

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise Cabinet of the Annual Report of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board 2013/14.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) replaced the old Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs) in Wales in October 2006 and placed the need for agencies to work together on a statutory footing.

3.2 "Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004" sets out how all relevant agencies and professionals in Wales should work together to safeguard and promote children's welfare and protect them from harm, as well as how this should be co-ordinated by LSCBs.

3.3 Welsh Government has in the context of the Social Services and Well Being Act set a new direction in the establishment of six regional Safeguarding boards across Wales.

3.3 The concept of "safeguarding" is wide-ranging and is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the safe and effective care and creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life chances such that they can enter adulthood successfully

3.4 The core business of a SCB is to ensure there is collective accountability for those children and young people that are the subject of child protection processes under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

- 3.5 The key responsibility of a SCB is to co-ordinate the work of partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensure its effectiveness.
- 3.6 Cabinet approval for the merger of the Merthyr Tydfil LSCB and the Rhondda Cynon Taf LSCB was provided in early 2012. Consequently Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) came into being on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012
- 3.7 CTSCB is jointly chaired by the statutory Directors of Social Services for both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil; the vice Chair is the Head of Safeguarding for Cwm Taf University Health Board

**4. CURRENT SITUATION**

- 4.1 Attached is the second annual report of the CTSCB 2013/14 which gives details of its key accountabilities and how the Board is structured to deliver its work. In addition the report provides a comprehensive account of the achievements of the Board and each of its sub groups over the year as well as the priorities for improvement in 2014/15 .
- 4.2 The attached Annual Report has been approved by the CTSCB.

**Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board**

**CWM TAF**  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013 / 2014**

## **Introduction**

This is the second annual report of Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) it summarises the work undertaken in the past year, and identifies areas of development for the coming year, April 2014 to March 2015.

The CTSCB is the operating title of the former Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Local Safeguarding Children Board and Merthyr Tydfil (MT) Local Safeguarding Children Board which merged in June 2012 to form the Cwm Taf Board. It is the multi-agency partnership which has responsibility for safeguarding children in our area. It is made up of the following statutory partners, Cwm Taf University Health Board, South Wales Police, Wales Probation Trust, RCT and MT Children's Services, Education, Youth Offending Service, Housing Services and the Voluntary sector. It monitors how well agencies and other partnerships undertake their work with regard to safeguarding and ensures safeguarding is embedded in all working practices.

***The Vision of the Board is that Children and Young People in Cwm Taf, are protected from abuse and neglect and their welfare is safeguarded and promoted.***

## **HOW THE BOARD IS ORGANISED**

The Board is currently chaired jointly by Neil Elliott the Acting Group Director for Community and Children's Services and the lead director for Children and Young People within the RCTCBC and Giovanni Isingrini, the Director of Community Services for Merthyr Tydfil CBC and lead director for young people within MTCBC

