Service Head: Jan Coles	Performance status: On target		
Action	16378	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Review the Family Support Strategy to ensure that early intervention support services are meeting the needs of children, young people and families across the county, utilising opportunities for integrating services across the Children & Communities Grant (CCG) and Housing Support Grant (HSG)		
Comment	<p>The Family Support Strategy is in its early stages of development and will be re-named the Early Help Strategy moving forward. It is important that the changes at a strategic level, including a senior manager restructure is reflected in the strategy by clearly illustrating the department's vision and priorities for supporting families in the future.</p>		
Service Head: Jan Coles	Performance status: On target		
Action	16379	Target date	31/03/2024
	Implement key priorities in the Maternity and Early Years Operational plan and Regional Maternity and Early Years		

Action promised	Strategy in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board and Voluntary Sector and move towards an integrated delivery model
Comment	<p>The Regional Maternity and Early Years Strategy will be launched on 1/3/24. The Regional Maternity and Early Years steering group met on 26th October 2023. Regional subgroups have met to move forward on significant pieces of work related to workforce, information sharing and alignment with the Flying Start expansion. Future funding for the transformation programme is unknown at present and a cause for concern in relation to sustainability. Position papers have been prepared for the Regional Partnership Board and the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board to highlight the importance of maternity and early years integration and the need for funding. The importance of early intervention and prevention has been discussed within the Wellbeing Scrutiny task and finish group and the Children and Education scrutiny committee. The Carmarthenshire Maternity and Early Years Operational Group continues to meet on a regular basis and working towards the key priorities and actions within the Maternity and Early Years Operational Plan. Emerging needs of families are discussed at each meeting and most recently members of the group report increasing concerns in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurodiversity • Perinatal mental health • Infant feeding and weaning • Childhood obesity. <p>Embedding Co production/co design within services continues to be a key priority. Workshop 2 of the Ehangu Project has taken place with Crosshands/ Gorslas being the chosen areas of focus. Key stakeholders have met to discuss knowledge of the areas with particular emphasis on strengths and challenges. Parents and children will be involved in future workshops to help shape the research.</p> <p>Cwm Gwendraeth Pilot: The Midwives and Health Visitors are continuing to refer families in need of 1:1 support with the family support workers. There are currently 36 families receiving 1:1 support. The Family Support Workers continue to deliver a rolling programme of baby massage, Can a Chlonc, Amser Stori and Walk and Talk. They have also introduced Movers and Creators which is a physical literacy programme for young children. All groups continue to be well attended. We are continuing our partnership with local schools to deliver Plantos Iachus, our healthy lifestyle after school group with themes of nutrition and cooking, growing and activity. There are around 20 children at each session. We have worked with Save the Children to deliver their Winter of Play and we have started work on the Ehangu project with them. Winter of play included 72 families. The Community Connector continues to seek out partners to increase and improve support for young families in the Cwm Gwendraeth area. The Health Visitors, Community Connector, and Coordinator have worked in partnership with Hywel Dda UHB and Active Sir Gar to tackle obesity in young children. They have devised a training programme for Health Visitors about the recommended amount of daily activity a child under 5 should have and how they can achieve it. We are hoping that we can elicit a change in the All Wales Child Health records to reflect this recommendation.</p>
Service Head: Jan Coles	Performance status: On target

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO2.Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)
Sub-theme: WBO2c - Service Priority: Social Care

Action	12540	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/03/2018)
Action promised	We will ensure that we have a through age approach to community support ensuring equal access to education, training , employment and community inclusion. This will include new models of service delivery to respond to Covid -19 and the opportunities this presents to escalate our Learning Disability Transformation plan.		
Comment	The business development Officer is now in post and the Skills hub has opened and delivering workshops in woodwork and pottery. Funding has been agreed via the regional innovation fund for two additional supported employment posts which will create additional capacity to support people into employment. We are also exploring the potential of a social enterprise and working with colleagues in Pembrokeshire to progress employment opportunities and utilising grant funding to support this work. We are also working with Adult Learning Wales in the skills hub. They have been providing volunteering and employment opportunities since September. We are exploring whether we can also deliver ASDAN qualifications ourselves at the Skills Hub. We are continuing to collaborate with colleagues in leisure and environment to provide community activities as part of our transformation programme.		
Service Head: Avril Bracey	Performance status: On target		
Action	15101	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/03/2022)
Action promised	We will develop a formal agreement between the Local Authority and Health Board, outlining collective responsibilities whilst agreeing a new staffing structure in Integrated Services to support our approach to develop strong communities, help people help themselves and provide support when is needed.CV12		
Comment	Work is progressing in relation to finalisation of the Section 33 agreement between the Health Board and the Council, but there is further work needed which will include development of service schedules that will underpin the overarching agreement. It is anticipated that there will be a final draft in place by the end of this calendar year. This work is being focused on during the latter end of Q4 23/24 with the initial focus on developing a service schedule for the urgent care pathway (HomeFirst)		
Service Head: Joanna Jones	Performance status: On target		
Action	16359	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will develop and implement a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire which will include implementation of the Cabinet Vision to further expand the Delta Connect service to provide proactive technology enabled care to vulnerable people within their own homes together with a package of emergency support, monitoring, and wellbeing calls. (CV15)		
Comment	An update on Prevention was provided to the H&SC Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 25th January. Work is underway to develop an extensive engagement programme for development of a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire. Delta Connect continues to develop and is actively promoted to residents within the County.		
Service Head: Joanna Jones	Performance status: On target		
Action	16360	Target date	31/03/2024

Action promised	In line with the Cabinet Vision and our Home First approach we will increase the level of supported accommodation to specifically facilitate safe discharge from hospital. (CV14)		
Comment	In order to facilitate safe discharge from hospital as well as prevent admission to hospital, the Local Authority is working in partnership with the Health Board to develop step up/step down bedded provision. Excellent outcomes continue to be seen from TPP discharges (87% not requiring ongoing long term care at point of discharge) and continued work is underway to improve the offer at the Community Hospital sites and to develop more of a rehabilitation model than a medical model, this will include the development of a post orthopaedic pathway from Glangwilli Hospital to ensure individuals who have undergone surgery receive the correct level of rehabilitation in the correct setting. There is also a Strategy in place for younger adults to actively develop supported accommodation with a view to reducing the need for high cost residential placements.		
Service Head: Joanna Jones	Performance status: On target		
Action	16367	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will work with the Health Board to provide readily accessible and appropriate levels of support to all with Mental Health issues with an expansion of access and support to Children and Vulnerable Adults. (CV16)		
Comment	<p>A Single Point of Access was launched by HDUHB in 2022 as part of the 111 service. The LA and Third sector are collaborating with the HB to extend access to wider services as part of this arrangement in 2023. Providing early support children and young people with emotional and mental health issues is also a priority for the Children and Young Person's partnership which is part of the Regional Partnership Board arrangements.</p> <p>We have established a wellbeing pathway in the mental health teams with a dedicated resource focussing on early intervention and prevention. This project is currently being evaluated, however it is already producing positive outcomes for individuals, and improving access to services.</p> <p>We are collaborating with colleagues in the Health Board and third sector to develop access and support pathways for individuals with Alcohol Related Brain damage and individuals who have mental health and substance misuse issues. Suicide and Self harm prevention is now a priority for the Safeguarding Board and Carmarthenshire Safeguarding Operational Group as we have seen incidents of suicide rise across the region. A regional group chaired by the Head of Adult Social Care continues to pilot an immediate multi agency response to suicide, this is being progressed on a local authority footprint to ensure we do all we can to respond to those in crisis. We have also appointed a temporary suicide prevention coordinator post to look at what currently exists in terms of access and support and where the gaps are. This will inform our prevention strategy in Carmarthenshire.</p>		
Service Head: Avril Bracey	Performance status: On target		
Action	16406	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will further support a Care Academy giving a career pathway for care work, including professional development and training for young people leaving school. Work to double the number of staff supported to gain a Social Work degree. (CV17)		
Comment	We currently have 12 individuals who are undertaking the Care Academy programme. We are soon to recruit the next cohort and have targeted schools and post 16 for this intake. We are supporting approximately 30 staff to undertake Social Work training as part of our "growing our own "strategy ". We are offering secondments, traineeships and supporting four individuals to access the full time Masters route (three from the Adult Social Care division). Our plan is to support increased numbers to access this route to address recruitment issues in this area.		
Service Head: Avril Bracey	Performance status: On target		
Action	16407	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will develop a workforce Plan to recruit, retain and develop social care staff to ensure a sustainable workforce for the future.		
Comment	Representatives from across Adult Social Care have recently undertaken training on workforce planning. We now have a profile of the workforce which will enable us to have a plan for a sustainable workforce going forward. "Growing our own" is a key element of our workforce strategy with current schemes that support social care staff to undertake Social Work qualifying programmes and the establishment of a Care Academy. Work has commenced on a workforce plan for Adult Social care to ensure we have a sustainable workforce for the future.		
Service Head: Avril Bracey	Performance status: On target		
Action	16410	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will develop a prevention strategy for adult social care to ensure people get the right support at the right time.		
Comment	Adult Social Care is represented on the Carmarthenshire Preventions Board and the Regional prevention Board which are collaborating with partners to develop a prevention strategy and action plan. Within Adult Social care we have established prevention pathways for mental health, this model will be rolled out across all social work teams in the division. We are also prioritising support to carers and respite to offer earlier interventions and prevent family breakdown.		
Service Head: Avril Bracey	Performance status: On target		
Action	16412	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will implement service delivery changes in mental health as part of the Transforming mental health agenda		
Comment	We are collaborating with HDUHB and third sector partners to develop services and support in line with the Transforming Mental Health agenda, there are two elements to this early help and crisis support. We have established wellbeing pathways in the Community Mental health teams which is proving a successful model for early intervention and collaborated to establish a sanctuary facility which has recently relocated from Llanelli to Carmarthen. Progress on this objective is being led by the Health Board and whilst developments have paused in recent years, it will be a priority for 2024. Consultation on the Community mental Health Centres has re commenced which is a core element of the transformation.		
Service Head: Avril Bracey	Performance status: On target		

Action	16413	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will continue to improve the support available to carers across the county.(CV22)		
Comment	<p>Implementation of new Carers Services ie Information, advice and assistance is now included within Community Preventative Services model. The model also includes a bespoke carers service, in recognition to the specialism required to provide carer specific information, opportunities and support to carers. The development of carers breaks project is underway funded by Regional Integrated Fund(RIF) and Welsh Government Amser Funding. These projects have sought to enhance the health and wellbeing of carers, providing a chance to try new activities, make new connections or reconnect to connections lost, or to learn new skills whilst having a break from the caring role. We have also commenced the commissioning review of replacement care.</p> <p>The work as detailed above is continuing and good progress is being made</p>		
Service Head: Chris Harrison	Performance status: On target		
Action	16425	Target date	30/09/2024 (original target 31/03/2024)
Action promised	We will develop a costed programme to invest and expand our in-house provision of residential care		
Comment	HLM architects have been commissioned to develop a fully costed investment programme for three council owned care homes including Awel Tywi in Llandeilo and Y Bwthyn and Caemaen in Llanelli. The initial designs were received in November. The review of these designs by the In-house team required the designs to be amended to include additional care home remodelling work. The revised designs inclusive of costs are expected and will inform our future investment programme inclusive of the number of additional beds we can reasonably achieve in our in house care home provision.		
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan	Performance status: On target		
Action	16426	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will continue to deliver new specialist housing options for people with complex needs e.g. mental health/learning disabilities.		
Comment	The programme to increase our supply of specialist accommodation includes acquisition and conversion of existing buildings and new developments. The programme for 2023/24 includes the conversion of two buildings in Llanelli into ten units of specialist accommodation. The design work and tendering for Tawelan is complete and works are due to start on site in March 2024. The design works for the Bay are complete and the works will be tendered at the end of January 2024 with works expected to start on site in the summer. In addition to our own properties, work is ongoing with Wales and West Housing Association to create eight units of specialist accommodation in the former Lidl site in Carmarthen which received planning consent in December 2023, works on this development will take place in approximately 6 months' time.		
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan	Performance status: On target		
Action	16436	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will ensure that we effectively deliver our statutory duties to assess and review care and support needs of older people and those with physical disabilities, and support people to achieve their desired outcomes.		
Comment	Continued robust triage of referrals at the front door of community services continue to yield significant gains. The waiting list for assessment in the Community is stable at around 200, with on average, 50% are being responded to and closed down at the front door itself. This is in addition to the 40% that receive a preventative outcome by IAA. The Social Work realignment has been completed and new teams are embedding. Complexity continues to be an issue for the service as a whole and in the last quarter, there has been an increase of 4 court cases taking the total being managed by the team to 12 which does take up significant levels of social work time in order to manage.		
Service Head: Joanna Jones	Performance status: On target		
Action	17194	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will invest in local efficient council run services to rebalance the market across all elements of adult and children social care (CV13)		
Comment	All the Market Stability priority projects as listed previously are progressing within timescale for completion which is 31st March'24 except A4. This will be progressed in the next financial year. The council has purchased a previously closed care home and a project plan is in place to consider refurbishment/ redesign requirements with a view to open as a council operated facility at a future date.		
Service Head: Chris Harrison	Performance status: On target		
Action	17195	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will work with Welsh Government to create and define a National Care Service that delivers national standards of care with local delivery of services to meet our community's needs. (CV19)		
Comment	We have received the Welsh Governments summary consultation response in November 2023. We are advised by WG that they are considering the consultation feedback which will inform policy and legislative proposals as part of the Rebalancing Care & Support Programme.		
Service Head: Chris Harrison	Performance status: On target		

NO TARGET SET

Theme: WBO2.Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)							
Sub-theme: WBO2c - Service Priority: Social Care							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Number of people waiting in hospital for domiciliary care (CV14) ASC-001	Not applicable		Q3: 36 End Of Year: 35	Target: NO TARGET Result: 36	Target: NO TARGET Result: 14	Target: NO TARGET Result: 28	Target: NO TARGET
Comment	This is an increase from Q2 due to winter pressures. There has been a steady flow in discharging patients from hospital in to domiciliary care.						
Remedial Action	We will continue to monitor hospital waiting time for people receiving care.						
Service Head: Joanna Jones			Performance status: N/A				

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**21ST MARCH, 2024****SUBJECT:****ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) (2022/23)****Purpose:**

To receive the Annual Report relating to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Consider and comment on the Authority's Annual Report relating to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

Reasons:

This report relates to the Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards activity during the financial year (2022/23). It summarises the national, regional and local context of adult safeguarding and provides a variety of information including:

- National and Regional position
- Local Operational arrangements
- Performance and Activity Information

At the time of presenting this report, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (Statutory Guidance) have been firmly embedded into practice. The Regional Safeguarding Board which is responsible for setting the strategic direction and governance arrangements for adult safeguarding in the Mid and West Wales region continues to benefit from excellent strategic leadership and strong partnership working arrangements.

The Board has strengthened Carmarthenshire's approach to ensuring every person has the right to live a life free from abuse and neglect, and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we work together to support and safeguard the most vulnerable in society.

The proposed new legal (safeguarding) framework for scrutinising and authorising Deprivations of Liberty has yet to be finalised and circulated by the Department of Health & Social Care.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-		
Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health and Social Services Portfolio Holder)		
Directorate: Communities	Designations:	Tel Nos.:
Name of Head of Service:		
Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care	01267 228849 / 01267 228995
Report Author:		E Mail Addresses:
Cathy Richards	Senior Manager Safeguarding/DoLS	ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk CRichards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT:

ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) (2022-23)

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the role, functions and activities undertaken by the Local Authority in relation to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The Report explains the current context of Safeguarding/DoLS and details the arrangements the Local Authority has established to respond effectively to such reports and applications received. As the statutory organisation responsible for adult safeguarding, the Authority is required to have effective arrangements in place to ensure adults at risk are protected from harm. The Local Authority undertakes this role in close partnership with Dyfed Powys Police, Hywel Dda University Health Board and other statutory and non-statutory organisations. The report itemises some of the key performance activity in relation to the statutory duties set out in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

The Local Authority is also the Supervisory body for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards which ensures some of our most vulnerable citizens are properly safeguarded. This report details the current DoLS arrangements and the proposed forthcoming changes.

This report aims to reassure the committee that Carmarthenshire County Council is well placed to fulfil its statutory duties relating to Adult Safeguarding and DoLS upholding the key principles of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales Act 2014) and the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Avril Bracey Head of Adult Social Care

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Legal

We continue to review our processes to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wales Safeguarding procedures. We have systems in place to prioritise DoLS applications and scrutinise the quality of assessments undertaken.

2. Risk Management Issues

We have identified that there are risks associated with the waiting list for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards authorisations which has reduced. We continue to make improvements in this area each year. We currently have no DoLS assessments awaiting authorisation as all have been authorised where appropriate. Although the financial and reputational risks remain, we have introduced robust processes to mitigate these risks.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Annual Report 2022-23

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and sets out a strong, partnership approach to ensuring adults with care and support needs are protected from harm. The Local Authority Safeguarding duties are detailed in the SSWBA (Part 7) and supported by statutory guidance and National Safeguarding Procedures.

<https://safeguarding.wales/en/>

To further strengthen safeguarding arrangements in Wales, SSWBA established a National Independent Safeguarding Board and six Regional Safeguarding Boards. Carmarthenshire County Council is a partner of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board.

National Independent Safeguarding Board

The National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB) is now well established and continues to work closely with Welsh Government and the six Regional Safeguarding Boards. It has three primary functions:

1. To provide advice and support to Regional Safeguarding Boards with a view to ensuring they are effective
2. To report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults in Wales
3. To make recommendations to Welsh Ministers as to how those arrangements could be improved

Please see below link to the National Independent Safeguarding Board website which includes the 2022-23 annual report and associated workplans.

[Home - Safeguarding Board Wales](#)

Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board (RSB) has been operational since 2016 and replaced local safeguarding boards. The statutory functions of the board are carried out by Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys Local Authorities, Dyfed Powys Police, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Powys Teaching Health Board, Public Health Wales and the Probation Service (Wales). The board may also include other persons or bodies that it considers should be represented and who are involved in or have activities or functions relating to children or adults in its area.

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board has two distinct

workstreams, one for children (CYSUR) and one for adults (CWMPAS). Both are overseen by a combined regional board which meets on a quarterly basis.

The board is well established and well regarded nationally. It has robust governance arrangements in place supported by a very effective business unit. It continues to facilitate successful multi agency working arrangements which often results in improved and consistent safeguarding practices across the region. Carmarthenshire's Director of Communities is chair of the Regional Safeguarding Board and takes a proactive role in ensuring it fulfils its statutory obligations. Under his leadership the board maintains a clear focus on the needs and experiences of children and adults requiring statutory support.

In responding to the needs of children and adults at risk within the Mid and West Wales region, the board monitors regional compliance with national legislation and policy, facilitates Child and Adult Practice reviews and any associated learning and improvement activity. It facilitates regional training events and shares national, regional and local good practice. Leaders and front-line practitioners in Carmarthenshire County Council make a significant contribution to the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board and take a lead or active role in all its associated subgroups and workstreams.

Please see below link to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board Website which includes published practice reviews and the 2022-23 Regional Board report. <http://cysur.wales/home>

Adult Safeguarding- Carmarthenshire

The national and regional arrangements continue to support and strengthen Carmarthenshire's ongoing commitment to safeguarding its citizens from abuse or neglect. This includes embedding an "everyone's responsibility" approach to keeping people as safe as possible. This is achieved through the regular training offered to internal and external staff and the robust policies and procedures in place.

In addition to the training opportunities and resources facilitated by the Regional Safeguarding Board, a range of local safeguarding training opportunities were delivered by Carmarthenshire County Council throughout 2022/23 including those specific to Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV). New National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Standards are due to be published by Social Care Wales in April 2023. The standards will guide future targeted Safeguarding training programmes locally, regionally, and nationally.

Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group (CLOG)

The Carmarthenshire Local Operational group CLOG further evidences the continued commitment of all local agencies to work together to improve safeguarding arrangements within the county. It focuses on achieving the best outcomes for children and adults at risk by improving joint working practices and seeking solutions to multi agency operational challenges. It is responsible for undertaking multi agency audits, has oversight of Child and Adult Practice Reviews and any associated learning. The group meets on a quarterly basis and is jointly chaired by the Heads of Children and Adult services which confirms its importance.

Carmarthenshire Adult Safeguarding

The scope of adult safeguarding duties and responsibilities is evolving. In addition to fulfilling the local authority statutory duties set out in the SSWBA, the Adult Safeguarding team play an active role in managing or contributing to numerous Multi- Agency Safeguarding processes. This includes the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings relating to the highest risk domestic abuse victims. These meetings have been extended to include Modern Day Slavery victims and those at risk of so called “Honour Based Violence”. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the victim, and any children or adults at risk. The team also participate in the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings in relation to individuals who present a risk to the public.

The safeguarding team manage arrangements to support individuals displaying High Risk Behaviours including Self neglect which involves multi-agency information sharing and risk management. In February 2023 the team implemented the Regional rapid response procedures to suspected suicide. This pilot project ensures a prompt offer of support to those who have been affected by or may be at risk as a result of a recent suicide death. The project will be evaluated in Spring 2024.

Effective safeguarding systems are those where all agencies work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for those at-risk including sharing relevant and timely information. The adult safeguarding team work closely with all partner and other agencies to ensure the most appropriate safeguarding action is taken by the right people, at the right time.

The Adult Safeguarding Team

The adult safeguarding team is overseen by a Senior Manager with strategic safeguarding responsibilities, including Carmarthenshire's statutory Channel arrangements (early support for individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism) and is chair of Carmarthenshire's Channel Panel. The postholder also manages the Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Advisor who holds a large work portfolio. The Senior Manager post reports directly to the Head of Adult Social Care.

An operational Team Manager has been appointed with responsibility for ensuring effective operational delivery of the statutory Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards responsibilities. This includes management of the operational team and all quality assurance functions.

The operational team comprises of six experienced Safeguarding Officers. Two Officers are dedicated to screening safeguarding reports and undertaking statutory safeguarding enquiries as per SSWBA (s126). The remaining team members undertake extended enquiries and investigations including those relating to commissioned services and Persons in a Position of Trust.

The safeguarding team continue to undertake regular training which is appropriate to their roles and routinely apply the learning to practice. The Senior Manager holds regular service development days where the team actively contribute to the analysis of team performance and the identification of service improvements. This continuous improvement approach evidences a shared commitment within the team to achieving good outcomes for adults at risk, delivering excellent service standards and ensuring ongoing compliance with statutory duties.

Person Centred safeguarding

As previously reported, the SSWBA and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures support a shift in practice which focuses on the views, wishes and feelings of the person at risk which is the obvious starting point for any safeguarding intervention.

The safeguarding team, together with support from other professionals take a proactive role in visiting and speaking directly with the adult at risk to gain a clear understanding of the situation and the risks from their perspective. It is important to ensure that Individuals are an equal partner in their relationship with professionals. Solutions are based on the desired outcomes of the person wherever possible and supported by the professionals involved.

Adult safeguarding continues to be a challenging area of work as there is a fine balance

between intervening to manage perceived risks and respecting the right of an adult to make unwise decisions. Applying the principles of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) is a fundamental part of safeguarding interventions with adults and the involvement of independent advocacy is a key consideration.

Audits/Inspections

Regular audits and inspections are an integral part of the safeguarding team quality assurance mechanisms. In addition to independent internal and external scrutiny, the team routinely review their own systems, processes, decision making and outcomes to ensure standards remain high.

The audits are undertaken in a variety of ways including, self-audits, peer audits and management audits. They are discussed constructively in team meetings and supervisions to ensure improvement opportunities and areas of inconsistency are identified and addressed.

The safeguarding team work closely with Carmarthenshire contracting and commissioning colleagues, exchanging information, and responding to concerns in relation to commissioned services, e.g. residential care homes. Both teams report the benefits and constructive nature of this close working arrangement. For continuity one dedicated safeguarding officer focuses entirely on concerns raised about service providers which ensures early identification of patterns or trends which are addressed collaboratively with service providers, commissioners, Care Inspectorate Wales, and other appropriate agencies.

Adult Protection Support Orders (APSO)

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced Adult Protection Support Orders which enable an authorised officer (and anyone else named in the order) to speak with an adult suspected of being at risk of abuse or neglect in private if this is being prevented by another person. The purpose is to establish whether the person is making decisions freely, to assess if they are a person at risk and establish if any action should be taken.

Carmarthenshire County Council has not felt it appropriate to apply for an Adult Protection Support order during this reporting period.

Adult Practice Reviews (APR)

In accordance with the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, the Regional Safeguarding Board must arrange for an Adult Practice Review to be held where abuse or neglect of an adult is known or suspected, and the adult has:

- died
- sustained potentially life-threatening injury or
- sustained serious and permanent impairment of health

The purpose of the review is to identify any learning or improvement opportunities for future inter-agency adult protection practice. A learning event will be facilitated by the Regional Safeguarding Board and attended by the professionals who were involved with the adult and their family.

The Regional Safeguarding Board completed one Carmarthenshire Adult Practice Review during this reporting period. The report has been published on the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board website and the Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group will ensure the associated action plan is progressed.

Multi Agency Professional Forum (MAPF)

A Multi Agency Professional Forum can be held when the circumstances do not meet the criteria for an Adult Practice Review but learning opportunities have been identified. The MAPF is another mechanism for identifying organisational learning, improving the quality of work with families, and strengthening the ability of services to keep people as safe as possible. Carmarthenshire County Council is currently reviewing two interventions to identify thematic learning.

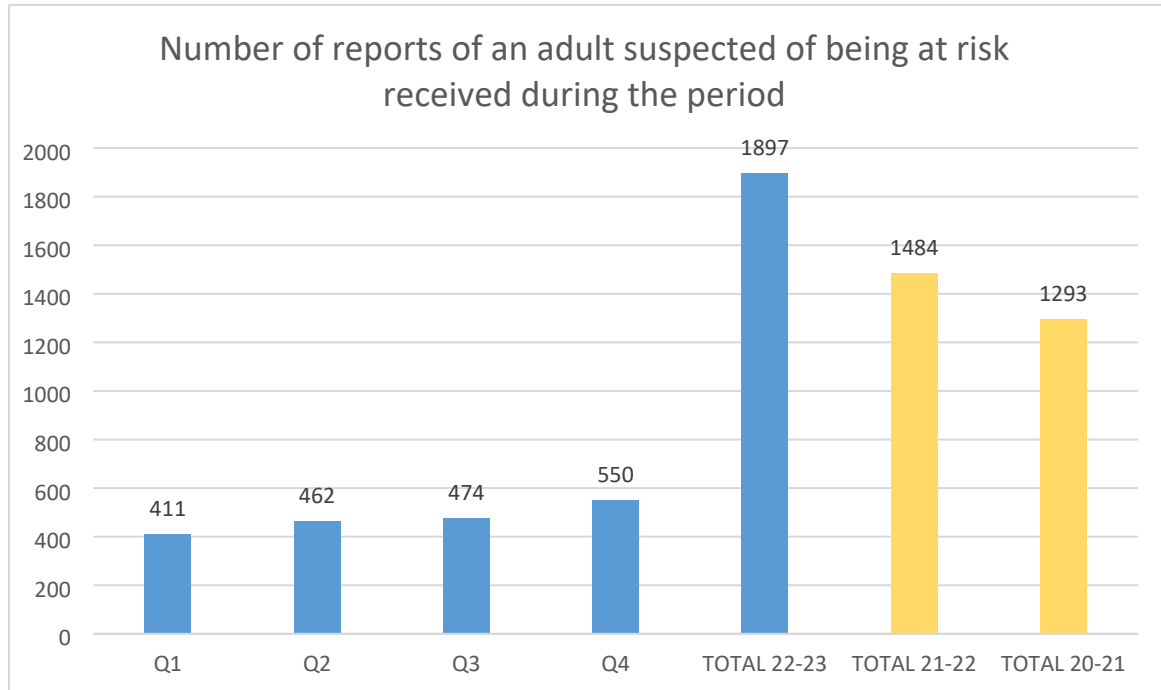
Adult Safeguarding Performance Data

Adult Safeguarding performance measures are set by and reported to Welsh Government on an annual basis and additional performance measures are reported to the Regional Safeguarding Board quarterly. This data is analysed to better understand any changes in demand, patterns and trends which is used to influence and challenge current practices and inform future protection and prevention strategies. Further work will continue throughout 2023/24 to ensure the data captured is accurate, meaningful, and comparable.

The performance information provided to Welsh Government and the Regional Safeguarding Board is extracted from the Local Authority Management Information System. A new enhanced Information Management System was introduced in October 2021 and the collection of data from this system continues to evolve.

Safeguarding performance data

1. Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk.



Duty to report

The Social services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 placed a duty on 'relevant partner agencies' to report to the local authority any adult or child, including unborn children, they suspect is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect. There is also an expectation on **all** agencies and organisations to report safeguarding concerns to the local authority.

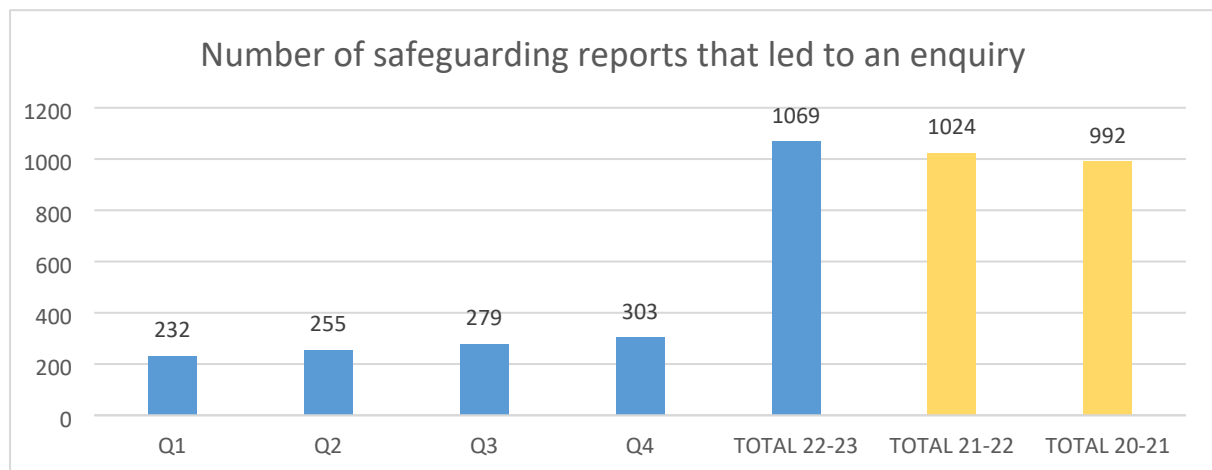
The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 defines an adult at risk as a person who is:

- experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect;
- has needs for care and support; and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

The total number of adult safeguarding reports received during the 2022/23 reporting period was **1897**. This compares with **1484** in 2021/22 and **1293** in 2020/21. This represents a 47 % increase over a 3-year period. This does not include concerns relating to Persons in a Position of Trust and does not include

the number of contacts for safeguarding advice and assistance received by the local authority adult safeguarding team. The increased number of reports is consistent with regional and national trends. The roll out of National, Regional and local safeguarding training has emphasised the legal duty to report and is a likely contributor to the increase.

2. Number of safeguarding reports that led to an enquiry (s126)

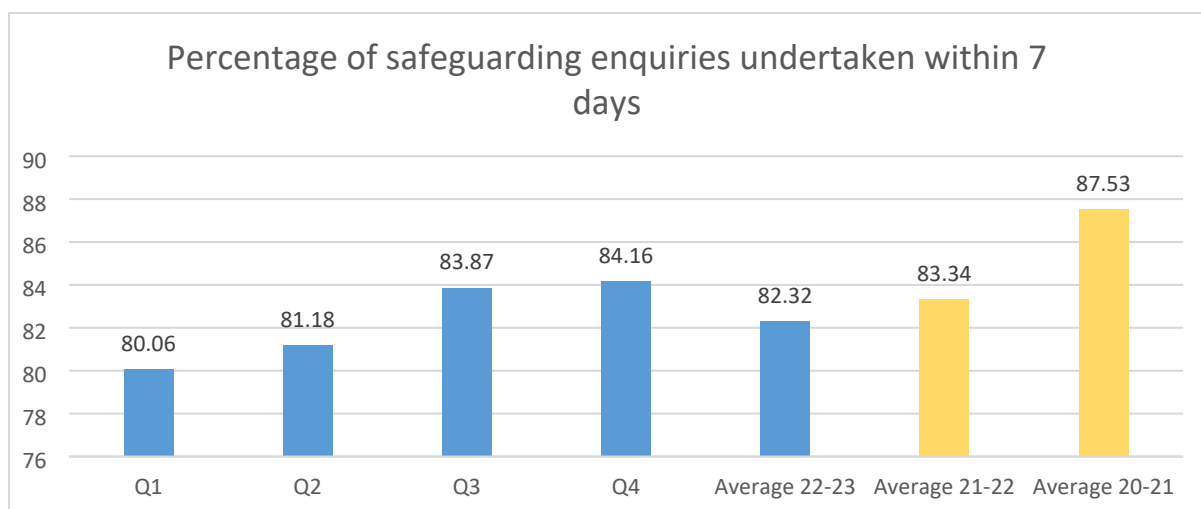


Total Number of Safeguarding Enquiries undertaken= 1069

When the local authority receives a safeguarding report, it must determine whether there is reasonable cause to suspect the adult is or may be at risk of abuse or neglect. If there is reasonable cause to suspect, the local authority has a legal duty to make safeguarding enquiries as set out in section 126 of the SSWB (Wales) Act 2014.

