



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH NOVEMBER 2020

CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR GERAINT HOPKINS AND COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA LEYSHON

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Cabinet the Annual Report for 2019/20 for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board. See Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes and endorses the content of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Annual Report for 2019/20.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an Annual Report each year, to demonstrate its effectiveness in exercising its functions in the preceding financial year.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Annual Report is twofold; it is a tool of accountability and a tool for evaluation. Accountability has three components:
- accountability to the public;
 - accountability to the statutory partner agencies of the Board; and
 - accountability to the inspectorate bodies.
- 3.3 This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government gave all Regional Safeguarding Boards an extension to the submission deadline and the report was therefore published on the 30th September 2020.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend. The aim of the Board is to ensure that people of all ages are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. This also involves preventing abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm from happening.
- 4.2 The work of the Board is delivered via a Sub Group structure, which aims to support multi-agency safeguarding in Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The Lead Partner (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) employs the staff of the Board Business Unit and holds the Board budget, to which the statutory partner agencies contribute.
- 4.3 The two key safeguarding objectives of protection and prevention underpin the work of the Board and inform the priorities each year.
- 4.4 The Cwm Taf and Bridgend Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) sits within the structure of the Board to enhance safeguarding practice, with agencies working together in one place to receive all safeguarding referrals and share relevant agency information to make collaborative decisions.
- 4.5 The Board also now has responsibility for overseeing the effectiveness of the safeguarding activities in Parc Prison.

5. SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019/20

- 5.1 The Board published an Annual Plan on 31 March 2019, setting out the priorities for safeguarding children, young people and adults in 2019/20. A summary of the progress made against these priorities is provided below:
- 5.2 **Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk from the Impact of Domestic Abuse**

Close collaboration between the VAWDASV¹ Steering Group and the Safeguarding Board resulted in a wider reach for raising awareness activities in the region. In RCT, this included:

- Four workshops on Coercive Controlling Behaviour
- Additional VAWDASV Group 1 training for RCT schools
- Ten targeted youth workshops arranged by the RCT Youth Engagement and Participation Service (YEPS)

¹ Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Operation Encompass was introduced to signal to schools when a pupil has been connected to a domestic abuse incident within the previous 24 hours. Education and Inclusion Services have worked in conjunction with South Wales Police to set this up to support intelligence sharing and the ability of schools to understand the home life of some of their pupils.

Two audits were carried out on domestic abuse cases involving adults at risk to seek assurances that strategy discussions are held on a multi-agency basis where there are indications that domestic abuse is involved. The outcomes from those audits was that the response was robust and comprehensive.

5.3 Improve the Way in which we Communicate, Engage and Promote Participation with our Communities and Partner Agencies

The Board has a dedicated post to support with communications and engagement. Work during 2019/20 included:

- The development of a new website for the Safeguarding Board
- Launch of a Facebook page
- Safeguarding Week 2019

5.4 Ensure that the Transition to the New Regional Footprint for Safeguarding is Managed Effectively

From 1st April 2019, the Board became responsible for safeguarding in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil. The process of transition required effective planning and management to ensure that the Board and its partner agencies were able to continue to carry out core safeguarding functions during the time of change. Activities included:

- Reviewed governance arrangement
- Alignment of protocols and procedures
- A new Joint Review Group to support the Adult and Child Practice Review process

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Annual Report has been approved by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and shared with the Welsh Government, the National Independent Safeguarding Board and the five other Regional Safeguarding Boards.

7.2 A copy of the report has been published on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board website www.ctmsb.co.uk

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the responsibilities and the functions of the Regional Safeguarding Boards.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

10.1 The Board contributes to elements of the work of the Public Service Board by reporting on safeguarding activity.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers:

None

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Cwm Taf Morgannwg Bwrdd Diogelu Safeguarding Board



Annual Report 2019/2020



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf
University Health Board



1. Introduction and Foreword - Co-Chairs of the Board	3
2. Safeguarding in Cwm Taf Morgannwg	4
3. Members of the Safeguarding Board	8
4. What did the Board do in 2019/20 to meet its outcomes?	8
5. How did we implement our Annual Plan and what were our key achievements?	10
Strategic Priority 1: Safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse.	10
Strategic Priority 2: Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies.	17
Strategic Priority 3: Ensure that the transition to the new regional footprint for safeguarding is managed effectively.	21
6. Safeguarding Themes	25
7. Information, Training and Learning	28
8. How Have We Collaborated With Others?	31
9. Participation and Involving	33
10. Contributions of Board Members	35
11. Managing our Resources	44
12. Other Board Activities	45
APPENDIX 1 BOARD MEMBERSHIP	47
APPENDIX 2 BOARD STRUCTURE	49
Glossary	50

1. Introduction and Foreword - Co-Chairs of the Board

Welcome to the first Annual Report of the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.

This Annual Report presents an overview of the work that the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board has undertaken during 2019/20 in pursuit of our aim to ensure that the people of Cwm Taf Morgannwg are safeguarded from abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

In June 2018, the Welsh Government announced that from 1st April 2019, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board would be responsible for healthcare services in the Bridgend County Borough Council area. This meant that accompanying partnership structures in the delivery of social services across the Western Bay region joined with Cwm Taf, with the creation of a new Regional Safeguarding Board for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area.

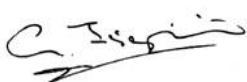
Members of both Boards first met in January 2019 to agree some common themes and approaches to safeguarding to prioritise in our Plan for 2019/20. There was a strong focus on bringing together the existing structures in Cwm Taf and Bridgend and this was one of the key areas of work that was undertaken during 2019/20. A common theme of tackling domestic abuse was also agreed as one of the key priorities of the Board, with the need to build on strong cross-partnership links with Community Safety Partnership colleagues.

The unprecedented events that began in March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a national lockdown, had a significant impact on the Board's ability to produce end of year reports for the various sub groups of the Board. The Welsh Government provided Regional Safeguarding Boards with an extension to the usual deadline for the publication of the report which has given us more time to try and gather this information.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Safeguarding Board, please contact our Business Unit by e-mailing: ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk



Giovanni Isingrini



Lisa Curtis Jones



Sue Cooper



2. Safeguarding in Cwm Taf Morgannwg

The area of Cwm Taf Morgannwg covers the local authority areas of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf with a population of approximately 428,000¹

The **Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board** is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The aim of the Board is to ensure that people of all ages are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. This also involves preventing abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm from happening.

The work of the Board is delivered via a Sub Group structure, which aims to support multi-agency safeguarding in Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The Lead Partner (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) employs the staff of the Board Business Unit and holds the Board budget, to which the statutory partner agencies contribute.

The two key **safeguarding** objectives of **protection** and **prevention** underpin the work of the Board and inform the priorities each year.

The responsibilities and functions of the Board are set out in the statutory guidance under Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. It has an overall responsibility for challenging relevant agencies so that:

- there are effective measures in place to protect children and adults at risk who are experiencing harm or who may be at risk as the result of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm; and
- there is effective inter-agency co-operation in planning and delivering protection services and in sharing information.

Safeguarding Children

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and accompanying Guidance define a 'child' as a person who is aged under 18.

S.130 (4) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines a child at risk as a child who:

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm;
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).

What do we mean by Harm?

Harm is defined as:

- Ill treatment - this includes sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and psychological abuse
- The impairment of physical or mental health (including that suffered from seeing or hearing another person suffer ill treatment).
- The impairment of physical intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development (including that suffered from seeing or hearing another person suffer ill treatment).

¹ Source: Census 2011

Types of Harm

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples for each of the categories of harm, abuse and neglect included in vol 5 Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 5 – Handling Individual Cases to Protect Children at Risk:

- **Physical abuse** - hitting, slapping, over or misuse of medication, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions;
- **Emotional/psychological abuse** - threats of harm or abandonment, coercive control, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks, witnessing abuse of others
- **Sexual abuse** - 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, including: physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts; 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;
- **Financial abuse** - this category will be less prevalent for a child but indicators could be:
 - Not meeting their needs for care and support which are provided through direct payments; or
 - Complaints that personal property is missing.
- **Neglect** - failure to meet basic physical, emotional or psychological needs which is likely to result in impairment of health or development.
- Risk from other actual or potential harm to a child or young person may also result from:
 - Criminal exploitation such as County Lines
 - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
 - Radicalisation
 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
 - Modern Slavery

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

Operation Bramble – This was an investigation following the report of two children being approached by a male who attempted to entice them into his car. This was reported by a parent and Operation New York was called, which is an immediate response by all deployable police officers in the area. Following an investigation by the Police Public Protection Unit, using specially trained officers, the suspect was identified and was arrested. On examining his computer, a history of offences with in excess of 100 victims being identified across the world was revealed. Following a detailed investigation, the court ordered that the defendant be sentenced to an extended sentence to serve a period of imprisonment of 15 years. The safeguarding process required in this case involved significant information sharing and strategic discussions given the volume of victims in the case. It has highlighted the specific requirements of safeguarding for on-line offending which has seen significant increases in reporting.

Safeguarding Adults

S126(1) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines an adult at risk as an adult who:

1. Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect,
2. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and
3. As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Abuse

- Can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial (includes theft, fraud, pressure about money, misuse of money)
- Take place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place.

Neglect

This describes a failure to meet a person's basic needs 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).

It can take place in a range of settings, such as a private dwelling, residential or day care provision.

The following behaviours could also place the adult at risk of abuse or neglect (this list is not exhaustive):

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse And Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
This Includes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Modern Slavery
- Domestic abuse and violence against men
- Criminal exploitation

Reporting Concerns

In Cwm Taf Morgannwg, all safeguarding concerns are reported to a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). For the relevant contact details please refer to the information at the end of this report.

The **Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** sits within the structure of the Safeguarding Board and acts as the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns across Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. The MASH has been fully operational since May 2015, having been set up to enhance safeguarding practice, with agencies working together in one place to receive all safeguarding referrals and share relevant agency information to make joint decisions.

MASH activity comprises:

- Child Protection / Safeguarding
- Adults at Risk Safeguarding
- Domestic Abuse (MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

The key aims of the MASH relate to the following themes:

- Improved co-ordination and consistency of threshold/decision making when a safeguarding report is raised
- Improved response times leading to earlier interventions
- Reduction of repeat referrals

Bridgend Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been operational since July 2018 with the official launch having taken place in October 2018. The key aims of the MASH relate to the following areas:-

- Streamlined decision making through enhanced intelligence
- Risk is collectively addressed
- Opportunity for early intervention and prevention of repeat referrals
- Demand being created but repeat referrals can be effectively reduced

Bridgend MASH has brought together key professionals to facilitate better quality information sharing at the earliest opportunity, leading to better analysis and swifter decision making to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and adults more effectively.