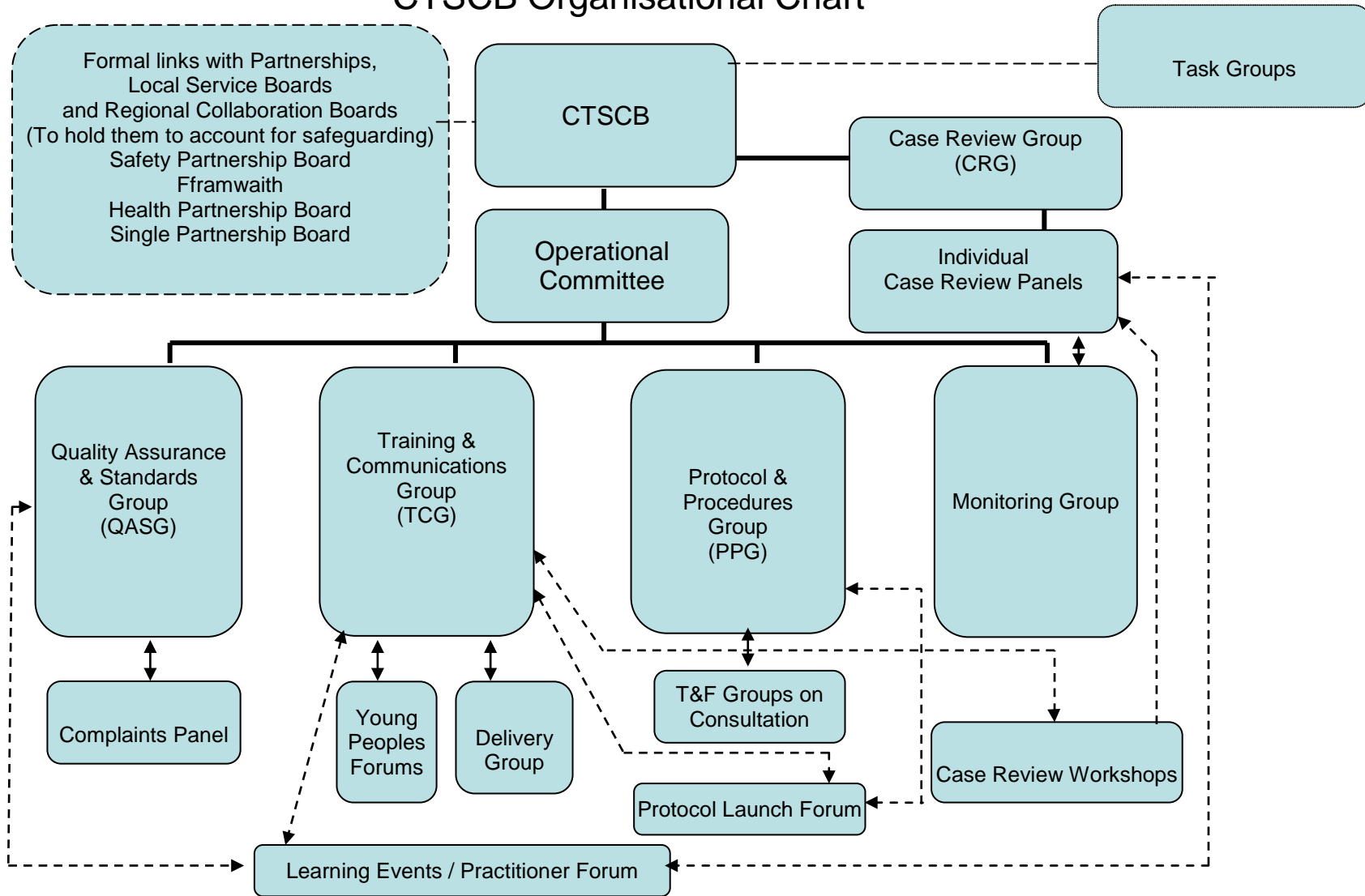
The Vice Chair of the Board is Jane Randall, Head of Safeguarding for Cwm Taf University Health Board.

The membership of the Board complies with the Welsh Government (WG) national guidance on safeguarding 'Working Together 2006' a membership list is attached, at the end of this report, for information.

The CTSCB is an independent body which has become a driving force for safeguarding across the Cwm Taf region. The CTSCB meets four times a year, and holds one development day per year. The CTSCB members are senior managers who are able to hold their own organisations to account for safeguarding and speak with authority. The basic day to day expenses of the Board are funded by an annual contribution from each statutory partner agency,

The CTSCB has a number of sub-groups which drive forward the annual work plan. In carrying out this work the seven core aims for children and young people, the ten entitlements for young people aged eleven to twenty five and the Wales strategy for youth offending are overarching principles. The details of the subgroups are set out below:

### CTSCB Organisational Chart



CTSCB will make this report public by placing it on each Local Authority's website and will also ensure it is presented within each Local Authority, to its Elected Members and the key statutory partnerships within the County Borough. Partner agencies will also distribute through their recognised governance processes.

## **Definition of Safeguarding**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children are defined in "Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004" (WAG 2006) as:

### **1. Protecting children from maltreatment by ensuring that:**

- The strategic direction for protecting children from maltreatment is set
- Child protection processes are in place and work effectively
- Staff are well trained competent and are performing effectively
- Quality Assurance systems are in place to evaluate organisational performance and outcomes for children.

### **2. Preventing impairment of children's health and development by:**

- Contributing to development and monitoring of relevant strategic plans
- Campaigning, challenging and holding organisations to account for their responsibilities and roles in relation to safeguarding children.

### **3. Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life chances such that they can enter adulthood successfully by:**

- Raising awareness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in communities and specific community based groups
- Collaboration with other LSCB and national and regional fora.