Of the **1897** safeguarding reports received, a total of **1069** (44%) were deemed appropriate to proceed to statutory enquiries (s126). Reports that do not proceed to an enquiry are supported in other ways or signposted appropriately.

3. Safeguarding enquiries (s126) undertaken within 7 days.

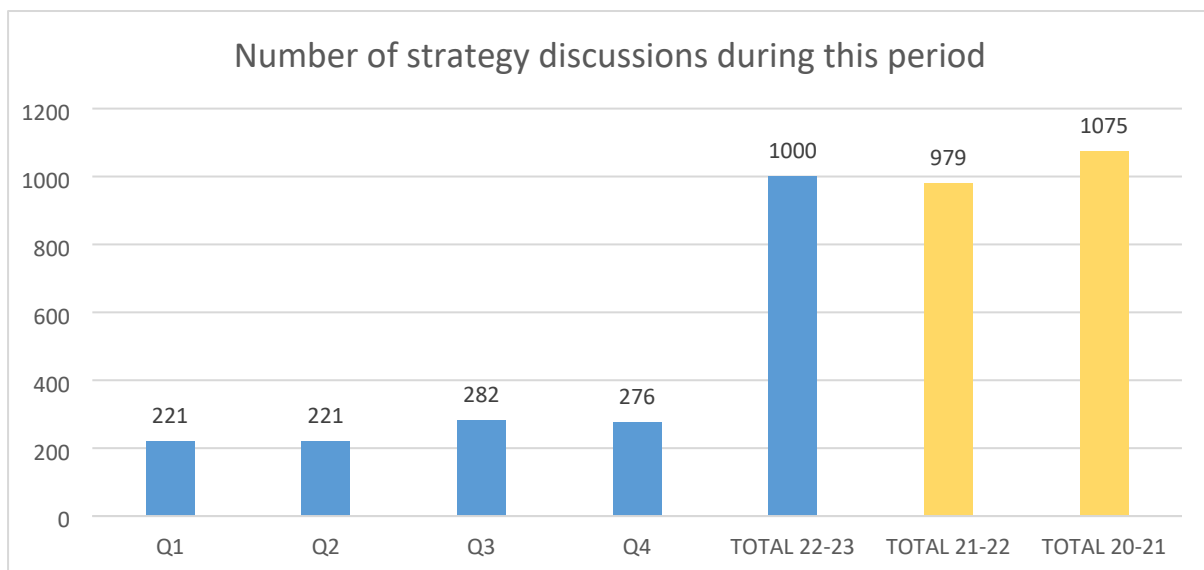


Statutory safeguarding guidance states that ***“safeguarding enquiries should normally be undertaken within 7 days; however, they should not be rushed”***.

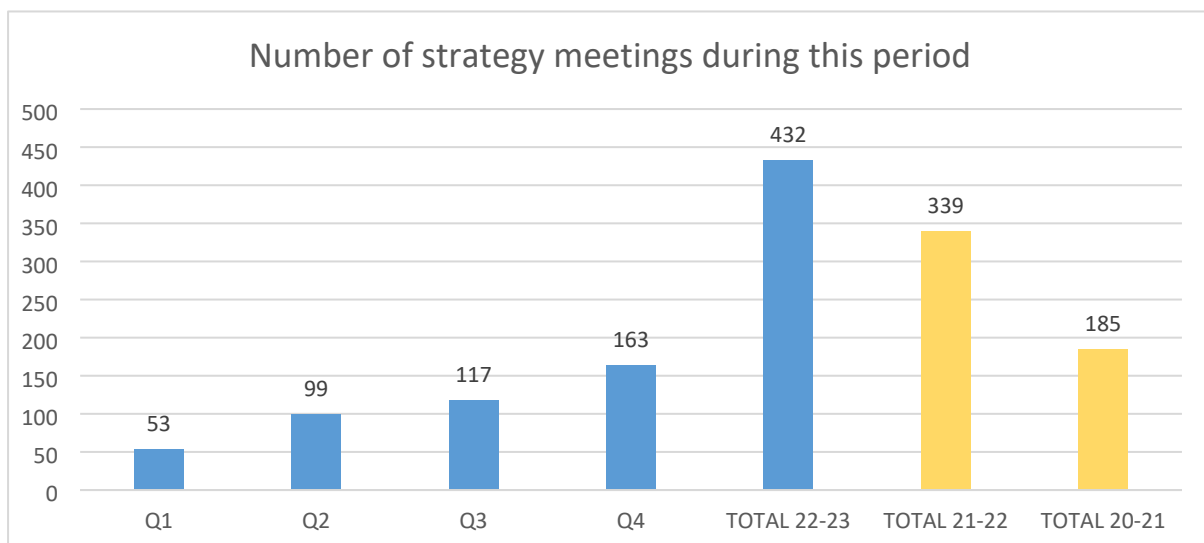
The number of enquiries undertaken (i.e. completed) within 7 days has decreased since 2020/21. Several factors contribute to the length of time enquiries take, e.g complexity of the situation, difficulty engaging with the individual, awaiting assistance or support from another agency. The local authority can delegate statutory enquiries to the most appropriate agency or practitioner, but it must monitor progress and timescales. A rationale is recorded for enquiries which extend the 7-day period. All safeguarding reports are screened and prioritised within 1 working day and enquiries are commenced promptly.

The regional average for completing enquiries within 7 days is 80% and the National average is 90%. It is evident from national and regional discussions that there are differences in the interpretation of the 7-day timescale requirements. During 2023/24 Carmarthenshire will lead on a regional analysis of this activity.

4. Number of Safeguarding strategy discussions during this period



5. Number of Safeguarding strategy meetings during this period



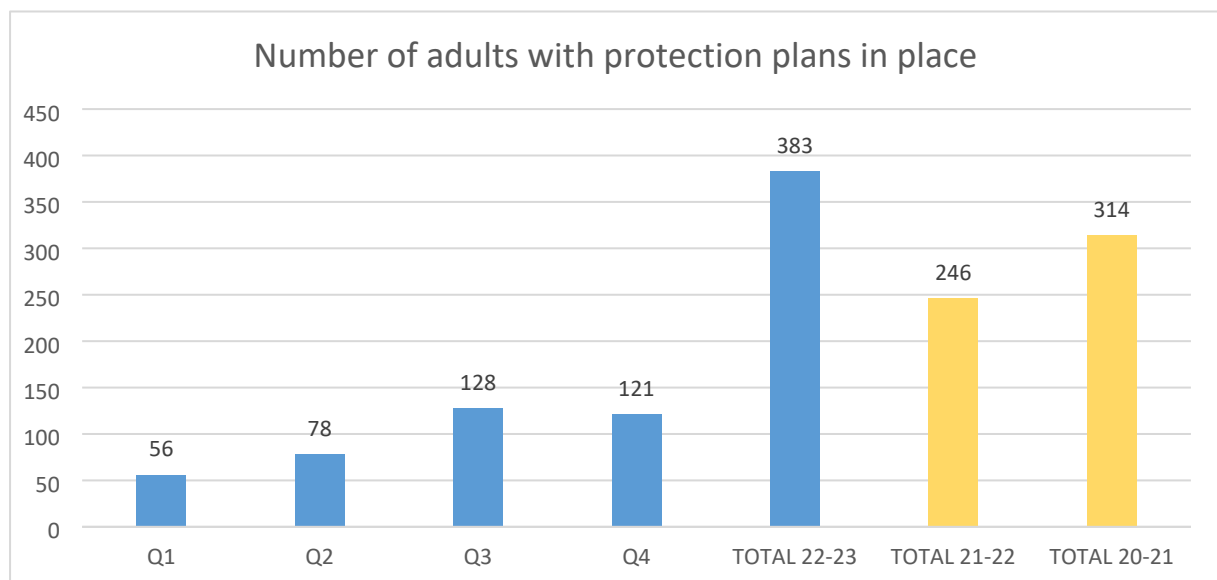
When a safeguarding report is received, it is sometimes necessary to share the concern with another agency or organisation. These discussions take place to consider the level of risk, identify immediate safeguarding actions and consider whether collaborative action is required. Not all safeguarding reports require the involvement of other agencies, e.g. if the concern does not relate to a criminal matter, it will not be discussed with the Police. The number of strategy discussions held is therefore dependent on the nature of the concern and the agencies needing to be involved.

Strategy meetings are normally held when the involvement of more than one other agency is required or when subsequent or ongoing action is required to manage risks. Carmarthenshire has excellent working relationships with partner agencies and has well established processes for communication and joint planning.

The number of strategy discussions and meetings held is not indicative of good or poor performance. The data for this indicator is captured upon closure of the intervention therefore, actual activity may be included in a future reporting data period.

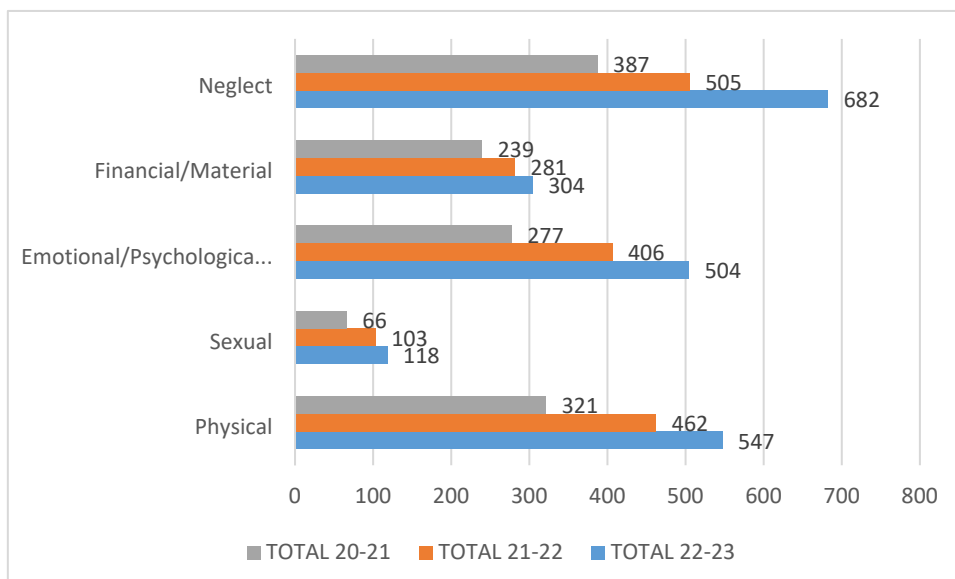
The use of remote meeting facilities initiated during the pandemic continues to significantly improve attendance at strategy discussions and meetings.

6. Number of people with Adult Protection Plans in place.



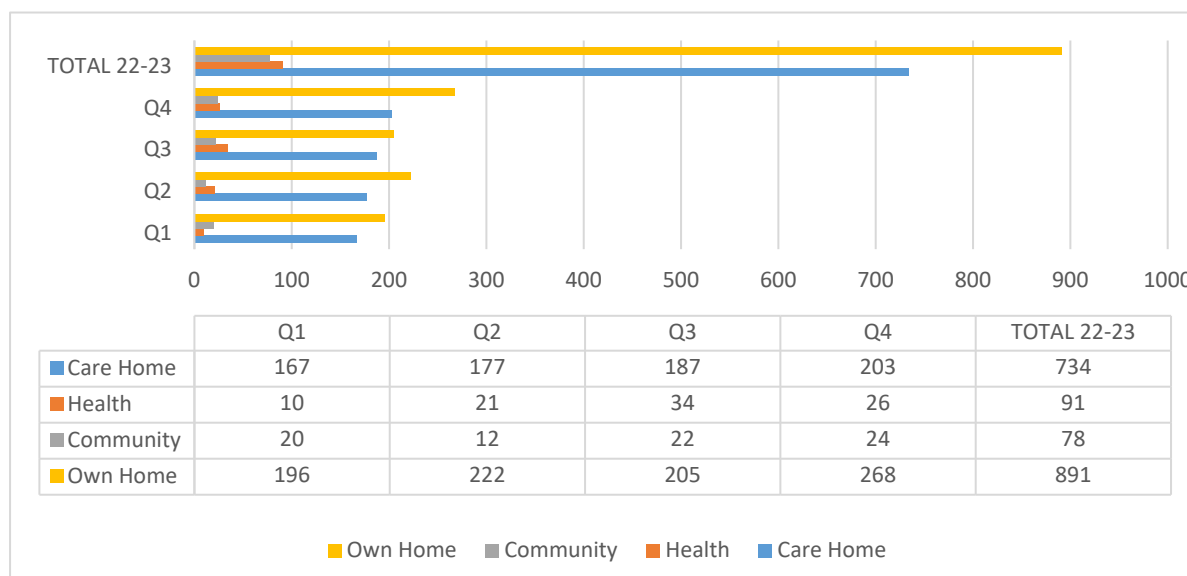
Whilst every safeguarding enquiry concludes with a plan to ensure the adult at risk is as safe as possible, this performance indicator reflects the number of formal safeguarding plans that have been agreed and integrated into the persons ongoing care and support plan. Again, this is not indicative of good or poor performance as it is dependent on the nature of the concerns received and the type of safeguarding action required.

7. Categories of concern



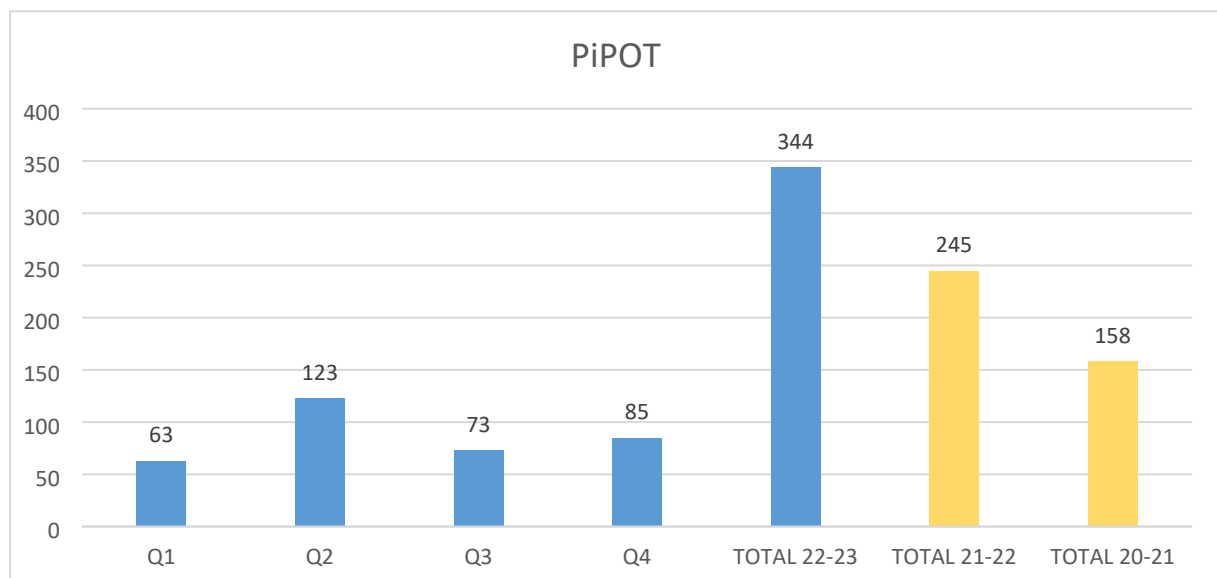
Neglect remains the highest category of concern reported. This is due mainly to its broad definition. The data shows that the type of concerns reported to the local authority in 2022/23 are consistent with previous years.

8. Place of concern



A person’s own home remains highest in relation to the place where the alleged concern occurred, followed by Care Homes. These trends are anticipated due to the large volume of care delivered in these settings. Practitioners working in these environments are familiar with their duty to report concerns to the local authority and do so appropriately. Many of the concerns reported do not amount to abuse or neglect and are often low-level incidents requiring an alternative solution (e.g. a one-off incident of a carer late for a home care visit). The high number of reports for these settings is evidence of a proactive approach to reporting to the local authority as required by law.

9. Number of allegations relating to Persons in a position of Trust- 2022/23



Each local authority has a duty to manage concerns or allegations about any person who works with children or adults with care or support needs, in either paid or unpaid roles. This is referred to as a Person in a Position of Trust (PiPOT). Managing concerns under these procedures applies when there is reasonable cause to believe a Person in a Position of Trust may have caused harm to a child or an adult with care and support needs, or when a concern indicates that a person may be unsuitable to work with children or adults with care or support needs.

The procedures apply to practitioners in any organisation who work with children or adults with care or support needs. Ongoing awareness raising in relation to the duty to report such concerns has contributed to the increased number of reports however, a lack of clarity in the Wales Safeguarding Procedures has also caused some confusion as to when the procedures should apply. Carmarthenshire will lead on a regional analysis of this work during 2023/24.

10. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are important human rights safeguards (Article 5). Care homes and hospitals should apply them where a person aged 18 or over does not have the mental capacity to consent to their care arrangements, and they need to be deprived of their liberty. A person is deemed to be deprived of liberty if they are under continuous supervision and control and not allowed to leave the place where they are being cared for. If the arrangements in place to keep a person safe are considered to be in their best interest they must be scrutinised and authorised “in accordance with a procedure set out by law”.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005, and DoLS Code of Practice sets out how Local Authorities and Health Boards in Wales must satisfy themselves that the deprivation of liberty is necessary, proportionate, least restrictive and in the person’s best interest. They must also ensure that the person has an appropriate advocate who can act on their behalf and challenge any disproportionate or unlawful deprivation of liberty.

In March 2014, a Supreme Court judgment [P v Cheshire West and Chester Council) effectively lowered the threshold for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The new threshold meant that a significant number of individuals living in residential homes, nursing homes and hospitals became eligible for the safeguards. The Local authority has the statutory responsibility for arranging the DoLS assessments in Care Homes and authorising the Deprivation of Liberty if appropriate. The assessments (6 in total) must be carried out by appropriately qualified practitioners, one of which must be a section 12 approved doctor.

The impact of the Supreme Court judgement triggered a sharp rise in demand for DoLS authorisations, and without additional resources resulted in an accrual of applications awaiting assessments and created a risk of individuals deprived of liberty without lawful scrutiny and authorisation. This situation was replicated across almost all local authorities in Wales and England. Managing the resulting demand has been a significant challenge for all Local Authorities and Health Boards since the judgement.

Considering the ongoing challenges, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) have since been deemed “not fit for purpose” due in part to the requirement to disproportionately reassess people on an annual basis when it is not likely that their circumstances will change. After much consultation the existing DoLS arrangements are scheduled to be replaced by new legislation and renamed the **Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)**. The initial date for introducing LPS was October 2020 however, this date has changed several times, and a new confirmed date has yet to be announced.

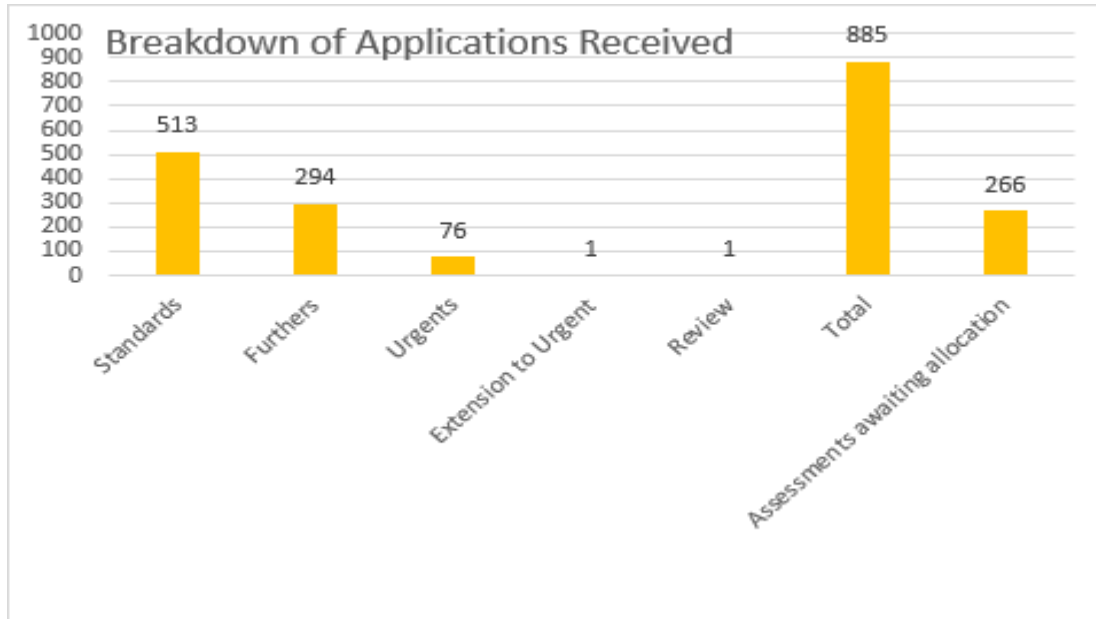
11. Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)

The new Liberty Protection Safeguards will include some significant changes however, most notable is that the safeguards extend beyond individuals residing in care home/hospital settings and will also apply to deprivations of liberty in the community. This includes, **supported living settings, shared lives arrangements and in a person’s own/family home.**

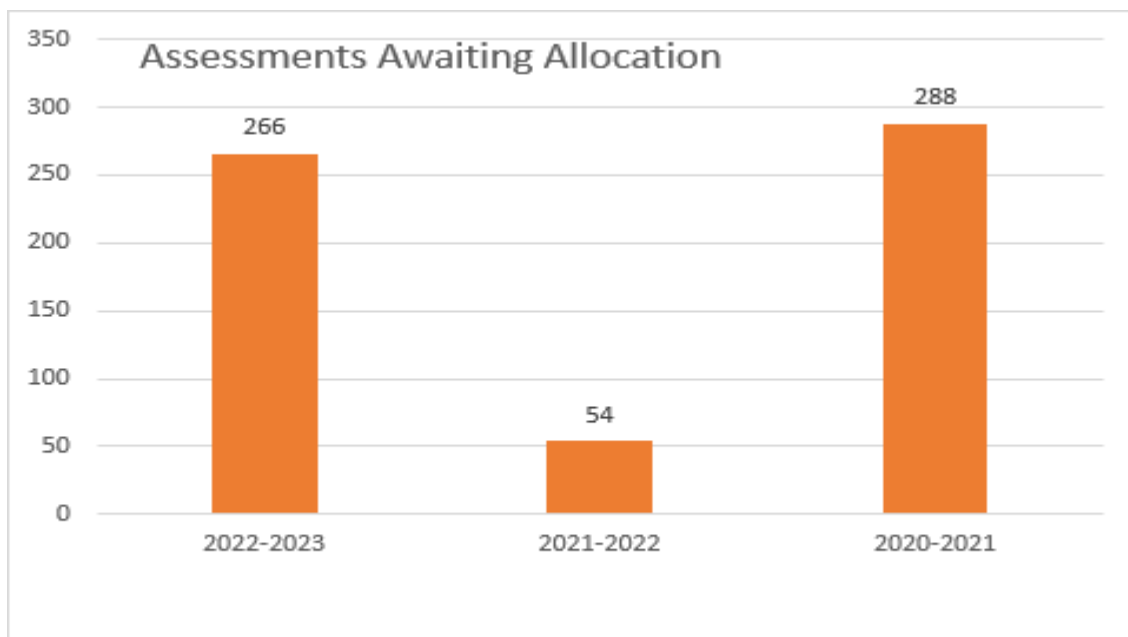
The Liberty Protection Safeguards will also **apply to 16- and 17-year-olds** and therefore applicable to deprivations of liberty which occur in **special needs schools, the family home, children's homes, and foster placements.** In addition, it includes deprivations of liberty which do not relate to specific residences such as, **during transportation and at day services.**

In preparation for the Liberty Protection Safeguards, Welsh Government has provided additional funding to all local authorities in Wales to address demand. Whilst the funding has been welcomed and significant, the amount allocated in 2022/23 was less than in 2021/22. Carmarthenshire council continues to utilise the funding received effectively to minimise the number of assessments awaiting allocation and authorisation. This has included the appointment of an additional Best Interest Assessor and externally commissioned assessments.

12. Performance Data

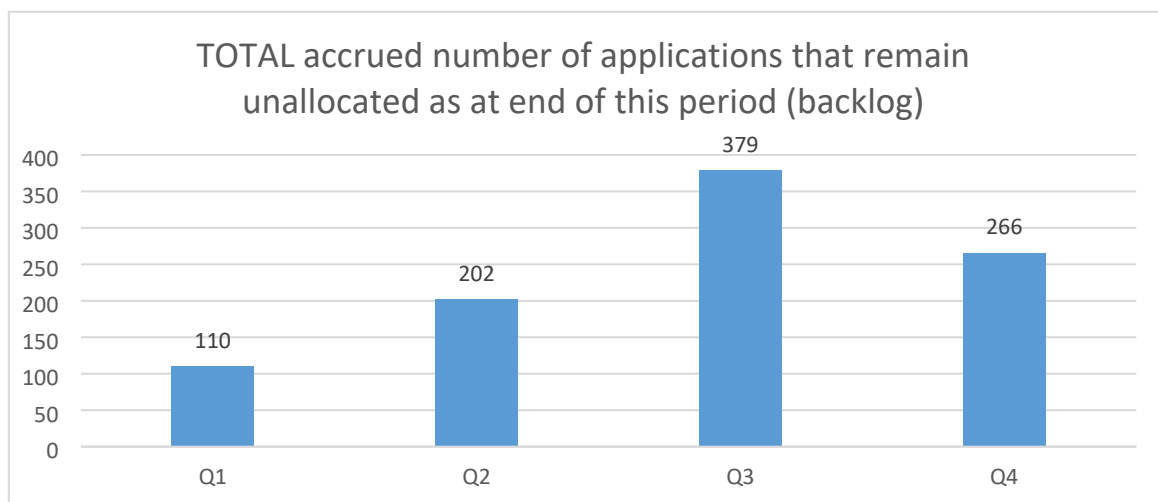


There are three types of DoLS application received. A “standard authorisation” which requires assessment within 21 days, a “renewal or further authorisation” which also requires assessment within 21 days and a “standard (urgent) authorisation” which requires assessment within 7 days. In addition, a request can be made to extend an urgent authorisation and requests can be made to review the current authorisation.



The number of assessments awaiting allocation at the end of 2022/23 was 266. This is significantly higher than in 2021/22 due to the change in Welsh Government funding.

The number of DoLS applications received since 2020 has increased year on year which correlates with the number of people moving into care homes during these periods. The impact of the Covid pandemic meant that fewer people moved into Care homes and fewer DoLS applications were received.



The data above evidences the volume of assessments completed in the latter part of 2022/23 which has resulted from the funding cycle and number of renewal authorisations submitted in the Q3 period. It is anticipated that ongoing funding will be provided by Welsh Government in 2023/24.

Regional DoLS Forum

Carmarthenshire County council established the Mid and West Wales Regional DoLS Forum in 2017. This forum includes Carmarthenshire, Powys, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire County Council and Hywel Dda and Powys Teaching Health Board. The partners ensure a collaborative approach to achieving high standards and consistency in the application of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards regionally and works closely to communicate with Welsh Government, respond to consultation and influence national service improvements. Considering the above announcement this group will work closely to ensure necessary improvements are made to the way in which the DoLS assessments are undertaken.

13. DoLS team

The DoLS team, comprises of three experienced best interest assessors all of whom are fluent Welsh speakers. The use of the Welsh language is extremely important in the context of these assessments as it is extremely important to fully understand the persons views and wishes regarding care and accommodation and critical in the assessment of mental capacity. The assessor's role is to determine whether any existing or planned deprivation of liberty is in the detained persons best interest, necessary to prevent harm and is a proportionate response to the likelihood and seriousness of that harm. The team is committed to ensuring the rights of the individual is upheld and continuously access training opportunities to ensure their skills and knowledge remain up to date. The assessors report directly to the safeguarding and DoLS Team manager.

Shortly after completing this report, the following announcement was received from the Department of Health and

“The UK Government has announced their intention to step away from the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (the LPS) and the implementation of the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 (the 2019 Act). UK Government has confirmed that the necessary legislation to implement the LPS will not be brought forward within this Parliament”.

5th April 2023

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST MARCH 2024

SUBJECT:

THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Purpose:

To receive the Annual Report and note its findings.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

To receive the Annual Report which provides an Overview of the Objectives and Achievements of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Board.

Reasons:

This Annual Report outlines the progress we have made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of a joint Annual Strategic Plan.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. J. Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Directorate:

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Jake Morgan

Report Author:

Julie Breckon

Designations:

Director of Community Services

Regional Safeguarding Board Manager

Email addresses:

JakeMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Julie.Breckon@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21ST MARCH, 2024

SUBJECT: THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023
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This Annual Report outlines the progress that has been made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of the joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2022-23.

Significant investment and time has been dedicated throughout the year to supporting the development of the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process, including the development of the draft statutory guidance published earlier this year. We are proud to report we have been commissioned by the Welsh Government to develop and deliver the national training framework to support and accompany implementation of the new guidance.

Our particular successes this year include the development of multi-agency safeguarding training packages. This includes the development and implementation of professional curiosity training and accompanying resources, as well as the development of a safeguarding training animation created by our Junior Board. These suites of training and resources help to support practitioners in their work safeguarding children and adults at risk, and give powerful messages to practitioners about how to best communicate with and listen to children.

Our continued commitment to deliver against our Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) agenda has progressed at some pace this year. Our new four-year strategy and accompanying delivery plan has been completed and published, directly informed by survivors with lived experience of domestic abuse in the Mid and West Wales area. Developing creative solutions to some of the significant workforce challenges the social care and the public sector workforce is experiencing has continued to be a key focus of the Boards' work this year, both within a regional and national context. A review of the social care workforce across the region has been undertaken, and we will be implementing actions in the coming year to improve recruitment and retention of staff locally alongside ongoing national work.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES - The Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards Annual Report 2022-2023
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Jake Morgan** Director of Community Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

As well as enabling the Boards to meet their objectives as outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, this combined approach to Safeguarding aligns fully with the ethos and principles of the Act.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

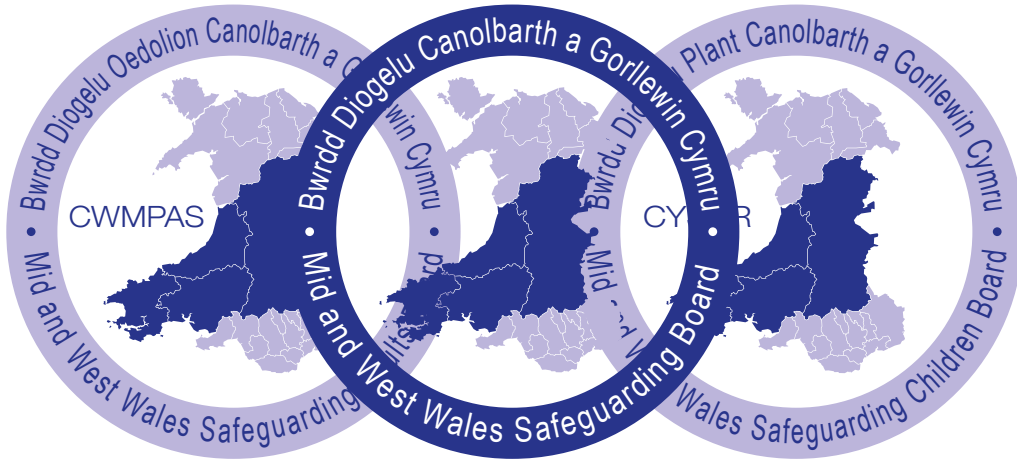
Include any observations here

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

An Overview of the Objectives and Achievements of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards



Cwmni Actiefyddu Cymunedol
**Cymru
Wales**
Community Rehabilitation Company



lechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales



Heddlu Police
DYFED-POWYS



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Cyngor Sir Gâr
**Carmarthenshire
County Council**



Gwasanaeth Prawf
Cenedlaethol
**National Probation
Service**

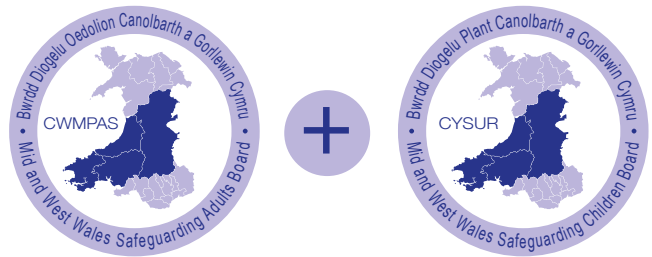


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Introduction

It gives us pleasure to jointly present the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards CYSUR and CWMPAS Annual Report.



This Annual Report outlines the progress we have made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of our joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2022-23.

work safeguarding children and adults at risk, and give powerful messages to practitioners about how to best communicate with and listen to children.

This year has seen the departure of the chair of the CWMPAS Board, Jonathan Griffiths. We would like to thank Jonathan for his leadership and commitment to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and acknowledge the contribution he has made to the development of its work and strategic direction during the preceding six years.

Our continued commitment to deliver against our Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) agenda has progressed at some pace this year. Our new four-year strategy and accompanying delivery plan has been completed and published, directly informed by survivors with lived experience of domestic abuse in the Mid and West Wales area.

Significant investment and time has been dedicated throughout the year to supporting the development of the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process, including the development of the draft statutory guidance published earlier this year. We are proud to report we have been commissioned by the Welsh Government to develop and deliver the national training framework to support and accompany implementation of the new guidance.