The specific data collected by the Bridgend MASH within the first year in relation to repeat referrals indicates that the core functions within MASH are responding to the needs of our community and as a result repeat referrals have reduced.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

Bridgend have included comments made by professionals working within the MASH to evidence how positive outcomes can be achieved.

“The MASH in Bridgend is a wonderful example of multi-agency working to share information and address risk at the earliest opportunity. There is no barrier to information sharing and working relationships flourish in our environment.”

“To my mind the MASH has meant we are more efficient and work more closely together.”

“The co-location of agencies within the MASH has allowed links to be strengthened as we all work together with the common goal of safeguarding both children and adults. MASH has enabled earlier identification of risk and intervention, enhanced and timely information sharing, better informed, multi-agency risk based decisions and a more co-ordinated response from agencies”

3. Members of the Safeguarding Board

The Lead Partner for the Board is Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the membership complies with the statutory guidance issued under Part 7 of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014.

A list of members is attached as Appendix 1.

4. What did the Board do in 2019/20 to meet its outcomes?

The Board published an Annual Plan on the 31st March 2019, setting out its priorities for safeguarding children, young people and adults in 2019/20.

The Annual Plan for 2019/20 can be accessed at:

www.ctmsb.co.uk

This report sets out what the Board has done to achieve these priorities.

How did we achieve our outcomes?

The Board has a robust structure and clear governance arrangements in place to support its effective operation and its compliance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

This year the Board has continued to take every opportunity to collaborate across children and adults safeguarding to support joint working and sharing of information and learning. This, combined with the work to embed a new regional structure, has supported us in achieving effective approaches in improving safeguarding arrangements for the people of Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The Board has co-ordinated the safeguarding activities of each of its partner agencies via Board and Sub Group meetings, reviews and audit activity. Improvement Action Plans are developed as a result of this work to monitor progress and ensure completion of actions.

The Board uses a programme and performance management approach to deliver its priorities as set out in a detailed work plan that sits under the strategic Annual Plan. The Sub Group Chairs report to the Board on a quarterly basis to escalate any risks and issues for decision.

The Board is supported by the Safeguarding Business Unit which provides management, co-ordination and administrative support.

The Board structure is set out in Appendix 2.

What challenges did we face?

As mentioned earlier, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown had a huge impact on the work of the Board partner agencies during the last few weeks of the year. This unprecedented crisis came not long after the devastating floods of February 2020 when so many communities were affected and this put additional pressures on services. However, our partner agencies' statutory duties to safeguard children and adults at risk continued to be a priority across the region.

Throughout the year, partner agencies reported to the Board on the key challenges they were faced with, including:

- The boundary change and managing the differing processes, practice and guidance in relation to safeguarding across Board partner agencies.
- Managing demand, which has been an ongoing key theme for partner agencies and capacity is often at maximum levels
- The volume of increasingly complex cases being referred in to Children's Services. In turn, trying to identify suitable foster and residential placements for children and young people presenting with complex needs
- Accessing Continuing Health Care packages for our most complex and vulnerable children and young people
- The need to develop an understanding of how staff training and the production of policies/protocols change and improve practice
- The rollout of VAWDASV training to ensure compliance with Welsh Government regulations and the need to consider alternative approaches. For example, in RCT this involved teams going out into schools to train Catering staff; face-to-face courses set up within schools; booklets shared electronically to all schools with spreadsheet returns; and a focus on setting up whole school staff teams onto RCT Source to undertake the training
- Reviewing how missing persons are managed, particularly those who go missing from a care setting. The local policing area has a number of examples where safeguarding considerations have had to be made as a result of placement of children from other authority areas. Problems have been encountered due to a lack of information sharing between authorities which has created a risk to that individual and others in the home.
- The increase in suicide and attempted suicides within the regional area. In order to focus on prevention, colleagues in South Wales Police have needed to look at trends and patterns taking an analytical approach. A challenge has been in identifying vulnerable associates who have been adversely affected by these tragic incidents. Work is ongoing to bring partners together to agree a process and structures to facilitate this.

5. How did we implement our Annual Plan and what were our key achievements?

Strategic Priority 1: Safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse

In our Annual Plan for 2019/20, we explained that all forms of domestic abuse have a profound effect on those who experience it. The impact that domestic abuse can have on children and young people is devastating and can lead to problems in adulthood and have a detrimental impact on their mental health and wellbeing. This is a similar case for older people, but often the domestic abuse may not be as visible or they may not be aware of the support that is available to them. Some people will be more vulnerable to domestic abuse, such as disabled people who may not have the ability to defend themselves and/or be less able to access support.

Preventing Domestic Abuse

Close collaboration between the VAWDASV Steering Group and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board has meant a wider reach for raising awareness activities in the region. Awareness raising and training amongst public, staff, care providers and the third sector was undertaken to increase the understanding of the early indicators of domestic abuse and how to respond to prevent the escalation of risk and incidents:



In November and December 2019, four workshops in relation to Coercive Controlling Behaviour were provided to non-specialist partner agencies. 164 professionals attended the workshops which were held in order to raise awareness of coercive controlling behaviour and contribute to an improved response to victims across a range of non-specialist agencies. The workshops were led by the RCTCBC Oasis Centre in partnership with Safer Merthyr Tydfil, the Cwm Taf

Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Business Unit and the RCT social housing partner, Trivallis. Attendees felt that following the sessions they were more aware of Coercive Control and knew which signs to look out for and could therefore advise their teams of the same to make them more confident in this area when working on the front line and to be able to refer appropriately.

- Funding from the Welsh Government Training Grant for Safeguarding Board was used to deliver face-to-face training with school staff on VAWDASV Level 1 to ensure compliance with WG legislation. Although these courses were not as well attended as hoped, they acted as a catalyst for schools to send a representative who has in turn encouraged completion amongst their staff of the e-learning module or physical paper module. This work has carried on into 2020-21 via virtual means. In Safeguarding Week, VAWDASV Group 1 training was also delivered to schools, which was promoted as part of the wider Safeguarding week publicity with positive feedback received from all schools spoken to.
- Digital platforms have been utilised to raise awareness amongst professionals and the public on how to recognise and respond to domestic abuse involving children and adults.
- The University and Further Education Colleges were invited to participate in the Board's Training and Communications Sub groups to support the work of the Board in raising awareness of the need to safeguard people from domestic abuse.
- A 'Tackling Domestic Abuse' event was held during Safeguarding Week 2019. 103 professionals from a wide range of agencies throughout Cwm Taf Morgannwg attended this event in Merthyr Tydfil. The line-up included a series of presentations from various agencies, a performance from 'Spectacle Theatre Company' and a number of information stands. This was a successful event, with feedback indicating that events such as this one, themed around specific topics, would be something which professionals would welcome on a more regular basis. The evaluation of the event showed that those who attended thought it was a well organised, informative event with a great array of services present and an excellent opportunity to network and to identify how services can work more closely with each other.



- Whilst planning for Safeguarding Week and its activity, a theme emerged of Adolescent to Parent Violence. Whilst the planning group wanted a more generic theme for the week, it was agreed that this was a relevant issue to pursue. As a result of this discussion, Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF) offered to develop a DVD around this topic, supported by the VAWDASV Steering Group and CTM Safeguarding Board (see Section 9).

- RCT Youth and Engagement Participation Service (YEPS) arranged for the theatre company, 'Spectacle' to perform the production 'Out of Control' at ten targeted youth provisions in RCT followed by workshops. These were based on Domestic Violence, focussing on the victims of abuse, child on parent abuse and coercive behaviour.
- South Wales Police Problem Solving Groups provide a means of updating key individuals and groups in the community of work around reducing domestic violence. There is a continuous programme of school based lessons and inputs and these have targeted topics such as Domestic Abuse, Coercive Control and Child Sexual Abuse. In addition to this, Domestic Abuse is a continuous thread through the other topics in the schools programme, such as alcohol and substance misuse.

The main vehicle for raising awareness of VAWDASV amongst professionals in the Cwm Taf region has been through the rollout of the VAWDASV National Training Framework (NTF). Further information can be found in Section 7 of this report.

Protecting and Supporting Children who have been affected by Domestic Abuse

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

The introduction of Operation Encompass has been a real asset to intelligence sharing and the ability of schools to understand the home life of some of their pupils. Although at times some schools have felt frustrated by the lack of information within a notification; this has been the missing piece of the puzzle in some cases for schools who may have had inclinations of problems at home but with no evidence. This additional information has led to a more complete picture of the scenario and allowed schools to escalate concerns more effectively; put in place support packages for pupils and provide better understanding from staff when the person presents with behavioral changes.

- The Board completed an audit of domestic abuse cases to identify themes and improvements for practice. There was some key learning from this, for example where a father of a child was both a domestic abuse perpetrator and under the age of 18, but his age had not been appropriately considered within the original safeguarding concern.
- This year, Education and Inclusion Services have worked in conjunction with South Wales Police to set up 'Operation Encompass' across the region to signal to schools when a pupil has been connected to a domestic abuse incident within the previous 24 hours.
- The VAWDASV Steering Group undertook a safeguarding survey with schools with regards domestic abuse. This has helped to understand the commonalities in school approaches but also the gaps in knowledge and resources within our schools that we can begin to work toward closing in order to better support our families.
- Routine enquiry compliance rates within maternity care have increased, giving women greater opportunities to disclose abuse and seek assistance.

- Care and Support Plans were implemented to safeguard children and young people from the impact of domestic abuse.
- Between April 2019 and March 2020 the Welsh Ambulance Service forwarded 68 reports of a Child at Risk of Harm or in Need of Support Services as per Section 131 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) to Local Authorities associated with the CTMSB. 2 reports were directly identified as involving Domestic Abuse.
- The National Probation Service has introduced Domestic Abuse Priority Perpetrators (DAPP) which is an effective multi agency response to the risks posed by priority domestic abuse perpetrators, including testing tools for prioritisation which is key to preventing future victims.
- Drive and WISDOM are offender management programmes where South Wales Police work with other agencies around interventions with domestic abuse perpetrators. These are often the most high risk offenders and there are a number of successes where safeguarding has been directly enhanced around protecting children within those families.

CASE STUDY

A young person aged 15 years old lives at home with their mother, father and older sister. They attend a special school. The young person has general learning difficulties. The young person has previously had assessments with Children's Services due to them displaying challenging behaviour. The young person has a moderate/severe learning disability. The family self-referred to the Intake and Assessment team in Merthyr. An initial assessment was completed by the Information, Advice and Assistance Officer. However, due to concerns regarding the young person's mental health, challenging behaviour at home and in school and the risk that they may become looked after, it transferred to the Social Worker for Adolescents.