## **Aims**

The CTSCB will work together in partnership with children, young people and the community, statutory and voluntary partners and key strategic partnerships to achieve this vision.

The CTSCB will actively develop and encourage collaborative working with neighbouring Safeguarding Children Boards to improve outcomes for those children and young people in need of protection and safeguarding.

The CTSCB will be clear about what it is accountable for, what statutory partners should deliver, what other strategic partnerships are accountable for and what the CTSCB can contribute to these agendas.

The CTSCB will raise awareness about safeguarding children and young people, influence the local strategic agenda and monitor and review its effectiveness.

***CTSCB will listen to, and hear the views of children and young people.***

### **Key Accountabilities**

**CTSCB's primary responsibility is to co-ordinate the work of partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensure its effectiveness. The CTSCB has identified the following groups of children for which it has key responsibility:**

- Children and young people in need of protection;
- Children and young people who are looked after;
- Children and young people with complex needs;
- Children and young people who are disabled;
- Children and young people who are adversely affected by carers' compromised parenting capacity; due to issues including substance misuse, domestic abuse, poor mental health, learning difficulties.
- Children and young people who are being or likely to be sexually exploited;
- Children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour;
- Children and young people who go missing;
- Children and young people who place themselves at risk including and through, self-harm, substance misuse and behaviour

The CTSCB has contributed to the elements of the work of the Safety Partnership Board, Health Partnership Board, the Children and Young People's Partnership in the Rhondda Cynon Taff area, and the Single Partnership Board in Merthyr Tydfil which relate to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to the specific accountabilities listed above. It has also contributed to the development and delivery of the Single Integrated Plans in both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil from April 2013 to date.

The CTSCB will hold partner agencies to account for their safeguarding work in general and in relation to these key accountabilities.

## **What we have achieved from April 2013 to March 2014**

### **CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

This year we have:

- Consolidated our position as the recognised operating body for the former Merthyr Tydfil Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Developed and endorsed Terms of Reference for the Operational Committee
- Developed and endorsed a role Profile for the Chairperson of the Operational Committee
- Continued to oversee the work to develop a multi-agency safeguarding hub which will provide an initial risk assessment, through information sharing by a number of partners, to ensure that informed decisions are made about safeguarding children and families and vulnerable adults
- Reviewed arrangements for our multi agency reduction of suicide and self harm strategy and driven work on a local and national basis to support young people and their families
- Worked with local authority colleagues in front line services to ensure a training and development programme is in place for staff to enable them to confidently deal with safeguarding issues
- Scrutinised, endorsed and published one completed Child Practice Review

### **OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE**

This group drives the strategic agenda and work plan of the Board and monitors its effectiveness. This year we have:

- Reviewed our work programme for the committee and developed a number of task and finish groups to respond to changing safeguarding priorities
- Continued to Contribute to the delivery of Single Integrated Plans in both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil
- Ensured that safeguarding is an integral part of these plans
- Developed and reviewed our Improvement plan across Cwm Taf
- Identified a number of strategic priorities and associated actions which have been allocated to sub groups to ensure these are delivered
- Monitored all sub group risk registers to ensure that key potential safeguarding risks are identified and regularly reported to Board members, along with actions to mitigate these
- Driven changes in the training delivery group for the cross partnership arrangements for dealing with unexplained death in young people by incorporating good practice highlighted by the training and communications group
- Undertaken work to establish a multi agency framework for dealing with Risky Behaviour in some of our most vulnerable young people



- Embedded the use of the CTSCB Risk Register in to the work of each sub group

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STANDARDS GROUP

This group audits the quality of multi-agency child protection and performance across Cwm Taf. This year we have:

- Undertaken audits of individual cases identified by practitioners and managers from partner agencies
- Results of these audits have been fed back to practitioners along with guidelines for improvement in child protection practice
- Completed audits programmed into the group's work plan which are required on a cyclical basis over a given number of years for example children who have been on the CPR on more than one occasion or those who have been registered for over 2 years, young people who are first time entrants to custody
- Considered specific audit work from agencies such as child protection medicals
- Reported findings back to Operational Committee and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board by exception
- Commissioned multi agency practitioner events to raise awareness of themes identified by the audits aimed at improving practice
- Processed three complaints about child protection conferences and held panels to respond to those complaints, during which family members are encouraged to attend and participate
- Completed the project to produce and launch a toolkit and guidance for practitioners who work with families where neglect is a factor
- Held a number of awareness raising events to promote the use of the neglect toolkit, training in excess of 600 multi agency staff
- Prioritised the needs of children on the child protection register who live with parents / carers who misuse substances following the results of research which illustrates this was of high importance
- Developed a reporting scorecard with both quantity and quality measures to enable more timely, meaningful outcome focussed information to be presented to Board members
- Considered safeguarding performance information related to the CPR and from partner agencies including attendance at Child Protection Conference.

#### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

This group is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the training function of the Board along with engagement with young people, the public and professionals. This year we have:

- Updated our multi agency training strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose across Cwm Taf for the next two years
- Produced a fully integrated training calendar across the Cwm Taf region

- Reviewed and delivered training packages across three agreed levels to ensure that safeguarding training is delivered consistently to agencies and partnerships in the area
- Contributed to the ongoing development and delivery of the training programme to support the reduction of suicide and self harm across the region
- Worked towards more integration between safeguarding delivery group and reduction of suicide and self harm delivery group to improve skills of group members
- Driven the work of young people's groups in both Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf to establish their views on safeguarding. This will ensure that their views on the effectiveness of safeguarding across Cwm Taf are heard
- Ensured that safeguarding has become integral to both local authority's awareness raising through strong participation in the corporate induction process and citizen information days
- Raised awareness of safeguarding through the programme of specifically targeted training which is delivered annually to in excess of 1500 staff and volunteers
- Ensured that practitioners are kept informed of emerging safeguarding priorities through multi agency workshops
- Begun work on a safeguarding website which will cover vulnerable adults and children and young people

#### PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES GROUP

This group is responsible for reviewing national and regional guidance and policy and for producing and developing local protocols which enhance practice. This year we have:

- Reviewed a number of local protocols which were previously owned by either Merthyr Tydfil or Rhondda Cynon Taf LSCB's. These include our escalation protocol, working with families not cooperating, and working with substance misusing parents. These have been made fit for purpose across Cwm Taf
- Improved the effectiveness of safeguarding practice for front line staff by working with practitioners to produce a number of guidance documents and toolkits
- Reviewed and expanded the guidelines for dealing with allegations against professionals whose work brings them into contact with children, which has been endorsed and adopted across the Cwm Taf region
- Begun work on our local protocols around child protection conferences and core groups to ensure they can be used in both Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Reviewed and revised protocols for strategy discussions
- Ensured that practitioners are informed about the changes through our dissemination process and awareness raising workshops

## CASE REVIEW AND MONITORING GROUP

This group reviews all cases of child death or serious injury when abuse or neglect is a suspected cause, and makes a recommendation about meeting the criteria to hold a child practice review. The Monitoring Group checks progress of all action plans resulting from completed Reviews against agreed timescales, and reports by exception to the strategic Board. This year we have:

- Met on two occasions to examine case details
- Made two recommendations to the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board co-chairs that reviews should take place
- Agreed the composition of each of the review panels
- Committed resources to ensure that reviews are undertaken in a timely and efficient manner
- Appointed suitable panel chairs and reviewers in each review
- Monitored the progress of each on-going action plan resulting from completed serious case reviews and ensured that all outstanding actions are completed
- Developed a template for action plans resulting from child practice reviews to ensure recommendations are achievable
- Developed a process to ensure practitioners involved in child practice reviews are able to fully participate in learning events
- Worked on a multi agency basis to ensure best use of software to enhance the learning experience

## **Further Areas for development from April 2014 to March 2015.**

In addition to completing their work plans and striving to achieve their allocated strategic priorities, each group has been given the following tasks for the forthcoming year:

### CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD WILL:

- Continue to work collaboratively across Cwm Taf to ensure that safeguarding children arrangements are effective across the region via CTSCB and all of its sub groups
- Contribute to the delivery streams of the Single Integrated Plans for both RCT and MT
- Continue the development of the multi agency safeguarding hub which will provide a 'multi agency risk assessment' to ensure informed decisions are made about safeguarding children and families

### OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL:

- Continue to strengthen links with other strategic partnerships to ensure that they are held to account for safeguarding across Cwm Taf
- Continue the project work to provide a co-ordinated response for young people who display risk taking behaviour which has resulted in the

production of an overarching strategy that will have a number of work streams feeding into it

- Set up the new Risky Behaviour Management Group to enable an effective response to the most vulnerable young people in Cwm Taf
- Improve links with other strategic groups including the Cwm Taf Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Forum
- Continue to oversee the further integration of the training groups for both safeguarding and reduction of suicide and self harm
- All sub groups will begin to develop a reporting scorecard approach based on outcomes that ensure children and young people are safeguarded.