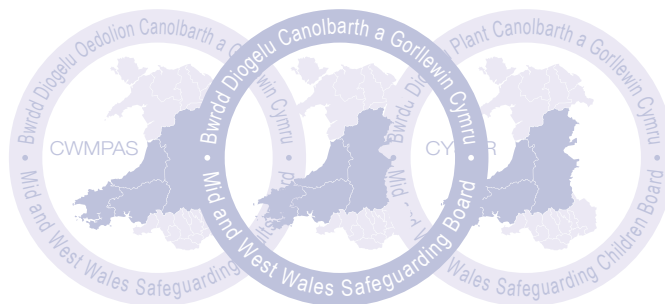
Developing creative solutions to some of the significant workforce challenges the social care and the public sector workforce is experiencing has continued to be a key focus of the Boards' work this year, both within a regional and national context. A review of the social care workforce across the region has been undertaken, and we will be implementing actions in the coming year to improve recruitment and retention of staff locally alongside ongoing national work.

Our particular successes this year include the development of multi-agency safeguarding training packages. This includes the development and implementation of professional curiosity training and accompanying resources, as well as the development of a safeguarding training animation created by our Junior Board. These suites of training and resources help to support practitioners in their

The commitment of our multi-agency partners to work together collaboratively to make a difference and to improve the lives children and adults at risk in Mid and West Wales is stronger than ever. We would like to thank the members of the Boards and sub-groups for their continued engagement, commitment and progress made in 2022-23, and we look forward to building upon this in the coming year.



Michael Gray (CWMPAS Chair)
 Director of Social Care and Housing
 Pembrokeshire County Council



Jake Morgan (CYSUR Chair)
 Director of Community Services
 Carmarthenshire County Council

Objectives of a Regional Safeguarding Board

The objectives of Regional Safeguarding Boards as outlined in the [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) are stated below.

The objectives of a **Safeguarding Children Board** are:

- to **protect** children within its area who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- to **prevent** children within its area from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

The objectives of a **Safeguarding Adults Board** are:

- to **protect** adults within its area who –
 1. have needs for care and support (whether or not a Local Authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 2. are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- to **prevent** those adults within its area from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

Guidance on the functions of Safeguarding Boards

The focus for Safeguarding Boards is twofold. It is both the **protection** of children and adults who are in need of care and support from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and the **prevention** of children and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. These two objectives should inform the priorities of Safeguarding Boards when they are considering their work programmes and annual plans, and reviewing their performance.

Keeping children and adults who may have needs for care and support safe is everyone's responsibility. This means feeling safe and being safe with those with whom they live and who support and care for them, as well as being safe in environments outside the home where they may live, travel, play, learn, work or undertake sport, cultural, leisure and other activities. This responsibility lies primarily within the family or with carers and within the wider community.

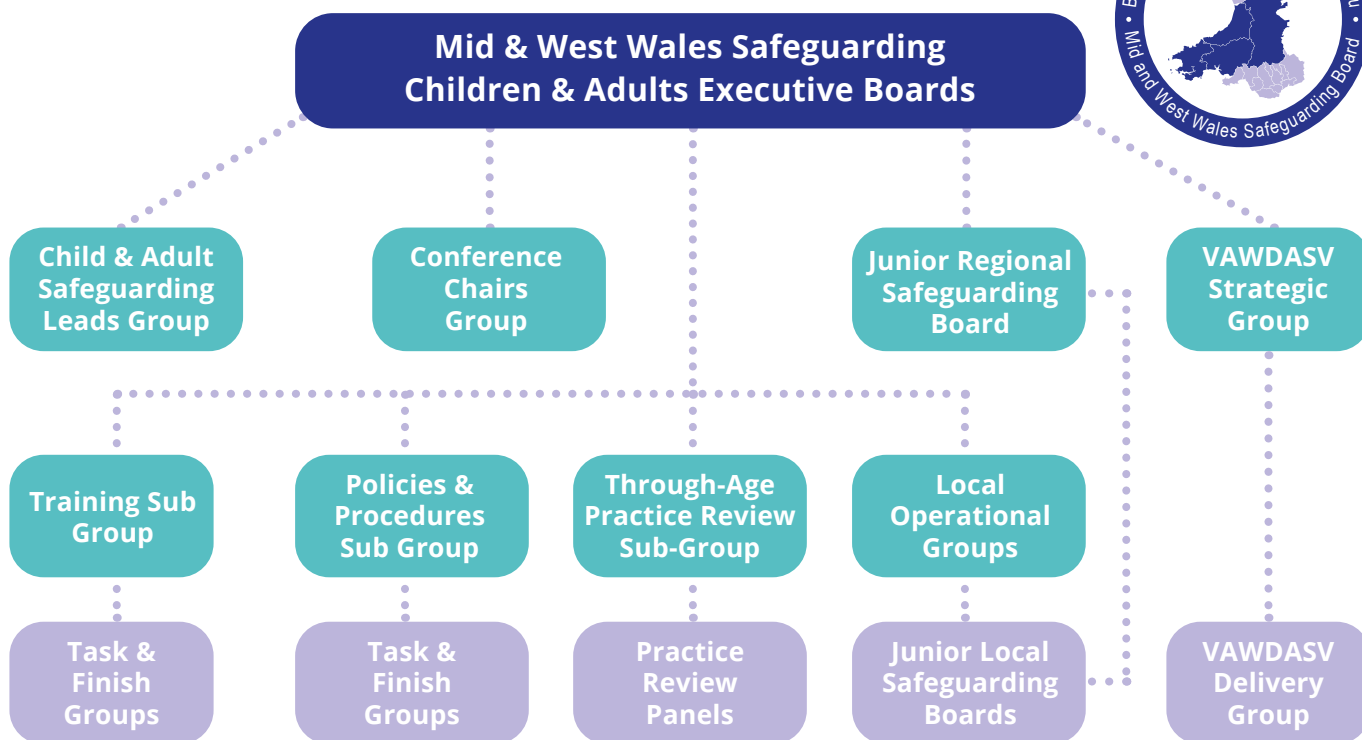
Many organisations have responsibility for safeguarding children and adults through the services they provide directly to them, through the help and support provided to families and carers, or through their work to develop and strengthen communities.



Board Structure

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards serve the communities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys, working collaboratively and in partnership within a multi-agency setting. The Boards’ aim is to raise awareness of safeguarding issues with members of the public and provide support, advice and guidance to professionals working in our local communities who deliver a range of voluntary and statutory services. Mid and West Wales is covered by two sister Safeguarding Boards:

- **CWMPAS [Collaborative Working & Maintaining Partnership in Adult Safeguarding]:** The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Adults Board, and;
- **CYSUR [Child & Youth Safeguarding, Unifying the Region]:** The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children Board.



Executive Boards:

The Executive Boards for CYSUR and CWMPAS work together as an overarching regional Board to monitor and improve regional safeguarding activity across Mid and West Wales. The Executive Boards consist of senior managers from all key statutory partners and agencies (see Section A). The Executive Boards’ aim is to provide leadership and guidance to all its constituent agencies through the delivery of a series of strategic priorities for safeguarding activity and practice. The two Executive Boards support, guide and take advice from the regional sub-groups.



Hybrid Executive Board meeting held this year held in person and via Microsoft Teams

Local Operational Groups:

Each of the four Local Authorities within Mid and West Wales host Local Operational Groups (LOGs). The purpose, membership and structure of these LOGs mirror that of the Executive Boards. However, the primary objective of LOGs is to monitor and analyse safeguarding practice locally, rather than regionally. Membership consists of the Heads of Children’s and Adults’ Services, who chair the groups, and senior and middle managers from local statutory agencies, including Health, Police and Probation.

LOGs seek to improve practice locally by discussing local safeguarding activity in an open and transparent environment, sharing and analysing performance data and completing practice audits to inform practice improvements and identify risk. LOGs seek to share and acknowledge examples of good safeguarding practice; in addition, they will professionally challenge and hold agencies to account when safeguarding practice falls below expected standards.

Through-Age Practice Review Sub-Group:

The Through-Age Practice Review Sub-Group considers referrals from agencies where a child or adult at risk has either died or suffered significant impairment of health and development as a result of abuse and/or neglect.

The regional Practice Review Sub-Group considers information against defined criteria within [‘Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 3 – Adult Practice Reviews’](#) and [‘Volume 2 – Child Practice Reviews’](#) and makes a recommendation to the relevant Executive Board Chair as to whether there are identified learning outcomes, and whether an Adult Practice Review (APR) or Child Practice Review (CPR) should be undertaken to learn lessons.

Practice Reviews are undertaken by a multi-agency group of professionals who collectively analyse information and identify any practice themes and lessons to learn. The report is then published as a Child/Adult Practice Review on the Boards’ [website](#).



Regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF):

Multi-agency learning is undertaken via a Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) from identified cases that have not met the threshold for a full concise or extended Child or Adult Practice Review. The Regional Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) was closed in 2022 and has now been incorporated into the Through-Age Practice Review Sub-Group, to help achieve consistency in decision-making. Responsibility for managing and overseeing MAPFs, as well as receiving referrals for new MAPFs, now sit with the Practice Review Sub-Group, although a link to regional LOGs remains in place.

Regional Policies & Procedures Sub-Group:

The Policies & Procedures Sub-Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. The Group seeks to provide guidance to professionals via the development of regional safeguarding policy and procedure. The Boards now have a significant number of multi-agency through-age policies to support practitioners in their practice, which are published on the Boards’ [website](#) once ratified.

Regional Training Sub-Group:

The Training Sub-Group operates collaboratively and in conjunction with the Executive Boards. It seeks to support and guide the delivery of safeguarding training and learning across the four Local Authority areas and partner agency organisations. The Training Sub-Group works closely with partners' training departments to promote the quality and consistency of safeguarding training and delivery. The group can commission specialist, bespoke safeguarding training across the region and works closely with other sub-groups, such as the Practice Review Sub-Group, to ensure any learning outcomes identified in Child/Adult Practice Reviews are disseminated to staff, and any identified specialist training is commissioned.

Other bespoke regional forums and groups support and are closely aligned to the Boards' annual strategic plan and priorities. These include regional multi-agency Adult and Children's Safeguarding Leads Groups, and a regional group for Child Protection Conference Chairs.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategic and Delivery Groups:

VAWDASV affects all citizens of the region and incorporates all forms of violence against women, honour based violence, forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, and domestic abuse.

The VAWDASV Strategic Group is a multi-agency collaboration that is driving forward the requirements of the [VAWDASV Act](#), including the implementation of the new Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-27 (see section B).

The VAWDASV Delivery Group supports the Strategic Group on the progression and implementation of regional priorities, as well as maintaining key links with specialist providers.

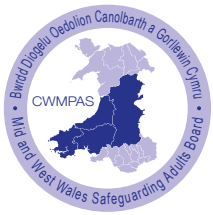
CADW: Junior Regional Safeguarding Board

The CYSUR Board continues to commission Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Independent Advocacy Service to facilitate its regional Junior Safeguarding Board. The group continues to advise the Executive Boards on safeguarding matters and issues from a young persons' perspective via meetings, workshops and consultation events.

The CADW Group meet quarterly and are complemented by three local junior safeguarding groups and a youth partnership, closely aligned to their respective Local Operational Groups.



(a) Membership



CWMPAS (Safeguarding Adults Executive Board)

Michael Gray (Chair)

Director of Social Care & Housing,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Jayne Butler (Vice-Chair)

Det Superintendent, Dyfed Powys Police

Jake Morgan

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Audrey Somerton-Edwards

Interim Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Nina Davies

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Sharon Daniel

Deputy Director of Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Avril Bracey

Head of Adult Social Care
Carmarthenshire County Council

Donna Pritchard

Deputy Director of Social Services and
Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal,
Ceredigion County Council

Mel Laidler

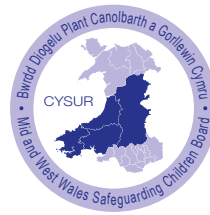
Head of Adult Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Sharon Frewin

Head of Adult Services,
Powys County Council

Christine Harley

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service



CYSUR (Safeguarding Children Executive Board)

Jake Morgan (Chair)

Director of Community Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Vice-Chair of CYSUR

Vacant at time of publication

Sharon Daniel

Deputy Director of Nursing,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Michael Gray

Director of Social Care & Housing,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Audrey Somerton-Edwards

Interim Director of Social Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Nina Davies

Director of Social Services,
Powys County Council

Jayne Butler

Det Superintendent,
Dyfed Powys Police

Jan Coles

Head of Children's Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council

Donna Pritchard

Deputy Director of Social Services and
Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal,
Ceredigion County Council

Darren Mutter

Head of Children's Services,
Pembrokeshire County Council

Sharon Powell

Head of Children's Services,
Powys County Council

Christine Harley

Assistant Chief Executive,
National Probation Service

Mandy Rayani

Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mandy Nichols-Davies

Head of Safeguarding Adults & Children (Named Nurse),
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Jayne Wheeler-Sexton

Assistant Director of Safeguarding (Named Nurse),
Powys Teaching Health Board

Claire Roche

Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Debbie Pachu

Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding Team (NHS Wales),
Public Health Wales

Nikki Harvey

Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran

Regional Third Sector representative,
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO)

Chris Harrison

Regional representative for Heads of Commissioning



Mandy Rayani

Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mandy Nichols-Davies

Head of Safeguarding Adults & Children (Named Nurse),
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Jayne Wheeler-Sexton

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Claire Roche

Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Debbie Pachu

Designated Nurse, National Safeguarding Team (NHS Wales), Public Health Wales

Nikki Harvey

Head of Safeguarding,
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran

Regional Third Sector representative,
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO)

Steve Davis

Regional representative of
Youth Justice Managers

Regional Directors of Education

Rotating membership from Pembrokeshire,
Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys

Dr Ingrid Prosser

Named Doctor, Child Protection,
Powys Teaching Health Board

Dr Damitha Ratnasinghe

Named Doctor, Child Protection,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

Julie Breckon

Regional Safeguarding Board Manager

Rebecca Reynolds

Practice Review Business Manager

Theresa Welch

Business Development Officer

Stuart Hicks

Business Co-ordinator

(b) Action taken to achieve our outcomes

Commissioned Review and Analysis of Children and Adult Safeguarding Workforce Risk Factors

Independent consultants have been commissioned by the Boards this year to review and identify workforce risk factors in children’s and adults’ social care teams across the region. The work was jointly commissioned by the Regional Safeguarding Boards and the West Wales Regional Partnership Board as a collaborative endeavour. This followed previous work carried out in 2018 by the Regional Safeguarding Board.


In the main, key messages and findings from the review mirror the acknowledged national picture in relation to the significant challenges all social care and wider public sector services are experiencing in the recruitment and retention of staff into key positions. This remains one of the biggest risk factors to the safe delivery of services to the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities. Although the picture is variable across our region, themes identified include

high vacancy levels and difficulties recruiting to key safeguarding positions. Vacancies generally are noted to be higher in Mid and West Wales than in 2018. Challenges continue in securing a sufficient supply of social workers at all stages of their careers, especially in roles which involve specialist skills, alongside increasing demand for services and rising workload levels.

A number of recommendations were made, and these will be considered and progressed where appropriate in the coming year. They include strategies to reduce the delays in the recruitment process via the development of bespoke HR processes, local agreements and restrictions regarding the use of agency workers, and consideration to agree regionally consistent pay. Work with Welsh Government and Social Care Wales to develop a whole-Wales approach to workforce challenges continues alongside bespoke targeted regional actions.

Commissioned Review of Multi-Agency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

This year has seen the progression of a key workstream for the region and its multi-agency partners, namely, to review how we responded collaboratively to the COVID-19 pandemic and what lessons we can learn should we find ourselves in a similar situation in future. In collaboration with the West Wales Partnership Board, an independent consultant has been commissioned to undertake a review of the multi-agency response, with a focus on older people residing in care and nursing homes.



“ Feedback shared during the Board Development Day on the COVID-19 regional response:

The region has come closer, pushing aside inconsistency

.....
Turning crisis into opportunity ”

The review has endeavoured to seek assurance that the needs of vulnerable groups were appropriately met, identify any improvements and/or unmet needs, and capture the perspective and experience of those delivering critical services within the identified cohort. The conclusions and recommendations of this work are in the process of being analysed and will feature in the Boards' Strategic Annual Plan for 2023-24 whilst ensuring that any work complements the national review which will also consider these areas.

New Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy 2023-2027



As required by Welsh Government under the VAWDASV Act 2015, the Mid and West Wales region published the Safe Lives, Healthier Relationships VAWDASV Strategy in November 2018. The Regional Strategy and annual delivery plans are overseen by the Regional Adviser and VAWDASV Strategic Board, who are accountable to the Regional Safeguarding Executive Boards. This strategy has been a huge success in the Mid and West Wales region, and the previous year saw the completion of a number of projects linked to our regional priorities. A comprehensive review and update of the existing strategy, alongside the completion of a new four-year delivery plan, has been completed this year.

[Building Happier, Safer, Stronger Lives, Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-2027](#) has been completed, approved and published. This is a reflection of the experiences of key stakeholders alongside survivors' voices and individual experiences regarding the services they have received, and how these can be improved. It has been developed within the national context and the [Welsh Government's National Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026](#).

VAWDASV remains extremely prevalent in this region, and the last two years have seen an increase of 40% in reports in respect of sexual violence and abuse, as well as a 22% increase in reported domestic abuse incidents. Irrespective of this concerning context,, the Mid and West Wales region is immensely proud of the progress made in the preceding 5 years and the development of services both for survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Of those consulted as part of the development of the new strategy, 84% reported an improvement in partnership working, 89% reported an improvement in community awareness around violence and abuse, and 76% reported the strategy had resulted in a greater emphasis on early intervention and prevention.

The new strategy will build upon existing successes and continue to strengthen preventative and support services for children and young people, survivors and perpetrators, and will continue to raise awareness of violence against women within our communities.



(c) Extent to which we have implemented our strategic annual plan

The extent to which we have implemented our [strategic annual plan for 2022-23](#) is clearly evidenced throughout all sections of this report. Progress, achievements and outcomes against our core workstreams can, however, be summarised as follows.

1. Effective Engagement and Communication:

To Improve Engagement and Consultation with Children, Adults at Risk, Vulnerable Groups, Professionals and Partnerships.

What improvements we have made:

Our Junior Board CADW successfully completed their training animation this year to support multi-agency safeguarding training for practitioners and managers. A successful launch took place in November 2022 supported by the Children’s Commissioner for Wales as part of National Safeguarding Week.

Further work has been undertaken to review the Junior Board’s focus, terms of reference and their branding. Further information and recommendations in respect of this work will be provided to the Executive Boards in the coming year. The group continue to attend regional Executive Board meetings regularly to inform the Boards on what safeguarding work and issues should be a priority for children and young people across our region.

Communication with practitioners and the general public has been strengthened further this year with the implementation of a quarterly [Board newsletter](#). Work to develop and populate the Boards’ website has also been undertaken, and new webpages created. In addition, the training sections and the resource hub have been further populated with an array of tools and useful resources to support practitioners in their work. A comprehensive distribution list for the Board newsletter has been established across the region with multi-agency partners to ensure as wide a reach as possible to frontline practitioners.



Targeted social media campaigns have been promoted throughout the year to raise awareness and promote campaigns and messages on key safeguarding matters including VAWDASV (e.g. VAWDASV and older people, availability of perpetrator programmes and sexual violence), Look Closer (focusing on child exploitation), safe sleep, mental health, and Safer Internet Day.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Multi-agency training across the region is strengthened and directly informed by the voices and lived experiences of children and young people in Mid and West Wales.
- The voice of children and young people continue to inform and influence the work of the Boards.
- Direct lines of communication with practitioners on key safeguarding information, practice and messages has been strengthened.



2. Thematic Learning and Developing Best Practice:

To Ensure a Thematic Approach to Learning and Evaluate the Continued Impact of Board Work over Time, Allowing Key Themes Identified to Inform Strategic Priorities. To Continue to Develop and Share Best Practice.

What improvements we have made:

Significant work has been undertaken this year to further develop our practice review work, and systems and processes in this area have been strengthened. The regional Child and Adult Practice Review Sub-Groups have been merged into one all-age forum, and as a result, all referrals for reviews and MAPFs are now jointly considered by one multi-agency group. This has enabled an all-age approach to be applied to cases considered for a review, as well as any practice lessons that may be identified. This aligns with and mirrors all-age structures already in place for all of the Boards' other sub-groups, including the regional Training and Policies & Procedures Sub-Groups and Local Operational Groups. Proformas and templates have been updated and refined to support the new process.

We have provided significant support and input to the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review work across Wales. In particular, Mid and West Wales is leading on the development of the national training framework to support implementation of this project.

A full review and update of the Regional Boards' Quality Assurance and Performance Framework has been completed and reviewed, and will be implemented for the collation and presentation of data in respect of 1st April 2023 onwards. Data collated and analysed as part of this framework now aligns with updated national performance indicators.

Considerable time and investment has been dedicated to support multi-agency safeguarding training this year. A whole training package to support professional curiosity has been developed and implemented across all agencies of the Board.

Delivery has primarily been on an all-age basis to practitioners with a great deal of success and excellent feedback received. The training package includes whole and half-day sessions that can be tailored to need, and are supplemented by a suite of practitioner resources.

Following the successful publication and launch last year of the national [training standards](#) led by Social Care Wales, this region has continued to provide considerable support to the next phase of this national project, as well as to the development of the national training framework. A national launch and publication of phase two of this work that will align with the national standards is scheduled for later this year.



A full review, monitoring and tracking process has been developed and introduced to support the continuing development of multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures. A number of policies due for review have been updated this year, and robust systems are in place to support better oversight and review of existing policies.

Work has continued to support the region's suicide prevention work, and a 12 month pilot rapid response model has been introduced this year where suicide is suspected as the cause of death. This ensures timely and robust multi-agency support is provided and is available to siblings, communities and peers who have been affected by the death of a child or adult where suicide is a suspected.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Practice themes and lessons identified as part of the merged practice review process are now captured more widely and consistently on an all-age basis.
- The Boards' understanding and oversight of safeguarding practice for children and adults is more robust, and is strengthened as a result of improved data and analysis.
- Practitioners' ability to be more professionally curious when undertaking assessments for children and adults at risk is enhanced via improved professional development, support and training.
- Individuals at increased risk of suicide and self-harm receive greater support at an earlier stage, facilitating greater prevention of suicide and self-harm amongst children and adults in the region.



3. Strengthening the Workforce and Managing Risk:

To Develop and Implement Strategic Initiatives, which will Enable Greater Retention of and Recruitment into the Social Care Workforce, and to Identify and Respond to Other Significant Risks in the Safeguarding Arena.

What improvements we have made:

This year has seen collaboration with the West Wales Regional Partnership Board to undertake a workforce review of the current risk factors, themes and trends experienced in the recruitment and retention of social workers in children's and adults' social care. This work has also considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working practices, and has considered what proportionate adjustments and changes need to be made moving forward to support a healthy workforce.

This year saw the Mid and West Wales region hold its first Safeguarding Awards Ceremony in May 2022. The event was supported by the Deputy Minister for Social Care, Julie Morgan. Practitioners across all agencies were rewarded for their dedication, commitment and standards of excellent practice throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Risk factors associated with workforce deficits and challenges across social care are better understood, enabling action to be implemented to mitigate identified risks.
- Practitioners feel more valued and recognised for the positive impact they have had on the lives of children and young people across Mid and West Wales.



4. Leadership, Visibility and Challenge:

To Continue to Provide Visible Leadership and Influence the National Agenda in relation to Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Priorities, and to Enable Constructive Challenge and Active Engagement from all Agencies in our Partnership.

What improvements we have made:

A full review and update of the existing Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence regional strategy has been completed this year, alongside a full needs assessment. A supporting action plan has been completed and will be implemented in the coming year.

A new members' induction pack has been developed for Board members which clearly outlines their roles and responsibilities. A risk register has also been developed and approved, which will complement the updated quality assurance and performance framework referenced above.

The Boards have continued to proactively promote and influence the development of key national legislation policy and guidance. This includes ongoing work in respect of the [National Action Plan for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse](#), and the and the abolition of the defence of reasonable punishment via the [Children \(Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment\) \(Wales\) Act 2020](#).

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards have made a significant contribution to the development of national work to better safeguard some of our most vulnerable and at risk groups. Collaboration has taken place with Public Health Wales on the need for better information for parents and practitioners on safe sleep and associated increased risk factors linked to co-sleeping. The result is Public Health Wales have agreed to undertake a national rapid review to identify any obvious lessons or changes that need to be made to practice.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Survivors of Domestic Abuse will receive better intervention from practitioners as a result of a clear regional objectives and strategy to support them in the delivery of services and multi-agency support.
- The quality and output of regional Executive Board meetings will be enhanced and new Board members will be better equipped to fulfil their duties as a result of clear guidance.
- National safeguarding legislation, guidance and policy is strengthened via our influence and direct contribution to national workstreams and initiatives to better protect vulnerable and at risk groups.

5. COVID-19 Response and Recovery:

To Monitor the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Respond to any Issues Arising and Coordinate a Regional Multi-Agency Approach to Recovery.

What improvements we have made:

Although the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, the impact this continues to have on the delivery of services is monitored by the Boards via structures and processes that enable issues to be highlighted on an exception basis where appropriate. Safe hospital discharge processes, for example, were highlighted as an area of concern this year. As a result, the regional Adult Safeguarding Leads undertook a bespoke piece of targeted work to provide assurance that practice in this area was safe and robust.

A full review of the impact of COVID-19 across the multi-agency partnership and how we responded to our most vulnerable groups has been undertaken this year. The action we need to take to support best practice is in the process of being evaluated and will inform next year's work plan.

What outcomes we have achieved and what difference we have made:

- Board work plans will be better informed moving forward, and practitioners will be better supported through the complex practice challenges arising as a result of the pandemic and its lasting impact



What do we still need to do?

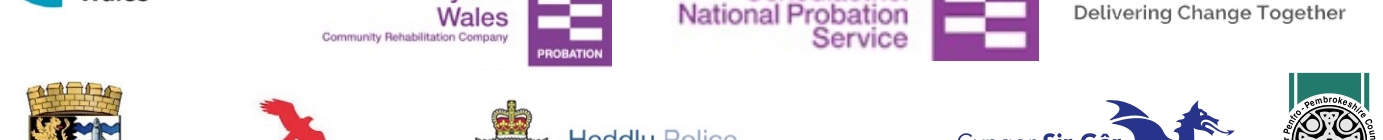
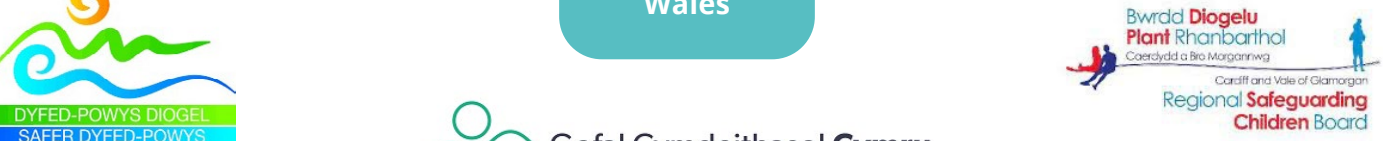
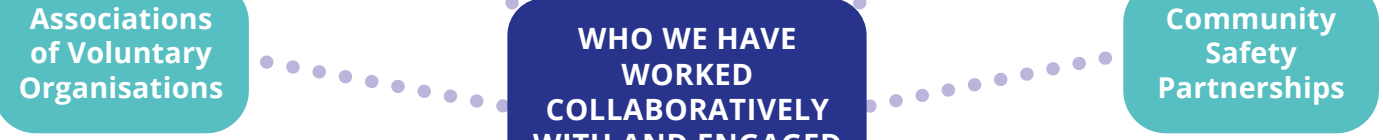
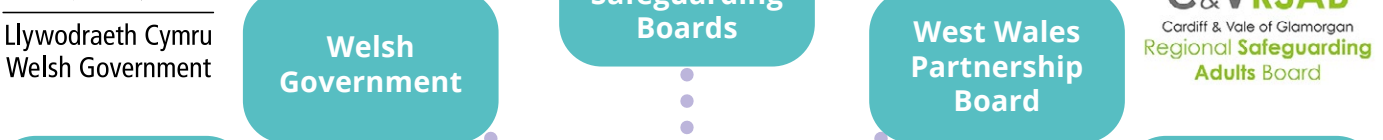
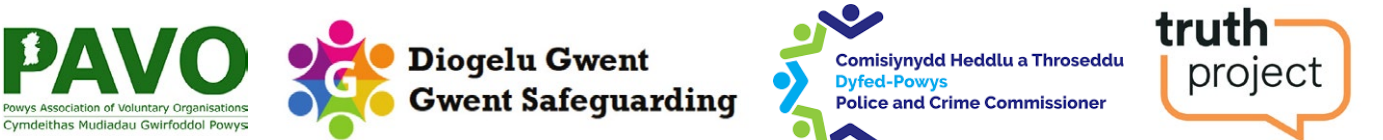
- Consider how we can better engage with adults at risk and how they can inform and contribute to the Boards and their work.
- Review and update our regional training strategy to complement and align with the Multi-Agency Training Framework led by Social Care Wales following publication.
- Complete work to develop regional policy and guidance to support Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for Managing Allegations against Practitioners and those in a Position of Trust.
- Implement our Regional Risk Register to support the identification and escalation of multi-agency risk to the Safeguarding Boards.
- Implement any actions and recommendations from the reviews undertaken in relation to workforce challenges and our response to vulnerable and high-risk service users during the COVID-19 pandemic

“ Words used by Board members to describe the strengths of our Boards:

Communicating, celebrating success and sharing innovation

.....
Trusting, effective working relationships ”





(d) How we have collaborated with other bodies engaged in activities relating to the Boards' objectives

Welsh Government

The Boards have continued to work closely with Welsh Government and to make a significant contribution to the Single Unified Safeguarding Review project. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have been commissioned by Welsh Government this year to lead on and develop the national training framework to support the new review model once implemented, to include Domestic Homicide Reviews, Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews and Mental Health Homicide Reviews, alongside Child and Adult Practice Reviews.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to attend regular briefing meetings with Government officials to discuss the Boards' work. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to support the implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020, and we remain members of the Strategic Implementation group on behalf of other Safeguarding Boards in Wales.

Although the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse has now formally ceased, the Boards have continued to implement the principles of this plan by continuing to promote and share resources with frontline practitioners. National consultation events were facilitated by Children in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government in early 2023, to review the effectiveness of this plan. These events have been supported and attended by multi-agency managers across the region.

Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Boards have continued to work with the Children's Commissioner's Office, and have established contact and communication with the newly appointed Children's Commissioner for Wales. Briefings and meetings have taken place as appropriate throughout the year with the Chair of CYSUR, Jake Morgan, on matters of mutual interest and of regional and national importance.

This has included practice issues associated with published and ongoing Child Practice Reviews, and ongoing communication in relation to statutory guidance for children who are electively home educated (subsequently published in May 2023).

The Children's Commissioner supported the Boards' flagship event during National Safeguarding Week to promote a safeguarding training resource and animation developed by the Board junior group, CADW. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards look forward to working with the new Children's Commissioner throughout the remainder of her tenure on issues of mutual interest and importance to support the safeguarding of children in our communities.

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Boards' existing positive relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner has been strengthened this year via the invitation to be a member of the Regional Safeguarding Executive Boards.



The introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in January 2023 and the intention to include the undertaking of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, as well as Domestic Homicide Reviews, in the forthcoming SUSR guidance will support and enable closer working relationship in these areas of mutual interest.

Other Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales

All Regional Safeguarding Board Managers meet regularly to share good practice, discuss areas of development and identify emerging national safeguarding trends. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to work collaboratively with other regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales to plan National Safeguarding Week, developing regional themes to distribute the work and share good practice.

This year there has been a particular focus on collaborating with all other Regional Safeguarding Boards on the development of the national training framework to support the development and implementation of SUSR. The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to be represented on the National Project Board for the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and play a very active part in their implementation and continuing development.

Regional West Wales Partnership Board

Strong links and communication established with the West Wales Partnership Board have been consolidated this year.

Two successful collaborative projects have been undertaken this year in on areas of mutual interest and importance in relation to workforce and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This work will provide information via themes and trends in relation to recruitment and retention of staff, as well as insight into learning available from the regional response to COVID-19 and lessons learned.



Social Care Wales

Following the successful launch last year during National Safeguarding Week of the Safeguarding Standards to support the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training across Wales, work has continued this year to support the development of a national training framework to accompany and support the standards.



The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have continued to be represented on the national development group leading on this work, and remain actively engaged in this project.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

The Boards have responded to and provided information when requested by CIW, and in the latter part of the year, supported requests for information and support in relation to the forthcoming rapid review into child safeguarding practice across Wales.



The Boards have supported and provided information in respect of ongoing inspections where appropriate, and CIW are routinely offered a designated slot at all regional Executive Board meetings. Analysis and discussion has continued to take place in various forums with CIW and Welsh Government regarding the recruitment and retention crisis across the social care and public sector workforce in Wales.

It is acknowledged progress is being made, with agreement at a national level in some areas, however, existing challenges within the sector remain and further targeted work is needed to secure, retain and protect a skilled, competent workforce long-term.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

Following the publication earlier this year of the full Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), the CYSUR Board has shared the report via promotion of relevant information on the Boards' website and the dissemination of bulletins to regional partners, as well as the promotion of dissemination events hosted via Welsh Government.