The family were provided with intensive support by the social worker and the family centre, including home visits, out of hours telephone support and direct work sessions with the young person. The social worker supported the family to access emergency CAMHS support. The young person received an assessment quickly and is now medicated. The family report that the home is much happier and more settled.

The social worker included the family, the young person and other professionals in decision making.

The success with this young person can be attributed to effective multi-agency working between the social worker, CAMHS and the family.

The young person's physical and emotional well-being has improved, they are achieving better in school, family relationships have improved and the young person lives in a safe and stable home environment.

VIEWS OF THE FAMILY

"Working with her has changed our lives, she understands us and knows the things we need support with without overwhelming us. I think my son would have been in care if she hadn't helped."

KEY ACHIEVEMENT – RCT Carn Ingli Project

Following registration with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Carn Ingli became operational in November 2019. The home has provided trauma informed care and support for 5 children between the ages of 8-17 since this time. At the time of placement, each child was in crisis, due to family and placement breakdowns, and early adverse experiences. Out of the 5 children placed throughout this time, the only alternative options were either Out of County Residential Placements (outside Wales), or no other placement was identified or available to meet their needs. Practising in a trauma informed way the project has been able to stabilise behaviours and assess needs. This has resulted in two children successfully moving on to local foster placements and two moving to long term residential provision. The fifth child remains in placement.

Carn Ingli has worked closely with the RCT Therapeutic Families Team to provide holistic assessment and support. This has resulted in positive progress being made by children at the home and has supported care planning and transition into suitable longer- term provision. By maintaining children in or close to their home area, Carn Ingli has been able to offer support in relation to education, training and establishing work placements. The project has also enabled children to integrate into the local community, through joining local sports teams and activity clubs.

Protecting and Supporting Adults at Risk who have been affected by Domestic Abuse

- Two audits were carried out on domestic abuse cases involving adults at risk to seek assurances that strategy discussions are held on a multi-agency basis where there are indications that domestic abuse is involved. The outcomes from those audits was that the response was robust and comprehensive.
- All MARAC reports are shared within the MASH environment and any known adults at risk information will be provided ahead of the domestic abuse discussions and attended by a member of the MASH Adult Protection team.
- Relevant action is taken to ensure that adults at risk experiencing domestic abuse are fully supported and have access to services that they need to reduce their risk of experiencing continuing abuse.
- Adult protection plans have been implemented to safeguard adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse.
- Between April 2019 and March 2020 the Welsh Ambulance Service forwarded 44 reports of an Adult at Risk as per Section 128 of the Act to Local Authorities associated with the CTMSB. 10 reports were directly identified as involving Domestic Abuse.
- The National Probation Service has reviewed all high and very high risk of harm domestic abuse cases via a tool agreed with the Welsh Government Lead for Domestic Abuse. The findings from this audit have been shared locally to ensure best practice in managing this cohort of offenders.



CASE STUDY

Phyllis*, aged 87, was living with her sons, Michael*, aged 66, and Alun, aged 55*. Michael had a visual impairment and was registered blind: he had recently retired from working in a local social enterprise. Alun had been unemployed for many years and was alcohol and drug-dependent. The family first came to the attention of Adult Services when neighbours wrote to the Council to express their concerns about Alun's emotional and financial abuse of Phyllis and Michael. S126 enquiries and a well-being assessment were completed for both Phyllis and Michael. Although both were open about the impact of Alun's behaviour on them, neither were willing to take any positive action to stop further abuse occurring, as 'undue influence' was at play. Social workers continued to work with them, building trust and providing opportunities for both parties to change their position. After a period of continuing reports to police by concerned neighbours and local councillor involvement, a series of strategy meetings were held, the last one of which Phyllis and Michael attended. First Michael and then Phyllis decided that they wanted to separate from Alun. A plan was co-ordinated between police, Housing Services and social workers to allow Phyllis and Michael to move safely from their property to an Adult Services extra care facility. Alun was assisted to present as homeless and Phyllis' property was secured. Phyllis and Michael's safety was achieved and they were free to live their lives without fear.

*names have been changed to protect identities.

CASE STUDY

A 60 year old lady presented to a hospital outpatient department for a routine appointment. During the appointment the patient disclosed significant, long standing domestic abuse of a physical and coercive control nature. The patient enquired if the physical abuse she had experienced over the preceding 40 years had led to her current presenting health needs.

The patient felt able to disclose her distressing circumstances as unusually she was unaccompanied to the appointment by her partner. Staff at the outpatient clinic were very concerned for the woman's safety and encouraged her to seek assistance from police or specialist domestic abuse services. The lady refused all offers of help or signposting and advised staff that she wanted to remain with her husband and felt a strong sense of duty to her marriage and her family, she added that she feared his reaction if he became aware that she had disclosed. Following this, the outpatient clinic manager contacted the UHB corporate safeguarding team for advice and to seek debriefing for this upsetting experience. Although the issue of capacity in terms of coercive control can be disputed, this lady clearly and repeatedly refused help. Despite this no-one felt comfortable with 'not doing anything' to assist. This was a difficult situation and the police were consulted for an opinion and a MARAC referral was debated. It was decided following a discussion with third sector partners that a proactive approach, which respected the views of the individual, would focus on the provision of an IDVA at the next outpatient appointment. It could safely be engineered that the IDVA could speak with the patient alone to discuss and advise her to ensure she was fully informed about what was available to her should she choose to affect change. This plan was sensitively and successfully undertaken in a manner that was respectful of the lady's wishes. In addition the out-patient staff will be provided with bespoke domestic abuse training to improve their awareness and confidence. The UHB are grateful to all involved in endeavouring to inform and protect this victim of domestic abuse.

Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews

In May 2019, the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership published a Domestic Homicide Review in respect of an RCT case, the recommendation for the Safeguarding Board being:

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board satisfies itself that changes to current practices and procedures have addressed the historical issues identified.

This has been addressed via the quality assurance framework of the Cwm Taf MASH where all threshold decisions around concerns are made. This has been scrutinised on a quarterly basis.

As at 31st March 2020, there were 4 other Domestic Homicide Review Panels ongoing.

Of the 5 victims in these cases, 2 were male. This factor led to a recommendation that the region raise awareness of males as victims of domestic abuse. During the last quarter of 2019/20, a partnership group met to develop the campaign materials and plan the activity. The strap line, leaflets and posters were completed but once again, the events could not take place due to the pandemic.

The strap line for the male victim campaign is 'Any Man Can'. The campaign was launched digitally in June 2020.



The image displays two campaign logos side-by-side on a black background. The left logo reads 'MAE MODD I UNRHYW DDYN' in white and blue text, with a small icon of three people below 'DDYN'. Below it is the tagline 'DDIODDEF O GAM-DRIN DOMESTIG'. The right logo reads 'ANY MAN CAN' in white and blue text, with a small icon of three people below 'CAN'. Below it is the tagline 'BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE'. At the bottom of the graphic is a blue bar with the website address 'www.ctmsb.co.uk' in white text.

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process

In Merthyr and RCT we have continued to integrate the work of the MARAC into the day to day functions of the Cwm Taf MASH. A new multi agency risk assessment framework developed by the Cwm Taf MARAC Quality Assurance Group was approved and will be implemented in 2020/21. As a result of earlier and more focused intervention by MASH / MARAC partners (closely monitored by the QA group), the objective will be to see reduced repeat referrals and a reduced number of cases being referred to the main MARAC meetings.

Key Achievement

Work has been undertaken to ensure consistency in the tactical discussion process within the MASH, where possible forming a risk management plan at an early stage following the sharing of information. Partnership work continues to make the MARAC process more efficient to allow more robust discussions in this forum focusing on the most complex and highest risk cases.

Strategic Priority 2:

Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies

In our Annual Plan for 2019/20 we explained that we needed to raise awareness with the public and professionals of the need to protect and prevent children, young people and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect and other forms of harm, and provide information about how this can be achieved.

We also wanted to provide children, young people and adults with an opportunity to participate in our work, increasing the amount of engagement with the public, improving links with local forums and activity groups to ensure the voices of the people we support are thoroughly embedded into our work. We also want to ensure that all feedback provided as a result of these activities is recorded and evaluated.

Information and awareness raising of the work of the Board and the need to safeguard children and adults at risk

We identified a number of improvements that needed to be done in 2019/20 to improve how we share information and raise awareness around safeguarding issues with the public.

These included:

New Website



During Safeguarding Week in November 2019, we launched our new website. With a clear, user friendly layout and the introduction of a search facility, users are now able to easily navigate throughout the site.

The site, which has been very well received, is aimed at both professionals and the public and includes sections for children and young people,

adults, parents and carers, as well as a members' log-in section which provides a secure and confidential area, offering quick and easy access to essential safeguarding information for Board members.

Facebook

We were pleased to launch our new Facebook page in August 2019, which now has 594 followers. This has been an invaluable platform to use to communicate messages and provide information on safeguarding matters and enables us to reach people we may not have otherwise been able to. One post, which provided information on what people should do if they suspect a child, young person or adult is at risk from harm, abuse or neglect had a reach of 5,300.



Safeguarding Week 2019

Regionally, a multi-agency Task and Finish Group, chaired by the CTMUHB's Head of Safeguarding, was set up to plan the events for the week. All co-ordination work was carried out by the Board's Communications and Engagement Officer.

The national focus of Safeguarding Week 2019 was the launch of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and the regional theme for Cwm Taf Morgannwg was Domestic Abuse. A planned programme of activities was developed consisting of training sessions, events and public information stands.

The programme was promoted widely via e-mail, website and social media pages.

Throughout the region, 64 events/activities took place, which consisted of:

- 36 public facing
- 26 professional
- 2 specifically for young people

573 professionals throughout the region took part in training and awareness raising on a variety of Safeguarding issues.

625 members of the public engaged with the Board's partner agencies as part of a public roadshow. This figure does not take into account the public events where the figures were not recorded.

170 young people attended two events and 11 schools in Bridgend were involved in a safeguarding project.

Trivallis and Merthyr Valleys Homes both agreed to sign up all their staff to the VAWDASV Level 1 Ask and Act Training. This was possible due to the networking opportunities such events provide, ie. The Tackling Domestic Abuse event.



Merthyr Tydfil Student Conference



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council held a Student Conference at Merthyr College during Safeguarding Week. The aim of the conference was to gain pupil voice around wellbeing with a key focus on exploitation and keeping safe. It was attended by 90 pupils approximately with representation from primary and secondary schools. The feedback was positive, with the young people feeling more able to make informed choices.

Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service gave seven anti-social behaviour talks in two schools in RCT (Nant Gwyn School and Treorchy Comprehensive). These were aimed at young people for them to understand the consequences of involvement in anti-social behaviour, risk taking behaviour and county lines and to reduce the risk of young people engaging in the above.

RCTCBC Adult Safeguarding Team

RCT Adult Safeguarding Team has an officer whose role it is to engage directly with local agencies and communities to provide information and advice on keeping safe and how to seek help when someone is unsafe.

Activities in 2019/20 including an extended piece of work with Job Centre Plus staff in RCT, that included attendance at team meetings, working with managers to establish Safeguarding Leads within each Job Centre and attendance at a 'Love your Mind' event at Pontypridd Job centre for staff and the public to help to raise awareness of adult safeguarding. The Prevention Officer also attended workshops with 36 staff members and Disability Advisors at Porth Job Centre and Pontypridd Job Centre to raise awareness of adult safeguarding.

RCTCBC Community Safety

Representatives from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) attended a number of events during 2019, which included an 'Engagement Stand' at the Spread the Word festival in Merthyr Tydfil. This helped to raise awareness of hate crime within the region amongst 300 plus members of the public. During Hate Crime Awareness Week, a total of 29 events were held across Merthyr and RCT. Hate crime talks were given in schools to 605 pupils. This was to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it.

County Lines Awareness Raising Session for Young People

100 young people from RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend were invited to attend an awareness raising session on county lines and knife crime.

This was led by Junior Smart from the St Giles Trust. Junior is an ex-offender, has first-hand experience of county lines and gang culture and is using his knowledge to educate young people and equip them with the skills and knowledge to stay safe.

When asked what they thought was most useful, the young people's responses included:

- The knowledge of all the street stuff and how dangerous the gang life can be.
- It made me more aware of what is going on.
- Dangers of getting into drugs
- It shows how serious things can be
- Enthusiastic speaker



For more information on how we have encouraged children, young people and adults at risk to participate in the work of the Board see Section 7 of this report.

Strategic Priority 3:

Ensure that the transition to the new regional footprint for safeguarding is managed effectively

From 1 April 2019, the Board became responsible for safeguarding in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil.

The process of transition required effective planning and management to ensure that the Board and its partner agencies were able to continue to carry out core safeguarding functions during the time of change.

Governance

New Terms of Reference for the Board was agreed, along with Board membership and role profiles. The Director of Social Services for Bridgend became a Co-Chair of the Board and chairing and membership arrangements for the Board Sub Groups were reviewed to reflect the new regional footprint.

The Board's Business Unit took on responsibility for the new regional Board within existing resources and this arrangement will continue to be reviewed.

Agreement was reached on a regional response to PRUDIC² and work continues on a regional response to the management of critical incidents.

² Procedural Response to Unexpected Deaths in Infants and Children

Protocols and Procedures

The Protocols and Procedures sub group, chaired by the local authority in Merthyr Tydfil, carried out a significant piece of work to oversee the development of policies moving from Cwm Taf to Cwm Taf Morgannwg. This has included:

- Schools Safeguarding Policy - the revised policy reflected practices across all 3 local authorities.
- Protocol for Managing Large Scale Safeguarding Incidents
- Board Complaints Policy
- Protocol for Resolving Inter-Agency Safeguarding Concerns
- Principles and Approach to Transition

This work continues into 2020/2021. Details of all Board protocols and procedures can be found on the website www.ctmsb.co.uk

Training, Learning and Communications

The Terms of Reference and membership of the Board's Training and Learning Group were reviewed to reflect the new regional footprint and the chairing arrangements became the responsibility of the local authority in Bridgend.

The local authority Training Departments worked together to share good practice and identify common themes and demands.

All Board communications activities became regionalised, supported by the Engagement, Participation and Communications Sub Group and the Board's Engagement and Communications Officer (see Strategic Outcome 2).

Child and Adult Practice Reviews

The existing Child and Adult Review Groups were joined to create a new Joint Review Group, chaired by the local authority in Bridgend. A single process is now in place for referrals for Practice Reviews and the co-ordination of Panels and Reviews, supported by a central pool of independent chairs and reviewers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

This year, the Board endorsed a regional Chronology Guidance document which supports professionals in completing chronologies for Child or Adult Practice Review Panels. Feedback has been positive and it has been noted on a number of occasions how completed timelines for cases have been succinct and focus on significant events.

Quality Assurance and Performance

The terms of reference and membership of the Quality Assurance groups for adults and children were reviewed, with chairing arrangements remaining with RCT Council. A consistent approach to data reporting and audit has been developed and will undergo further improvement in 2020/2021.

Partner Agencies Quality Assurance Activity

- All schools in RCT complete Safeguarding Self Evaluations each academic year that can form part of discussions during Estyn inspections and LA Officer visits as well as form part of discussions with Governing Bodies/Management Committees. These self evaluations are based on Estyn self evaluation documents but have been amended to include further detail felt pertinent to officers in Education and Children's Services. Estyn inspections will also highlight any schools where safeguarding concerns are raised for action which will result in response from the school and Governing Body/Management Committee and follow up meetings/visits with Estyn.
- Merthyr Tydfil Social Services has continued to embed its Quality Assurance Framework in relation to safeguarding practice. Over the last year there has been an increase in the timeliness of strategy discussions being held by the Merthyr Tydfil staff based within MASH. Monthly audits are undertaken on thresholding and decision making by the MASH Team and Early Help Hub. Good practice and learning is shared with relevant staff. Case audits and theme-based audits are undertaken to support practice learning.
- RCT Children Services has developed and implemented a Quality Assurance and Learning Framework (QALF), based on agreed practice standards. Performance is monitored on a monthly basis by Children Service's Senior Management Team. RCT Adult Services has established QA processes in place to audit case records. Individual supervision is a key component of QA and is mandatory for all Adult Services staff
- Quality Assurance in social care in Bridgend is guided by a Wellbeing Directorate Quality Assurance Framework. A range of methods are used to build up a picture of the 'so what' in terms of evidencing the way the Council works with people and the impact on their personal wellbeing. The quality of the Directorate's response to people is evaluated.
- In Bridgend, the Education Engagement Team works closely with schools to ensure good practice linked to safeguarding. Schools are provided with the Estyn Safeguarding Audit Tool and the team contributes to schools completions of their audits. Training delivered by the Education Engagement Team reviews evaluation forms completed to ensure that the training is meeting the needs of participants.
- South Wales Police HQ coordinate reviews and dip sampling of incidents, identifying lessons learned in respect of safeguarding. There is a daily tasking process that provides scrutiny over all incidents reported within the previous 24 hour period, and these incidents are carried forward until all safeguarding risks are alleviated. Analytical tools are available for senior officers to review trends and patterns and there is a monthly meeting that focuses on service delivery and performance.
- The Health Board has an internal governance structure to provide assurance that safeguarding services are effective and robust. Children and Adult operational groups report to the Safeguarding Executive Group (SEG), which reports to the Quality & Safety (Q&S) Committee, a sub group of the Board. The Q&S and SEG is attended by independent board members and the executive lead for safeguarding is held to account for safeguarding services.

- Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service is partner to the Children's Services Departments of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils. The YOS Quality Assurance Framework will complement those frameworks.
- The National Probation Service has a robust quality assurance process where selected assessments undertaken by Offender Managers are assessed by management groups ensuring the Performance Improvement Tool is adhered to and safeguarding plans are identified and managed effectively, in particular via a multi-agency framework.
- Both MASH have developed a Performance Framework whereby agencies are able to analyse and reflect upon quantitative data and consider further qualitative analysis for emerging themes/trends. The Quality Assurance/Audit Groups monitor, evaluate and review data in regards to the effectiveness of the MASH. This provides the opportunity to highlight good practice and also focus on areas for learning and development.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

The Welsh Ambulance Services Trust has developed and is trialing a safeguarding concerns reporting system using ipads for mobile staff and a desktop solution for all other staff members to improve reporting standards

The 'Docworks' solution provides direct written reporting to social services adult and child safeguarding teams from personnel at the incident scene. Copies of the safeguarding reports are retained in a 'document hub' for record retention. This allows for quality assurance and access to reports by safeguarding team members to support further enquiries.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs

Further links were established between the Cwm Taf and Bridgend MASHs and identified opportunities to share good practice, particularly in the areas of information sharing and IT safeguarding platforms, that will continue to develop in 2020/21. In addition, the Cwm Taf and Bridgend MASH contributed to an evaluation of MASH across Wales.

Multi-Agency work within Bridgend's MASH continues to be productive and the Annual MASH report is rich in performance data and quality information from partner agencies with regard to their experience of working in MASH.

The QA MASH groups continue to scrutinise the performance data available in order to ensure the MASH functions and interagency collaboration is at an optimum. Multi-agency audits continue to be completed by members of the group who also share the outcome/findings of audits carried out internally within their organisations. The Health Board invested in the appointment of public protection nurses within the Bridgend MASH, which supported Bridgend based colleagues to recognise and respond effectively to safeguarding issues through greater communication, clear process and specialist support.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

The implementation of joint screening PPNs between Bridgend Children Social Care, South Wales Police and Early Help providing children and families with the right support at the right time and reducing the number of no further action referrals into social care. Ongoing work between South Wales Police and Early Help to improve the identification of vulnerability within families at an early stage was noted in the Justice Inspectorate report in February of 2019 as good practice. This has led to further developments with PCSOs being located within Early Help hubs and 3rd sector workers involved within front door activity into social care and early help services.

6. Safeguarding Themes

Audit Activity

Achieving improvement in safeguarding policy, systems and practice is a core function of the Board. Thematic and case audits are carried out by the Board's Quality Assurance Groups to identify learning from the experience of its professionals across our partner agencies. Any recommendations made by these audits are monitored to identify how practice is adapted to reflect any learning. The Board carried out a range of audits in 2019/20, some of these are summarised below:

AUDIT ACTIVITY	THEMES IDENTIFIED
Professional Concerns (Adult Safeguarding)	<p>There is a strong correlation between, a) being female, b) working for the NHS or independent domiciliary care, c) Having children subject to CP procedures And being made subject to a professional concerns report.</p> <p>Multi-agency procedures are more likely to result in monitoring and additional supervision arrangements being put in place by employing agencies rather than dismissal by a factor of 4:1.</p>
Repeat Cases where further action to protect following S126 enquiries has been necessary within 12 months	<p>Decision-making is effective and there is no evidence that a different approach at the first incident would have avoided a subsequent incident occurring.</p> <p>The only significant deficit in the case management was the repeated failure to recognize the need for advocacy for the adult at risk, to ensure referrals were made and to involve the advocate in the Safeguarding process.</p> <p>Other themes identified in some of the cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management oversight. ▪ Medication error ▪ Neglect and service user dignity.
Individual Case Audit (Adult)	<p>Care & Support Plan reviews should be completed at least annually and concerns of increased needs reported by providers should prompt an unscheduled review.</p> <p>When concerns are reported by a close family member, they should be followed by contact with the service user.</p> <p>There needs to be improved understanding of the principles and practice of the Mental Capacity Act.</p> <p>Communication between A/E Departments, District Nurses and GPs needs to improve.</p> <p>Care providers must inform the care manager if there is a deterioration in the service user's condition.</p> <p>All service users following a fall or discharge from hospital or respite should be body mapped to check for pressure areas.</p>

Adult Practice Reviews and Child Practice Reviews

The Board is required to carry out an Adult Practice Review in circumstances of a significant incident where abuse or neglect of an adult at risk is known or suspected. The Board did not publish an Adult Practice Review in 2019/20.