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STANDARDS GROUP WILL:

- Complete the work on the outcome based reporting score card
- Continue to monitor compliance with the implementation of the neglect toolkit
- Complete their annual programme of audits and work to ensure the quality of safeguarding practice remains consistently high
- Monitor performance information and agree any consequent action
- Provide a forum for practitioners to escalate concerns about safeguarding practice

#### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP WILL:

- Complete the work on the safeguarding website which will provide a resource for professionals and citizens who have safeguarding concerns
- Progress work to ensure that a communication and engagement strategy is developed
- Review the current work plan to ensure it is fit for purpose for the next two years
- Ensure that a wide range of practitioners are informed of the learning from completed Child Practice Reviews on a multi agency basis

#### PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES GROUP WILL:

- Undertake further work to align the policies and local protocols used by practitioners across the Cwm Taf region
- Produce a map of protocols to give professionals clarity about when they should be used
- Have the flexibility to reduce the number of protocols that are used locally whilst still ensuring high quality and safe practice
- Upload all protocols to the forthcoming website

#### CASE REVIEW AND MONITORING GROUP WILL:

- Continue to develop the skills of a 'pool' of local social care staff to undertake child practice reviews
- Continually review process to ensure that practitioners gain the maximum benefit from participation in the child practice reviews

The list of Members of Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board is below:

<b>Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board</b>	
Co-chair	Acting Director of Community & Children's Services The Pavilions, Clydach Vale, Rhondda Cynon Taf CF40 2XX
Co-chair	Director of Community Services, MTCBC, The Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN
Vice Chair/ Head of Safeguarding	Cwm Tâf University Health Board UHB Headquarters, Ynysmeurig House, Abercynon, CF45 4SN
Service Director, Children's Services	Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services Tŷ Pennant Catherine Street Pontypridd Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 2TB
Head of Children's Services	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Offices, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN
CTSCB Business Manager	Ty Catrin Maritime Industrial Estate Maesycoed, Pontypridd CF37 1NY
Superintendent	South Wales Police Pontypridd Police Station Berw Road, Pontypridd CF37 2TR
Service Director Commissioning, Business & Housing Systems	Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services Ty Elai Dinas Isaf East Williamstown Tonypany CF40 1NY
Assistant Chief Officer	National Probation Service 4 -9 Broadway Pontypridd Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 1BA
Director of Customer Services	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN

Head of YOS	Youth Offending Service Unit 2 Fairway Court Tonteg Road Treforest Industrial Estate Pontypridd CF37 5UA
Service Director for Schools, & Community	Rhondda Cynon Taf Tŷ Trevithick Abercynon CF45 4UQ
Acting Chief Education Officer	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Ty Keir Hardie, Riverside Court, Avenue De Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD
Chief Officer	Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT), Voluntary Action Centre, 88-90 High Street, Pontmorlais, Merthyr Tydfil, CF 47 8UH
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & LAC, Public Health Wales	Public Health Wales Unit 1 Charnwood Court Heol Billingsley Parc Nantgarw Cardiff CF15 7QZ.
Executive Nurse Director Cwm Taf Health Board	Cwm Taf Health Board LHB Headquarters Ynysmeurig House, Abercynon, CF45 4SN
Head of Safeguarding & Standards	Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services Ty Catrin Maritime Industrial Estate Pontypridd CF37 1NY
Head of Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service	Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Services Municipal Buildings, Llewellyn Street, Pentre, CF41 7XW
Adult Services	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Offices, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN
Principal Solicitor	Rhondda Cynon Taf Legal Services Taff Ely Principal Office Court House Street Pontypridd

Manager / Interlink Chair	TEDS (Treatment & Education Drug Service), Engine House, Depot Road, Aberdare, CF44 8DL
Chief Officer	Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil Voluntary Action Centre 89-90 High street Pont Morlais Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8UH
Safeguarding Manager	Social Services Merthyr Tydfil CBC Triangle Business Park Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4TQ