The Boards await and will welcome further communication from the Welsh Government on how the outcomes of this enquiry, alongside the evaluation of the National Action Plan in relation to Child Sexual Abuse, will be taken forward in Wales.

Community Safety Partnerships

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to maintain strong links with Community Safety Partnerships in the region. This year, dialogue and work has focused primarily upon the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) project, and constructive discussions continue to take place about what a future model in the region to support the SUSR will look like.

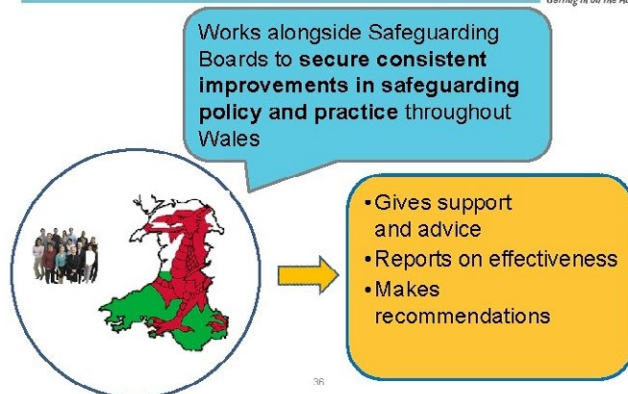


Proportionate communication takes place and is communicated into the Boards' various forums in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews and any relevant learning in need of dissemination.

National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards continue to enjoy a constructive relationship with the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB), and members regularly attend and contribute to Regional Executive Board meetings. Discussions and dialogue with Welsh Government and the NISB continue to take place regularly via Board Manager Meetings, as well as supplementary meetings with Board Chairs.

National Independent Safeguarding Board



The Boards have continued to support the national review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements currently being led by the NISB, via attendance at various meetings and events hosted by researcher Michelle McManus from Liverpool John Moores University. Focus this year has been specifically on the development of a national performance framework to support multi-agency safeguarding practice and activity, in respect of which the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards have played a full and active part.

Public Health Wales

We have worked closely with our colleagues in Public Health Wales this year on a number of ongoing aspirational projects to better safeguard vulnerable service users and those at increased risk.



The Regional Safeguarding Board Manager and other Board members directly contributed to the review and update of the [national PRUDiC guidance](#) published in April 2023. Work has taken place to advocate for better information and messaging for parents in relation to safe sleep, due to the number of PRUDiC related deaths in the region and across Wales. A national rapid review is to take place in the coming year in relation to this led by Public Health Wales.

An agreement in principle has been made between the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and Public Health Wales to support the development of a practice guide to accompany the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in relation to fabricated and induced illness. Progression of this work is however dependent upon further advice needed from Welsh Government on how they intend to take this work forward.



(e) Requests made to qualifying persons under sec 137(1) and whether they were complied with

For the purpose of enabling or assisting the Boards to perform its functions, Section 137 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 allows Safeguarding Boards to ask a qualifying person or body to supply specific information.

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards made no such specific requests this year, however, a formal complaint was lodged by the CWMPAS Board to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office in respect of a Coroner and his conduct. The matter was in relation to an Inquest linked to an ongoing Adult Practice Review. Following a full investigation, the complaint was upheld.



(f) Achievements we have made during the year

On 13th May 2022, the first Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards' Safeguarding Awards Ceremony took place in The Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen. This event originated from an action on the Boards' Annual Plan, arising as a result of discussion around how we as Boards can find new opportunities to celebrate and share the excellent practice across agencies in the partnership. There was a strong desire to recognise and thank dedicated safeguarding practitioners across the Board area, whose outstanding practice has greatly improved the experience of children and adults at risk in the region, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Award nominations were invited from all partner agencies across the region, and 30 nominations were received in total. Awards were categorised as follows:

- Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk During COVID Restrictions
- Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Children During COVID Restrictions
- Innovation and Creativity Leading to Improved Safeguarding Practice for Children and Adults at Risk
- Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk
- Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Children
- Participatory Practice Leading to Co-production in the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk
- Loyal and Dedicated Service to the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk



The Boards were delighted to welcome Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Social Services, as Guest Speaker for the Awards Ceremony. Board Chairs Jake Morgan and Jonathan Griffiths provided the Opening Address and presented awards alongside the Deputy Minister. The Boards are immensely grateful to Welsh Government for offering this support to our event, and for joining us in celebration of the incredible practitioners working to support children and adults across the region. We held our second MAWWSB Awards Ceremony in June 2023 and look forward to sharing the success of this event in next year's Annual Report.



Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards' Safeguarding Awards Ceremony 2022, winners

Some collective photos from the MAWSS Award Ceremony 2022



Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk winner, Cathy Richards, Carmarthenshire County Council



Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Adults at Risk during COVID Restrictions winners, Ian Randell and Alison Watkins, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire County Council



Innovation and Creativity leading to Improved Safeguarding Practice for Children or Adults at Risk winners, INTACT Team, Dyfed Powys Police



Participatory Practice leading to Co-production in the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk winners Dr Sion James and Dr Catherine Burrell, Hywel Dda University Health Board



Exceptional Commitment Demonstrated to the Safeguarding of Children during COVID Restrictions winner, Kizzie Garner-Hughes, Ceredigion County Council



Innovation and Creativity leading to Improved Safeguarding Practice for Children or Adults at Risk, Highly Commended, Powys Child Exploitation Team, Powys County Council



Outstanding Practice Demonstrated in the Safeguarding of Children winner, Shevaughn Williams, Pembrokeshire Youth Service



Loyal and Dedicated Service to the Safeguarding of Children or Adults at Risk winner, Raquel Bennett, Powys Teaching Health Board

⋮ **Congratulations everyone!** ⋮

Launch and Implementation of “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring”

It gives us pleasure to share the outcome of 18 months of dedicated work undertaken by our Junior Board, which culminated in the launch and implementation of an animation to support safeguarding training, “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring”. This originated from a regional Child Practice Review surrounding the tragic death of a child, where it was recommended the voice of the child and children’s lived experience needed to directly inform multi-agency safeguarding training.

Led by the regional Training Sub-Group, a brief was shared with the Junior Board, CADW, inviting them to produce a piece of work which could be utilised in regional safeguarding training across agencies in the partnership. CADW were asked to share their views about how safeguarding practitioners could more effectively support them, and were free to choose the format of the resource they produced.

They decided to develop an animation, and to invite a professional animator to develop a product fully designed and scripted by the young people. Curious Ostrich and Space to Create were employed following approval of the Junior Board’s Animation Task and

Finish Group, as animator and artist for the animation. Next, the young people conducted surveys in local groups to obtain some further views from children and young people beyond the Task and Finish Group. The findings from this work, together with learning obtained from completed Child Practice Reviews in which children’s views were shared in contribution to the review process, were considered by the Task and Finish Group as a basis to the message to be delivered via the finished product.

Young people in the Task and Finish Group also shared and considered their own experiences and perspectives of how they have been supported by professionals in the past. The young people utilised these sources to devise a script, and designed characters to feature in the animation.

Three regional workshops were then held with the animator and artist, in which the young people produced materials and recorded the animation in stop-frame motion. Imagery and sound in the animation were created by the young people with careful consideration of how to illustrate the message conveyed in their script.



Once the animation was approved by the young people at a premiere in their 2021 Residential, the completed product was presented to the Executive Board. The product received excellent feedback and the young people were thanked for their remarkable work and dedication to the project.

The launch of the animation held during National Safeguarding Week 2022 provided a well-deserved opportunity to celebrate and promote the finished work. The launch was held at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli and was extremely well attended by all agencies in the region.

The young people attended and premiered both the animation and a supplementary video directed by one of CADW's young people, in which the young people discuss the experience of making the animation and explain how and where they wish for the product to be shared.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales, Rocio Cifuentes, attended the event as Guest Speaker, and remarked on the outstanding quality and value of the resource, which she expressed a desire to share more widely across Wales. The animation was met with immeasurable praise from all attendees, who collectively expressed their intention to embed the resource fully within agency training.

The coming year will see the Junior Board attend the Executive Board meeting, to receive updates from agencies as to how they have taken forward and promoted this work, and to consider the next steps in terms of utilising this valuable product.

The Boards would like to extend their sincere thanks to the young people, who continue to demonstrate outstanding dedication and valuable contribution to safeguarding work across Mid and West Wales.



Images from the "The Do's and Don'ts of Caring" Launch Event, November 2022

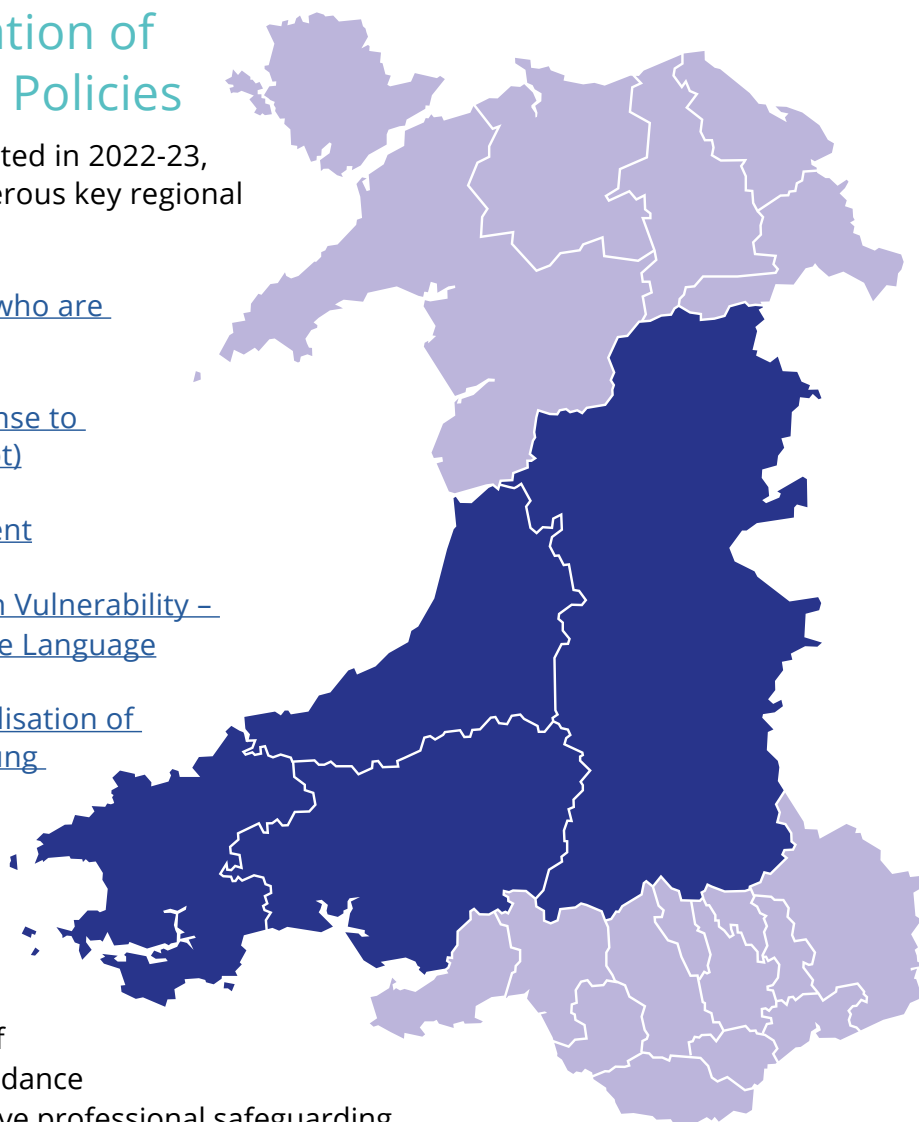


Completion and Publication of Regional Strategies and Policies

A number of key projects were completed in 2022-23, culminating in the publication of numerous key regional policies and pathways that include:

- [Guidance on Working with People who are Difficult to Engage](#)
- [Interim Protocol for a Rapid Response to Incidents of Suspected Suicide \(Pilot\)](#)
- [Child Exploitation Strategy Document](#)
- [Child and Adolescent Young Person Vulnerability – Guidance on the Use of Appropriate Language](#)
- [Reducing the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young Adults: Practice Guidance](#)

All of these projects have been completed within the Boards' various groups and sub groups. Extensive support has been provided by all partner agencies to the development of these policies. All resources provide guidance to staff, and seek to support and improve professional safeguarding practice, closely aligned to the Boards' strategic priorities.



Executive Board Development Day

On 13th January 2023, the Executive Board came together to hold their Annual Development Day in Llandovery. This standing annual event provides an essential opportunity for colleagues to consider as a collaborative the outcomes and successes of the previous year's Annual Plan, and to use this reflection to look forward to the key aims to be included in the plan for the coming year.

This year, the Boards elected to agree new strategic objectives to replace those which had formed the focus of the Annual Plans over the last three years. The motive for this change was to devise new objectives which better reflect the key priorities within the safeguarding arena in a post-COVID world, and to allow for reflection not just of the specific actions to be taken forward in the coming year, but more broadly in terms of the key areas of focus and priority in the years to come.

In addition to reflecting upon the work undertaken in the previous year, the Boards undertook an exercise of "blue-sky thinking" during the day. The focus of this discussion was on "the ideal Safeguarding Board" and allowed for consideration of how we can be innovative and creative in our activity, to utilise the strong partnerships within the Boards in order to strive towards best practice in regional safeguarding.



The outcome of this discussion was very fruitful, with in-depth analysis of the areas which would most benefit from targeted activity and work in the coming year.

The strategic priorities which were agreed by the Boards were:

- 1 Develop a culture of collaboration and innovation across the partnership, which promotes a safe, skilled and resilient workforce.
- 2 Measure, evidence and understand the impact of this Board's work on professional practice, and how this improves outcomes for children and adults at risk.
- 3 Undertake systemic analysis of organisational performance and change to better understand its impact on children and adults at risk.
- 4 Continue to influence and contribute to the national strategic agenda to support improvements in safeguarding legislation, guidance and policy.

“ Feedback from Executive Board members at the Development Day:

A key priority is for the Board to encourage joint working and an oversight of recruitment opportunities to develop a more resilient workforce. ”

The work to be undertaken this year in respect of these priorities will be reported against in next year's Annual Report. To view the full Annual Plan for the coming year, please click [here](#).



Facilitation of Practice Review and Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) Learning Events

The Boards continue to oversee numerous ongoing Child and Adult Practice Reviews, with Local Operational Groups also managing ongoing Multi-Agency Professional Forums (MAPFs). This year, four Practice Review Learning Events have been held (two Child Practice Reviews, one Adult Practice Review, and one Hybrid Practice Review), and three MAPF Learning Events have been held across the four localities in the region.

Learning Events have mostly been undertaken in person this year, with one event held virtually due to agencies from outside of the region attending.

A variety of models have been used, each with a broad objective of exploring good practice and learning evident in the review timeline, centred on the experiences and perspectives of the professionals who worked with the family. A positive, well-established culture of learning in a safe, non-blame space is at the heart of regional review processes and is the foundation of all Learning Events held in Mid and West Wales. As a result, professionals have contributed richly to discussions, and provided excellent feedback in respect of all events.



“ Learning Event Attendee feedback:

It was a constructive working environment, in which we all felt listened to.

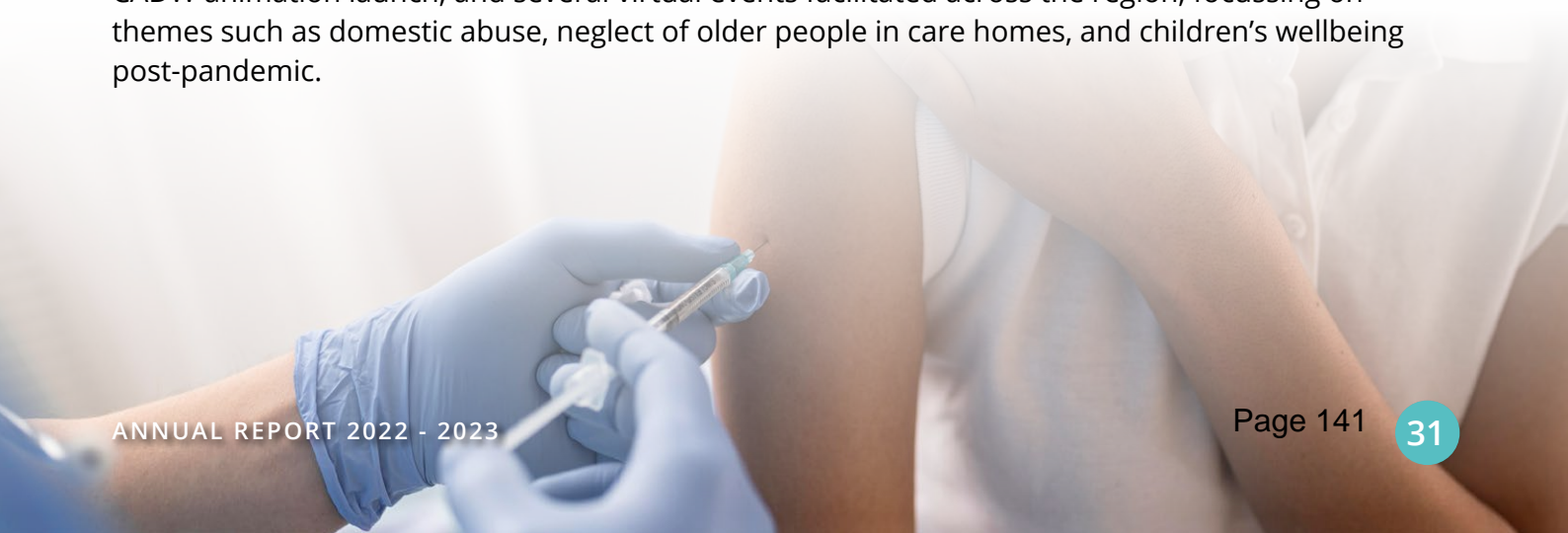
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The learning event definitely met its objectives...I found it amazing. I will be able to ensure that the individual's voice is heard. ”

Local, Regional & National Collaboration for National Safeguarding Week (NSGW22)

In November 2022 the Board Business Unit, in collaboration with the four Local Operational Groups, coordinated and supported a regional programme of events to support National Safeguarding Week. Events and communications during the week were centred on the theme of “Moving On from the COVID-19 Pandemic”, exploring some of the challenges that exist in the safeguarding arena in a post-COVID world.

A hybrid approach was taken to the week, with an in-person flagship conference celebrating the CADW animation launch, and several virtual events facilitated across the region, focussing on themes such as domestic abuse, neglect of older people in care homes, and children’s wellbeing post-pandemic.



(g) To what extent have agencies contributed to the Boards' effectiveness

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Hywel Dda University Health Board is a consistent member of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards of CYSUR and CWMPAS, continuing to provide representation at Executive Board level, as well as on multiple Board subgroups and each county's Local Operational Group.



The Assistant Director of Nursing Assurance and Safeguarding Corporate Nursing continues to hold the role of Vice Chair of the CYSUR Executive Board.

Hywel Dda remain committed to regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, both as panel members and by offering Chairing roles to regional reviews. They have implemented an internal model of holding "pre-learning events" to support and prepare staff identified to attend Learning Events for regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs.

Numerous Hywel Dda colleagues have contributed richly to regional and national safeguarding work and forums once again this year.

For example, the Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children collaborated in drafting the Regional Guideline for Working with Uncooperative Families. The Lead Nurse for Looked After Children is an active member of Corporate Parenting panels and MACE meetings, as well as the NHS Wales LAC Steering group.

In addition, the Lead VAWDASV and Safeguarding Practitioner has worked in partnership with specialist providers to engage with GP clusters to promote regional learning across Primary Care.

The UHB actively contribute to the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and subgroups. The Head of Safeguarding is the Vice Chair of the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network and UHB lead alongside a Designated Nurse at the NHS Wales Network VAWDASV Steering Group.

Hywel Dda have led the pilot of a Once for NHS Wales Safeguarding Management System on behalf of NHS Wales, supporting an improved quality of data collection systems and analysis across Wales.

To celebrate NHS Wales Safeguarding Network 10th Anniversary, a conference was held on the theme of "NHS Wales Safeguarding Together: Then, Now, Next" at City Hall, Cardiff on 8th March 2023. Hywel Dda University Health Board were shortlisted to display five posters out of ten that were displayed at the conference.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Hywel Dda University Health Board have worked collaboratively with a manager of a Residential Home to develop and Standard Operating Procedure for looked after children who attend the sexual health clinic.

The shortlisted posters displayed focused on the following five topics:

- 1 Strengthening SCAMHS for CYP with Safeguarding Needs & Children Looked After
- 2 Health Assessment Framework
- 3 Safeguarding in Pregnancy Database
- 4 Role for VAWDASV
- 5 Frailty – Quality Improvement Safeguarding



Posters developed by Hywel Dda University Health Board for the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network 10th Anniversary Conference

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB)

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) continue to contribute fully to the CYSUR and CWMPAS Boards. PTHB representatives are routinely represented at the Executive Boards, Local Operational Group and all sub-group meetings, and they support the ongoing development of safeguarding practice at a regional and local level.



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Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Health Board staff work in close partnership with their multi-agency partners in all areas of the safeguarding agenda including VAWDASV, MARAC, MAPPA, MACE, PRUDIC, Corporate Parenting, Practice Reviews, DHRs and multi-agency audits. PTHB remains an active partner in the NHS Wales National Safeguarding Network, engaging in its sub-groups, work-streams and task and finish groups.

Safer sleep has been a key focus within Powys Teaching Health Board this year. With the support of the Women and Children’s Directorate, PTHB’s Safer Sleep Standard Operating Procedure has been developed by the Safeguarding Team, in response to a number of unexpected child deaths over the last 18 months within the county which have featured risk factors relating to safer sleep, alongside links to regional Child Practice Reviews.

A task and finish group was formed, including colleagues from Midwifery, Health Visiting and Safeguarding, with the decision was made to produce a detailed document to support practitioners and ensure that clear, consistent, tailored advice was being provided to parents and carers.

A short presentation was been developed and recorded to support the launch of the standard operating procedure and has been shared widely across the Health Board, including team meetings

“ Testimonial 1 - Midwife:

I love the QR codes on the red books as I feel I can get parents to scan and have the links open on their phones. Makes the start of the conversation easy. I also really like the laminated sheet because it is again a good prompt with extra resources to signpost the families to - this will be even better when they are in the postnatal pathways. ”



with General Practices and colleagues employed by the local authority and domestic abuse services. This will help support unsafe sleeping practices and environments are recognised by all practitioners supporting families and carers with young babies.

PTHB midwifery documentation has also been updated to include a page within the postnatal pathways specifically focused on safer sleep. This supports midwives' practice and provides evidence that these important messages are being shared with parents and carers in the early postnatal period. Lullaby Trust QR codes have also been embedded into the postnatal pathway and used within a poster presentation that can be displayed in healthcare settings.

Stickers with the QR codes have been added within each Child Health record, giving parents and carers have easy access to information, advice and support.

“ Testimonial 2 - Health Visitor:

I have found them really helpful and have shared the QR codes at visits. One Dad has opened and read it whilst I have been at the visit and initiated discussion particularly on co-sleeping. Having the laminated card in my diary is really helpful.

I have always discussed the Lullaby Trust App and show them this on my own personal phone. In addition, the printed information that you sent out to bases is good as I can photocopy some of these and use them if appropriate. It is great for consistency for delivering the same messages. ”



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Powys Teaching Health Board identified an opportunity to develop a care leavers' health pack for young people who leave care/turn 18. The health pack was to provide young people with health links to useful websites, information regarding sexual health, mental health and emotional support, and keyring condoms.

Other key achievements within Powys Teaching Health Board include:

- Development of a new LAC Database
- Auditing of Was Not Brought/No Access Visits
- Development of a DoLS Tracker
- Rollout of Mental Capacity Act Competency Framework and supporting information

Public Health Wales (National Safeguarding Team)

Public Health Wales' National Safeguarding Team works closely with Welsh Government, Health Boards and NHS Trusts to improve safeguarding across NHS Wales. From a regional perspective, the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards have a very positive relationship with key members of the National Safeguarding Team, including the Designated Doctors and Paediatricians who contribute and lead on national safeguarding workstreams. The Designated Nurse attends and contributes to Regional Executive Board meetings and Practice Review Sub-Group meetings.



Dr Aideen Naughton attended and made a full contribution to the Executive Boards' Development Day in January this year. During the pandemic, a decision was taken to scale back their input and contribution to some of the Boards' broader work, including practice reviews. The position going forward nationally remains unclear at the present time, regarding what future role they will play in Regional Safeguarding Boards.

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)

The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) are represented at the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Executive Board, and participate in sub-groups and Local Operational Groups as and when needed. WAST have consistent involvement with all PRUDiCs, MAPFs and Professional strategy meetings.



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WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services
NHS Trust

Despite the increase in demand on the service and staff due to operational pressures and incidences of industrial action, WAST Safeguarding Team have noted a continued increase in concerns identified and safeguarding reports submitted by WAST staff. On average during the reporting period, they achieved over 90% compliance with submission of written referrals to Local Authorities within 24 hours across Wales.

During industrial action, the Safeguarding Team were required to support operational shifts and activity whilst still maintaining core safeguarding responsibilities. The Team has been expanded during the year, with three safeguarding specialists recruited.

WAST Patient Engagement and Community Involvement (PECI) team have worked with children and older people in formulating a charter for both groups which provides staff and volunteer workers with the expectations of these individuals who use the service. They have also worked closely with the deaf community, learning disability groups and currently with carers on how WAST can support them in accessing the service.

WAST work closely with Peci to ensure safeguarding principles are embedded into any work that they develop, and Peci will seek support following disclosures that are received during their face to face engagements.

In addition, the Safeguarding Team work very closely with WAST Putting Things Right team when they have received complaints and adverse incidents where safeguarding is a component. There is regular safeguarding attendance at WAST Serious Case Incident Forum on a bi-weekly basis.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

During this reporting year, the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust Safeguarding Team undertook an audit in relation to the submission of safeguarding reports (pan-Wales) for children and young people who have contact with the service for self-harm/suicide ideation. The outcome of this audit will help inform learning for the organisation details of which we can include in the next reporting period.



Dyfed-Powys Police

Dyfed-Powys Police (DPP) continue to make a rich and active contribution to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Boards. The DPP Superintendent Board representative continues to hold the position of Vice Chair of the CWMPAS Board, and DPP officers are represented at all Board levels, including the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and all sub-groups. Panel Chairs for numerous Child and Adult Practice Reviews in the region continue to be provided by Dyfed-Powys Police, and the newly merged Through-Age Practice Review Sub Group is chaired by a DPP Detective Chief Inspector.



The force continues to support regional events, meetings and training via the provision of estate. This year, the Boards' Safeguarding Awards Ceremony was hosted at DPP facilities in the region, and the Boards are immensely grateful to Dyfed-Powys Police for their hospitality and support. Dyfed-Powys Police have collaborated with Hywel Dda University Health Board this year to improve the response to service users experiencing mental health crises. There is now a service which allows staff in the police control room to send a distressed caller directly through to a mental health practitioner who can provide instant advice and guidance. This ensure the vulnerable individual engages with a qualified mental health practitioner quickly and can receive the assessment, help and support they need immediately. The collaborative work between these two agencies has also enabled a mental health practitioner to be co-located within the Police Vulnerability Hub.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Dyfed Powys Police have received a number of inputs from victims of offences, offering an insight into lived experience. These have related to domestic abuse, stalking and murder.

Each of these inputs has enabled staff in the organisation to gain an insight into the suffering, the barriers to police engagement and the trauma from living with domestic abuse informing an improved police response to such incidents and crimes.

Domestic abuse continues to be a key priority area within Dyfed-Powys Police. This year, a pilot has been introduced to respond to domestic abuse remotely where it is deemed appropriate and agreeable to the victim. The aims of this pilot are to improve the timeliness of the response to survivors of DA, reduce the impact of the report, and provide increased time to engage with the survivor. This will elicit better quality information so officers can identify and manage risk appropriately, which will lead to improved safeguarding outcomes.

The force has also convened a forum to engage with those who have previously reported sexual abuse and domestic abuse to provide feedback on access to and the delivery of service by the force. The feedback was shared with lead officers to consider utilising this in change processes. Dyfed-Powys Police has been engaging with the regional BAWSO officer, with the aim to develop consultation processes to ensure that all minority groups in the region have a voice. DPP are currently using some of the case studies from BAWSO and sharing these with officers so they better understand the impact of culture on barriers to reporting crime, and improve the service to make it more accessible. The force have also been working to increase awareness of commissioned services and third sector organisations who can assist those who do not want to engage with police, in an effort to ensure they have advice and support and their safeguarding is enhanced.

In terms of perpetrator-focused initiatives, a robust framework has been implemented which DPP can use to identify the highest risk offenders, acting as a prompt to review and assess the measures undertaken to manage the offender and safeguard the community.

Dyfed-Powys Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) contribute to the Safeguarding Boards via regular and consistent attendance at the Executive Boards and underlying Local Operational Groups and sub-groups. The Pembrokeshire Youth Justice Service Manager continues to represent regional Youth Justice interests at the Executive Boards and sub-groups, disseminating information to colleagues across the Dyfed-Powys area via regional Youth Justice Meetings.



Youth Justice Services are themselves a multi-agency partnership, with statutory input from Police, Probation, Education, Health and Social Services. They also work closely with substance misuse and wider youth services.

During the previous year, YJS have developed a regional report from all four Youth Justice Services to assist and support the work of the Boards. This includes data regarding involvement with children and young people who are Looked After and/or have other vulnerable characteristics. This has allowed Police, Children's Services and other partners to cross-reference with their own data and build a better intelligence picture of specific issues, challenges and resource implications in terms of keeping children and young people safe.

The National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service (NPS) is represented on the Executive Boards, Local Operational Groups and some sub-groups. Their attendance and engagement in local groups has been inconsistent this year due to significant workforce pressures, however plans have been agreed to improve this. Work has also taken place this year to incorporate NPS into some of the Boards' wider work and sub-groups including policy and training.



The NPS have provided significant support to regional VAWDASV work, helping to secure additional funding to facilitate key workstreams on perpetrator interventions. The increased focus on safeguarding within the context of VAWDASV has increased the volume of requests for safeguarding checks, and this additional demand has been serviced via the agreement of an additional admin resource through the Public Protection Team to be co-located in Police HQ. The NPS has also welcomed 28 new trainees this year, as well as new PSO staff in the Probation Delivery unit. A key achievement within the organisation this year is the launch of the new HMPPS policy framework on safeguarding. NPS have ensured that all managers are aware of this new framework and its implications.

Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire County Council's Statutory Director of Communities chairs the CYSUR Board and has fulfilled this role for a number of years, providing consistent strategic leadership to the Executive Board and its Local Operational Groups and sub-groups.



Adults' Services are also leading on work to achieve greater clarity and consistency in adult safeguarding practice, with a particular focus on Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, in relation to Managing Safeguarding Allegations/Concerns about Practitioners and those in Positions of Trust.

The Regional VAWDASV Advisor and Coordinator posts are hosted by Carmarthenshire Local Authority, and these roles are integral to the development and delivery of the VAWDASV Strategy and its objectives. The regional VAWDASV Delivery Group is chaired by a Senior Manager within Carmarthenshire Adults' Services.

Both Children's and Adults' Services within Carmarthenshire have provided extensive support to several regional Child and Adult Practice Reviews during the year, in both panel chair and reviewer roles. These processes have benefited greatly from the expertise and dedication of the individuals giving their time to these roles, and the Boards are extremely grateful to all regional colleagues who support regional review mechanisms in this manner.

Carmarthenshire Children's Services have this year moved to all children's case conferences being offered as face-to-face meetings post-pandemic, with the option of hybrid being available. Such meetings were held remotely during the pandemic, however, the majority of meetings in March were held face-to-face and the hybrid option was not required.

Anecdotally, professionals have reflected on the difference face-to-face meetings have made on the discussions and debates that take place in the conference. Children's Services within Carmarthenshire aim to make further improvements to the meeting so that it can be a vehicle of change for children at risk of significant harm.

The regional Review of the Multi-Agency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has been led by Carmarthenshire, and will enable the region to reflect upon the multi-agency response to the pandemic in terms of safeguarding children and adults at risk.

The Local Operational Group remains a focus for Carmarthenshire going forward into the next year, with the intention to identify opportunities to review and improve the structure of this forum.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Carmarthenshire Adults' Services have been instrumental in the development and pilot of the regional Protocol for a Rapid Response to Incidents of Suspected Suicide, which seeks to holistically assess the wider impact of instances of suspected suicide with peer groups and communities. The pilot phase of this work remains ongoing at the time of writing, with positive feedback received thus far on the implementation of the process across all areas of the region. The Head of Service within Carmarthenshire Adults' Services continues to champion key workstreams and forums within the area of suicide prevention.

Pembrokeshire County Council

Pembrokeshire County Council is the regional host authority for the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards, and facilitates the Regional Safeguarding Boards Business Unit. The Director of Social Services and Housing is the Chair of the CWMPAS Board. Pembrokeshire continues to benefit from an Integrated Safeguarding Team, combining both children and adult safeguarding strategic work into one unified service.



Numerous Child Practice Review in the region have enjoyed a rich contribution from Pembrokeshire in terms of the provision of independent reviewers, and Pembrokeshire continue to be actively engaged in groups and forums at all levels of the Boards' structure.