The Board is required to carry out a Child Practice Review in circumstances of a significant incident where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected. The Board published one Child Practice Review during 2019/20. The themes identified as part of this review were as follows:

- The University Health Board should review and improve the guidance and assessment tool for professionals carrying out Crisis Mental Health Assessments of parents and care givers responsible for children
- Principles for professionals should be developed about the types of cases that are suitable for step-down to preventative services, taking into consideration the parent(s) motivation to work towards change.

Partner Agency Responses to the CPR Themes Identified

- The Child Practice Review highlighted positive practice for Education: 'On the whole, there was robust safeguarding practice by the school and the Attendance and Well-being Service. Information was shared appropriately, effectively and promptly.' However, the learning event stressed the need for understanding on 'step-down' cases and often cases may not present to Education services until after step-down procedures have been instigated. In these cases, it is imperative that schools and services share information to ensure effective ongoing safeguarding of the pupil and their families. This closer working relationship has fed into the review of referral forms over the past year to capture historic information where needed that may be pertinent to working approaches.
- Merthyr Tydfil's Head of Children's Services was the chair for the Child Practice Review undertaken during 2019/20. The learning from the Child Practice Review undertaken has been shared via the Council's Quality Assurance Framework. The learning is first shared with Managers and then in individual team meetings. Managers sign to confirm the information has been shared. The service considered the relevance of the information for our practice to take any actions necessary.
- RCT Children Services shared the recommendations and action plan with the appropriate HOS group by the Panel representative for discussion / follow-up. The learning from the review was also disseminated amongst the staff group via 7-minute briefings shared in team meetings. The review findings were also shared with the Corporate Parenting Board.
- The report, its outcomes and action plan was disseminated through the Health Board's safeguarding governance structure. The responsibility for specific actions in relation to the action plan have been shared with the relevant service and progress monitored through their own governance structure and reported back to the Safeguarding Board. A change in practice has evolved from this learning and training provided to ensure knowledge gaps are addressed.



- South Wales Police provided significant support to the reviewers and families to ensure that appropriate engagement took place to allow for the families views and feelings to be part of the review process. The South Wales Police Panel Member ensured that the police involvement in the review itself was carefully managed throughout the Child Practice Review Process with significant emphasis being placed on what could be learned prior to the death of the child with little or no focus being given to the actual circumstances around the incident that led to the death. Whilst there was no specific learning for the police the report together with the 7 minute briefing was circulated on the SWP internal internet page and cascaded force wide. The learning from the review was welcomed in respect of other agencies which the police see as positive. The Child Practice Review Learning event also allowed for the identifying and dissemination of learning with officers also having a better understanding and appreciation of partnership working which is key to safeguarding.
- The learning for Adult Mental Health Services provided by CTMUHB was discussed with the local authority's Head of Service for Mental Health to ensure that the learning could be shared with the Community Mental Health Teams and could be addressed in Mental Health partnership meetings.
- In line with National Probation Service processes, this CPR was discussed at the Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) management meeting and taken to the PDU cross grade best practice forum.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

During this year, South Wales Police produced a short animation on practice review learning events for staff. The purpose of this was to provide an overview of the purpose of a learning event and what to expect. This was produced as we were aware that some staff can feel anxious when they receive notification that they have been nominated for a learning event and felt that this would be a helpful way to introduce the concept to them prior to meeting with them for a full briefing. The feedback on this has been positive and is now being used by other agencies too.

7. Information Training and Learning

The Board is required to review the training needs of practitioners in the area and ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding training, taking into account themes and learning arising from the delivery of the Board's functions. This work is monitored by the Board's Training and Learning Sub Group.

Safeguarding Training

The majority of the multi-agency safeguarding training is planned, delivered and co-ordinated by the local authority-based Training Departments.

In 2019/20, the Cwm Taf Training Department delivered over 200 safeguarding training courses to 3,172 people from a range of agencies. In Bridgend, 116 courses were delivered to 2,469 attendees. The majority of these people were employed by the local authorities but agencies represented also includes health, nurseries, police, housing providers and voluntary organisations.

National Training Framework on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Since implementation, **5,977** staff members from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have completed group 1 training. Figures are not available locally for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust or the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service as they report directly to Welsh Government.

The table below outlines Cwm Taf's progress regarding the VAWDASV NTF in 2019-2020:

GROUP	NUMBERS COMPLETE
1	1470 (LA data only)
2	367
3	0 (no group 3 trainers)
4	9
5	5

The total VAWDASV completions in Bridgend for the period April 2019 to March 2020 was 541.

Training Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total for April 2019/20
E – Learning	106	67	51	211	435
Workbooks	25	21	23	37	106
Totals	131	88	74	248	541

In addition, the Health Board incorporates the Ask and Act training package into their Safeguarding People training, which allows them to illustrate the impact of domestic abuse on children and their families, and how this abuse can manifest in adulthood and beyond. In addition, the safeguarding team have developed bespoke training workshops for front door services to ensure they remain cognisant of domestic abuse concerns and are able to take appropriate action.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

In Cwm Taf, an ACEs training delivery group was set up. During 2019-20 10 full day sessions were delivered on a multi agency basis.

Welsh Government Training Grant

The Board receives an annual grant from the Welsh Government to support additional safeguarding training activities. This year we were able to support the following:

- Women’s Aid were commissioned to deliver 21 face-to-face Group 1 sessions on VAWDASV Ask and Act training to RCT schools. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 situation, only 48 members of school staff accessed the 15 sessions that took place. There was a logistical issue for schools sending staff to sessions during the day without backfill for their staff and therefore numbers were disappointing. However, the approach that many schools took was to send a representative to the training who would then distribute the booklets within their own school for completion. This model has seemingly worked well. 519 members of staff have completed the training in this way (figures up to June 2020). There has also been a vast increase in the number of schools who have requested they are set up on the Source – RCT’s e-learning platform – so that they can access the training.
- An external trainer was commissioned to deliver 2 training days to upskill partner agency staff to become independent chairs and/or reviewers for Child and Adult Practice Reviews. Unfortunately, the first session was cut short due to the floods and the second one didn’t go ahead due to COVID-19. These will be picked back up in 2020/21.
- A secure area for professionals was created on the Safeguarding Board’s website. This will be further developed to include on-line training and resources.

- A Good Practice Event was held in May 2019. This brought together organisations from Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend, whose work involves safeguarding children, young people and adults. The event was well attended by professionals throughout the region and highlighted good safeguarding practice that is being carried out by these organisations and provided an opportunity for learning and for building closer working relationships.
- A Domestic Abuse Event for professionals (see Section 5)
- Safeguarding training was delivered to staff working in Coleg y Cymoedd
- Stress Management training for MASH staff
- Stop it Now CSA Sessions to raise awareness of protecting children and young people from sexual abuse. Three sessions took place in April 2019, two aimed at professionals and one at the public. 50 people took part over the three sessions, of which the purpose was to raise awareness about risk indicators in relation to children who may be vulnerable to child sexual abuse, as well as behaviours in relation to the grooming process.

Multi Agency Practitioner Events

In September 2019, six Multi-Agency Practitioner Forums were held to launch the Safeguarding Board's 'Principles and Approach to Transition – Preparing Young People to Succeed in Adulthood'.

The Forums were aimed at professionals working within adults and children's service areas and wider partners and were very well attended. Its objectives were to Raise awareness of the CTMSB's 'Principles and Approach to Transitions' document.

- Consider the seven Principles of Transition
- Consider a shared approach to improving support to young people with additional support to young people with additional needs who are making the transition into adulthood.

County Lines Information Session

During Safeguarding Week, South Wales Police, delivered a session to professionals within the region to provide them with an understanding of County Lines and Cuckooing and the context within the area.

Wales Safeguarding Procedures

The introduction of the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures, following the launch in November 2019 was publicised widely across all partner agencies. Briefing sessions were due to commence from March 2020 but these were cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic. Virtual learning sessions on the procedures have been developed for on-line delivery from September 2020.

Dissemination of Information

As part of developing a positive culture of learning, the Board has disseminated best practice and learning within the workforce via Multi-Agency Practitioner Forums (see above), information within the Board's e-bulletin as well as updating the website with reports and learning outcomes from Adult/Child Practice Reviews and audits.

The summer e-bulletin was developed and circulated within the Board and its partners in August 2019 and included information on:

- The Board's Annual Plan and Annual Report
- Recently approved policies and procedures
- Learning from case reviews
- Updated forms
- Events

8. How Have We Collaborated With Others?

Working in partnership with other agencies is integral to the work of the Board. We do this in a number of ways, with individuals, agencies, partnerships and organisations both within and external to Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Community Safety Partnerships

The Board collaborated with the Community Safety Partnerships on the theme of Domestic Abuse in 2019/20 (see Section 5). We have also worked on 5 Domestic Homicide Reviews during year which will result in shared learning.

Wales Safeguarding Procedures

The Cardiff and the Vale Safeguarding Board led on the development of the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures for children and adults. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Board was actively involved in the Project Board overseeing the development of the procedures, which were launched in November 2019.

Welsh Government

The Board has collaborated with the Welsh Government on a range of topics and hosts quarterly meetings with Safeguarding Board Chairs and with Business Managers across Wales.

In 2019/20 the Board developed a response to the Welsh Government's National Action Plan on Child Sexual Abuse. This work will continue up to 2022.

The Welsh Extremism Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU)

The Board worked with officers from WECTU during a review of a case of radicalisation in RCT. The learning from this case will be shared across the region in 2020/21.

A presentation was also made to the Board on the referral process to WECTU and this was adopted across the region.

Other Regional Safeguarding Boards

The Board regularly receives reports from other Boards in Wales on Child and Adult Practice Reviews and any recommendations and learning pertinent to the region are shared appropriately.