Pembrokeshire's Local Operational Group is a model of good practice across the region within the context of its structure, chairing and agenda model and as a result benefits from strong commitment and buy-in from regional partners. This has been used a blueprint for other LOGs across the region who have followed Pembrokeshire's example. The result is an effective and integrated meeting, with excellent attendance and strong commitment and contributions from all agencies.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

In response to the shortage of placements for Young People Looked After (YPLA), Pembrokeshire County Council have developed a place of safety model for young people awaiting placements who are identified as high-risk.

Collaborative working is also evident in Pembrokeshire in respect of resettlement schemes, including Homes for Ukraine and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). A robust safeguarding checks process is in place and the model is recognised by Welsh Government as good practice example within national statutory guidance.

A schedule of whole-authority safeguarding self-evaluation risk assessments has taken place this year, which has shown a near-100% completion rate of the mandatory e-learning POD course on 'safeguarding children and adults' across the department.



Powys County Council

Powys County Council have continued to make a steady and consistent contribution to the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards and their workstreams at all levels in the last year. Powys Children’s Services Senior Manager continues to chair the Regional Training Sub-Group, and Powys Children’s and Adults’ Services have each provided valuable contributions to ongoing practice reviews this year by way of chair and reviewer roles.



Powys’ Child Exploitation Strategy has acted as the foundation for the [Regional Child Exploitation Strategy](#) implemented this year across Mid and West Wales. Powys Children’s Services chaired the task and finish group and presented the strategy at the Executive Board for approval.

Within the context of the preventative safeguarding agenda, this reporting year has seen the creation of an Integrated Family Centre in Welshpool. The refurbishment of the building situated in the heart of a Flying Start catchment was funded by Welsh Government Flying Start Capital funding. The Flying Start team, who include Health Visitors and Speech and Language professionals, will move from the Maesydre Offices in Welshpool to the site. They will be joined by Powys County Council’s Children’s Early Help Team and Youth Services.

The council’s Adults’ Services staff, along with colleagues from agencies such as Montgomeryshire Family Centre, will also share the office space within the building, supporting an integrated multi-agency all-age approach.

The Welshpool Integrated Family Centre opened on 10th October 2022 will be a “one stop shop” providing services and support to children, young people and their families. The centre will provide activities such as parent and toddler groups, baby massage, information and advice, Incredible Years Parenting Training programmes, health advice, family support and counselling. The Centre was officially opened in February 2023 by the Deputy Minister. In terms of Adults’ Services, a key focus this year has been in the area of Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs. Significant developments have been achieved in progressing MAPFs this year, facilitating the identification and dissemination of learning in respect of key identified areas relevant to the local area.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Through their Grow Our Own Social Worker development programme, Powys County Council appointed five newly qualified social workers (NQSWS) into the service during the Summer/Autumn 2022.

They have also increased the number of wellbeing worker positions within some teams to establish if this is a more effective way of working. 2023 will see seven NQSWS come into Children’s Services, with nine projected for 2024 and eleven projected in 2025, helping to mitigate ongoing workforce challenges.



Ceredigion County Council



Safeguarding Boards at all levels. Senior officers have attended and engaged in all Executive Board meetings, and there is appropriate consistent representation at all identified regional sub-groups. Ceredigion have also provided valuable support to an ongoing Adult Practice Review this year by providing a second reviewer. Ceredigion continued its development this year of a Through-Age Wellbeing Model, and the completion and implementation of the 7-year implementation strategy. As a result, Ceredigion are also implementing a Through-Age Safeguarding Team, working with the whole family in a proportionate way to safeguard people, and to ensure that families receive targeted support as early as possible.

There has been a review of Ceredigion's current structure this year, two years following the embedding of the Through Age Well-Being Model. Some changes have been made in order to strengthen the Quality Assurance Team in order to develop the Quality Assurance Framework work, and to align the substance misuse team with the Mental Well-Being Team. Early Intervention/Prevention services and resources have been strengthened with the further development and increasing of capacity, which are being used for both children/young people and adults. The Through Age Well-Being strategy has informed how Early Intervention/Prevention services will be developed in order to prevent people needing statutory services.

Managing staffing levels have been a challenge in the organisation due to challenges with recruitment and retention, which is noted to be a national issue. This was a particular issue for the Planned Care Children's Team and due to this, the Local Authority commissioned a Managed Team to support work with children and their families. The involvement from this team is under review at the present time. There has been a number of different initiatives undertaken in relation to recruitment campaigns.



Safeguarding Practice Highlight

Ceredigion County Council's Safeguarding Adults Team have developed a Quality Assurance questionnaire which concentrates on what has changed for people as the result of safeguarding intervention. This face to face work with people will progress in the coming year.

Notably, Ceredigion are working with Aberystwyth University in relation to the development of a social work training course which could in the future support local training and recruitment. The Local Authority are recruiting a number of trainee social workers in order to build on sustainability of the workforce moving forward.



Regional Directors of Education

All education services related to the Boards collaborate well. There are strong relationships with other partners including Health, Police, Youth Services, Probation Services, and Youth Offending Teams. Each education directorate shares information related to their own risks in order to provide support to one another. Education Services from across the region continue to engage at all levels of the Board structure. There is an Education representative on the panel of all Child Practice Reviews in the region, and in the planning groups for all Child MAPFs. All Local Operational Groups and Board sub-groups enjoy continued attendance from Education representatives.

All Executive Board meetings this year have been attended by at least one Statutory Director of Education from the region. Pembrokeshire Education Services, who previously held the role of overarching regional Education representative at the Executive Board, have been represented at all meetings this year, with other localities also attending meetings during the year. Agreement is to be reached in the coming year on the long-term representation of Education Services at Executive Board level, in terms of whether Education representation at Executive Board level is to be rolling across all four localities, or assigned to a designated Statutory Director as a regional lead for the service.

Assurance on safeguarding practice is provided via the submission of an annual Section 175 report to the Regional Executive Board, which is a comprehensive assessment of all safeguarding systems processes within Education across the region.

Regional Further Education (FE)

The Further Education (FE) colleges within the region have supported the work of the Boards and have been fully compliant in the adoption of its policies. They have also offered support to the Boards through the use of venues for meetings, and participated in all Board activities and events. They have this year been involved in a number of Rapid Response meetings following the commencement of the regional pilot.

FE colleagues are represented on the sub-groups of the Boards by the Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding at Pembrokeshire College, who is the regional designated Board link for FE Colleges. The FE Lead has also led on the continued regional response to Welsh Government guidance, Keeping Learners Safe guidance, and co-chairs the Welsh Government's Safeguarding in Education Group. They have recently joined the Welsh Government's Safeguarding in Education Group's task and finish group to consider the IICSA recommendations and represent the Boards, and continue to provide key input into the ongoing work around transition planning and suicide. The Designated Senior Safeguarding Leads from Pembrokeshire College and Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion have been commissioned by Welsh Government to write four Keeping Learners Safe training modules for further education and work-based learning staff and Corporation Board members, which will be live on Hwb from August 2023, and provide consistency of training to the sectors responsible for post-16 education.

FE colleges across the region have continued their partnership work related to the mental health and wellbeing of learners, and have been successful in four mental health bids worth over two million pounds to Welsh Government, which has secured substantive support for learners and staff in the FE Colleges in the Boards' region. Resources from all the projects have been uploaded on Welsh Government's Hwb site. Refresher safeguarding training has continued to be delivered

across the regional colleges remotely and in person this year, consistent with the updated safeguarding modules. Within all the FE Colleges, strong and proactive safeguarding teams have been enhanced and further developed this year, which have played a pivotal role in multi-agency working. They are also providing post-16 support to the work of the Local Authorities' Liberty Protection Safeguards implementation and are participating in the regional and local suicide prevention forums.

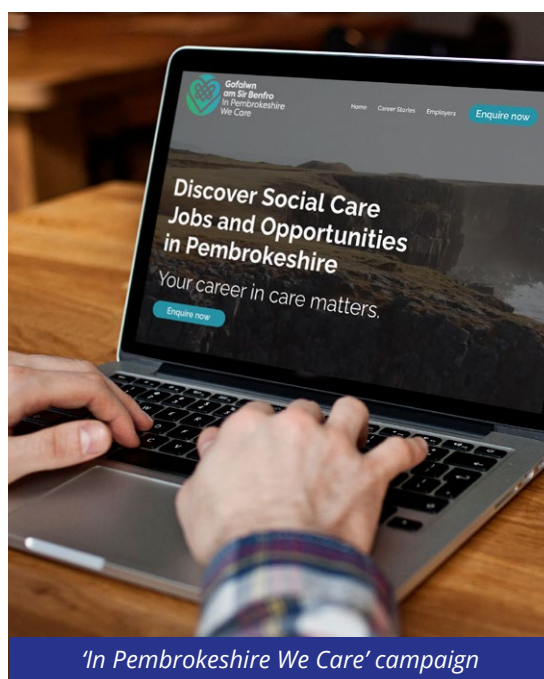
During the Autumn Term of 2022, the Colleges participated in an Estyn thematic inspection concerning peer on peer abuse. The Thematic Report from the inspection was published on the 7th June 2023 and contained seven recommendations for the sector. The DSLs will present the reports and local action plans at the respective LOGs.

Regional Commissioning Representative

The Mid and West Wales Commissioning Partnership is represented on the Executive Boards and links with the Powys Commissioning Partnership for regional collaboration. Commissioning Teams have worked collaboratively across the region with Health Boards, Public Health Wales, CIW and other partners to support the in-house and commissioned sector providers to mitigate the significant impact of COVID-19.

Commissioning Services have worked proactively with the sector to support a number of the Boards' key objectives, in particular, strengthening the workforce and managing risk. The fragility of the market, primarily linked to workforce issues, poses a key issue in terms of meeting service demands. Collaborative work undertaken within the region has been instrumental in managing and attempting to mitigate this risk. Commissioning Services have worked collaboratively to publish the Market Stability Report for West Wales, which has identified key risks across all regulated activities (adults and children), with recommendations to mitigate market failure and develop alternative services linked to the Population Needs Assessment. From a safeguarding perspective, this is key to avoid such risks as inappropriate placements, unregulated placements, and mitigation to market failure.

Local initiatives include the development and implementation of the ['In Pembrokeshire We Care' campaign](#), to support recruitment and workforce capacity to ensure population needs are met. Domiciliary care has been recommissioned in Carmarthenshire, with focus on outcomes and terms and conditions. Recruitment and retention initiatives have also been undertaken by the sector. Some positive signs have been seen in the last year in terms of the commissioning landscape, such as a decline in waiting lists and greater market stability; however, caution and collaboration continue to be employed across the sector to continue to manage and respond to risk within this area. Key achievements in the commissioning sector this year include ongoing quality and provider performance oversight, as well as improving terms and conditions for the commissioned domiciliary care workforce to support workforce challenges.



'In Pembrokeshire We Care' campaign

(h) An assessment of how the Boards use their resources

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards use the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The graphs and charts below illustrate how the Boards have made use of their financial resources within the context of income, expenditure and partner contributions in the preceding financial year.

This year has seen the Boards incur significant additional expenditure and costs to fund legal counsel in respect of a judicial review application made against the CYSUR Board. Further potential legal costs in relation to other bespoke legal actions are pending at the time of publication and consideration is needed as to how any similar future costs should be funded.

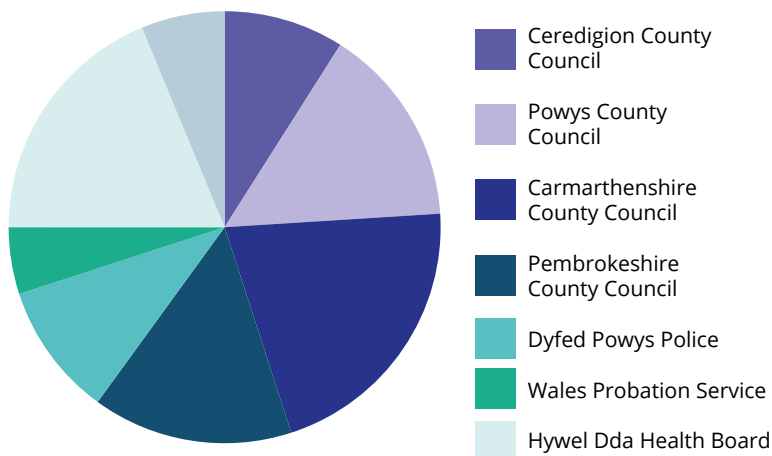
Resources used to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding Boards are not confined or restricted to financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The Regional Safeguarding Board Chairs, Executive Board Members, Sub-Group Chairs and members provide a significant amount of their time to support the Boards

and their work. This is often in addition to their professional roles and day-to-day responsibilities.

The variable and diverse nature of the Boards' work makes this difficult to report on within a quantifiable and measurable resource context, and is not always overtly visible to other professionals and agencies outside of the Board. The process, management and publication of Child and Adult Practice Reviews, the development of regional protocols and policies, as well as projects that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise are just some examples of Board work.

All statutory partners of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards contribute financially to the running of the Boards, with the exception of Public Health Wales. This contribution is based on population areas within the region across the varied organisations. The total income into the Safeguarding Boards this year excluding grant funding was £170,956, which is significantly lower than most of the Regional Safeguarding Boards in Wales.

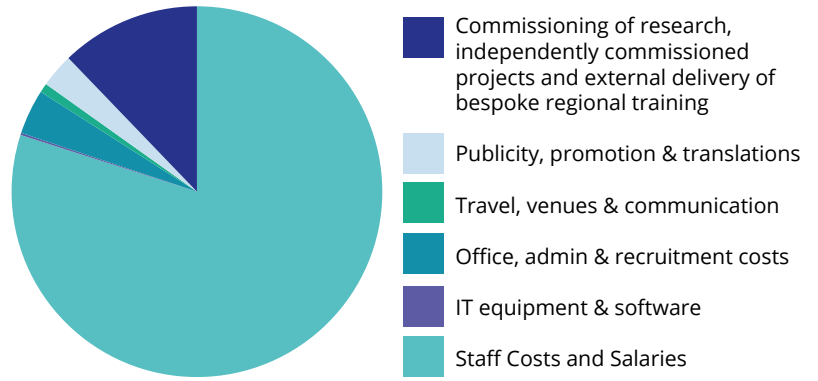
Income 2022 - 2023



In 2022-23, the majority of the Boards' expenditure was dedicated to general running costs, including staffing the Business Unit (80%).

The commissioning of services and training constituted 12% of Board expenditure, which is a reflection of the increased output from the Training Sub-Group in the delivery of the Training Strategy and accompanying 3-year Delivery Plan.

Expenditure 2022 - 2023



Admin and IT costs totalled 4% this year, with publicity, promotion and translation costs totalling 3%, reflecting the increased generation of resources and content for practitioners and the general public. Travel, venues and communication constituted just 1% of expenditure, with marginal IT costs of less than 1% in the year. The breakdown of expenditure this year aligns with previous years, with the exception of the legal costs referenced above, and is reflective of the outputs of the Boards and their functions.



(i) Underlying themes in the way the Safeguarding Boards have exercised their functions

Single Unified Safeguarding Review

Working alongside Welsh Government colleagues to support the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review model to learn lessons from reviews, including Child Practice Reviews (CPRs), Adult Practice Reviews (APRs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has continued to be a key theme of the Boards' work and priorities this year. Work has continued to support updating the existing national model in Wales and the drafting of new statutory guidance.

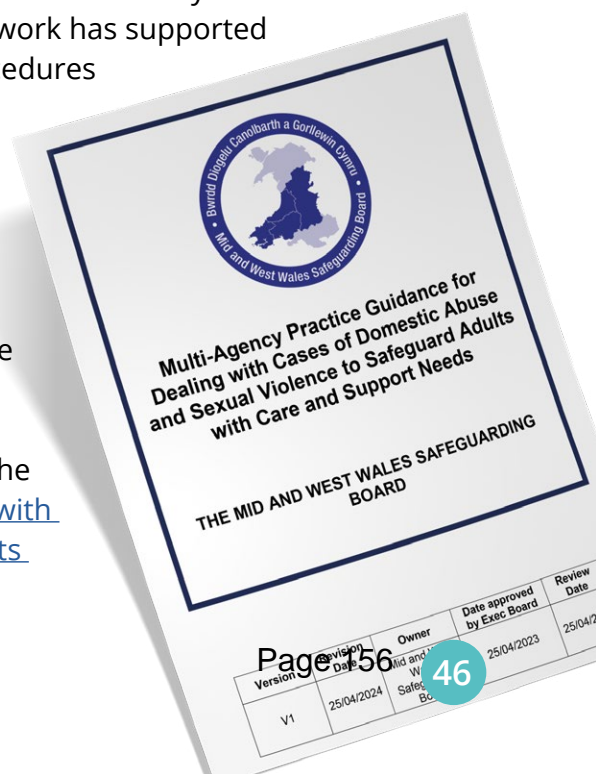
The CYSUR Board Chair, Regional Board Manager, Practice Review Business Manager and other sub-group members have continued to contribute to national task and finish groups to progress this work. This sits alongside extensive investment committed locally to strengthen our regional work and to amalgamate our CPR and APR sub-structures and sub-groups into one all-age sub-group.

Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Practice Development

The Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards are fortunate to have a strong and committed group of multi-agency senior managers and strategic leads who have continued to work together collaboratively this year to strengthen and improve safeguarding practice and intervention across the region for adults at risk. The group meets regularly with a focus to establish consistent practice across the four local authority areas of Mid and West Wales.

Projects the group have collaborated on this year include work to strengthen the approach taken in respect of Safeguarding Allegations/Concerns about Practitioners and those Positions of Trust. This work has aimed to support practice where there are gaps, and more clarity is needed regarding Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. This work has supported a national workstream being led by the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, and will help influence updates to section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in the coming year.

The multi-agency group have also worked together to further develop a bespoke safeguarding training package for Dyfed Powys Police delivered to support their Specialist Child Abuse Investigators: Development Programme (SCAIDP) training course for police officers. Other projects the group have collaborated on include work to implement a rapid review model for the prevention of suicide (more information contained below), and the development of the [Multi-Agency Practice Guidance for Dealing with Cases of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence to Safeguard Adults with Care and Support Needs](#).



Serious Violence Duty 2023

Along with strengthened relationships with the Police and Crime Commissioner, this year has seen the Boards commit to support the implementation of Serious Violence Duty which commenced on 31st January 2023, placing a duty on specified local authorities along with other agencies to work together to reduce incidents of violence, including knife and gun crime, and to prevent loss of life.

This work is in its early stages, however, the Regional Safeguarding Boards have committed to work closely with multi-agency partners and Crest Advisory, who have been commissioned by the Home Office to work with partners to support implementation, and are in the process of completing a strategic needs assessment across the region.

National Action Plan for Responding to and Tackling Child Sexual Abuse

Although the three-year national action plan formally ceased in 2022, implementation of the key messages and resources developed to support the plan has continued this year.

An array of related information, training and resources remain available to staff on the Boards' and agencies' intranets and websites, and via promotion in staff briefings and newsletters. This includes information in relation to CSA and exploitation, and the "it's time we talked about it" campaign.

Education Safeguarding Leads have continued to work closely with schools to promote awareness, which has included the promotion of various relevant resources and access to training packages, such as the [Lucy Faithfull Foundation's 'What's the Problem?'](#) booklet, a guide for parents of children and young people who have got in trouble online.

The VAWDASV Regional Strategic and Delivery Groups have continued to undertake significant work in relation to the promotion of information to children, parents and carers on healthy relationships.

This includes work with Curriculum Leads across the region in respect of the

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and ensuring that topics around VAWDASV are delivered consistently and with confidence.

Partners from the Mid and West Wales region have attended and supported national events and workshops facilitated by Children in Wales to support the national evaluation of the plan alongside the publication of the full ICSSA enquiry, and the Boards remain committed to supporting and implementing the next phase of this work.



Professional Curiosity

The need for professionals to exercise more robust and better professional curiosity when intervening into the lives of children or adults who may be at risk of harm has been a theme in a number of CPRs/APRs and MAPFs across the region. This is not unique to the Mid and West Wales region, and we are aware this consistently features in reviews in other Boards in Wales, and in UK-wide published safeguarding reviews.

As such, considerable investment has been dedicated by the Regional Training Sub-Group to the development of a bespoke all-age multi-agency training package and accompanying practitioner resources. Please see Section L for more information on the rollout of this training.



Rapid Response Model Pilot

Following significant planning and work undertaken in the previous year, a 12-month pilot of a rapid response model in respect of suspected suicides for both children and adults has been implemented. The purpose is to provide targeted, rapid support to family members, peers and the community when incidents of suicide occur and this forms part of the Boards' broader mental health, suicide and self-harm work.

The outcome of the pilot will be formally evaluated in the coming year, including its impact from a support and prevention perspective.



Safe Sleep

Continuing and rising numbers of preventable deaths related to babies co-sleeping with parents have continued to feature in the Process for Reviewing Unexpected Deaths in Children (PRUDiCs) across the region this year, as well as Child Practice Reviews. We are aware this trend is not unique to the Mid and West Wales region and features in other Boards in Wales.

Health partners have communicated concerns to the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, and as a direct result, Public Health Wales have agreed to undertake a rapid review of safe sleep related PRUDiCs across Wales in the coming year.

This will establish if there is any immediate action needed or clear lessons to learn. Localised literature including a standard operating procedure has been developed by health partners, and this has been shared and promoted widely with partners across the region. Identifying ways in which agencies can work together with parents to better avoid highly preventable deaths will be a key workstream for the Boards this year as part of a published Child Practice Review action plan.

High-Risk Behaviours for Adults at Risk (Including Hoarding and Self-Neglect)

Current legislation in Wales provides a robust and comprehensive framework for agencies to provide early intervention for adults who exhibit high-risk behaviours, including those who hoard and self-neglect.

Irrespective of this, a disproportionately high number of cases feature in referrals into the Boards for Adult Practice Reviews and MAPFs, where sadly adults have either died or suffered serious harm where concerns of this nature are known and understood by professionals, who often feel powerless to effectively intervene to prevent harm or reduce risk.

Following the implementation of a regional protocol to support this hugely complex and challenging area of work last year, work has continued this year led by the Adult Safeguarding Leads to implement the model consistently.

Numbers who meet the criteria to be considered by the model are lower than expected and this will be further reviewed in the coming year. It is hoped the framework will help improve practitioners’ understanding of the legislation in Wales, alongside an enhanced and improved understanding of how mental capacity legislation can be implemented to support adults in a more creative, solution focused multi-agency approach.



Version	Revision Date	Owner	Date approved by Elec Board	Review Date
V1	07/10/2022	Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board	07/10/2022	07/10/2023

Legal Challenges

This year, the Boards have been subject to two legal challenges. The first concerned a Judicial Review undertaken on application from a family member of a deceased child, in respect of a document produced in respect of the child by a Local Safeguarding Children Board, prior to the Boards' conception. CYSUR were named as defendants in this application, with the applicant asserting that CYSUR had inherited the document at the conception of the Regional Safeguarding Board. The Judicial Review considered whether CYSUR had the power to release the document, which it had not created and did not have ownership of or access to, to the applicant.

CYSUR obtained legal representation for the duration of these proceedings at significant cost to the Boards, funded using a significant portion of Board reserves. The judgment issued confirmed CYSUR's position that it did not have the power to release the document, citing the fact that it did not create, issue or hold the document in question. Furthermore, the legislation which provided for the creation of Regional Safeguarding Boards did not stipulate that Boards were to inherit any duties held by the now defunct Local Safeguarding Boards.

The second legal proceedings in which CYSUR was engaged in concerned an Inquest undertaken in respect of another child from the same local area. The Coroner in those proceedings requested information, and subsequently a submission from CYSUR, to consider whether CYSUR should be made an Interested Party to those proceedings at the request of the family. The Inquest would consider inter-agency arrangements between local services, and the family requested that CYSUR should be made an Interested Party to consider how effectively it "discharges its statutory oversight duties".

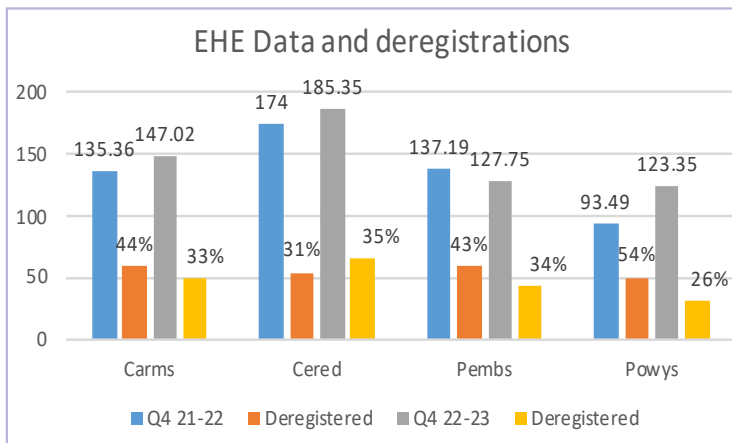
As a result, CYSUR was required to seek legal representation to explain that its functions did not extend to such operational matters, which are dealt with by the relevant Local Authority. Furthermore and for this reason, CYSUR had no involvement with the child prior to their tragic death. The Coroner upheld CYSUR's position on the grounds that it did not have a sufficient interest in proceedings to be afforded Interested Party status. These proceedings were ongoing at the end of the reporting year and have since concluded with the aforementioned outcome, i.e. that CYSUR should not become an Interested Party.

Safeguarding People

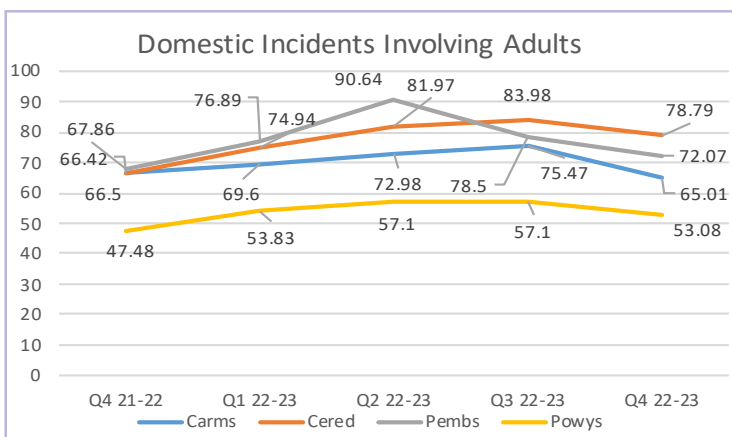
- Supporting effective challenge and professional accountability in the delivery of safeguarding practice

The Boards' Quality Assurance and Reporting Framework, which includes a comprehensive dataset alongside a local and thematic regional audit schedule, has been comprehensively reviewed and updated this year. This will aid the Boards' understanding of professional safeguarding practice, and data now aligns with the new updated Welsh Government performance indicators.

New data linked to practice areas of common interest in the region including professional concerns, those in a position of trust and escalating concerns has also been introduced. This will support the Regional Executive Boards' robust helicopter view of high-level multi-agency safeguarding practice across the region, via the scrutiny of quarterly overview reports containing analysis of key regional and local trends. This supports the Boards in their commitment to effective challenge and holding agencies to account when safeguarding practice and service delivery falls below expected standards.



Graph showing the number of electively home educated children this year in our region.



Graph showing the number of domestic incidents involving adults this year in our region.

Practice Reviews and MAPFs

A number of Practice Reviews remain ongoing, and three have concluded during the year. This is alongside an active MAPF programme with several ongoing and concluded this year. Themes identified for consideration as a result of these reviews include:

- The need for training and awareness raising for multi-agency practitioners in relation to professional curiosity and disguised compliance
- The need for improved training and awareness for practitioners in relation to mental capacity legislation
- Suicide prevention
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Deaths related to safe sleep
- The need for better information sharing between agencies



(j) When and how children and adults have had an opportunity to participate in the Boards' work

Regional Animation Project

The primary objective of the combined CADW Junior Board this year has been the completion and launch of "The Do's and Don'ts of Caring". The completed animation and accompanying video are an outstanding package of resources which reflect the dedication and talent of the young people who sit on the CADW Board. This resource is an invaluable addition to safeguarding training across the region.

CADW Residential 2022

After two years of holding "Residentials with a Twist", virtual get-togethers arranged in light of COVID-19 restrictions, the CADW Board were thrilled to come together face-to-face once again in 2022 for an in-person Residential in Brecon, Powys.

CADW membership has fallen through the past year as some young people have moved onto new adventures such as college, University and employment. The Boards wish to thank both the departing and continuing CADW members for the significant contribution and achievements they have made to date.

It was also felt that the virtual nature of the group became less desirable as time went on, however, the workshops held as part of the animation project saw CADW welcome new members from different areas of the region.

Nevertheless, in light of the size of the groups decreasing in some areas this year, and in recognition of the changes in membership since the conception of CADW, this year's Residential was a chance to gather some motivation for the Junior Board and get young people's opinions on how the group should move forward.

Nine young people attended the Residential this year, enjoying indoor climbing and abseiling at the indoor activity centre in which they stayed, before conducting their Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Terms of Reference were reviewed and there was a discussion about what issues



they would concentrate on for the next year. The young people then watched the premiere of “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring” animation, and discussed what questions they could ask professionals during the round table discussions at the launch event taking place during National Safeguarding Week (please see section L).

A young person from Ceredigion interviewed the other young people about making the animation and how they felt about it, utilising this footage to develop a sister video to the animation itself. Both videos are shared together, so that the young persons’ reflections complement and expand upon the content in the animation produced.

The Residential also facilitated the handover of management of the group to a new officer due to a change in staff at TGP Cymru. The departing and newly appointed officers attending the Residential together allowed for a smooth transition and a continuation of the progress made in the group to date. The Boards look forward to working with the new Participation Officer in the coming year on new CADW priorities and workstreams following the review of the implementation of “The Do’s and Don’ts of Caring”.



Powys Ambassadors of Youth Safeguarding (PAYS) have experienced a decreased level of membership this year, with just one active member during the reporting period. This young person has nevertheless been a key member of the regional CADW Board, providing an invaluable input into numerous stages of the animation project concluding this year, and attending this year’s Residential.

PAYS ensure activity and information from CADW is fed back into Powys’ Local Operational Group and Junior Start Well Board. A recruitment drive is planned for the coming year within PAYS, and it is hoped that this year’s Residential will see attendance from new members recruited into Powys during the coming months.



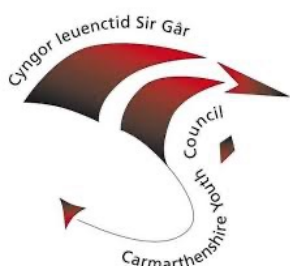
Image from CADW Residential 2022



Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' and Ceredigion Youth Service have experienced similar membership challenges during the year, with several long-standing members moving on to pastures new after numerous years of dedicated engagement with both the local and regional groups.

As a result, Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' currently only have one active member, despite having historically comprised the largest proportion of CADW membership in recent years. Nevertheless, the remaining 'Sêr Saff' member has continued to make an immeasurable contribution to the work of CADW this year. They have utilised their outstanding cinematic and editorial skills to produce an accompanying resource to "The Do's and Don'ts of Caring", after working with other CADW members to produce this piece of work during the Residential. Feedback at the launch event for this resource was that the accompanying video greatly enriches the messages of the animation, and a strong desire was shared to promote both resources as a package. A condensed version of this video was produced to facilitate even wider sharing at multi-agency meetings and training.

Ceredigion 'Sêr Saff' have also seen a change of Participation Officer this year, who is commencing in role with a focus on recruitment. At the time of writing, events are scheduled for summer 2023 which are aimed to promote CADW and attract new membership to ensure continued stability and regional representation within the Junior Board.



Carmarthenshire Council do not commission a local Junior Board and young people's safeguarding matters and issues are captured via **Carmarthenshire Youth Council (CYC)**, who continue to run the Children's Rights Community Ambassadors scheme. Their main role as Ambassadors is to promote the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), act as a voice for local young people and pass on their opinions to the Children's Rights Commissioner in Wales.

CYC focused on Domestic Abuse as their priority issue for the past year and set up a new sub-group to focus on this topic. The group have received training on and information about domestic abuse, with a particular focus on challenging myths and understanding services who can offer support. The group are currently developing a script for a drama about a young person whose parent is experiencing abuse, which continues to progress at the time of writing.

This year, CYC are taking part in the accredited Local Councillor Shadowing Award. This provides a unique opportunity for the young people to engage with councillors face to face, and to gain knowledge and skills which will facilitate their involvement in the democratic process and help them to influence decision-making. The Youth Council have also engaged actively with numerous consultations on topics such as mental health and wellbeing, child poverty, and the impact of COVID-19.



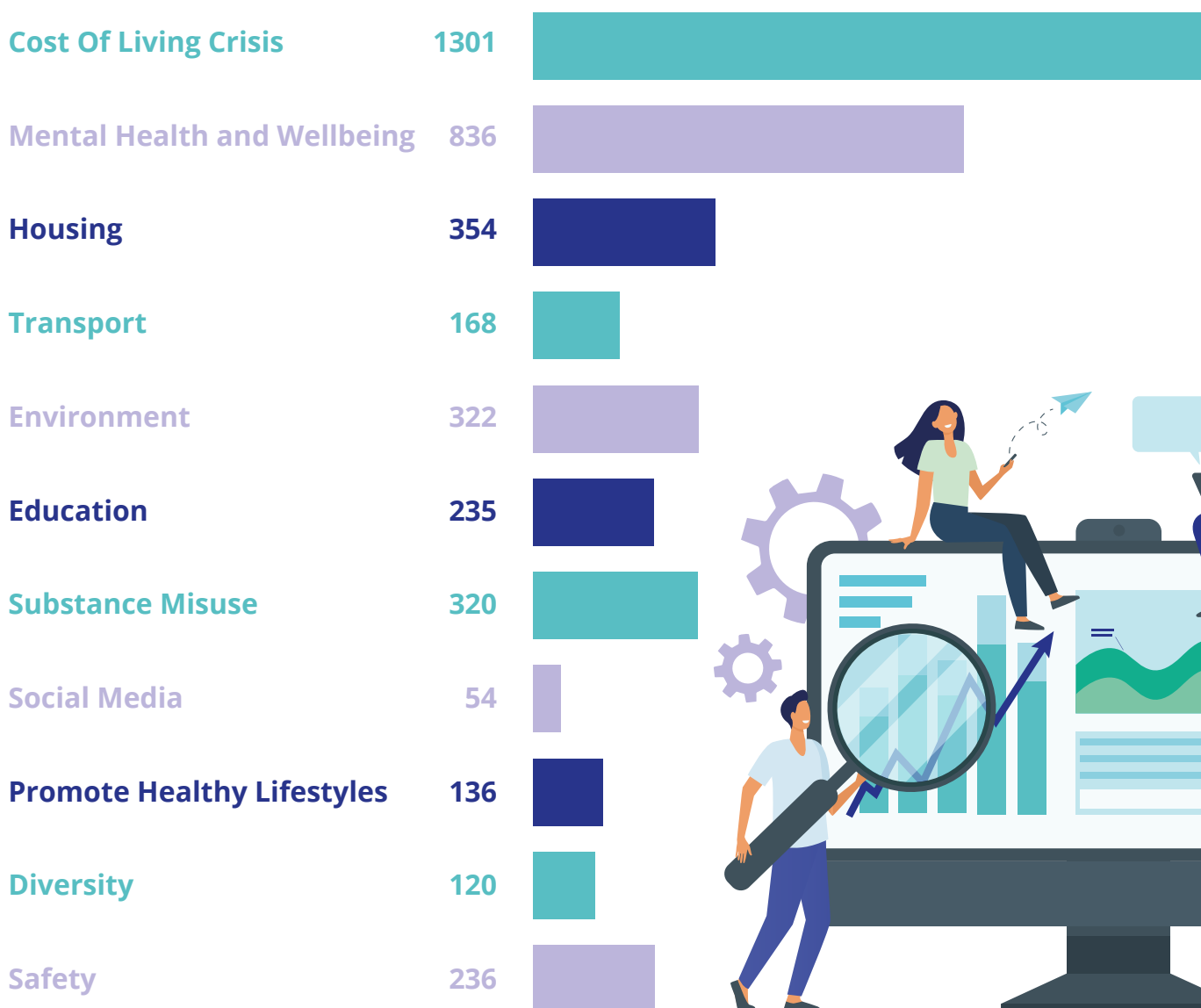


Pembrokeshire Junior Safeguardians have been working hard to re-establish themselves since the pandemic, and have been slowly moving forward in planning what they would like to achieve in 2023-2024. Throughout this time, they have still maintained strong links with a range of services in Pembrokeshire County Council who ensure that children and young people have a voice and influence services who support them.

The Junior Safeguardians, in collaboration with Pembrokeshire Youth and Social Care departments of Pembrokeshire County Council, hosted Pembrokeshire Spotlight Awards held on 11th November 2022 at Merlin Theatre, Pembrokeshire College. Young people were involved in the design of the event, shortlisting the nominations and getting involved on the evening.

A key workstream undertaken this year was a collaboration between the Junior Safeguardians and Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly, who jointly produced the “What Matters to You” consultation.

4,082 young people took part in the consultation, and the results are shown below:



(k) Applications for Adult Protection & Support Orders

There have been no applications for an Adult Protection & Support Order (APSOs) in Mid and West Wales during 2022-23, and there has only been one application in this region since the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Boards are aware this trend mirrors activity in other areas and welcomes any observations from Welsh Government as to the likely reasons for this.



(I) Information or learning the Boards have disseminated and training recommended or provided

Website

The Boards' website continues to act as a central hub of useful information, including how to report a concern and as a repository for regional policies and procedures and Practice Review reports.

The Business Unit has further worked to develop the training page of the website this year, with an increased emphasis on disseminating details of workshops, seminars and training events occurring throughout the region.

The training section has also been extended to include a new area hosting the safeguarding training resources that were developed by our Junior Board, CADW, and officially launched during National Safeguarding Week 2022, with support and attendance from the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

New pages have been added to support VAWDASV work taking place across the region. This includes pages highlighting new and innovative behavioural change programmes underway in Mid and West Wales, details of local services and support available for survivors of domestic abuse, information relating to the new Survivor Advisory Panel for Mid and West Wales, and details of Safe Video Link Evidence Facilities.

The resource hub for practitioners has been extended to include new pages dedicated to key topics such as missing children and safer sleep.

A brand new search facility has also made retrieval of safeguarding information far more effective and added to the overall usability of the website.



13,869
Page views of
CYSUR's website
this year
(6.5% higher than the
previous year)



A new page on the Boards' website sharing information about behavioural change programmes

Training

As outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Regional Safeguarding Boards should ensure practitioners in their area have access to and receive the training they need in child and adult protection work.

The Boards' multi-agency Regional Training Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan continues to provide a framework that both supports the commissioning and delivery of bespoke multi-agency training linked to the Boards' strategic priorities, as well as providing assurance on the quality and availability of safeguarding training to practitioners and managers across the partnership.

The Boards are assured all agencies provide good quality safeguarding training to their staff, and this has continued throughout the period. A wealth of safeguarding training has been delivered across Mid and West Wales this year, in face to face and virtual formats as follows.

Professional Curiosity Training Package

A Professional Curiosity Task and Finish Group was established to review and explore how the use of "Professional Curiosity" can support practitioners to develop the communication and observational skills required to work more effectively with individuals and families.

A high-quality suite of Professional Curiosity Training and Resources has been developed, which aims to raise awareness of the underpinning principles of "Professional Curiosity" and how it can be embedded within practice to continue to raise the standards of work undertaken with individuals and families by safeguarding professionals. It includes three key elements:

- 1 A Through-Age Multi-Agency Training Package, which includes options for both a full-day and half-day training session.
- 2 A Resource Pack which can be accessed virtually at any time by practitioners across the region, providing an introduction to professional curiosity, including a detailed overview of how to exercise professional curiosity and judgement, supported by case studies.
- 3 A Training Video in which the Lead LAC Nurse from Hywel Dda University Health Board explains what it means to be professionally curious, and the questions which practitioners can ask themselves and the families they work with to exercise professional curiosity in practice.



Professional Curiosity Training Attendee feedback:

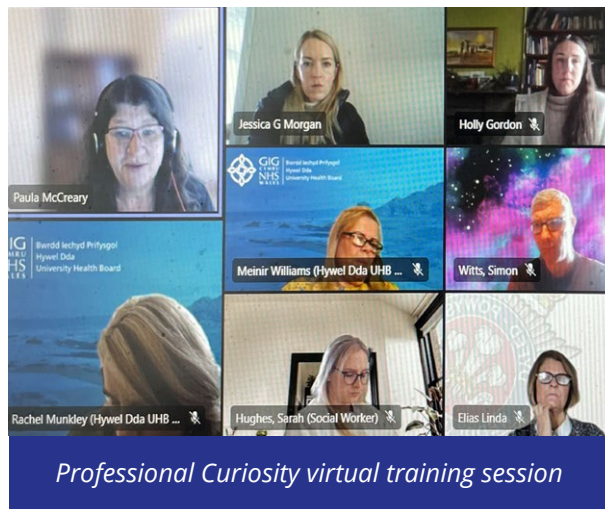
The interactive sessions were extremely useful as they were multi-agency.

The case studies were great to look at scenarios from a multi-agency aspect.

This suite of training provides numerous avenues through which professionals can access information on this topic, which continues to feature in ongoing and completed Child and Adult Practice Reviews regionally and nationally. Feedback received from pilot training sessions using these resources was excellent and there was an overwhelming consensus the all-age approach worked very well. The Professional Curiosity training has now been copyrighted to MAWWSB and is available to be incorporated into basic safeguarding awareness training.

Delivery of this training has rolled out as follows:

- Ceredigion Local Authority offered dates for training for the half day session, from November to the beginning of April, which were well attended. There is currently some tweaking of the material being undertaken to contextualise it. There is an intention to add more dates as required, and potentially include multi-agency training at a later date.
- Powys Local Authority held its first half day course in December 2022, which was delivered as multi-agency and invitations were extended to health colleagues, police, and housing. Further dates were then delivered by health colleagues in January 2023.
- Dyfed Powys Police are currently exploring the potential of incorporating the training into their existing Vulnerability Training.
- Pembrokeshire Children’s Services commissioned a bespoke session on professional curiosity, with a further four sessions scheduled by the end of April 2023.
- Carmarthenshire are planning to deliver in-house training. They have delivered four sessions to date and are exploring possible future collaboration with Pembrokeshire Local Authority.
- Plans for further development are to map the training to the competencies in the national training standards, identifying staff groups to target for different levels.



National Safeguarding Week

National Safeguarding Week took place this year from 14th to 18th November 2022, with the theme of “Moving on and Recovering from the Pandemic”. Under this broad heading, a programme was designed that aimed to respond to some of the challenges children and adults at risk face on their journey of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the week six key events were held, including conferences and webinars

that sought to highlight issues that currently affect children and adults at risk. The regional programme was supported by national events taking place across the whole of Wales. This included the launch of new multi-agency training standards being led by Social Care Wales, and an event hosted by the National Independent Safeguarding Board in collaboration with the Violence Prevention Unit on shaping the future of safeguarding in Wales.



Images from the launch of 'The Do's and Don'ts of Caring' in November 2022

'The Do's and Don'ts of Safeguarding': Training Resource

The flagship event for the week was a launch and celebration of a safeguarding training resource for professionals, which took place at Parc-y-Scarlets Stadium in Llanelli. The video animation was created by children and young people from our Junior Board and is designed to be used as part of safeguarding training for practitioners. In addition, 'A reflection on the Do's and Don'ts of Caring', an accompanying video, was created by a former Junior Board member, who had captured the reactions of group members when they first viewed the resource at their annual residential event.

The keynote address was delivered by the new Children's Commissioner, Ms Rocio Cifuentes, who commended the children and young people on their excellent work, and underscored the importance of sharing this resource more widely in support of disseminating its key messages.

Feedback from practitioners at the animation launch praised both achievements and encouraged the animation and video to be used and viewed together to get maximum impact. It also focused on what practitioners will do differently after watching the video (e.g. avoid note taking, incorporate resource in meetings), how they will make sure young people are heard in meetings (e.g. co-chairing LAC reviews, pupil bodies having a voice) and how they will adapt training to incorporate the contents of the video and its accompanying film (e.g. include in school based training, staff meetings). The group have since worked on a fully bilingual version of the resource to make it even more widely accessible.

All versions of the animation and its accompanying video can be downloaded or accessed from the [animation page of our website](#).





Dyfed Powys Police Domestic Abuse Conference

Dyfed Powys Police hosted a very successful multi-agency Domestic Abuse Conference at Police HQ, where speakers included those with lived experience of domestic abuse. The programme also included a closer look at domestic abuse and dementia, a discussion of older people and domestic abuse and the impact of domestic abuse on children.

The feedback noted how the guest speakers were incredibly impactful, and that it was a very informative conference. People also commented on how it good it was to be back together face to face, and that they will be taking a lot of learning back to their teams.

“ Dyfed Powys Police Domestic Abuse Conference, Attendee feedback:

This was an extremely informative and powerful conference. Great balance between training from specialist services and personal accounts from our extraordinary speakers.

The lived experiences of survivors very much felt at the centre of the event today, and leaves me feeling positive that these experiences will go forward to inform our practice.

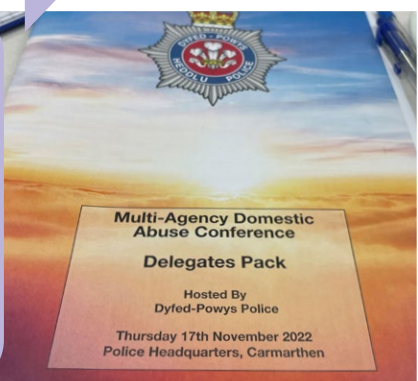
Thank you. ”



“ Dyfed Powys Police Domestic Abuse Conference, Attendee feedback:

Absolutely first class. The venue, speakers – including content and delivery. Very powerful and emotive.

Thank you. ”



Microsoft Teams Live Seminars

A series of successful Microsoft Teams Live Seminars were held throughout safeguarding week, which received excellent feedback and were very well attended. Dedicated webpages were also created to share speakers’ presentations, videos and images from the events, as well as training resources for use during and after the sessions.

Microsoft Teams Live Seminars were as follows:

Safeguarding Children living with Foster Carers, Adopters and Special Guardians: Learning from Case Reviews 2007-2019.

Facilitated by Professor Hedy Cleaver and Wendy Rose OBE, this webinar sought disseminate the key themes and messages from the Corum BAFF publication, based on a UK-wide study of 52 case reviews concerning 98 children who had experienced serious harm while living with foster carers, adopters or special guardians.

Feedback from ‘Learning from Case Reviews 2007-2019’ virtual event led by Professor Hedy Cleaver, and Wendy Rose OBE

“Thank you Wendy and Hedy! Very informative and insightful!”

“Thank you for this morning. It's been very interesting and given me lots to consider!”

“Relevant, excellent and thought provoking, thank you!”



Operation Jasmine. This regional webinar, run in collaboration with the Regional Partnership Board, offered an overview of the key themes and messages that arose from “In Search Of Accountability: a review of the neglect of older people living in care homes” investigated as Operation Jasmine.

Its key facilitators were Margaret Flynn, who was commissioned by the First Minister to review the events associated with Operation Jasmine and Margaret Rooney, Deputy Chief Inspector of Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

“ Operation Jasmine Event Attendee feedback:

It was very enlightening, thought provoking and empowering. It was a brilliant example of what practitioners should be looking out for and to encourage professional curiosity. Well done and thank you. I will be using the results in my future training sessions. ”

A panel offering a local health perspective and input from a family member directly affected by the events associated with Operation Jasmine also supported its delivery. The webinar was attended by 88 participants from across the region. The following are examples of what attendees specified they will now do differently in light of the messages shared:

“ *Review when we discuss overall care home concerns with families. Ensure families are involved in discussions.* **”**

“ *We already have safeguarding as a standing item on the agenda of all meetings but will specifically reference care home practice issues within that now.* **”**

“ *To challenge when safeguarding becomes too process-focused to remind of the individual at the centre.* **”**

Presentations, a recorded interview with a family member and a copy of the full report, were made available to participants on a dedicated webpage after the session.



Think Family — See the Adult, See the Child. This webinar drew on learning from safeguarding adult reviews and serious case reviews (now child safeguarding practice reviews) in England, and Child Practice Reviews in Wales. It sought to identify why practitioners and managers must always “think family” and see both the adult and the child. Highlighting the core components of this approach to practice, it gave participants the opportunity to discuss what enables and what obstructs “thinking family” in their work experience.

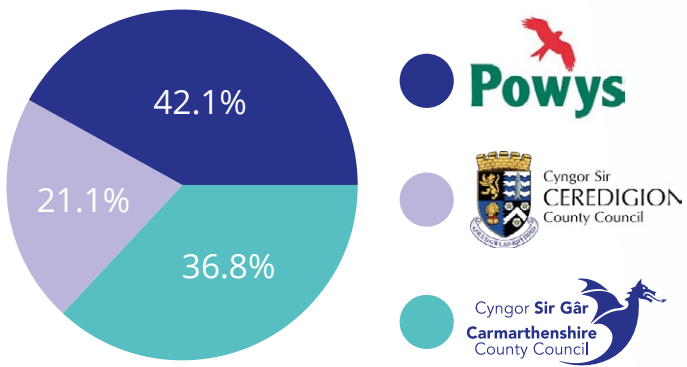
The facilitator, Michael Preston-Shoot, is a Professor (Emeritus) Social Work at the University of Bedfordshire, England. Michael is also Independent Chair of Lewisham and Brent Safeguarding Adults Boards, and has undertaken wider thematic research examining patterns and trends in safeguarding practice. The webinar proved very popular and was attended by 131 participants from across the region. When attendees were asked to rate the extent to which the content of the course would influence their practice going forward, an average score of 85% was given.

Promoting Positive Mental Health and Well-Being of Children and Young People since the COVID-19 Pandemic, in collaboration with CAMHS Schools In-Reach Team.

This webinar aimed to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic precautions and regulations may have affected children and young people, with an emphasis on their emotional growth and development. It was designed to share strategies to promote positive mental health and well-being, and to share details of the national rollout of the School In-Reach Service.

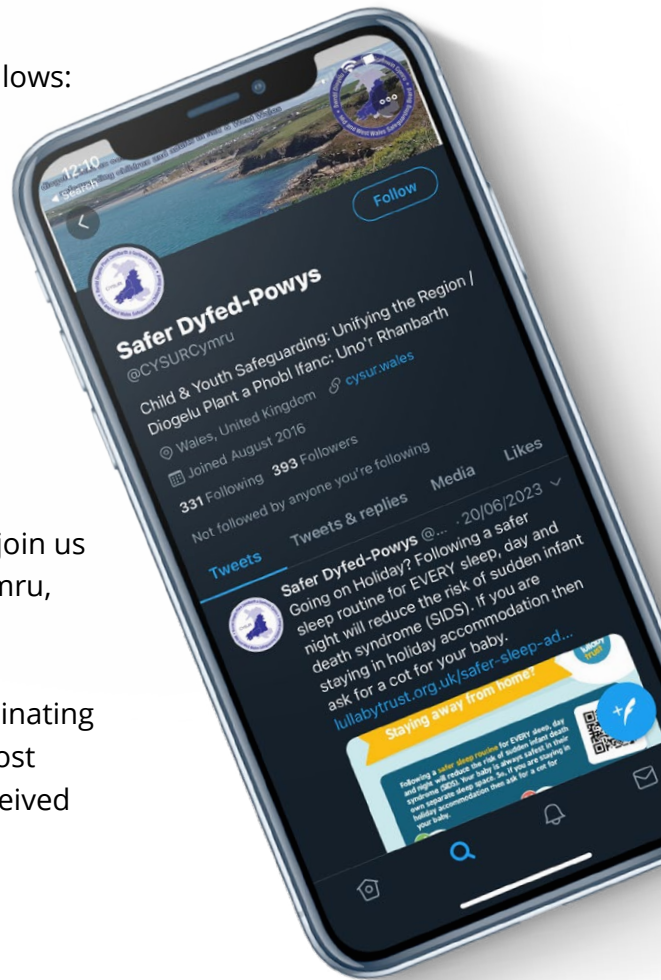
This presentation was delivered by the Powys CAMHS School In-Reach Service, but theoretical content and strategies was applicable to all areas of Wales. The event was facilitated by Gail Morris and Stephen Lloyd from the Powys CAMHS School In-Reach Team.

This event was delivered as an after school session. 93 delegates were present from three county councils as follows:

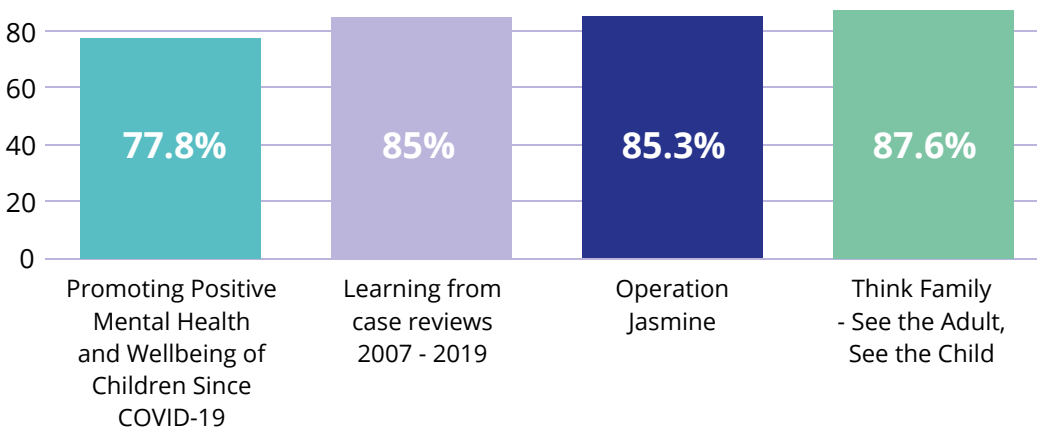


Throughout the week, delegates were invited to follow and join us on social media - Twitter @CYSURCymru and @CWMPASCymru, Facebook @CYSURCymru and Instagram @cysurcymru.

This proved useful for continuing the conversations, disseminating learning, and offering additional links and information. Almost 5.5k Twitter, Facebook and Instagram impressions were received throughout the period.



NSW 2022 Events and their Impact to Practice



Average scores given by event attendees to the question, "to what extent will what you have learnt influence your practice and help keep service users at risk safe?" on a scale of 1 to 10, per event held during National Safeguarding Week.

Fabricated and Induced Illness Training

A Microsoft Teams live webinar was held in September that sought to introduce delegates to the current thoughts about 'Fabricated and Induced Illness' and 'Perplexing Presentations'. This presentation was led by Dr Didi Ratnasinghe, Consultant Paediatrician and Named Doctor for Child Safeguarding at Hywel Dda UHB. Dr Didi has extensive experience of working with Fabricated and Induced Illness and its management.

The session was aimed at multi-agency frontline practitioners and managers, meeting the set learning outcomes for staff group D of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Boards All-Age Regional Training Strategy.

The presentation was a very useful session which drew attention to the debates about different approaches to FII as emphasised by British Association of Social Workers (BASW). Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss case studies illustrating the wide spectrum of manifestations and were encouraged to interactively participate via Q&A and challenging controversies.

Ongoing Training Projects

VAWDASV

The MWW VAWDASV Regional Training Subgroup, consistent of all four Local Authorities and both Health Boards, continues to meet and oversee the Regional Training Plan to deliver Groups 1-3 and 6 of the [National Training Framework](#). The region has committed to a joint delivery plan and reporting framework directly into Welsh Government for national oversight.

Centralised governance across the delivery ensures consistency and is supported by co-delivery with our commissioned specialist providers. This co-delivery is coordinated and funded centrally via the VAWDASV Subsidy Grant. We also support consistency with shared practice, resources and regional training packages across LAs, Health Boards and the Fire Service.

Developments in delivery have included a focus on innovative delivery models to reach staff within Education. We have also focused on Health colleagues and delivery of sessions with specialist providers on areas of practice to support the outcomes of Ask and Act. This year also saw investment in technology and development of virtual reality training resources which have been piloted across regional partners.

We have made and supported significant investment to meet the requirements of groups 4 and 5 within the specialist service providers and practitioners across the region. This was in conjunction with specialist training commissioned by Welsh Government and included regional delivery of Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA), Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and mediation training. We have also funded regional, multi-agency training on Non-Violent Resistance, Child to Parent Abuse and stalking-specific training from Professor Jane Monckton-Smith. Regional funding applications were also successful in supporting investment in Dyfed Powys Police force-wide training on stalking, risk assessment and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC chairing).

Other Agency Training

Carmarthenshire Local Authority

delivered training on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, VAWDASV Awareness, Channel awareness, High-Risk Behaviours, Liberty Protection Standards and the Mental Capacity Act. They also identified a number of key priorities in terms of future safeguarding training which include Professional Curiosity, Ask and Act and more Prevent/Channel training. They have plans to review the Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group and to consider management training around professional concerns and code of conduct.

Ceredigion Local Authority delivered an extensive programme during the year, including Professional Curiosity Training, which was delivered to all staff across the Through-Age Well-Being Model, and offered to partner agencies. The Statutory Director held workshops on Corporate Parenting and delivered Corporate Safeguarding training to Elected Members. Safeguarding Lead Practitioners (children's and adults') facilitated information training sessions for all newly elected members of the council. Elected Members also received training regarding PREVENT and VAWDASV. A significant amount of training was delivered in relation to ACEs and Trauma Induced Practice, with bespoke sessions being offered to their in-house Foster Carers. Training was also offered in relation to autism, concentrating on the lived experience of people who have autism.

Key safeguarding training delivered to staff within **Pembrokeshire County Council** included Understanding Trauma Informed Practice, Ask & Act, and VAWDASV legislation. Safeguarding & Substance Misuse Joint Working Protocol Workshops were delivered to independently address the needs of

both children and adults. Two versions of Professional Curiosity training were delivered, one all-age and one specific to staff working in Children's Services. Quarterly, courses were held for Safeguarding Children under the themes of Managing Allegations against Adults, Child Protection Processes & Procedures and Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Staff also engaged in a number of e-learning modules that are available to all Pembrokeshire County Council staff.

In **Powys Local Authority** training was delivered in Safeguarding Adults and All Wales Procedures – PAVO, Mental Capacity Act, Hoarding, and Self-Neglect. "What matters" outcome-focused training also continued throughout the period. Within children's safeguarding teams, Section 47 training was delivered virtually to support frontline social care workers to develop their skills in relation to safeguarding in social care to gain an understanding of the impact of changes to legislation. Professional Curiosity training was delivered by the Powys Teaching Health Board on four occasions, each receiving very positive feedback. A further four dates have been arranged for the next financial year. A joint Hydra exercise was also delivered by Dyfed Powys Police and Powys staff.

The **Powys Teaching Health Board** safeguarding team continued to add to their safeguarding training and throughout the year, delivered training in Safeguarding Children Level 3, Safeguarding Adults Level 3, Ask and Act, Mental Capacity Act, DoLS and multiple sessions on domestic abuse. They have plans for the forthcoming year to update the Level 3 training competency framework and to review and update their systems in regards to training.

The **Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST)** delivered a range of bespoke training including sessions on making digital reports for VAWDASV to Live Fear Free, and to the Regional Fire Service for fire safety and hoarding concerns, and making a report via WAST's digital process. They have also offered Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults training and Group 1 and 2 Ask and Act.

During the year, **Youth Justice Services** continued to follow the same training programme as other local authority colleagues working directly with children and young people. Specific additional training included AIM training to address sexually harmful behaviour, sector specific assessment training on use of ASSET Plus, Motivational Interviewing and other behaviour change approaches.

Hywel Dda University Health Board also continued to deliver a broad range of safeguarding training. The Named Doctor delivered Level 3 Clinical Recognition of Abuse and Neglect (Child Safeguarding) training and offered this to staff from Social Services and Police. Lucy Faithfull Training was commissioned during the period and the Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children and Named Doctor continued to deliver PRUDiC training. The adult safeguarding team delivered a number of useful presentations,

the first at the University Health Boards Dementia Awareness Day on Safeguarding and Dementia, and the second at a lunch and learn session during National Safeguarding Week on Safeguarding and the older person.

Training was rolled out to Adult Heads of Service and service leads on the use of the Safeguarding Management Function with the Once for Wales management system, including the development of electronic support documents/videos.

In **Further Education**, safeguarding induction and refresher training continued to be delivered to staff. The Colleges in the Safeguarding Board region continued to commission Dai Durbridge, a leading safeguarding lawyer, to deliver training to college staff covering the learning from CYSUR 7 2018 relating to peer on peer abuse.

During the period, **Dyfed Powys Police** implemented joint safeguarding training with the Local Authority to improve working together in response to children and vulnerable adults. Lunch and learn sessions were introduced to improve multi-agency understanding of domestic abuse. The force also established an immersive training programme for SIOs dealing with Organised Immigration Crime, and provided frontline staff with information and scripts to ensure an effective response to human trafficking.





Some collective photos from National Safeguarding Week 2022



A Human Story – Honor (Swindon SAB)

- ▶ Repeated concerns about physical and financial abuse by Honor's son
- ▶ When Honor was interviewed at home, this was always in the presence of her son and she denied abuse
- ▶ When interviewed away from home, on her own, she began to disclose
- ▶ SAR found that coercive and controlling behaviour was not well understood
- ▶ Intervention was framed through a lens of a stressed carer rather than through a lens of domestic abuse

<p>Physical abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible physical injuries: bruising, broken bones, unexplained falls Pain physical health conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contusions/bruises • repeated urticarial rashes • psoriasis • hearing difficulties • limited mobility • chronic illness • poor overall health • poorly managed health conditions • self-harm 	<p>Financial abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling the individual's finances and denying them access to their own financial information Borrowing money and not paying it back Engendering an individual's care needs to access benefits or forcing access to benefits Going shopping for an individual and buying shopping for themselves with the individual's money without their permission Giving the individual an allowance or 'pocket money' Placing someone in financial hardship or debt Misuse of financial power of attorney
<p>Psychological and emotional abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal abuse: threats, criticism and put-downs Suggestion of impending lack of capacity to make decisions and to witness Isolating the older person from their family Preparatory grooming (threats or 'bribe') because of the impact on third parties, placing guilt on the older person to meet their needs 	<p>Sexual abuse</p> <p>Any form of forced or unwanted sexual activity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rape, sexual assault, unwanted or inappropriate touch • exposure to sexual language or pornography • gynaecological problems • STIs • pregnancy • anxiety • fear

Children's Commissioner for Wales
Ms Rocio Cifuentes

Aneurid gan Gwmilydd Plant Cymru
Mis Rocio Cifuentes

The Five Ways to Wellbeing



All Wales School In-Reach Services

- The programme aims to build the capacity (including skills, knowledge and confidence) in primary and secondary schools to support mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff. The project was aimed at achieving a service for support and supervision to children and young people who may have emotional health needs but do not meet criteria for CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), in order to enable schools to effectively respond to those needs.
- Delivery of this is through the principles of the three pillars:

All Wales School In-Reach Services

<p>Training for staff – A number of resources were utilised throughout the pilots in Wales including Youth Mental Health First Aid.</p>	<p>Rapid access to consultation – access to advice, signposting and strategies via email and ad hoc telephone or face to face consultation as required.</p>
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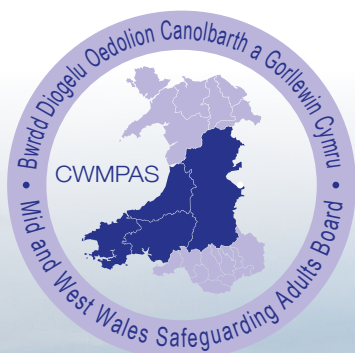
(m) How the Safeguarding Boards have implemented advice from Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board

The Chairs of CYSUR and CWMPAS and the Regional Safeguarding Board Manager and team continue to work closely with senior WG officials and the National Independent Safeguarding Board on areas of mutual interest, and where it is identified improvements can be made to professional safeguarding practice. This year has focused upon implementing advice linked to the Ukraine Crisis and ongoing post-pandemic work.

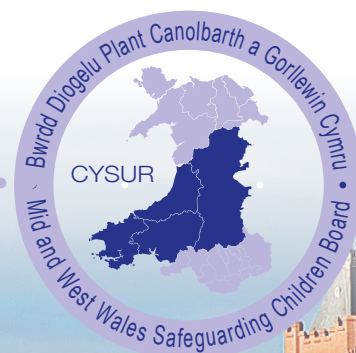
The Boards have supported requests from the NISB to provide information in relation to a second thematic review undertaken in relation to Child Practice Reviews. The Boards have continued to implement the National Action Plan for Child Sexual Abuse, although this is now formally closed. Significant support has been provided to the ongoing national work led by the NISB to develop a performance framework for safeguarding practice in Wales.

This year, the Boards have worked closely with Welsh Government on the ongoing development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review framework. Our Boards are represented on multiple sub-groups tasked with developing numerous aspects of the project, and are leading on the national training and development framework which will support the rollout of SUSR upon publication of the final statutory guidance. At the time of writing, the Boards await this publication, having contributed to the national consultation in respect of the draft statutory guidance which closed in June 2023.

The Boards remain actively engaged in all aspects of this project, with the view to ensuring the good practice established in respect of Child and Adult Practice Reviews will continue into the new framework once implemented.