The Board Chairs and the Board Business Manager have regular contact with their counterparts across Wales to share good practice and resolve any common issues/barriers.

Stop it Now Wales

Stop it Now! Wales is a child sexual abuse prevention project working across the country to ensure that parents, carers and frontline staff are as best placed as they can be to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The Board worked with Stop it Now Wales to deliver awareness raising sessions on Child Sexual Abuse (see Section 7).

National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB)

NISB members attended all Board meetings during 2019/20, as well as presenting at the Board Development Day in January 2020.

Further Education Colleges

In 2019/20, the Board invited FE colleagues to attend its Training and Communications Sub Groups. Attendance has been excellent to date.

CASE STUDY

Adult Safeguarding

A referral was received from an Occupational Therapist (OT) who was assessing an adult's short term memory issues. The OT is concerned that the adult is being targeted for financial abuse while at a local café. The OT has advised that due to his memory it would be difficult for him to re-establish new patterns or routines and therefore it is not feasible for the adult to change his routine to avoid the alleged abuse.

The alleged perpetrator is asking the adult for money and he is giving this willingly. When the alleged perpetrator has asked for larger sums of money the adult has refused showing an ability to protect himself and therefore the safeguarding process would not be used.

The good practice here is that the coordinator shared the information with the Police. PCSOs in the area were alerted to the situation and were directed to visit the café where the adult attends daily to build on good relationships with the café owner as a preventative measure.

The Safeguarding Coordinator fed back this information to the referrer and to the adult who were both happy with the outcome. The OT also agreed to undertake part of her assessment with the adult at the café so that she can also monitor the situation within her professional remit.

Outcome:

The potential risk of abuse was managed outside of the Adult Safeguarding process but safeguards were achieved to reduce the risks using good multi agency practices with a positive outcome.

9. Participation and Involving

Children, young people or adults who are affected by the exercise of the Safeguarding Board's functions should be given the opportunity to participate in the work of the Board.

How have we achieved this?

Engaging with Young People

- The Merthyr Tydfil, Supporting Change Team engaged with the most complex families to share ways of working that they feel have most benefitted them and how they feel the service can be developed to achieve greater success. The positive work that has commenced in this area during 2019/2020 will be built upon during 2020/2021.
- The Health Board has set up a new Children's Rights Steering Group to ensure that all services and departments consider children's rights within their service specifications, and that they can be measured against their observance of children's rights. An engagement event with children and young people took place in February 2020. This will ensure that Children's Rights are considered and embedded within the UHB's services
- RCT's Youth Engagement and Participation Service provides enriching opportunities and support services for young people across RCT. Young people can access the Youth Engagement and Participation Service's website, www.wicid.tv where they can find a programme of virtual opportunities, activities, and events that are happening every day. YEPS also has a range of support on its social media platforms for children, young people, parents and carers. Mental Health and Wellbeing Officers based with the YEP Service, offer specific support and advice for young people struggling with their own mental health. During 2019/20 YEPS supported 10,040 young people in Rhondda Cynon Taf, including 1,072 vulnerable young people receiving 1-2-1 support from a youth worker. 945 young people received support to improve their mental health and wellbeing as part of a group.
- The Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS) engages and participates with young people and victims of crime to evaluate effectiveness of practice. YOS has commissioned a 'Viewpoint' system to assist with this work, and is currently reviewing how this work can be done more effectively. YOS understands the importance of evaluation and feedback from service users in order to inform future service delivery.
- The Welsh Ambulance Services Trust engaged extensively in the region to produce a new leaflet 'You are not alone'. Launched at Coleg Cymoedd, Nantgarw, the leaflet is a Mental Health support information leaflet providing a range of well-established National Mental Health Support Helplines. The idea came from engagement with young people; families and carers across the region who had experienced mental health needs. The leaflet was created in partnership with Interlink RCT, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil and their Service User Representatives from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and the Together for Mental Health Partnership Board. The leaflet has been distributed to ambulance stations and staff to provide to patients as needed, signposting them to support for their mental health needs. An electronic version is also available to the public through the NHS 111 Wales website.

- In Bridgend, consultation with young people has been undertaken around their experiences of working with services, including schools and family support services. Feedback from young people is generally positive in respect of support received from Youth Justice Service following a consultation exercise undertaken with those known to the service. Participation and Engagement Workers work closely with schools councils and Youth Council. Priorities in these areas focus on children's emotional and mental wellbeing in particular.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT – Animation on Domestic Abuse

Young people from Merthyr Tydfil worked with the Board to produce an animation for young people, aiming to raise awareness about domestic abuse and violence by children and young people toward parents/carers. The Animation was due to be accompanied by a toolkit and launched through a regional event. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Despite the restrictions, the young people felt it was important that their message was aired, therefore the animation was uploaded to Facebook, Twitter and websites.

On Twitter the animation has gained 710 impressions, 5 media views, has had a total of 36 engagements and 3 re-tweets.

The original Facebook post by MTBWYF the animation gained a reach of 1877 people, 14 shares and 5 engagements. The second post by MTBWYF OF the animation has reached 1855 people, 8 shares and has had 43 engagements.

The animation was also uploaded on to the Board's Facebook page and has been viewed 1,683 times.

Finally, the animation has been shared with the Welsh Government, Safe Lives, National Independent Safeguarding Board and the Victims Commissioners' Group.

Engaging with Adults at Risk

During 2019/20, Merthyr Tydfil Adult Services staff attended relevant groups to gather views (VAMT, 50 plus forum for example). Feedback from adults at risk has been gained to inform future service delivery.

- RCTCBC's Adult Protection Officer (Prevention) continues to work with Treforest Learning Curve services to support the development of You Tube videos with Musicaic Minds on the subject of safeguarding.
 - 'Money, money, money' - Financial abuse.
 - 'Gold' - Sexual abuse / Inappropriate behaviours.
 - 'I need a carer' – Identifying neglect
- A survey was carried out by South Wales Police with victims of domestic abuse to gather feedback in relation to the service they have received. The results of that survey will be collated in 2020/21 in order to look at organisational learning on emerging themes. Operational policies will be reviewed as a result to enhance the service provided to victims, looking at the victims experience from initial call through to criminal justice processes. Given the benefits this has highlighted, further survey work will be carried out.

- South Wales Police - In working with the training department, learning events have been held around safeguarding, bringing in people who are survivors to tell their story which has provided valuable insight from the victim's perspective to investigators and safeguarding teams. Training videos have also been utilised where victims tell their story. One has been disseminated on Forced Marriage.
- The RCT Safeguarding Prevention Officer did some specific work with the RCT Carers' Support Project to support carers with keeping their loved ones safe.
- The National Probation Service User Survey seeks feedback to capture the view of both offenders and victims and involvement change deriving from such feedback.

10. Contributions of Board Members

Each Safeguarding Board partner has a responsibility to ensure that the Board is operating effectively. There are clearly defined Terms of Reference as well as role profiles for Board members.

The Board continues to review the effectiveness of measures taken by partners and other bodies in relation to safeguarding via quality assurance, audits and performance management. All the required statutory partner agencies in Cwm Taf Morgannwg are represented on the Board, Operational Committees and Sub Groups and attendance is monitored at these meetings.

Section 135 audit

Under section 135(3) of the Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB) has a statutory duty to scrutinise local arrangements and assess whether partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations in respect of Safeguarding.

The Section 135 audit tool was developed as part of a review process based on self-evaluation by partner agencies, and was designed by partners. The information gathered assisted us to identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement. The key messages coming out of the audit were:

- Of the returns received, 24.2% of Board partner agencies highlighted excellent compliance and 54.5% good; providing an overall **high compliance rate of 78.7%**.
- **21.3% of the partners rated their compliance levels as basic**, and whilst no overall areas of non-compliance were identified by agencies, 2 agencies did identify some red sub standards, related to the provision of performance data, measuring the impact of audits and reviews on practice, sharing learning and good practice with the Board and providing independent reviewers and panel chairs.
- In respect of governance arrangements standards responded to, 93% were good and above. This is clearly an area of strength for the Board.



- This was followed by policies and procedures, with 87% of the standards identified as good /excellent.
- In terms of development for the Board and partners, whilst there is work to be done across all the areas, work was identified as needing to be done in respect of some of the standards sitting within:
 - **Learning Culture** (29% of standards were identified as basic or non-compliant compared with 7% for Governance),
 - **Communications with Staff and Public** (27% rate of basic and non-compliant standards).
 - **Safeguarding Effectiveness**, with a 21.8% rate of basic and non-compliant standards.

The Board gave due consideration to the findings of the audit, which were used to inform the planning arrangements and priorities for 2020/2021.

The Board Chairs, Members, Sub Group Chairs and Sub Group Members provide a significant amount of the time to support the Board and its work (see table below). The variable and diverse nature of the Board's work makes this difficult to report on within a quantifiable and measurable resource context and is not always obviously visible to other professionals and agencies. The process, management and publication of Child and Adult Practice Reviews, as well as the development of regional protocols and policies are just some examples of the work that require high levels of professional input, knowledge and expertise.



AGENCY	ATTENDANCE AT BOARD (5 meetings)	PRESENTED AT BOARD (4 meetings)	ATTENDANCE AT OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE (4 meetings)
Director (RCT) Chief Officer (MT) Director (BCBC)	5	15	2
RCT Children Services	5	2	4
RCT Adult Services	5	0	4
RCT Public Protection	3	1	3
RCT Education	5	1	3
MT Children Services	5	9	4
MT Adult Services	5	4	4
MT Public Protection	1	0	0
MT Education	5	0	1
Bridgend Children Services	5	0	2
Bridgend Adult Services	4	0	4
Bridgend Public Protection	0	0	0
Bridgend Education	3	4	1
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	5	8	3
South Wales Police	5	4	4
National Probation Service	5	1	2
Parc Prison	3	3	0

Individual agencies are requested to report to the Board on the outcome of internal agency reviews, evaluations and inspections to support effective challenge at a multi-agency strategic level. In 2019/20 some of the reports that were presented to the Board by partner agencies are summarised below:

Cwm Taf University Health Board Maternity Services Review

A Special Meeting of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board was held in May 2019 to consider the findings of this report. A subsequent presentation was made to the Board in September 2019 by the Chair of the Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel.

The Board provided robust and effective challenge and agreed a number of actions coming out of these discussions:

- A review of 4 neonatal deaths by the Safeguarding Board, the outcome of which will be finalised in 2020/21.
- An agreement for regular updates on the progress of the Improvement Plan to the Board

HIW Special Review ABMU Health Board

This report was shared by Health colleagues to highlight concerns around safe recruitment and safe practice. The issue around DBS checks in Health only being completed once at the start of a person's employment was raised and is still a topic that is being considered by the Board.

ICSA Report: Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions

Presented by Youth Offending and Secure Estate colleagues, this report highlighted some key messages relating to culture, welfare of children and physical restraint. Seven recommendations were being taken forward by the Youth Justice Board.

School Inspection Report (RCT)

Colleagues from the RCT Education Department were able to provide the Board with assurances that safeguarding recommendations were being addressed and that measures had been put in place to monitor improvements.

External validation of RCT Adult Services self-assessment

A Care Inspectorate Wales Report provided external validation of Adult Services self-assessment and re-assurance that RCT's adult safeguarding arrangements are robust.

In addition to the above, each partner has provided a summary below of their contributions during 2019/2020 as follows:

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC)

Merthyr Tydfil Children's and Adult Services have been active Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board participants. We are represented at each of the sub-groups that report to the Board. Merthyr Tydfil have chaired the Protocols and Procedures Group and vice-chaired the MASH Quality Assurance Sub-Group and Adults Quality Assurance group.

Extended Children's Senior Management Team has been involved in the implementation of new policies and staff briefings have been held to promote the work of the Safeguarding Board. We have been active participants in regional meetings to support the transition of the new regional footprint to promote outcomes for our regional community. Merthyr Tydfil represented Cwm Taf by contributing to the updated Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

As a panel member Merthyr Tydfil has contributed to a domestic homicide review. As a reviewer Merthyr Tydfil has contributed to an adult practice review relating to domestic abuse.

Merthyr Tydfil has been involved in quality assurance work relating to domestic abuse for both children and adults. Merthyr Tydfil led on regional work to aid consistency to collection of adult services safeguarding data across the new regional footprint. Merthyr Tydfil Adult Safeguarding has completed Quality Assurance work relating to threshold and decision making which utilised the good practice of cross referencing thresholds with our regional partner. Other quality assurance work included re-referrals, referrals that do not progress, non-criminal investigation and professional concerns.

The introduction of the Early Help Hub has supported consideration of the appropriate juncture to step up preventative cases into a statutory arena in a timely manner, where appropriate. The movement of earlier assessment informed signposting of all families with their agreement is anticipated in the longer term to prevent concerns escalating into the safeguarding arena.

Bridgend County Borough Council (MTCBC)

Bridgend Social Care is committed to safeguarding at a senior management level evidenced through its contribution and participation with the Regional Safeguarding Board's Director of Children's Social Care is a Co-Chair of the Board. Senior Managers have attended developmental days convened by the Safeguarding Boards Business Unit and contributed in the development of the Board's Annual Plans and Annual Reports.

Bridgend Social Care representatives attend a variety of events and projects including All Wales Groups and participate in Welsh Government Task and Finish Groups.

Bridgend Social Care attend and participate in the chairing of the Safeguarding Boards Subgroups and Task and Finish Groups including the Joint Adult and Child Practice Review Group of which we chair alongside the Training and Learning Group.

Bridgend Social Care share an abundance of information and data to the Safeguarding Board, ensuring safeguarding is a priority in areas such as PRUDiC, Child/Adult Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Multi Agency Practitioner Forums, Immediate Response Groups and Case and Thematic Audits.

Bridgend Education

It has been a challenging transition into the new regional safeguarding board due to the understanding of the role and responsibility of each sub group and officer representation. Initially, there was some confusion as to which officer would be best placed to represent the Education and Family Support directorate which meant on occasions some meetings were not attended and apologies were given.

However, as understanding and clarity grew on each sub group, this has led to better participation and engagement and has ensured that the correct officers are in attendance.

Participation at each sub group has been shared across the Family Support Services Manager, the Education Engagement Manager (formerly Vulnerable Groups), The Youth Development Co-ordinator and Group Manager for Integrated Working and Family Support. Input has been given into developments of safeguarding policies for schools, IFSS, Youth Justice Service, Safeguarding training to schools, Child Practice Reviews for example. Attendance at the board by the Head of Education has been consistent.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC)

There is a clear commitment to safeguarding at a senior management level through active contribution to the Regional Safeguarding Board and the Group Director is Co-Chair of the Board.

Staff actively contribute to the development of the Board's Annual Plans and Annual Reports and attend Board Development Days. Staff represent the Board at various national events and projects and have also been involved in wider participation with the All Wales Groups and the development group for the new Safeguarding Procedures.

Children's Services ensures appropriate representation, consistent attendance and active contribution to all Board Sub Groups and Task Groups, and act as the Chairs / Vice Chairs for a number. They also actively contribute to the development and review of Board protocols and also to national procedures (see above).

Children's Services actively contributes to safeguarding processes including PRUDiCs, Child/Adult Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Multi Agency Practitioner Forums, Immediate Response Groups and Case/Thematic Audits. Staff members also contribute to the work of Board reviews as Independent Reviewers, Panel members and Chairs.

Staff members also deliver safeguarding training on behalf of the Board.

RCT Adults Services has had strong representation on the Board and its sub-groups throughout the year. Attendance at meetings and participation in task and finish groups has been excellent.

Adults Services has also participated in and made significant contributions to Immediate Response Groups when they have been held and to Practice Reviews. The Adult Safeguarding Service Manager has been a Reviewer for a Domestic Homicide Review and a Child Practice Review and has been a panel member for all relevant cases. The Director of Adult Services has chaired the Joint Operational Committee and the Service Manager has chaired the Adult Quality Assurance sub-group and vice-chaired the EPC sub-group.

The Service Manager represented Adult Safeguarding for the Board at the Wales Safeguarding procedures editorial group. Adult Services also contributes to multi-agency QA via the Adults, MARAC and MASH Quality Assurance sub-groups.

South Wales Police

Senior officers in the South Wales Police Safeguarding arena ensure that there is attendance at all safeguarding board meetings and relevant sub-groups. Where the focus is on the priorities of both the Board and the control strategy of South Wales Police.

The Independent Protective Vulnerable Person Manager is very committed and attends both Board meetings and will step in as the chair on the Practice Review Subgroup. During this period, that officer agreed to assist in the Chairing of two Child Practice Reviews.

Police do chair a number of meetings and are vice chair on others, a full list of meetings is available on request. A representative will attend all panel meetings.

As a force the decision was made to adopt the same boundaries as the Safeguarding Board, recognising the benefits this brings of a more holistic approach to safeguarding. From a force perspective, a project team has overseen the realignment of the police boundaries to ensure a smooth transition. Throughout the transition a decision was made to appoint a senior officer responsible for safeguarding departments. In addition the Strategic Detective Inspector for safeguarding has taken on the responsibility for the BCU as project lead to ensure structures are in place to effectively manage daily business.

Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The Safeguarding Board is attended by the YOS Head of Service in addition to chairing the EPC sub group. The Head of Service also attends the Joint Operational Committee and the Joint Review Group. Other sub groups are attended by YOS Operational Managers. In addition, Operational Managers attend task and finish groups as necessary. Attendance at all these groups is very good.

The YOS played an active role in Safeguarding Week, by facilitating a session on the trauma of witnessing domestic violence on young people. In addition, a training event was facilitated by Drive for all YOS members of staff and planning around the provision of programmes to be used to work with young people who commit domestic abuse offences is under development.

An Operational Manager has chaired CSE strategy meetings this year and has contributed to the development of the CSE approach of the Board by identifying trends and themes within this area.

An Operational Manager also attends the CSA / CSE Roundtable (Chaired by the Children's Commissioner) to represent YOT Managers Cymru and RCT Children's Services, where there is a significant emphasis on Safeguarding across Wales.

YOS Head of Service contributes to Child Practice Reviews, Multi Agency Practitioner Forums (MAPF) and Operational Managers have now also been nominated to become reviewers.

Two YOS Operational Managers deliver Level 3 Safeguarding training. An Operational Manager is also accredited with Welsh Women's Aid to deliver the VAWDASV ('Ask & Act' Domestic Abuse) Level 2 training to all agencies across the Cwm Taf region. The same manager also sits on the Training & Learning Sub Group where the attendance and outcomes from this training is monitored.

National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service views Board attendance as a strategic priority and this is reflected in the level and frequency of attendance at the CTM Boards and sub groups. There are representatives on all relevant sub groups and Boards and involvement in Chairing or reviewing APR/CPRs.

In Wales, NPS has implemented the progression to bring Offender Management into the National Probation Service. The onboarding of staff and offenders have been completed in North Wales. Team structures will now be aligned to adopt a Short Term Sentence Team which also incorporates the Integrated offender management cohort.

Developments are now underway to bring Accredited Programmes and Community Payback into the responsibility of the National Probation Service, with the completion date being June 2021.

Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

During 2019-2020 The Welsh Ambulance Service remained an active partner with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.

WAST opportunity for increased engagement has been promoted by attendance at the Regional Board meetings, Quality Assurance Subgroup, Policy and Procedures subgroup, Joint Review Subgroup and involvement in the associated work plans. This has included participation in 3 Adult Practice Reviews, 2 Child Practice Reviews and 4 Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Cwm Taf University Health Board

This year has been a challenging period for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB). The boundary change in April 2019 expanded the footprint of the health board by a third; our escalation status with Welsh Government to Special Measures for our maternity service and Targeted Intervention for all other services, signaled significant scrutiny and change. In addition the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, challenged the health board in terms of service delivery and ways of working.

The Health Board continues to be a key active participant in the work of the Safeguarding Board, its committees and sub-groups and this is a priority for the safeguarding team. Partnership working and trust between agencies is exemplary in this region and sharing expertise, knowledge and resources is a feature of good quality public service working. We very much look forward to continuing this positive relationship and collaboration which enables us to work together to protect and prevent harm to our citizens in Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

11. Managing our Resources

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies.

This is calculated as follows:

Agency	% Split	% Split
Rhondda-Cynon-Taf CBC		55%
Bridgend	60%	32%
Merthyr Tydfil CBC		13%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	25%	
South Wales Police	10%	
Probation Service	5.0%	
Totals	100.00%	100%

In 2018/19 expenditure was as follows:

Staff	£214,866
Premises	£7,220
Other	£15,700

Training costs are not included as this sits outside the Board budget.

12. Other Board Activities

Adult Protection and Support Orders (APSOs)

The statutory guidance issued under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the arrangements for these civil orders to be used by a local authority to enable an authorised officer to speak in private with a person suspected of being an adult at risk.

The Board has ensured that there are 4 authorised officers in Cwm Taf Morgannwg who are appropriately trained and that a regional process has been put in place.

To date, no orders have been sought in Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Guidance and Advice received from the Welsh Ministers and/or the National Board

Nursery Provision

It was agreed as a Board we needed to raise awareness of the risk of using under 2 hour unregulated nurseries and bring the consideration before Welsh Government. A letter was written from the Chairs to the Early Years department at Welsh Government and Care Inspectorate Wales outlining our concerns. A thorough and prompt was received which assured the Board and appropriate communications were shared via local authority family support programmes and via health visitors.

Ask and Act training

The Board requested guidance and advice from the Welsh Government with regards to the issues of compliance with the training requirements. Based on the advice given, a more flexible approach was adopted.

Section 137 requests for information

Section 137(1) of the Act provides a Safeguarding Board with the power to request specified information from a qualifying person or body provided that the purpose of the request is to enable or assist the Board to perform its functions under the Act.

In 2019/20 the Board did not use its Section 137 powers to access information.

Are You Concerned About Someone?

If you suspect that a **child or young person** is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed then you have a duty to report it immediately. All calls concerning worries about children are treated seriously. Contact your local Safeguarding Team on the numbers provided below:

In Rhondda Cynon Taf: 01443 425006
In Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 725000
In Bridgend: 01656 642320

Opening Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm
Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

If you suspect that an **adult** is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed then you have a duty to report it immediately. All calls concerning worries about vulnerable adults at risk are treated seriously. Contact your local Safeguarding Team on the numbers provided below:

In Rhondda Cynon Taf: 01443 425003
In Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 725000
In Bridgend: 01656 642477

Opening Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm
Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

To contact Children or Adults Services outside office hours, at weekends and bank holidays, call:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Emergency Duty Team on 01443 743665.

If you suspect that a child, young person or an adult is at immediate risk of harm call 999 and speak to the Police.

If you would like to report a non-urgent incident, or have a problem or general query, you can call 101, the 24 hour non-emergency number for the police. **Use 101 when the incident is less urgent than 999.**

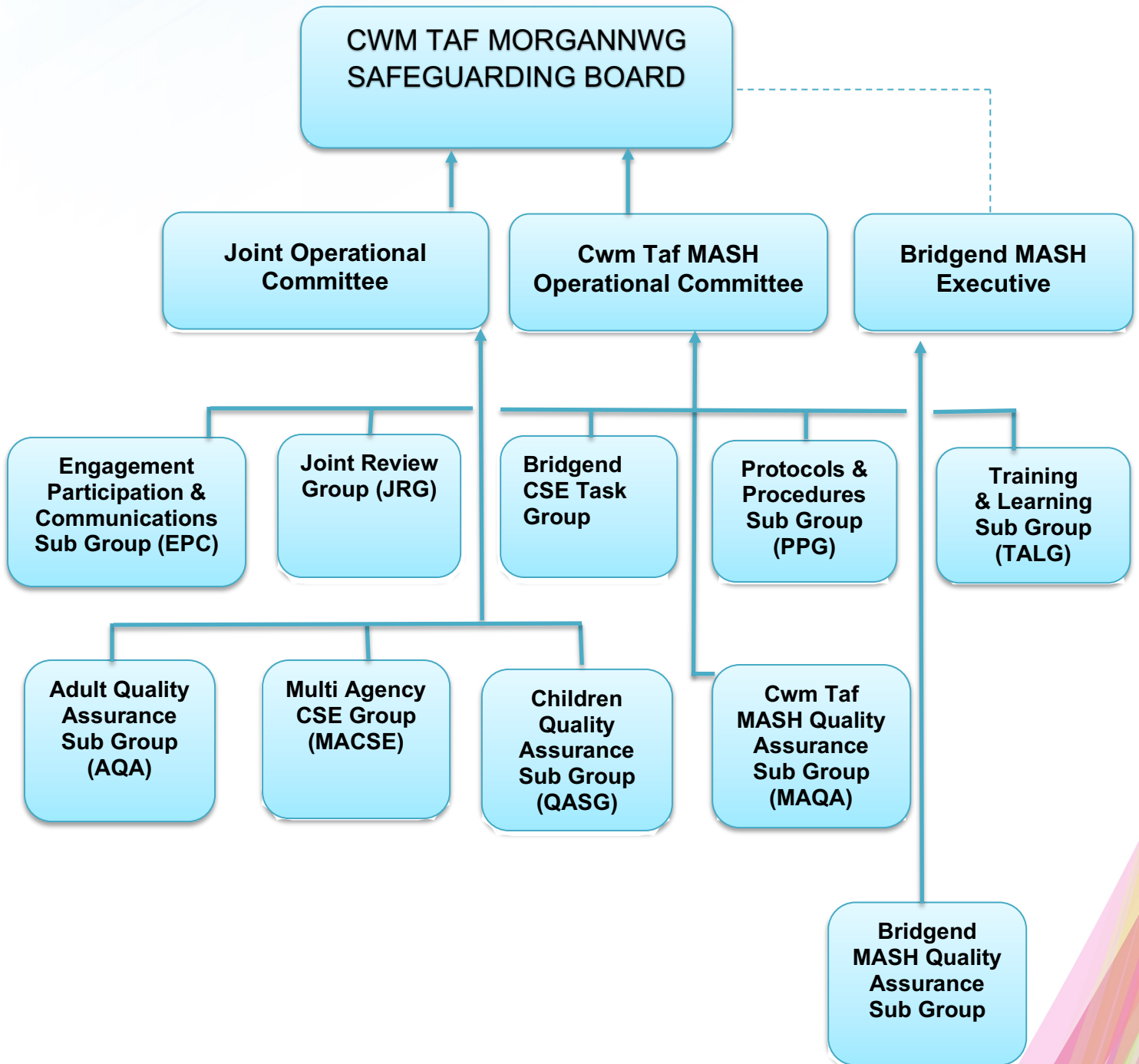
APPENDIX 1 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY
Giovanni Isingrini	Director of Community and Children's Services (Co-Chair)	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Louise Davies	Head of Public Protection	
Jackie Neale	Adult Safeguarding Service Manager	
Neil Elliot	Service Director, Adult Services	
Julie Clark	Head of Safeguarding and Support (Children)	
Gaynor Davies	Director of Education and Lifelong Learning	
Annabel Lloyd	Service Director, Children Services	
Cara Miles	Head of Legal - Community Care and Children	
Lisa Curtis-Jones	Chief Officer, Social Services (Co-Chair)	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Jon Eyre	Safeguarding Principal Manager	
Alyn Owen	Chief Officer, Community Regeneration	
Susan Walker	Chief Officer, Education	
Taryn Hudd	Head of Children Services	
Angela Edevene	Head of Adult Services	
Carys Kennedy	Head of Legal and Governance	
Susan Cooper	Director of Social Services and Wellbeing (Co-Chair)	Bridgend County Borough Council
Jacqueline Davies	Head of Adult Social Care	
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care	
Nicola Echanis	Head of Education and Family Services	
Greg Dix	Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Services	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Matthew O'Baid	Designated Doctor	
Louise Mann	Head of Safeguarding/Assistant Director for Quality and Safety	
Karen Thomas	Superintendent, Northern BCU	South Wales Police
Beth Aynsley/ Sue Hurley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager	



NAME	TITLE	AGENCY
Eirian Evans	Assistant Chief Officer	National Probation Service
Ian Davy	Chief Officer	Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil
Maria James	Third Sector Representative	
Lyndon Lewis	Head of Service	Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service
Virginia Hewitt	Designated Doctor (National Safeguarding Team)	Public Health Wales
Nikki Harvey	Assistant Director for Quality, Safety and Patient Experience	Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
Jason Evans	Head of Young Person's Unit	Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institute, Parc
Ian Coles	Interim Deputy Director	

APPENDIX 2 BOARD ORGANISATION CHART



Glossary of Terms

Adult Practice Review

The Regional Safeguarding Board must commission an Adult Practice Review in cases where an adult at risk has died, sustained potentially life threatening injury or sustained serious and permanent impairment of health.

Child Abduction Warning Notice

CAWN's are a tactic used by police and social care to protect children from people that may place them at risk. Effectively they are warning letters to those that are believed to be involved in harbouring children.

Child Practice Review

The Regional Safeguarding Board must commission a Child Practice Review in cases where a child has died, sustained potentially life threatening injury or sustained serious and permanent impairment of health.

Child Protection Medicals

A safeguarding medical aims to assess children who may have come to deliberate harm or are at risk of further harm and therefore protect them from this.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.

Children Looked After

A child is looked after by a local authority if a court has granted a care order to place a child in care, or a council's children's services department has cared for the child for more than 24 hours.

Community Safety Partnership

Statutory partnership to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment.

County Lines

County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

The Disclosure and Barring Service is a non-departmental public body of the Home Office of the United Kingdom. The DBS enables organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make safer recruitment decisions by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially involving children or vulnerable adults, and provides wider access to criminal record information through its disclosure service for England and Wales.

Domestic Homicide Review

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a locally conducted multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by:
a person to whom he or she was related, or with whom he or she was or had been in an intimate personal relationship; or,
a member of the same household as himself or herself.

MARAC

A monthly risk management meeting where professionals share information on high risk cases of domestic violence and abuse and put in place a risk management plan.

Multi-Agency Practitioner Forum (MAPF)

Multi-agency professional forums are a mechanism for producing organisational learning, improving the quality of work with families and strengthening the ability of services to keep children safe. They utilise case information, findings from child protection audits, inspections and reviews to develop and disseminate learning to improve local knowledge and practice and to inform the Board's future audit and training priorities.

National Independent Safeguarding Board

Provides support and advice to safeguarding boards and reports on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults in Wales

Public Protection Notice (PPN)

The forms have two main purposes. One is for police officers to make referrals to partner agencies when they have concerns about vulnerable people. The PPN is also used as a risk assessment tool for victims of domestic abuse and stalking and harassment (DASH).

Prevent

Prevent is about safeguarding and supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation



PRUDiC

This procedure sets a minimum standard for a response to unexpected deaths in infancy and childhood. It describes the process of communication, collaborative action and information sharing following the unexpected death of a child.

Public Service Board

Improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area by strengthening joint working across all public services in Wales www.ourcwmtaf.wales

Repeat Referrals

Referrals that are made within a defined timescale (usually 12 months) following an earlier referral.

Section 47

Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is taken into Police Protection, is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Section 47 Enquiry is initiated. This is to enable the local authority to decide whether they need to take any further action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is the law for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support.

Strategy Meeting

A meeting for social workers and other professionals to plan what they are going to do next about a case.

Supervisory Bodies

The supervisory body is the local authority or local health board that is responsible for considering a deprivation of liberty request, commissioning the statutory assessments and, where all the assessments agree, authorising deprivation of liberty.

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

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 focusses on the prevention of these issues, the protection of victims and support for those affected by such issues