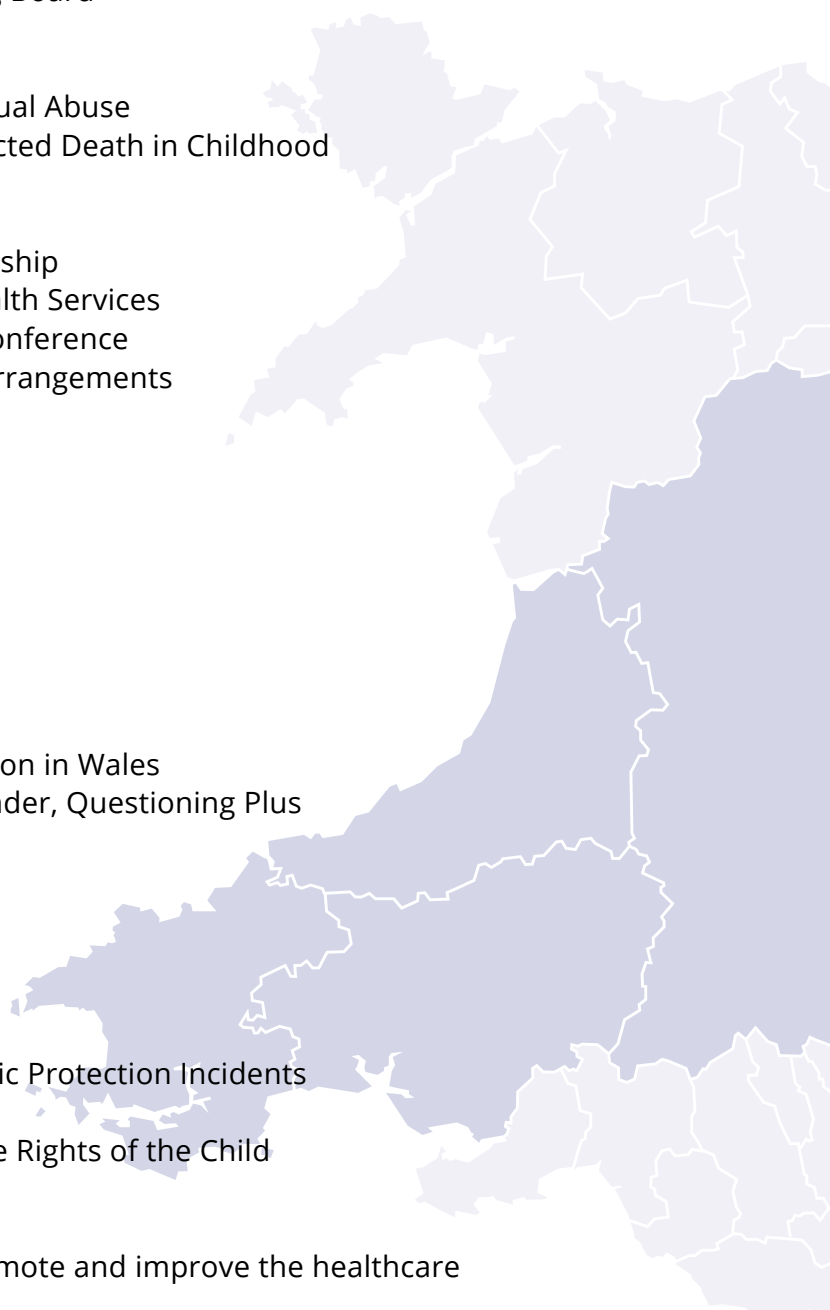


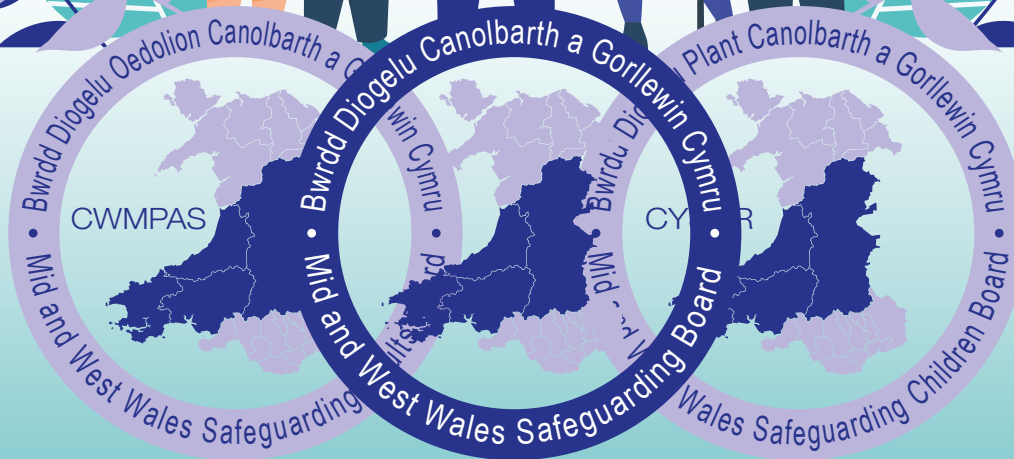
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Glossary

- **APR/CPR** – Adult Practice Review/Child Practice Review
- **MAPF** – Multi-Agency Professional Forum
- **VAWDASV** – Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- **MACSE/CSE** – Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation/ Child Sexual Exploitation
- **LOG** – Local Operational Group
- **NSGW** – National Safeguarding Week
- **ERW** – Education Regional Working
- **EHE** – Elective Home Education
- **NISB** – National Independent Safeguarding Board
- **DoLS** – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- **CIW** – Care Inspectorate Wales
- **IICSA** – Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- **PRUDIc** – Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Childhood
- **ACEs** – Adverse Childhood Experiences
- **PTHB** – Powys Teaching Health Board
- **CYPP** – Children and Young People Partnership
- **CAMHS** – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- **MARAC** – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- **MAPPA** – Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- **PHW** – Public Health Wales
- **NST** – National Safeguarding Team
- **WAST** – Welsh Ambulance Service Trust
- **DPP** – Dyfed-Powys Police
- **YJS** – Youth Justice Service
- **NPS** – National Probation Service
- **CRC** – Community Rehabilitation Company
- **SoS** – Signs of Safety
- **PSE** – Personal & Social Education
- **ADEW** – Association of Directors of Education in Wales
- **LGBTQ+** – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning Plus
- **DBS** – Disclosure and Barring Service
- **MARF** – Multi-Agency Referral Form
- **DHR** – Domestic Homicide Review
- **DA** – Domestic Abuse
- **SARC** – Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- **BAME** – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- **CSPPI** – Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents
- **YJB** – Youth Justice Board
- **UNCRC** – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **CSA/CSE** – Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation
- **CCE** – Child Criminal Exploitation
- **IRISi** – Social enterprise established to promote and improve the healthcare response to gender-based violence.
- **DSP** – Designated Safeguarding Person
- **SUSR** – Single Unified Safeguarding Review
- **IDVA** – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
- **ISVA** – Independent Sexual Violence Advisor





THE MID AND WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT

Produced by the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board

Julie Breckon
Regional Safeguarding
Board Manager



Rebecca Reynolds
Practice Review
Business Manager



Stuart Hicks
Board Business
Co-ordinator



Theresa Welch
Business
Development Officer



CYSUR@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
CWMPAS@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

www.cysur.wales

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 21ST MARCH 2024

**SUBJECT :
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to set out the roles and responsibilities of the Council workforce including elected members and to ensure everyone is clear on their obligations to promote the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO: -

Consider and comment on the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

Reason(s)

During the period July to August 2023, Wales Audit Office completed a review of Carmarthenshire County Council’s corporate safeguarding arrangements. One of the recommendations following the review was a revision of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covers all the council’s service areas.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. J. Tremlett, Health & Social Services Portfolio Holder

<p>Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Avril Bracey</p> <p>Report Author: Cathy Richards</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Adult Social Care</p> <p>Senior Manager Adult Safeguarding</p>	<p>E Mail Addresses:</p> <p>ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>CRichards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 21ST MARCH 2024

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This Corporate Safeguarding Policy provides a framework for every Directorate and Service area within and across the Council. It sets out individual and collective responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk and establishes a governance structure which has oversight of the arrangements to safeguard children and adults at risk. It lays out the methods by which the Council will be assured that it is fulfilling its duties and that effective practices are in place to support individuals to live their life free from harm, abuse and neglect in a wide range of settings including home, hospital, school, learning environments, peer/friendship groups, neighbourhoods, communities and online spaces. In Carmarthenshire Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES – Corporate Safeguarding Policy

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Avril Bracey**

Head of Adult Social Care

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

5. Risk Management Issues

Safeguarding is everyone's business. The Safeguarding Policy provides a framework for every directorate and service across the Council. It sets out responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and protects children and adults at risk. This is necessary for the Council to be assured it is fulfilling its duties in this regard.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
YES

Include any observations here

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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Corporate Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding People in Carmarthenshire

Updated November 2023



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Key Information

Statutory Director of Social Services	Jake Morgan
Lead Member Safeguarding	Cllr. Jane Tremlett Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services
Reporting a Concern Adult	0300 333 2222
Reporting a Concern Child	01554 742322
Out of Hours Adults & Children	0300 333 2222

1. Introduction

Safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk is a priority for Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC). For the purpose of this policy, Safeguarding is defined as 'Preventing and protecting children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers'.¹

'Corporate Safeguarding' describes the arrangements in place that a Council makes to ensure that all its employees play their part in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and adults who may be at risk of harm'.

'Everyone – employees, contractors, volunteers, and councillors all have a role to play in protecting children and adults from harm, whether this is inside or outside the home. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure that staff, volunteers, and contractors are aware of safeguarding in their day-to-day work for the Council and know when and how to raise concerns'.²

This Corporate Safeguarding Policy provides a framework for every Directorate and Service area within and across the Council. It sets out individual and collective responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk and establishes a governance structure which has oversight of the arrangements to safeguard children and adults at risk. It lays out the methods by which the Council will be assured that it is fulfilling its duties and that effective practices are in place to support individuals to live their life free from harm, abuse and neglect in a wide range of settings including home, hospital, school, learning environments, peer/friendship groups, neighbourhoods, communities and online spaces. **In Carmarthenshire Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

2. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to set out the roles and responsibilities of the Council workforce including elected members and to ensure everyone is clear on their obligations to promote the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk.

The policy will provide a framework to prevent, detect and report neglect and abuse in respect of children, young people, and adults at risk.

¹ Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2019) <https://www.safeguarding.wales/>

² WLGA (2021) Corporate Safeguarding Good Practice Guidance
<https://safeguardingboard.wales/wpcontent/uploads/sites/8/2022/05/WG-Corp-Safeguarding-Policy-Guidance.pdf>

The information within the policy will give assurances to the public, service users, councillors, employees, volunteers, and people working on behalf of the Council that there are sound arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults at risk.

The policy will provide Council employees and councillors with clear guidelines to identify when a child or adult may be at risk of harm and how to respond.

For the purpose of the policy, 'workforce' is defined as those engaged by the Council, including permanent and temporary employees, students, volunteers, workers employed by employment agencies, contractors and consultants.

The Policy covers the whole workforce and elected members, and whilst everyone will have varied levels of contact with children, young people and adults at risk, everyone should be aware of potential indicators of neglect and abuse and be clear about what to do if they have concerns.

The policy does not require the Council workforce to take on the responsibility of determining whether abuse/neglect is taking place, however, it is necessary for anyone with reasonable concern about the potential abuse or neglect of a child, young person or adult, to report that concern.

3. Principles

The Council adopts the following principles in relation to safeguarding children and adults;

- Create and maintain safe environments for children and adults with whom they are in contact.
- When risks are identified appropriate action is taken.
- Welfare of children and adults at the heart of policies and procedures
- Every child and adult has the right to be protected from harm, exploitation and abuse.
- Partnership working with children, families, carers and adults is at the heart of our work to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults.
- Respect the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of children and adults by listening to them and minimise any risks that may affect them.
- The whole workforce understands safeguarding and their responsibilities and accountabilities.
- Invest in early intervention and preventative work to try and avoid situations where abuse or allegations of abuse or harm may occur.
- All tendering and commissioning contracts explicitly detail the safeguarding obligations within this policy and are managed/monitored through the life of the contract.
- Challenging poor and unsafe practice.

This policy requires effective partnership working, co-operation and collaboration between all those involved with children, young people and adults at risk to ensure that the principles above are adopted.

4. Scope

Whilst specialist children and adult services lead on dealing with enquires regarding concerns that individuals may be at risk of harm, everyone has a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of adults and children who may be at risk whatever their role.

The policy covers all functions and services of the Council and applies to all Council employees, elected members, foster carers, individuals undertaking work placements, volunteers and anyone carrying out work on behalf of the Council, including independent contractors and consultants.

The Council also has a duty to ensure that other organisations commissioned to provide services on their behalf have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the well-being of adults and children. The Council will work to safeguard children and adults in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 which defines: A child at risk is a child who is experiencing or at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and;

- Has needs for care and support whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs.

An adult at risk is an adult who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect and;

- Has needs for care and support whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs and;
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or risk of it

5. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

Legislation which is contained within the various Acts and identified below enshrine the right to protection from abuse. The legal starting point in achieving this objective is professionals' duty to report allegations of abuse and neglect. The law also identifies the Local Authority as the lead organisation in making enquiries to identify whether an individual is at risk and in coordinating the response to protect. In practice this is never achieved in isolation or without clear leadership and accountability for the work, which is equally set out in law, along with the duty to cooperate and collaborate with others.

The Council recognises that good practice in safeguarding brings together all activity aimed at promoting safe practice and preventing abuse and neglect. For this reason,

and because the law, policy, guidance and regulations change from time to time, it is impossible to provide an exhaustive list of relevant legislation and associated documents but the most significant are listed below:

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- Education Act 2002 – plus “Keeping Learners Safe” – The role of local authorities governing bodies and proprietors of independent schools under the Education Act 2002
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Housing Act 2004
- Licensing Act 2003
- Human Rights Act 1998
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- UN Principles for Older Persons and Human Rights
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

The Council will ensure that practice is compliant with the following policies and procedures:

- Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and related Codes of Practice, Guidance and Regulations.
- Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 5 – Handling Individual Cases to Protect Children at Risk³
- Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 6 – Handling Individual Cases to Protect Adults at Risk⁴
- WLGA Corporate Safeguarding Good Practice Guidance⁵
- Carmarthenshire County Council, Whistleblowing policy
- Carmarthenshire County Council DBS Policy
- Carmarthenshire County Council Behavioural Standards Policy
- Carmarthenshire County Council Code of Conduct

Employees and councillors should also act in accordance with the relevant professional Code of Conduct. The intention is that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy will supplement and not replace any responsibilities already set out in

³ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/working-together-to-safeguard-people-volume-5-handling-individual-cases-to-protect-children-at-risk.pdf>

⁴ [volume-6-handling-individual-cases-to-protect-adults-at-risk.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/working-together-to-safeguard-people-volume-6-handling-individual-cases-to-protect-adults-at-risk.pdf)

⁵ [Download.aspx \(wlga.wales\)](https://www.wlga.wales/Download.aspx)

legislation, policy or guidance set out above or elsewhere. Those using this policy must be mindful of changes to legislation, guidance, policy and regulations that may have occurred post-publication of this document.

6. Strategic Context

At a strategic level, this approach to safeguarding is underpinned by the council's core values:

- One Team
- Integrity
- Customer First
- Excellence
- Take Responsibility
- Listening

and supports the delivery of the Council's 4 wellbeing objectives as set out within the Council's Corporate Plan.

- Start Well
- Live Well
- Age Well
- Healthy, Safe and prosperous Environment

At an all-Wales level, keeping people safe contributes to the Wellbeing goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales⁶.

7. Governance

At a corporate level, the responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the Council is delegated to the **Corporate Safeguarding Group**.

All Heads of Service have a safeguarding role and there will be a safeguarding lead Head for each directorate who will attend the corporate safeguarding group. The Council will discharge its strategic statutory safeguarding responsibilities through Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in each Council Directorate. In Carmarthenshire Council, all Heads of Service assume the DSL role. The DSLs will represent their Directorate at the Corporate Safeguarding Group and act as a conduit for the dissemination of safeguarding information to and from the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

The Corporate Safeguarding Group has reporting responsibilities to the Corporate Management Team, Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet

⁶[150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf \(futuregenerations.wales\)](#)

Corporate Safeguarding Group (Safe Governance)

The Corporate Safeguarding Group provides 'Safe Governance' and, through an agreed work programme, developed and monitored by its associated corporate safeguarding delivery groups, and through close partnership working aims to ensure the council fulfils its statutory safeguarding duties. It will ensure all service areas have robust safeguarding arrangements in place which are regularly audited and monitored.

Observations of Cabinet, Scrutiny, Internal Audit and external regulators and auditors will steer and influence the priorities of the Corporate Safeguarding Group. Under the Corporate Safeguarding Group Terms of Reference, Designated Safeguarding Leads are 'responsible for obtaining from and disseminating back into their service areas information and actions; they will be accountable for the completion of actions and tasks attributed to their service area'.

The Corporate Safeguarding Group will publish an Annual Report which will identify changing themes, learning and strategies implemented to address those changes, draw attention to the Council's performance in complying with the Corporate Safeguarding Policy, and include an audit of each service areas' safeguarding performance.' The report will be submitted to the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee via the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

The Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Group will notify the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board of any urgent matters arising or emerging themes which may have regional, multi-agency relevance.

Membership of the Corporate Safeguarding Group will consist of the following officers-

- **Chair** -Director of Communities (Statutory Director of Social Services)
- Lead Member for Corporate Safeguarding (Health and Social Services)
- Deputy Chief Executive - People Management and Performance
- Director of Education and Children's Services
- Head of Children and Family Services
- Head of Adult Social Care
- Child Protection Service Manager (LADO)
- Adult Protection Senior Manager (LADO)
- Directorate Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)
- Delivery Group Chair - Safe Partnerships
- Delivery Group Chair - Safe Workforce & workplace
- Delivery Group Chair - Safe Practice & Performance

Designated business support will be provided. Other Officers will be co-opted as required and agreed by the group.

Members of the Corporate Safeguarding Group will take an active role in ensuring it meets its objectives. Each group member will champion safeguarding within their directorate and the wider organisation. They will be responsible for raising

awareness of corporate safeguarding responsibilities and ensuring high levels of compliance.

Each group member will have urgent access to the Statutory Director of Social Services, Assistant Chief Executive or Lead Member for Corporate Safeguarding if required.

The Corporate Safeguarding Group is supported by three Delivery Groups each with their own key areas of focus. The delivery groups will meet on a quarterly basis and will regularly report to the Corporate Safeguarding Group. The groups will be chaired by a senior officer who will ensure robust oversight of the priority areas and associated action plans and performance measures. Some of the key areas of focus are listed below:

Safe Workplace/Workforce Delivery Group

- Safeguarding as everyone's responsibility
- Safe recruitment
- Training needs analysis
- Training Delivery
- Workforce and Workplace policies
- DBS Policy/checks
- External Contracts/Volunteers
- Roles and responsibilities
- Awareness raising/communication
- Reporting abuse neglect

Safe Practice and Performance Delivery Group

- Safeguarding Policies
- Performance measures
- Audits/inspection
- Reviewing and Monitoring
- Embedding shared Learning
- Sharing information
- Improvement actions/Good practice
- Early intervention/Prevention
- Child/Adults voice/making safeguarding personal.
- Advocacy
- Service user involvement/feedback
- Communication

Safe Partnerships Delivery Group

- Links to MAWW Regional Safeguarding Board
- Links to Regional Partnership Board
- Links to VAWDASV Strategic Board
- Links with statutory partners
- Links with CSP/Contest Board
- Multi Agency Policies and Procedures
- Multi Agency Training
- Multi Agency Audits
- Multi Agency Performance and Reviews

Regional Safeguarding Boards

In addition, the Council has a role as Lead Partner and member of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board. (CYSUR and CWMPAS). The Board is a multi-agency statutory partnership which works to protect and safeguard adults and children. They have responsibility to:

- **Protect children who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and to prevent children from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.**
- **Protect adults who, have care and support needs (whether the local authority is meeting any of those needs), and are experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect. To prevent those adults from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.**

The Board has a statutory duty to develop an Annual Plan on a regional basis and has an overall responsibility for challenging relevant agencies in relation to the measures that are in place to protect children and adults at risk.

CYSUR is the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Children Board. It is an acronym for Child and Youth Safeguarding; Unifying the Region and is also the Welsh word for Reassurance. CYSUR is an amalgamation of the former Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

CWMPAS is the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Adults Board. It is an acronym for Collaborative Working and Maintaining Partnership in Adult Safeguarding and is also the Welsh word for Scope. CWMPAS also stretches across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

CYSUR and CWMPAS are collectively known as the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board.

Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group (LOG)

Reporting to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board, the Local Operational Group (LOG) is the operational multi-agency body for safeguarding adults and children in Carmarthenshire.

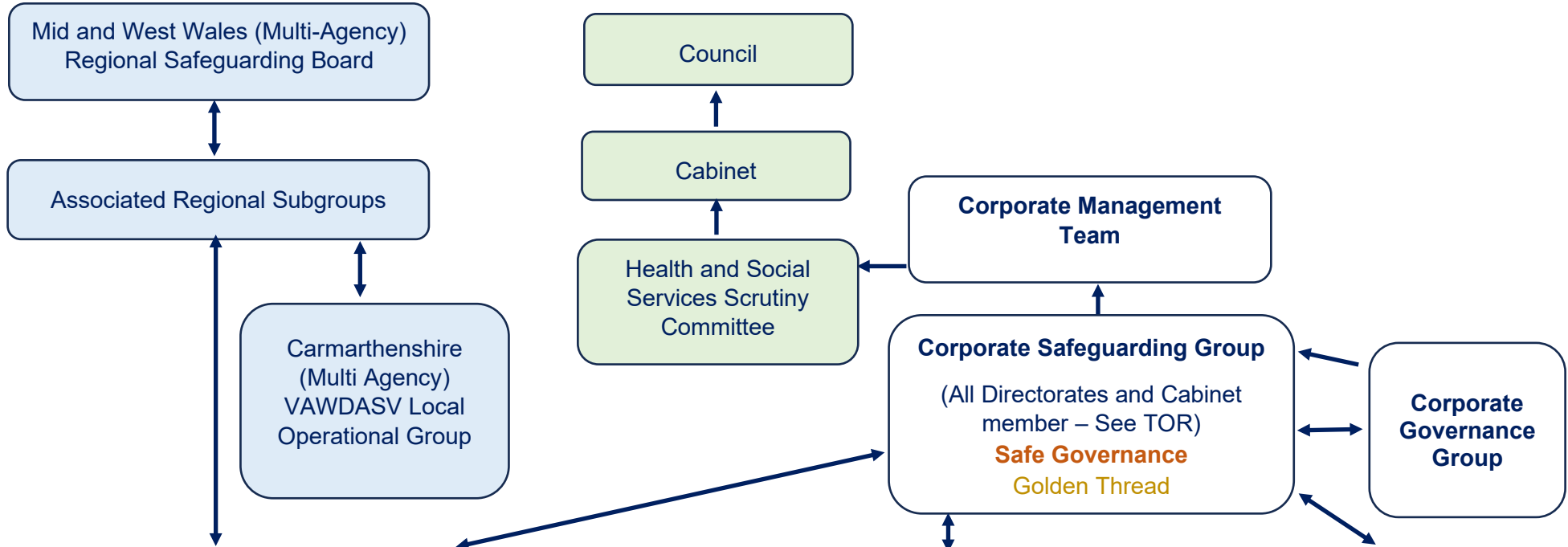
Membership of the LOG consists of managers and practitioners in Social Services, Education, Higher and Further Education, Health, Police, Probation and the Voluntary Sector. Part of the LOG's remit is to work collaboratively to ensure joint safeguarding arrangements operate effectively in Carmarthenshire.

Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee

The role of the Scrutiny Committee is to review and scrutinise decisions and make reports or recommendations in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions whether by the Cabinet or another part of the Council.

The scrutiny committee will provide constructive challenge to the Council about its safeguarding activity in an impartial and independent manner.

Corporate Safeguarding Governance Structure



Safe Partnerships
Carmarthenshire (Multi Agency)
Safeguarding Local Operational Group

Key Areas of Focus:

- Multi Agency safeguarding systems and processes
- Inform multi-agency safeguarding practice within a local context
- Analyse Safeguarding Quality Assurance information- good practice/improvements
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Training
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Audits
- Adult /Child Practice Reviews/MAPF's
- Links - Multi Agency Regional Boards

Safe Practice and Performance

Key Areas of Focus:

- Local Safeguarding Practice
- Local Safeguarding Policies
- Local Performance measures
- Local Safeguarding Audits/Inspections
- Embedding Shared Learning Locally
- Information Sharing/local initiatives & Interventions
- Improvement actions/Good practice
- Early intervention/Prevention
- Child/Adult Voice/Making Safeguarding Personal
- Advocacy
- Service User Involvement/Feedback

Safe Workforce & Workplace

Key Areas of Focus:

- Safeguarding as everyone's responsibility.
- Safe Recruitment
- Training Needs Analysis
- Training Delivery
- Workforce and Workplace Policies
- DBS Policy/Checks
- External Contracts/Volunteers
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Awareness Raising/Communication.
- Reporting Abuse/Neglect
- Persons in a Position of Trust

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Social Services (Adult and Children's Services) have the responsibility for receiving and responding to concerns about Children and Adult Services have the responsibility for receiving and responding to concerns about adults at risk. However, all staff in the Council have a responsibility for safeguarding.

All employees, councillors and volunteers have the duty to report concerns about abuse and neglect. This is not a matter of personal choice.

Statutory Director of Social Services

This role as defined by the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014 has the final and indivisible responsibility for safeguarding issues to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. This role is fulfilled by Carmarthenshire Council's Director of Communities.

The Statutory Director of Social Services has legal accountability for ensuring the Council has appropriate safeguarding measures in place to protect children, young people, and adults at risk and is the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

The Director is responsible for reporting the effectiveness of these arrangements on a corporate level to the Chief Executive, Senior Management Team, Cabinet, and Council.

The statutory Director of Social Services is the point of contact for all other Directors to report serious safeguarding concerns, which may occur in their service area.

The Statutory Director of Social Services is responsible for ensuring appropriate action is taken including reporting to the Chief Executive and Lead Cabinet Member as necessary. Where appropriate areas of concern may be reported to the Regional Safeguarding Board.

The Chief Executive

The Chief Executive will ensure that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place, including policies and procedures, that those policies and procedures are implemented, that there are effective governance arrangements in place and that all statutory requirements are being met.

Through one-to-one meetings with the statutory Director of Social Services, the Chief Executive is kept informed of relevant safeguarding issues.

Council Leader

The Council Leader has a clear commitment to safeguarding, however, the principle responsibility for safeguarding children and adults and corporate safeguarding is included in the portfolio of the lead cabinet member for Health and Social Services.

The Council Leader is responsible overall for providing political leadership to ensure the Council fulfils its duties and responsibilities for safeguarding.

Lead Cabinet Member (Health and Social Services)

The Lead Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services acts as the lead for all aspects of Corporate Safeguarding.

The Lead member for Health and Social Services will have regular one to one meeting, with the **Statutory director for Social Services** and is kept informed and updated on relevant corporate safeguarding matters. They will also attend the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

The Lead Member will be briefed on any sensitive cases that may be considered for Child or Adult Practice Reviews or may otherwise become a matter of public interest.

The Lead Member will work closely with, and take professional advice from, a range of Senior Officers within the Authority, as appropriate. The Lead Member will liaise and consult with other Cabinet Members on individual matters likely to affect their portfolios as set out in the Council's Scheme of Delegation

Cabinet Members

Cabinet Members will have regular meetings with directors and Heads of Service to ensure there is appropriate awareness and understanding of any corporate safeguarding matters within their respective Portfolio areas.

The Statutory Director of Social Services will brief relevant cabinet members on the effectiveness of adult protection/child protection arrangements and sensitive cases, which may become the subject of an adult practice or child practice review or may otherwise become a matter of public interest.

All Elected Members

All elected members must familiarise themselves with this Policy, access training on their responsibilities and seek advice from the Director of Social Services if they are unclear about their responsibility for safeguarding.

The Corporate Safeguarding Policy will be communicated as part of the mandatory induction programme for all new elected members.

All elected members will be expected to attend training in respect of safeguarding children and adults at risk, Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and any additional safeguarding training priorities.

Elected members' duties will be to keep children, young people and adults who are at risk, safe by:

- Ensuring that everyone understands their safeguarding responsibilities and accountabilities.

- Contributing to the creation and maintenance of a safe environment.
- Promoting safe practice and challenging poor or unsafe practice.
- Identifying where there are concerns and taking appropriate action to address them.

Directors

Directors are responsible for ensuring and assuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within their respective directorates.

They are responsible for reporting any serious safeguarding concerns that may arise in their directorates to the Statutory Director of Social Services. They will brief their respective Cabinet Members on any safeguarding issues and on the general effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and ensure that a departmental lead plays a full role within the governance arrangements of the authority.

Directors are responsible for ensuring the workforce within their Directorates are appropriately trained to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.

Directors are responsible for ensuring that they have safeguarding operational procedures in place and Safeguarding Self-Evaluation Audits are undertaken for the relevant service areas within their Directorate.

Directors are required to report to the Corporate Safeguarding Group on safeguarding risks in their service area and the effectiveness of their directorate safeguarding arrangements.

Heads of Service

All directorates will appoint a Head of Service as a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** for their respective service area. Through their Management Teams they will be jointly responsible for ensuring that all the statutory requirements in terms of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults receive due consideration.

All Heads of Service must ensure that where those posts are designated as regulated activity, their staff are checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) procedures and conform to the Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults.

All Heads of Service must establish arrangements to ensure that staff comply with the requirement of this policy.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Everyone should know who to contact in their organisation for advice and they should not hesitate to discuss their concerns no matter how insignificant they may appear. Whilst every effort should be made to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, anyone can contact social services directly. Every service area within the Council is required to nominate a Designated Safeguarding Lead for dealing with

safeguarding children and adult issues. In Carmarthenshire this is a Head of Service. They are responsible for:

- Acting as an overarching and key source of advice and support for other staff in their Service on all safeguarding issues
- Ensuring robust arrangements are in place for staff to access day to day practice advice and support for safeguarding from their line managers
- Support staff to refer or take the lead in reporting safeguarding concerns to Social Services as appropriate
- Being familiar with the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures as they relate to Children's and Adult's safeguarding
- Ensuring the operational procedures for safeguarding within the directorate are compliant with legislation and statutory guidance and are issued to all staff
- Representing their service area on the Corporate Safeguarding Group
- Ensuring compliance with policies and guidance within their service area and reporting this to the Corporate Safeguarding Group
- Attending relevant training
- Ensuring members of the workforce within their Services attend training at levels appropriate to their roles and functions and maintain management information in relation to attendance on training
- Ensuring safeguarding responsibilities are highlighted through staff induction processes, team meetings, supervision and staff briefings
- Ensuring safeguarding audits are completed regularly

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

All Local Authorities will have an identified senior manager responsible for safeguarding who is accountable and responsible for allegations against professionals and those in a position of trust. The title given to the role is the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Carmarthenshire Council has a LADO for Children's services and a LADO for Adult Services. The LADO will also work with children's and adults' services to give advice and guidance on safeguarding.

Line Managers and Supervisors

Every line manager/supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the workforce for whom they are responsible (including agency, consultants, and volunteers) receive the training they need, in accordance with the [National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Standards](#), proportionate to their role and responsibilities.

Managers must proactively analyse where risks to safeguarding are most likely to arise in their service(s) and ensure they have appropriate operational procedures and supporting systems in place to manage these well.

They must ensure safeguarding is part of every employee/volunteer's induction and identify anyone who is likely to come into contact with children or adults at risk as part of their role. They must ensure that where required, DBS checks are undertaken at the appropriate level.

Safeguarding should be a standardised item for staff supervision and team meetings.

Managers must ensure that all employees/volunteers are aware of how to report safeguarding concerns and to whom and that they are aware of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

Managers are responsible for ensuring employees/volunteers are aware that they must conduct themselves in a manner that safeguards and promotes the wellbeing of children and adults at risk.

Managers must provide employees/volunteers with guidance about responding to safeguarding concerns as required.

Managers must ensure that contracts and agreements satisfy the Council's requirements for training, induction and guidance and that ongoing monitoring is in place to ensure continued consistency with the contract requirements.

Service Commissioners/Contract Managers

Commissioners will be responsible for ensuring that contractual arrangements specify responsibilities in relation to safeguarding in accordance with the Policy and existing commissioning policy.

When commissioning services, careful consideration must be given as to what safeguarding measures are required of contractors or service providers. For example:

- DBS checks at the appropriate level – it is expected that DBS checks must be in place for any commissioned transport services
- Safeguarding policies
- Safeguarding training
- Ethical supply chain practice
- Modern slavery policy.

This would apply to services where contractors are likely to come into contact with children, young people or adults at risk and can form part of the contract management arrangements.

Contract Managers (who may also be commissioners) have responsibility to ensure that the proposals and requirements set out in contracts or Service Level Agreements are adhered to by providers on an ongoing basis through the term of the contract and to ensure that they are aware of any new developments e.g. changes in legislation or guidance and communicated through contract management events.

Contractors are also responsible for informing relevant managers of the Council about any concerns they may have, and to report safeguarding concerns to Adult or Childrens Social Services department.

All Staff/Officers

Every service area of the Council has a role to play and must take full ownership of their safeguarding responsibilities. The Council expects every member of the workforce to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of any child or adult at risk involved in Council activity and report their concerns to Social Services.

Designated Child Protection Teacher (DCPT)

The DCPT has responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. All schools will also have their own child protection policy. The policy will identify the key personnel. Any concerns around safeguarding should be reported to the DCPT or the deputy in their DCPO's absence.

Although the Designated Child Protection Teacher is the person with responsibility for child protection and safeguarding, if a member of staff has concerns that a matter has not been addressed, they can make a direct referral to Social Services.

Corporate Safeguarding Lead

The Corporate Safeguarding lead will work with the Council's statutory Director for Social Services to ensure there are effective arrangements to safeguard and protect children and adults at risk across the Council. Specifically to:

- Monitor the implementation of and compliance with this Policy across the Council
- Ensure that there is a corporate safeguarding training programme in place
- Set out clear lines of accountability.
- Ensure that there are Designated Safeguarding Leads within each service area.
- Ensure that annual service reports are prepared.
- Ensure that the annual corporate safeguarding report for Scrutiny is delivered.

9. Recognising and Responding to Concerns

All employees should be alert to the possibility of abuse. An individual may become concerned about the safety or wellbeing of an individual in a number of ways:

- The person may tell you.
- The person may say something that worries you.
- A third party may voice concerns.
- You may see something – an incident or an injury or other sign.

Staff, volunteers and contractors can be the 'eyes and ears' of the Council, as they go about their day-to-day jobs, because safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Examples of these are:

- Housing Officers – several reviews into children and adults being harmed have identified the importance of Housing Officers, who have a unique insight into the lives of families and can spot signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Waste Management – refuse collectors go to the same houses and communities every week and can notice when a child might be suffering or at risk of abuse
- Parks and Gardens – staff or contractors can be alert to places where children and young people congregate, and identify concerning behaviours that might indicate some form of abuse or exploitation is occurring
- Environmental Health – in the course of their day-to-day work inspecting premises, officers can consider safeguarding issues they may come across, in licensed premises, hotels or people's homes.

Any person responsible for, or working with, children or adults at risk in any capacity, whether paid or unpaid, has a duty of care towards them both legally and contractually and as a responsible moral citizen. This includes a duty to behave in a manner that does not threaten, harm, or put people at risk of harm from others.

All parts of the workforce have a responsibility to conduct themselves in their private lives in a manner that does not compromise their position in the workplace or call into question their suitability to work with children or adults at risk. This is explicit in the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (section 5)

The duty to report is a legal requirement and failure to report appropriately will be considered a serious matter.

It is not the responsibility of any one individual to determine whether or not abuse has taken place or if an individual is at risk of harm; however, they do have a responsibility to act if they have any concerns.

Protecting children and adults is not just the role of Councils, it requires effective multi agency working and the cooperation of the wider community and partner agencies, to develop and implement co-ordinated activity, using local evidence and information, appropriately shared. Councils have a unique local and community leadership and advocacy role, working alongside the community, police and other public bodies, to ensure that children, young people and adults remain safe in the places where they live and meet. Abuse should not be perceived as occurring solely in the family home. Risk and harm outside the family home also needs to be understood and responded to, to enable the creation of safe spaces for the people of Carmarthenshire.

10. Dealing With a Safeguarding Concern

- Stay calm and listen carefully, offer reassurance to the child, young person or adult.
- Use reflective listening and ask open non-judgemental questions – (what, who, where, when).
- Do not promise the child or adult confidentiality.
- Record (in the persons own words).
- Seek further advice from your DSL or social services if required.
- Explain to the parents/individual/carer/family that you are referring your concern and gain consent to do so, **unless by doing so you think you will put the child or adult at increased risk of harm.**

11. Reporting a Concern

If you have any worries regarding the safety of a child, young person, or adult, then you must notify your Designated Safeguarding Lead person and/or make contact with Children or Adult Services Central Referral Teams.

The Central Referral Teams are the initial point of contact for people seeking services and activities for children, families, and adults locally or for advice and guidance on how to get extra support, or to raise an issue or concern around the welfare of a child, young person or adult.

Staff within these teams will ensure any cross-boundary issues are explored and make enquiries as required as part of their duties.

If a concern is about a child, contact the Children Services Referral Team (Children's Services) on 01554 742322.

If the concern is about an adult, contact the Adult Services Advice and Assessment Team (Delta Wellbeing) on 0300 333 2222.

The Social Services Out-of-Hours Team should be contacted on 0300 333 2222 if the issue arises after 5.00pm, Monday to Friday and on weekends and Bank Holidays.

The Police must be contacted immediately if a child or adult is in danger, or a crime has been committed.

Employees may also contact the **Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO)**

Children - Rebecca Robertshaw, RRobertshaw@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Adults - Cathy Richards, CRichards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Or the **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Avril Bracey- Communities, ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Jan Coles – Education and Children, JColes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Paul Thomas – Chief Executives, PRThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Helen Pugh – Corporate Services, HLPugh@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Jackie Edwards – Place and Infrastructure, JMEdwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

12. Monitoring and Review

Carmarthenshire County Council has an effective governance framework. The Corporate Safeguarding Group will publish an Annual Report which will draw attention to the Council's performance in complying with the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

The report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team, Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet and will provide the opportunity for challenge on the work undertaken.

The Corporate Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually.

Appendix 1

Categories and indicators of abuse and neglect- Children

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Section 197(1) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 specifies the categories of abuse which are:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological/Emotional
- Neglect
- Financial

Financial abuse has been added as new category for Children under the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect – (All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008)

A child is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts harm or fails to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency child protection plan.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or caregiver fabricates or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, for example by witnessing domestic abuse within the home or being bullied, or, the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter and

clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs. In addition, neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

Child Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

See also VAWDASV

Safeguarding children in education

All schools will have an identified a Designated Child Protection Teacher (DCPT) with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. All schools will also have their own child protection policy. The policy will identify the key personnel. Any concerns around safeguarding should be reported to the DCPT or the deputy in their DCPT's absence.

Staff should ensure they keep full and accurate records of their concerns, including details of any disclosures, and should include action taken e.g. 'referred to DCPT'. Record keeping is vitally important when dealing with safeguarding and records should be clear, precise and distinguish fact and opinion. Records must always include the name of the child, date of incident/concern, full name of the person making the record and details of action taken and people spoken to.

Although the Designated Child Protection Teacher is the person with responsibility for child protection and safeguarding, if a member of staff has concerns that a matter has not been addressed, they can make a referral themselves. Remember Child Protection is everyone's responsibility, and any individual can make a referral to children's services assessment team. Professionals cannot remain anonymous when making referrals.

Categories and indicators of abuse – Adults at Risk

Section 197(1) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides definitions of 'abuse' and 'neglect'.

Abuse means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse (and includes abuse taking place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place).

Neglect means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being (for example, an impairment of the person's health).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples for each of the categories of abuse and neglect:

Physical abuse

Hitting, slapping, over or misuse of medication, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Sexual abuse

Rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not or could not consent and/or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological abuse

Threats of harm or abandonment, coercive control humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks (coercive control is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim).

Neglect

Failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk-taking, failure to give prescribed medication, failure to assist in personal hygiene or the provision of food, shelter, clothing, emotional neglect.

Financial abuse

In relation to people who may have needs for care and support and includes:

- an unexpected change to their will.
- sudden sale or transfer of the home
- unusual activity in a bank account
- sudden inclusion of additional names on a bank account
- signature does not resemble the person's normal signature
- reluctance or anxiety by the person when discussing their financial affairs
- giving a substantial gift to a carer or other third party
- a sudden interest by a relative or other third party in the welfare of the person.
- bills remaining unpaid
- complaints that personal property is missing

- a decline in personal appearance that may indicate that diet and personal requirements are being ignored
- deliberate isolation from friends and family giving another person total control of their decision-making.

Any of the above forms of abuse could be motivated by the personal characteristics of the victim. This may make it a hate crime. These involve a criminal offence perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's actual or perceived disability, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and transgender.

Physical abuse - hitting, slapping, over or misuse of medication, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Types of physical abuse

- Assault, hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, hair-pulling, biting, pushing
- Rough handling
- Scalding and burning
- Physical punishments
- Inappropriate or unlawful use of restraint
- Making someone purposefully uncomfortable (e.g. opening a window and removing blankets)
- Involuntary isolation or confinement
- Misuse of medication (e.g. over-sedation)
- Forcible feeding or withholding food
- Unauthorised restraint, restricting movement (e.g. tying someone to a chair)

Possible indicators of physical abuse

- No explanation for injuries or inconsistency with the account of what happened
- Injuries are inconsistent with the person's lifestyle
- Bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps
- Frequent injuries
- Unexplained falls
- Subdued or changed behavior in the presence of a particular person
- Signs of malnutrition
- Failure to seek medical treatment or frequent changes of GP

Sexual abuse - rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not or could not consent and/or was pressured into consenting.

Indicators of sexual abuse can be both physical and behavioral, including:

- New emergence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- New difficulty sitting or walking
- Pelvic injury
- Bruises on inner thighs or around the genital area
- Anal or genital pain, bleeding, or irritation

- Bloody, torn, or stained undergarments
- Extreme agitation
- Withdrawal from social interactions
- Panic attacks, or emerging post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms
- Inappropriate, aggressive, or unusual sexual behavior
- Suicide attempts

Psychological abuse - threats of harm or abandonment, coercive control, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks (coercive control is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, intimidation, or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim)

Types of psychological or emotional abuse

- Enforced social isolation – preventing someone accessing services, educational and social opportunities and seeing friends
- Removing mobility or communication aids or intentionally leaving someone unattended when they need assistance
- Preventing someone from meeting their religious and cultural needs
- Preventing the expression of choice and opinion
- Failure to respect privacy
- Preventing stimulation, meaningful occupation or activities
- Intimidation, coercion, harassment, use of threats, humiliation, bullying, swearing or verbal abuse
- Addressing a person in a patronising or infantilising way
- Threats of harm or abandonment
- Cyber bullying

Possible indicators of psychological or emotional abuse

- An air of silence when a particular person is present
- Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person
- Insomnia
- Low self-esteem
- Uncooperative and aggressive behavior
- A change of appetite, weight loss/gain
- Signs of distress: tearfulness, anger
- Apparent false claims, by someone involved with the person, to attract unnecessary treatment

Neglect - failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk-taking, failure to give prescribed medication, failure to assist in personal hygiene or the provision of food, shelter, clothing; emotional neglect. (See also self-neglect)

Types of neglect

- Failure to provide or allow access to food, shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity, personal or medical care.
- Providing care in a way that the person dislikes.
- Failure to administer medication as prescribed Refusal of access to visitors.
- Not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs.
- Not taking account of educational, social and recreational needs.
- Ignoring or isolating the person.
- Preventing the person from making their own decisions.
- Preventing access to glasses, hearing aids, dentures, etc.
- Failure to ensure privacy and dignity.

Possible indicators of neglect:

- Poor environment – dirty or unhygienic.
- Poor physical condition and/or personal hygiene.
- Pressure sores or ulcers.
- Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss.
- Untreated injuries and medical problems.
- Inconsistent or reluctant contact with medical and social care organisations.
- Accumulation of untaken medication.
- Uncharacteristic failure to engage in social interaction.
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing.

Financial abuse *in relation to people who may have needs for care and support -*

Possible indicators of this include:

- unexpected change to their will.
- sudden sale or transfer of the home.
- unusual activity in a bank account.
- sudden inclusion of additional names on a bank account.
- signature does not resemble the person's normal signature.
- reluctance or anxiety by the person when discussing their financial affairs.
- giving a substantial gift to a carer or other third party.
- a sudden interest by a relative or other third party in the welfare of the person
- bills remaining unpaid.
- complaints that personal property is missing.
- a decline in personal appearance that may indicate that diet and personal requirements are being ignored.
- deliberate isolation from friends and family giving another person total control of their decision-making.

Self-Neglect

Capacity is a highly significant factor in both understanding and intervening in situations of self-neglect.

Self-neglect can happen as a result of an individual's choice of lifestyle, or the person may:

- be depressed,
- have poor health,
- have cognitive (memory or decision making) problems or be physically unable to care for self.

Types of self-neglect

- Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety.
- Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings.
- Inability to avoid self-harm.
- Failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs.
- Inability or unwillingness to manage one's personal affairs.

Indicators of self-neglect:

- Very poor personal hygiene.
- Unkempt appearance.
- Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter.
- Malnutrition and/or dehydration.
- Living in squalid or unsanitary conditions.
- Neglecting household maintenance.
- Hoarding.
- Collecting a large number of animals in inappropriate conditions.
- Non-compliance with health or care services.
- Inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury.

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

A range of forms of violence are recognised within the term VAWDASV. Many of these terms are used as umbrella terms, and are not mutually exclusive, these include:

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Gender based violence constitutes violence that is directed against a person based on gender. It represents a breach of the fundamental right to life, liberty, security, dignity, equality between women and men, non-discrimination and physical and mental integrity (Council of Europe, 2011).

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Intimate partner violence is behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, economic abuse and controlling behaviours (World Health Organisation, 2017)

Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)

The term domestic violence and abuse is used to refer to violence in a domestic setting, including intimate partner violence, but the term can also encompass child to

parent violence or abuse of older people or abuse by any member of a family or household.

Sexual Violence and Abuse (SVA)

Sexual violence, sexual assault or harassment involves any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting (World Health Organisation, 2012b). Sexual violent acts can take place in a range of settings and can include rape within marriage or dating relationships; rape by strangers; sexual abuse of children; forced prostitution or the trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation and sexual harassment (Krug et al., 2002).

Coercive Control

Coercive control is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim. This controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour (Women's Aid, 2020b). Coercive control often involves physical violence and sexual coercion and there is evidence that cases involving coercive control are more likely to result in serious harm, including domestic homicide, than cases that involve discrete acts of physical violence (Myhill and Hohl, 2019)

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with some learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is recognised as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse, a form of modern slavery, and a serious abuse of human rights.

Child Marriage

In relation to child marriage, any child (under the age of 18) is considered incapable of freely choosing to marry. Complications arise when there is legal entitlement for a child to marry earlier (from 16 years of age) with parental consent, as in the UK.

So called Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

For some communities, the concept of 'honour' is deemed to be extremely important, to compromise a family's 'honour' is to bring dishonour and shame and this can have severe consequences. The punishment for bringing dishonour can be emotional abuse, physical abuse, family disownment and in some cases even murder. In most so-called honour-based abuse cases there are multiple perpetrators.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, other injury to, or alteration of the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons.

Modern Slavery/Human trafficking

Modern slavery is a serious crime that violates human rights. These crimes include holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after. Victims are forced, threatened, or deceived into situations of subjugation, degradation and

control which undermine their personal identity and sense of self. Within this, human trafficking involves the forced exploitation of others, typically for sexual or labour purposes.

Although human trafficking often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of modern slavery within your own country. It is possible to be a victim even if consent has been given to be moved.

Children cannot give consent to being exploited therefore the element of coercion or deception does not need to be present to prove an offence.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual conduct. This included having received unwanted and or offensive sexually explicit emails or SMS messages, or offensive and/or inappropriate advances on social networking sites

Adolescent Dating Violence (ADV).

Adolescent dating violence (ADV), also called adolescent relationship abuse refers to emotional, physical or sexual abuse of a dating or sexual partner where at least one person is an adolescent.

Hate Crime

A Hate Incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.

Further information on Hate Crime (including how to report a hate crime) can be found on the Carmarthenshire Community Safety Partnership website: [Hate Crime](#).

Appendix 2

Carmarthenshire County Council Corporate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit Tool

Introduction

In accordance with Carmarthenshire's Corporate Safeguarding Policy, all organisations that provide services for or work with adults at risk, children, young people and families are expected to conduct an audit of their safeguarding practices, based on a process of self-evaluation.

Directors will be responsible for ensuring that they have safeguarding operational procedures in place and undertake an annual audit of their directorate using the Corporate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit Tool.

The following self-assessment framework is set out in three sections covering three identified standards underpinning 'safeguarding' and requires each service area to think about their own practices and procedures within their relevant settings. It is designed to give an understanding of how the theme of 'safeguarding' is being successfully achieved in a particular service area currently, and how this might be developed.

In addition, the self- assessment gives the Council with an overview of safeguarding practices across the entirety of its service areas and can ensure that safeguarding compliancy and duties are being effectively met, the data from the annual self evaluations will be integral to informing planning of service delivery and thus improving the wellbeing outcomes for Carmarthenshire citizens.

The self-assessment audit will be completed annually and will ask you to consider the last rolling 12-month period.

Standards:

- 1. Policy/Practice (Robust)** - How robust are your safeguarding practices in your service area? (policies & procedures adopted and in use/safe recruitment/ compliancy/training/audits and inspections/reporting).
- 2. Environment (Safe)** - How safe does your service area feel to citizens that access your services, and to your staff working in your service area? (atmosphere/buildings/e-safety/information sharing/complaints and compliments).
- 3. Culture (Effective)** - How effective is your service area approach to safeguarding? (Effectively working with others to protect children and adults at risk and promote the wellbeing of citizens, i.e. through commissioned services/effective communication and engagement with staff and volunteers to embed safeguarding into practice and service area planning).

Guidance for the completion of the Self-Assessment Audit Tool

The audit tool is a self- assessment tool that covers the three standards. Within each of the standards there are measures which you should provide evidence to demonstrate how effectively your service area is currently meeting each standard and where improvements can be made.

In the evidence section you have been provided with some brief examples in italics, this is not a minimum list of expectations and is provided as an illustrative example for assistance only, it is your responsibility as the service manager for your service areas to provide the correct evidence to illustrate how the measures are being effectively met. Think carefully about the practices and procedures across your relevant service area and RAG rate as outlined below.

Be aware that you may need to think about multiple sites/venues when answering the questions. You are submitting the self- evaluation in respect of your portion of the service area; however, this will then be collated with the returns of the other service managers to make a collective self-evaluation for the entirety of the service area.

Where relevant, be specific in your audit regarding which service is being commented upon if you identify an issue with one specific site/service in your area. For example, in your portfolio you may be responsible for multiple sites and identify that the practices for on-site contractors' attendance is being managed differently to the policy in place and that of other sites. Therefore, your audit should capture the main RAG rating for your general performance and if a specific issue for a certain site/service is identified this should be recorded within the "Further action required" box as to how this will be addressed.

Be prepared to allow enough time to gather the required information and consult with your team managers/admin/etc. who may have the information per site/venue, etc.

Remember that you can also contact your Designated Safeguarding Lead in your service area, HR partners (e.g. for data on training records), or the Senior Manager for Safeguarding for Children or Adults Services for any other advice or assistance on the completion of this self-assessment tool.

Self-assessment rating

The traffic light system relates to how a service area assesses itself against achieving the minimum standard. If your service area assesses itself, as red or amber you should record in the "Further action required" box what you feel is necessary, or if you are unsure identify that support/advice from your Designated Safeguarding Lead to improve on this measure that is required to move forward.

At the end of each standard, you have the opportunity to reflect on the measures providing a narrative on what you feel as a service area you do well; where you can improve and if you require any assistance in embedding 'safeguarding.'

Green

Means everything is in place, up to date, and meets the required minimum standard

Amber

Means that something requires review or improvement

Red

Means something needs to be developed as a matter of urgency or the measure needs to be addressed urgently

Once completed the self-evaluation form should be returned on the specified date to your Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Full audit template available from the Senior Manager for Corporate Safeguarding
Cathy Richards, CRichards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21ST MARCH 2024**

NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

To consider and comment on the following:

Explanation provided for the non-submission of a scrutiny report.

Reason:

The Council’s Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop and publish and keep under review an annual Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. If a report is not presented as scheduled, officers are expected to prepare a non-submission report explaining the reason(s) why.

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)

<p>Report Author: Emma Bryer</p>	<p>Designation: Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel No. / E-Mail Address: 01267 224029 ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21st March 2024

NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop, keep under review and publish an annual Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

If a report is not presented as scheduled in the Forward Work Plan, the responsible officer(s) are expected to prepare a non-submission report explaining the reason(s) why

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

There are none.

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Health & Social Services

DATE OF MEETING: 21st March 2024

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
10 Year Social Services Strategy	Jake Morgan / Silvana Sauro	The report is still being developed and due to staffing commitments officers have been unable to meet to finalise.	Date TBC 2024/25

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21st March 2024**

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

To consider and comment on the following:

- To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 2nd May, 2024.

Reason:

- The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports which will be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)

<p>Report Author: Emma Bryer</p>	<p>Designation: Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel No. / E-Mail Address: 01267 224029 ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. When formulating the Forward Work Plan the Scrutiny Committee will take into consideration those items included on the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at the next meeting, to be held on 2nd May 2024.

Also attached for information are the 2023/24 Forward Work Plan in respect of the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet (link - [Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan \(gov.wales\)](#)).

DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?

YES:

- (1) List of Forthcoming Items
- (2) Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan
- (3) Cabinet Forward Work Plan ([Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan \(gov.wales\)](#))

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Linda Rees-Jones** **Head of Administration & Law**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Linda Rees-Jones** **Head of Administration & Law**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

There are none.

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Cabinet Forward Plan	Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan (gov.wales)

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st March 2024

FORTHCOMING ITEMS TO BE HELD ON 2ND MAY 2024 [10.00 A.M.]

In order to ensure effective Scrutiny, Members need to be clear as to the purpose of requesting specific information and the outcome they are hoping to achieve as a consequence of examining a report. Limiting the number of agenda items may help to keep meetings focused and easier to manage.

Discussion Topic	Background	Reason for report
Budget Monitoring 2023/24	This item enables members to undertake their monitoring role of the Health & Social Care revenue and capital budgets.	The Committee is being requested to scrutinise the budget information as part of their scrutiny role.
Task & Finish Report – An Active & Healthy Start	The committee resolved to undertake a task and finish review on childhood obesity – An Active and &Health Start.	This report is for Scrutiny to approve prior to its submission to Cabinet.
Domiciliary Care Update	To provide an update on the current position in relation to domiciliary care in the county.	The Committee requested the report to monitor performance.
Family Support Strategy	At its meeting in November, the committee requested a report to monitor progress being made in addressing the gaps in current provision around preconception and early years support and other front line services such as housing and trauma informed practices / approach.	The Committee requested the report in order to monitor progress being made.

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting

No items have been circulated to members of the Committee for information since the last meeting.

The following document(s) attached for information

1. The latest version of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan 2023/24
2. The latest version of the Cabinet Forward Work Plan 2023/24 - ([Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan \(gov.wales\)](#))

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2023/24

7 th June 2023	5 th July 2023	4 th October 2023	28 th November 2023	18 th December 2023	25 th January 2024 (moved from 08/02/24)	21 st March 2024	2 nd May 2024
10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved to October	H&SS Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 22/23	Budget Monitoring	10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June & October	Budget Monitoring	Children Services – Action Plan (moved from December & January)	Budget Monitoring
DOMICILIARY CARE UPDATE	Task & Finish Group Draft Planning & Scoping Document	Budget Monitoring	Topic for review – WAVE trust	Annual Safeguarding Report	Revenue Budget Consultation SHOR	Update report on the prevention strategy (deferred to March by committee)	Domiciliary Care Update
Health & Care System for West Wales: How Far, How Fast?		Revenue Budget Outturn Report 2022/23	Youth Justice Plan (moved to 18/12/24)	Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions	Update report on the prevention strategy -(deferred to March by committee)	Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved from November & December, deferred by committee in March)	Task & Finish Report – An Active & Healthy Start
H&SS Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan 2023/24		10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June / moved to November.	Domiciliary Care Update	Performance Management Report Qtr 2	Integration Update	Budget Monitoring	Family Support Strategy
Page 231		Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions (email)	Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved to December)	Youth Justice Plan (moved from Nov)	10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June, October & December)	10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June, October, December & March)	

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2023/24

7 th June 2023	5 th July 2023	4 th October 2023	28 th November 2023	18 th December 2023	25 th January 2024 (moved from 08/02/24)	21 st March 2024	2 nd May 2024
				Children Services – Action Plan (moved to January)	Children Services – Action Plan (moved from December)	Performance Management Report Qtr 3	
				Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved from November)-(moved to January)	Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved from November & December – deferred by committee)	Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions	
						Annual Safeguarding Report (moved from December)	
						Regional Safeguarding Annual Report	

ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN:

- 10 Year Social Services Strategy

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS:

7th June 2023

- Autism Update – Amy Hughes / Corinne

4th October 2023

- Children's Services Overview

28th November 2023

- Chair – Future development of scrutiny and the FWP

8th Feb 2024 (cancelled – due to officer availability)

- Mental Health (including suicide and self harm)

21st March 2024 – cancelled

2nd May 2024

- Forward Work Plan 2024/2025

Task and Finish Group – An Active & Healthy Start

- 5th May (10am) - scoping
- 18th May (2pm) - scoping
- 19th June (2pm) – scoping
- 10th July (10am)
- 19th 26th September (2pm)
- 20th October (10am)
- 14th November (10am)
- 13th December (10am)
- 23rd January 2024 (10am)
- 20th February 2024

ITEMS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD TO 2024-25

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Possible T&F for 2024-25

- Children's Services
- Integration

Development Session

- **Mental Health (including suicide and self harm) – 13th June (waiting for confirmation from Jan Coles)**

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 25 January 2024

PRESENT: Councillor G.H. John (Chair)

Councillors:

B.A.L. Roberts, C. Davies, K. Davies, M. Donoghue, A. Evans, W.T. Evans (In place of B. Davies), M. James, H. Jones, D. Owen, F. Walters, P.T. Warlow, and J. Williams

Also in attendance Councillors:

J. Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

A. Lenny, Cabinet Member for Resources

In attendance as observers from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:

Councillor S. Pursey - Chair of the Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Committee

Councillor C. Jordan - Vice Chair of the Cabinet (Policy and Resources) Scrutiny Sub Committee

Councillor R. Phillips - Chair of the Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

T. Rees - Democratic Services Officer

In attendance from Hywel Dda Health Board:

Dr S. Richards - GP Lead, Carmarthenshire Intermediate Care

I. Jameson - Acute Response Team Physiotherapist

K. White – Service Delivery Manager

The following Officers were in attendance:

J. Jones, Acting Head of Integrated Services

R. Hemingway, Head of Financial Services

S. Nolan, Group Accountant

A. Thomas, Group Accountant

C. Harrison, Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning

J. Coles, Head of Children and Families

R. Page, Senior Business Support Manager

K. Barlow, Senior Manager-Complex Needs and Transition

L. Brown, Development Manager, Communities

A. Eynon, Principal Translator

D. Hall-Jones, Member Support Officer

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 1.15 pm

[**Note:** At 1.05 pm the Committee's attention was drawn to Council Procedure Rule 9 – Duration of Meeting and, as the meeting had been underway for three hours it was resolved to suspend standing orders to enable the Committee to complete Agenda Items, 9,10 and 11. It was resolved to defer Agenda Items 7 and 8 to the next scheduled meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B. Davies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.

There were no declarations of personal interest or of any prohibited party whips.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

The Committee considered the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report in relation to the Health & Social Services, which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st October, 2023 in respect of the 2023/24 financial year.

The Health & Social Services was forecasting an overspend of £9,740k on the revenue budget. The main variances on capital schemes indicated a forecasted variance of -£49k against a net budget of £1,906k on social care projects, and a -£184k variance against the Children Services projects net budget of £517k.

Cabinet Member for Resources highlighted that the forecast budget overspend on Children's Services was an area of significant concern to the corporate budget position and in recognising this a working group had been set up to investigate and identify corrective action where possible.

A number of questions were raised to which officers responded. The main matters were as follows:

- Concern was expressed regarding the excessive cost of agency staff in residential homes and it was asked what safeguards were in place to ensure the reliance on agency staff would not be the same in the next financial year. Officers advised that a working group had been set up to help gain an understanding of the work demands. It was hoped that an improvement in the financial position would be evident in the next monitoring report. Work had been undertaken to establish an in-house flexible pool of casual staff and if successful would reduce the reliance on agency staff.
- In response to concerns regarding the overspend of £9.7m and what the likely position would be at year end, the Committee was advised that while the figure was concerning it was for the departments within the remit of this Committee and that corporately the forecast was lower due to the underspend in the Chief Executive and Corporate Services Departments. It was also noted that there was an underspend position in respect of Capital Charges. Once again, the Committee was reminded that the monitoring work addressed the 'actual performance' based on data up to the end of October and that the accountants worked closely with all the service departments to review the trends and areas of overspend. It was stated that

the increase in the use of agency staff had been identified as part of the monitoring process and had highlighted that unless corrective actions were put in place the financial position would deteriorate further.

- In reference to Appendix B, it was asked what the 'alternative ways of working' meant. Officers stated that recently Welsh Government had consulted on a rebalancing care and support white paper which considered how commissioning was undertaken with a greater emphasis on mitigating against market failures. An example of this would be the development of more in-house capacity with a specific example of Plas Y Bryn care home which closed last year and was subsequently bought by the Local Authority. It was also stated that there was an ambition to develop in-house children's facilities to mitigate against the excessive cost of out of county placements.
- In response to a question regarding the grant received for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) officers advised that the funding was received from the Home Office as income that is attached to each unaccompanied child that received support.

UNANAMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

5. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2024/25 to 2026/27

The Committee considered the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27 which provided a current view of the revenue budget for 2024/25 together with indicative figures for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years. The report was based on officers' projections of spending requirements and took account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government on 20th December 2023 - the latest date this had ever been provided.

It was emphasised that whilst significant work had already been undertaken in preparing the budget, the report represented an initial position statement which would be updated following the consultation process. Accordingly, Members were reminded that the report had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th January 2024 and members of the Committee had attended recent consultation events which had provided an opportunity to analyse and seek clarification on various aspects of the budget.

The Committee was advised that the final settlement was expected to be published by Welsh Government on 27th February 2024 alongside the Welsh Government budget, the day before full council meets to agree the final budget.

The report indicated that no funding had been allocated for either Teachers' or Firefighters' pension increases, as this mechanism had not yet been worked through between Westminster and Welsh Government. Whilst this was assumed to be a nil impact on the funding position, this was considered a significant risk until formally confirmed, with a value of c. £4m.

The Ministers letter stated that all available funding had been provided, and Local Authorities "must therefore accommodate" costs such as the September 2024 Teachers pay deal, although there was no clarity on what has been assumed.

Members were reminded that no additional funding had been provided to meet the budget shortfall going forward as a result of either the uplift in Teachers pay (set

by Welsh Government), nor the 2023 NJC pay award (set by national pay bargaining). Welsh Government recognised that this was the most challenging settlement since devolution.

The Cabinet Member for Resources advised that Wales was to receive an extra £25m for public services off the back of the boost received by English councils aimed to tackle their cash crisis. It was hoped that some of this additional funding would be distributed to Local Authorities.

The Committee thereupon considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy, relevant to its remit:-

- **Appendix A(i)** – Efficiency summary for Health and Social Services
- **Appendix A(ii)** – Growth Pressures summary for Health & Social Services
- **Appendix B** – Budget monitoring report for Health and Social Services
- **Appendix C** – Charging Digest for Health and Social Services

Several questions were raised to which officers responded. The main matters were as follows:

- In response to a query regarding the £2m drawn from reserves for Children Services, assurance was provided that it was correct to apply this funding and that it was anticipated that the introduction of in-house facilities would result in the reduction for the need to go market for 3rd party placements. On this basis it was expected that there would be no recurrent need for this draw down facility.
- In reference to the Charging Digest officers confirmed that the average increase in charges had been calculated to be around 10% uplift that took into account the cost of providing home care had increased substantially.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 6.1 The 2024/25 – 2026/27 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation be received;**
- 6.2 The Charging Digest detailed in Appendix C to the report, be endorsed.**

6. INTEGRATION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE - POSITION UPDATE ON DELIVERY AGAINST PRIORITIES

The Committee considered a report that provided a position statement on Integration of Health & Social Care in Carmarthenshire and specifically, an update with regards to specific priorities which were set out to deliver on a community care system for Carmarthenshire.

Following a presentation to Scrutiny Committee at its June 2023 meeting, members agreed to support the development of a plan building on a range of initiatives. This plan was to address the complex and multiple needs of the patients rather than the capabilities of the current provider landscape. It would consider both immediate impacts that changes could make as well as setting out a model that would meet medium and long-term demand of the frail and elderly.

Members noted that work in Integration between Health and Social Care had been focussed on delivery on the frontline of seamless services to the public. Progress on wider strategic integration had not been what was envisaged last year. Significant financial pressures, changes at Chief Executive level and a reorganisation within Health made further progress in strategically integrating the Local Authority and the Health Board unlikely in the short to medium term.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting from Hywel Dda UHB Dr Sioned Richards (GP Lead, Carmarthenshire Intermediate Care) and Indeg Jameson (Acute Response Team Physiotherapist) who provided the Committee with an update and presentation on the integrated work that was being undertaken within Carmarthenshire's Eastgate Hub. The Committee was advised that the multi-disciplinary team had a shared vision and goal to support people in their homes and to prevent admissions. Referrals were received from hospitals, community, and GPs. The integrated way of working resulted in patients receiving the most appropriate level of care.

A number of questions were raised to which officers responded. The main matters were as follows:

- In response to a query regarding the model and the challenges of linking with GPs, it was advised that the model was working well however minor adjustments were needed such as an increase in the number of carers. It was stated that the team was in place to provide rehabilitation to help people maintain their independence and not to deliver long term care.
- When asked if a similar model was in place elsewhere it was stated that the model had been duplicated by other authorities and that the model had been recognised as best practice. It had also received awards in recognition of its success.
- In response to concerns raised regarding the use of beds at Ty Pili Pala and the disparity of the length of bed stays at Llandovery and Amman Valley, the Committee was advised that the community hospitals received patients that required a longer term of stay as they would usually require packages of care. It was noted that significant work was being undertaken on how to better utilise these beds.
- In response to concern raised regarding work on the strategic integration between Health and Social Care, the Committee was advised due to significant financial pressures, changes at Chief Executive level and reorganisation within Health Board progress had been delayed but it was stated that the Health Board was still committed to ways of integrated working.
- In answer to a query regarding funding and the employment of staff on temporary contracts, the Committee was advised that staff were permanent employees. It was stated that some of the funding was short term and a cause for concern. There would be no additional funding to grow the team further.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE

Officers and Committee Members advised that they needed to leave the meeting

due to prior commitments.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be deferred to the next scheduled meeting on the 21st March 2024 .

8. COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Officers and Committee Members advised that they needed to leave the meeting due to prior commitments.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be deferred to the next scheduled meeting on the 21st March 2024 .

9. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Committee received an explanation for the non-submission of the following scrutiny reports.

- 10 Year Social Services Strategy
- Children's Services Budget Group Report

The Committee re-iterated their concern regarding the non-submission of the Children's Services Budget Group Report but noted that some information had been provided through the Budget Consultation process.

RESOLVED that the explanation for the non-submission be noted.

10. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee advised that if possible, they would like to consider the Regional Safeguarding Annual Report at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 21st March 2024 be noted.

11. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2023

UNANAMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 18th December, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE