

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
21ST MARCH 2016**

**Agenda Item No: 4**

**CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN'S BOARD ANNUAL  
REPORT 2014/15**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR,  
COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN  
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER.**

**Author: Nicola Kingham, Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business  
Manager, Tel No: 01443 484523**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Members the Annual Report for 2014/15 in relation to the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the content of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board's Annual Report for 2014/15.
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to make any recommendations or scrutinise in greater depth any issues arising from the report.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children's Board is required to produce an annual report each year identifying how it has progressed against the priorities that were agreed at the beginning of the year. These priorities are set out in the Board's Annual/Strategic Plan.
- 3.2 From 6th April 2016, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 will introduce a duty for the Boards to produce their annual reports by 31st July each year and their Annual Plans by 31st March each year. These will then be submitted to the Welsh Government.
- 3.3 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) is the multi-agency partnership which has responsibility for safeguarding children in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil.

- 3.4 The main responsibility of the CTSCB is to coordinate the work of the partner agencies who sit on the Board to safeguard and ensure the welfare of children and young people.

#### **4. STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD**

- 4.1 The Board has developed a structure to support the delivery of its objectives and to carry out its functions effectively. The Board's Business Plan is delivered by Sub Groups, all of which report to the Board via an Operational Committee.

#### **5. PERFORMANCE IN 2014/15**

- 5.1 The attached Annual Report (Appendix 1) provides an overview of the work carried out by the Boards in 2014/15, including the key achievements and performance during the year. The report also sets out the priorities for further development and improvement in 2015/16.

#### **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been completed for the purpose of this report. There are no negative impacts identified and therefore a full EqIA is not required.

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The partners of the Board have been consulted during the development of the Annual Report.
- 7.2 The Annual Report has been approved by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children's Board.

#### **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 The CTSCB's operational expenses are currently funded by an annual contribution from each statutory partner agency, with the staffing costs of the Business Unit being met by the local authorities.
- 8.2 From 1st April 2016, the Safeguarding Business Unit and associated costs for both the Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Boards, will be supported by funding contributions from the statutory partners, based on the funding formula as set out in the SS&WB Act 2014.

#### **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 "Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004" sets out how all relevant agencies and professionals in Wales

should work together to safeguard and protect children's welfare and protect them from harm.

- 9.2 The new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 has set a new direction in the establishment of regional safeguarding boards across Wales. The Act defines the functions of the Boards and sets out new requirements, including the setting up of a National Independent Safeguarding Board.

**10. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP**

- 11.1 The Board has contributed to elements of the work of the Local Service Board by reporting on safeguarding activity. It has also contributed to the development and delivery of the Single Integrated Plans in both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
21ST MARCH 2016**

**REPORT OF (DIRECTORATE) IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**Item:**

**CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
2014/15**

**Background Papers:**

**CTSCB Annual Report 2014/15**

**Contact Officer: Nicola Kingham, CTSAB Business Manager.  
Tel: 01443 484523**

**CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2014/15**

**Version 2: 04/12/2015**

## INTRODUCTION

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) is the multi-agency partnership which has responsibility for safeguarding children in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. It monitors how well agencies and other partnerships undertake their work with regard to safeguarding and ensures safeguarding is embedded in all working practices.

The draft guidance under Section 130 (4) of the SS&WB Act 2014 defines a 'child at risk' as a child who:

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

This report summarises the work undertaken by the CTSCB to achieve its objectives during 2014/15. It also summarises the areas of development identified for 2015/16.

The CTSCB will make this report public by placing it on each Local Authority's website and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website ([www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org)). The report will also be presented within each Local Authority, to its Elected Members and the key statutory partnerships within the County Borough. Partner agencies will also distribute through their recognised governance processes.

### **OUR VISION**

***To ensure that children and young people in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf, up to the age of 18, are protected from abuse and neglect, their welfare safeguarded and promoted and they live in an environment that promotes their wellbeing and life chances.***

***The Cwm Taf Local Safeguarding Children Board will listen to, and hear the views of children and young people.***

## OUR AIMS

The key objectives of the CTSCB, as defined by the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 (SS&WB Act 2014), are:

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

The CTSCB also operates under existing guidance in relation to children at risk of harm and the powers and duties under the Children Act 1989, in particular the duty under section 47 of that Act.

The CTSCB aims to meet its objectives by:

- Working together in partnership with children, young people, the community, statutory partners, voluntary partners and key strategic partnerships.
- Developing and pursuing opportunities for collaborative working with neighbouring Safeguarding Children Boards.
- Being clear about what elements of safeguarding children the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board and the other strategic partnerships are accountable for and monitoring and reviewing their effectiveness.
- Determining what statutory partners should deliver in relation to safeguarding children and how the CTSCB can contribute to these agendas.
- Holding partner agencies to account for their safeguarding responsibilities

## **THE STRUCTURE OF THE CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

The CTSCB is chaired jointly by the Director of Community and Children Services (RCT County Borough Council) and the Chief Officer for Social Services (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council).

The membership of the Board complies with the guidance issued under Part 7 (Section 134(2) of the SS&WB Act 2014 and is as follows:

<b>CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Director of Community & Children Services (RCT) - Co-Chair	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC The Pavilions, Clydach Vale, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF40 2XX
Chief Officer for Social Services (Merthyr Tydfil) - Co-Chair	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 9AN
Head of Safeguarding, Cwm Taf University Health Board - Vice Chair	Cwm Tâf University Health Board LHB Headquarters, Ynysmeurig House Abercynon, CF45 4SN
Head of Children's Services (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Unit 5, Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ

<b>CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Service Director, Children's Services (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services Tŷ Pennant, Catherine Street Pontypridd, CF37 2TB
Executive Nurse Director Cwm Taf University Health Board	Cwm Taf University Health Board LHB Headquarters Ynysmeurig House, Abercynon, CF45 4SN
Named Doctor for Safeguarding - Cwm Taf University Health Board	Cwm Taf University Health Board Royal Glamorgan Hospital Llantrisant
Superintendent	South Wales Police Pontypridd Police Station, Berw Road, Pontypridd, CF37 2TR
Assistant Chief Executive	National Probation Service 4 -9 Broadway Pontypridd, CF37 1BA
Assistant Chief Executive	South Wales 2, Wales Community Rehabilitation Company Bridgend Probation Office, Tremains House, Tremains Road, Bridgend, CF31 1TZ
Chief Officer	Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT), Voluntary Action Centre, 88-90 High Street, Pontmorlais, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UH
CTSB Business Manager	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Ty Catrin, Maritime Industrial Estate Maesycod Pontypridd, CF37 1NY
Director of Place and Transformation (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN
Service Director, Adult Services (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Ty Elai, Dinas Isaf East, Williamstown Tonypandy, CF40 1NY
Head of Safeguarding & Standards (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services Tŷ Catrin, Maritime Industrial Estate, Maesycod, Pontypridd, CF37 1NY
Safeguarding Manager, Adults and Children (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Unit 5, Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ



<b>CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Housing & Community Safety Manager	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 9AN
Head Of Community Housing Services	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Ty Elai, Dinas Isaf East, Williamstown Tonypandy, CF40 1NY
Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service	Youth Offending Service Unit 2 Fairway Court Tonteg Road Treforest Industrial Estate Pontypridd, CF37 5UA
Service Director for Schools and Community (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Tŷ Trevithick Abercynon, CF45 4UQ
Head of Service - Learning (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Unit 5, Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ
Head of Service, Adult Services (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Community Services Municipal Buildings, Llewellyn Street, Pentre, CF41 7XW
Head of Legal - Community Care and Children (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf Legal Services Taff Ely Principal Office Court House Street Pontypridd
Manager / Interlink Chair	TEDS (Treatment & Education Drug Service), Engine House, Depot Road, Aberdare, CF44 8DL
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and LAC, Public Health Wales	Public Health Wales Unit 1 Charnwood Court Heol Billingsley Parc Nantgarw Cardiff, CF15 7QZ.

The CTSCB has developed a structure to support the delivery of its objectives and to carry out its functions effectively. The operational expenses of the Board are funded by an annual contribution from each statutory partner agency, with the staffing costs of the Business Unit being met by the local authorities.

The work programme for the CTSCB, as set out in its Business Plan 2012-2015, is delivered by a number of Sub Groups (see chart below) all of which report to the Board via the Operational Committee. This enables the Board to focus on its overall responsibility of

setting the strategic direction for all partner agencies and challenging them on the effectiveness of safeguarding measures.

The responsibilities of each of the Sub Groups are as follows:

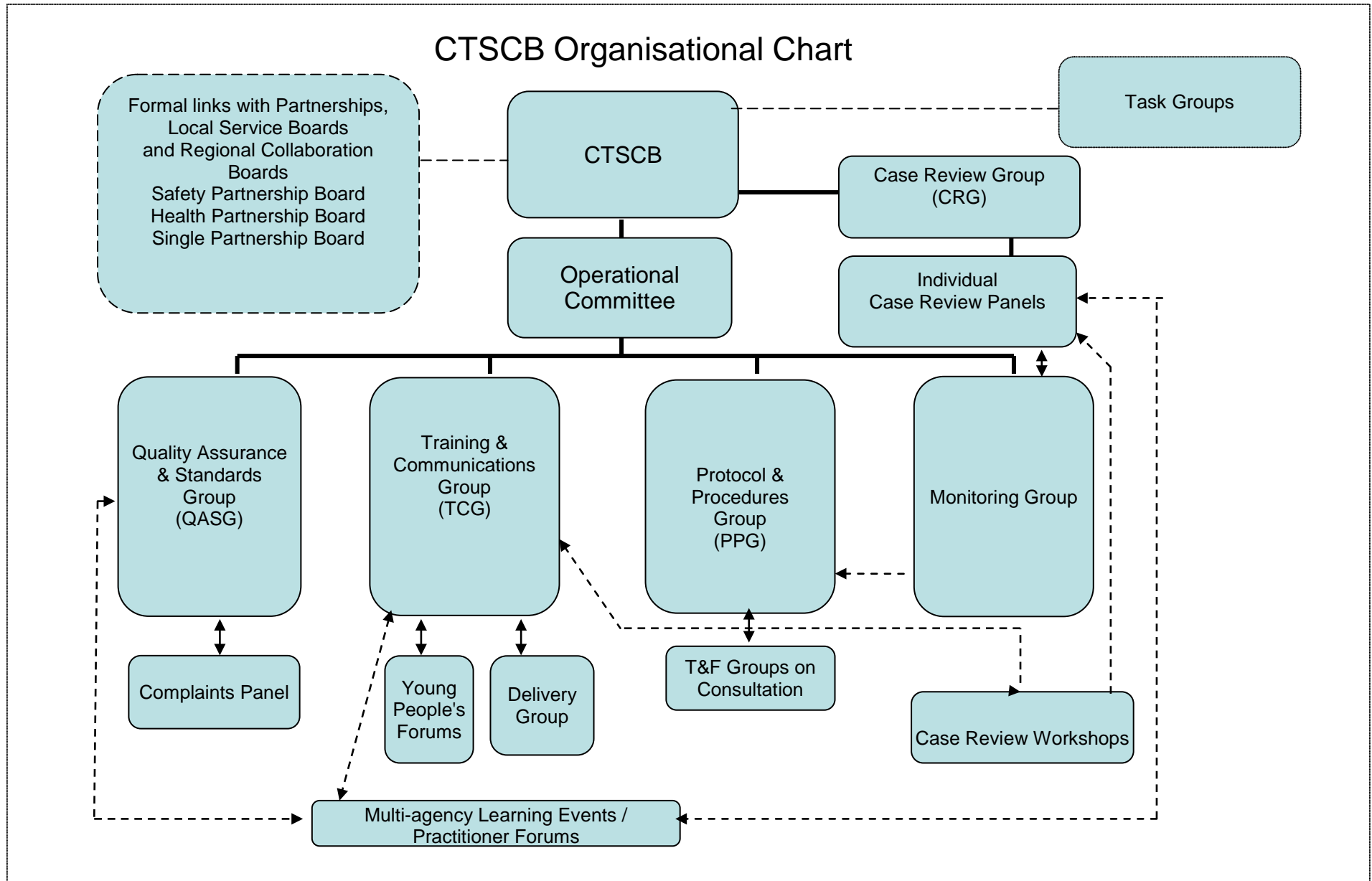
**Operational Committee** - key to the overall effectiveness of the CTSCB. In delivering the Business Plan, it will ensure that the priorities of the Board and the work of the Sub Groups are taken forward. It will also ensure that information about measuring outcomes and the effectiveness of the CTSCB is produced.

**Quality Assurance and Standards Sub Group** - encourages high standards of practice through the monitoring and evaluation of performance and reviewing the work undertaken by all agencies, including causes for concern, complaints and making recommendations about the actions required.

**Case Review Group/Monitoring Group** - ensures that the CTSCB discharges its functions in relation to Child Practice Reviews and promotes a positive culture of multi-agency learning and more effective sharing of that learning.

**Policies and Protocols Sub Group** - develop, review and update policies, protocols and procedures whose purpose is to co-ordinate what is done by each representative body to safeguard children and promoting the welfare of children within the Cwm Taf area.

**Training and Communications Sub Group** - has a responsibility to ensure that safeguarding training is delivered to a consistently high standard, and that a process exists for evaluating the effectiveness of training.



## OUR PRIORITIES IN 2014/15

In our Business Plan for 2012-2015 we identified the following **Strategic Outcomes** for the CTSCB:

1. Children are protected and kept safe from significant harm and repeat significant harm
2. All CTSCB partners are informed and held to account for their safeguarding responsibilities.
3. Children, young people, parents and carers are consulted and listened to.
4. All members of the community are informed of the role they can play to safeguard children and young people.
5. The safeguarding actions as specified in the Merthyr Tydfil and RCT Single Integrated Plans are delivered effectively.

The Board developed a work programme that detailed the actions to achieve these priorities.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014/15

Our achievements for 2014/15 against each of our priorities are set out below.

### Children are protected and kept safe from significant harm and repeat significant harm

We made sure that partner agency staff were provided with up to date **protocols and guidance** to support and improve safeguarding practice. This included the development of a new **Child Protection Plan** to ensure that we continue to safeguard children and achieve positive outcomes. We developed and/or revised safeguarding guidance on **Social Networking, Conferences and Core Groups** and a **Child Protection Policy** for schools.

We delivered an effective **training and awareness raising** programme with over 1,600 delegates undertaking multi-agency safeguarding training, up to Level 3. We ensured that our training programmes were updated with best practice and themes arising from case audits and reviews. We also commenced the development of the **Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website** for professionals and the public to access information on safeguarding.

Through our Quality Assurance Sub Group we carried out a programme of **audits and reviews** to support the improvement of multi-agency safeguarding practice. This included dealing with areas of concern raised by professionals and complaints made by the public and ensuring that appropriate improvement actions were implemented.

The Board co-ordinated a multi-agency approach to the provision of preventative services for children who display **risk-taking behaviour** and developed the multi-agency elements of the **Anti-Social Behaviour** preventative strategy. We also implemented the **All Wales Strategy for Missing Children** and the **All Wales Protocol on Sexual Exploitation**.

Through our Case Review Group, we monitored action plans in relation to four **Child Practice Reviews**.

Finally, we commenced the development of the Cwm Taf **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub** (MASH) to improve multi agency information sharing and to act as the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns across Cwm Taf. The MASH underwent a phased approach to implementation during the latter part of 2014/15 with the intention that it would be fully operational in 2015/16.

All CTSCB partners are informed and held to account for their safeguarding responsibilities

We encourage high standards of practice by all those involved in child protection work through the quality assurance function. In 2014/15 we did this through the monitoring and evaluation of multi-agency **Child Protection activity** (see section on Monitoring Performance below).

The Board established a **reporting framework** with minimum requirements and timescales for partner agencies, strategic partnerships and community partnerships. This was partially achieved, with work continuing into 2015/16.

We improved links with other strategic groups, including the **Cwm Taf Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Forum** (SVDAF) and the Board completed work to ensure that there are effective **anti-bullying practices** within schools and other community based groups.

Children, young people, parents and carers are consulted and listened to

Our Training and Communications Sub Group carried out a review of **consultation and engagement** arrangements and began the process of developing a **Communication Strategy** for the Board.

We have also ensured that there are appropriate materials available to keep children and their families informed and to obtain relevant feedback. This has involved the development of a new **Child Practice Review leaflet** and the development of the **Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards' website**.

All members of the community are informed of the role they can play to safeguard children and young people

Linked to the above, the Training and Communications Sub Group worked towards strengthening our approach to awareness-raising in the community and this has involved the development of a **multi-media campaign**. This work is

ongoing and will be supported by the implementation of the **Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards' website**.

The safeguarding actions as specified in the Merthyr Tydfil and RCT Single Integrated Plans are delivered effectively

The Board has strengthened governance arrangements with the **Local Service Boards** (LSB) and each LSB has been informed about safeguarding activity through the CTSCB Annual Report. We have contributed to the delivery streams of the **Single Integrated Plans** in both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil.

## MONITORING PERFORMANCE IN 2014/15

To ensure that all partners work towards achieving improved outcomes for vulnerable children in Cwm Taf, performance activity is regularly monitored and any areas of concern are highlighted and addressed.

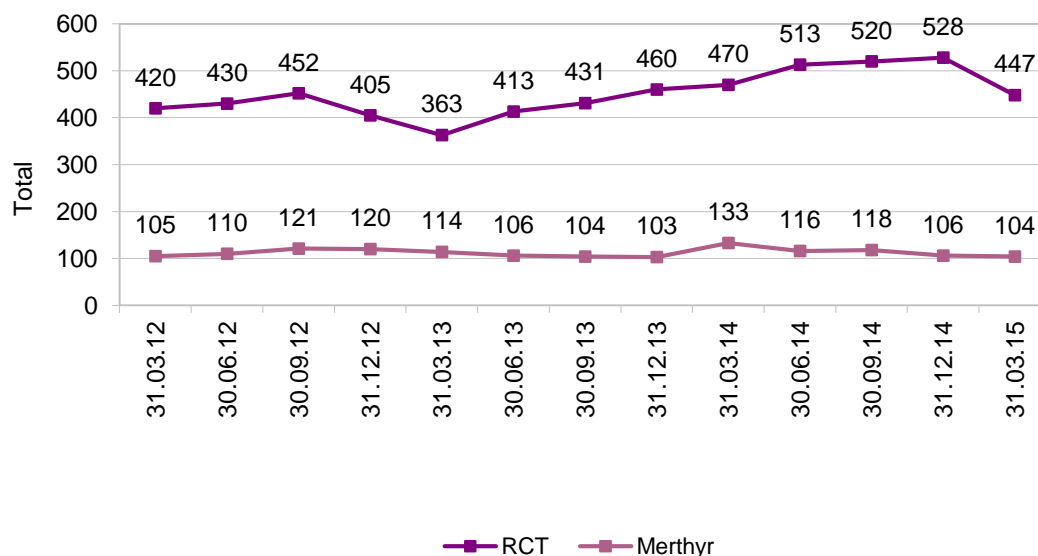
During 2014/15, the following areas of performance in relation to child protection were monitored by the Board:

### Numbers on the Child Protection Register

The number of children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Board's Quality Assurance Sub Group. In RCT the numbers rose in RCT during 2014/15 but dropped towards the end of the year. The numbers in Merthyr Tydfil decreased during the year.

	31.03.14	30.06.14	30.09.14	31.12.14	31.03.15
RCT-Numbers on CPR	471	510	519	528	450
Merthyr-Numbers on CPR	133	116	118	106	105

**Number of Children on the Child Protection Register**



The numbers on the CPR per 10,000 population in Wales at the end of 2014/15 was 46.6. Both RCT (89.8) and Merthyr Tydfil (84.2) had the highest rate per 10,000 population in Wales.

Child Protection Registration by age

In both local authorities the highest number of registrations is in the 1-4 years age group.

**RCT:**

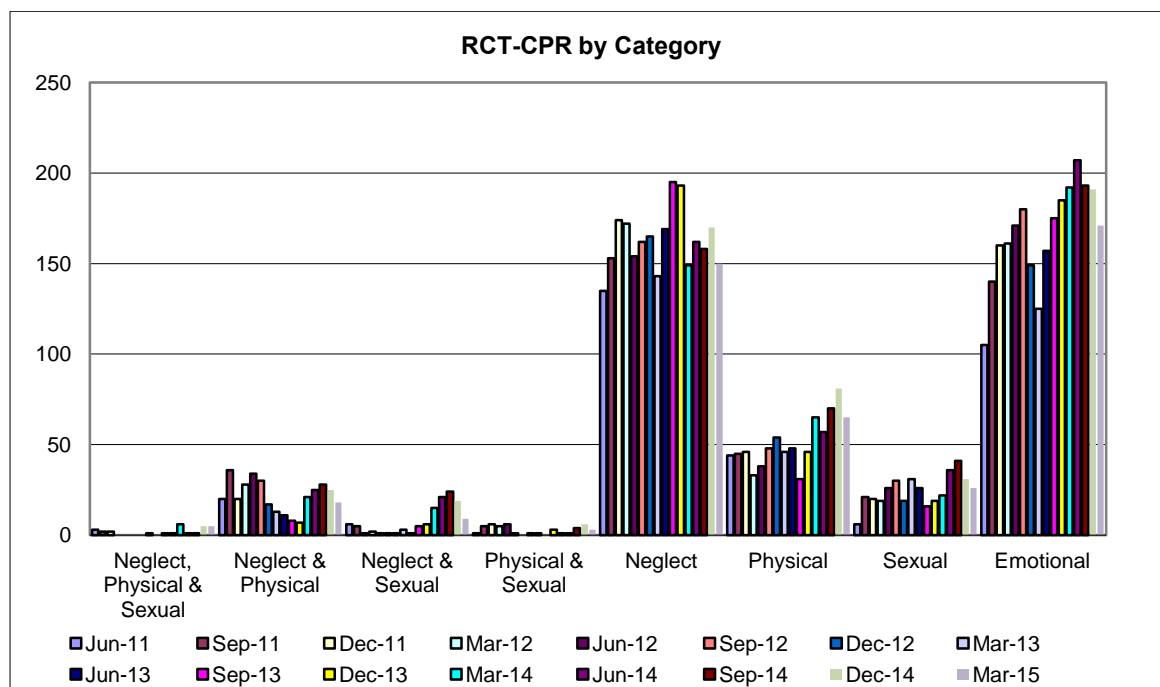
	31-Mar-14	30-Jun-14	30-Sep-14	31-Dec-14	31-Mar-15
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Under 1	51	57	64	63	45
1-4	160	177	166	177	153
5-9	130	142	160	161	137
10-15	122	123	118	111	99
16-18	8	11	11	16	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>447</b>

MT:

	31-Mar-14	30-Jun-14	30-Sep-14	31-Dec-14	31-Mar-15
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Under 1	15	8	11	14	10
1-4	39	40	39	33	31
5-9	36	30	31	28	30
10-15	35	33	32	24	24
16-18	8	5	5	7	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>104</b>

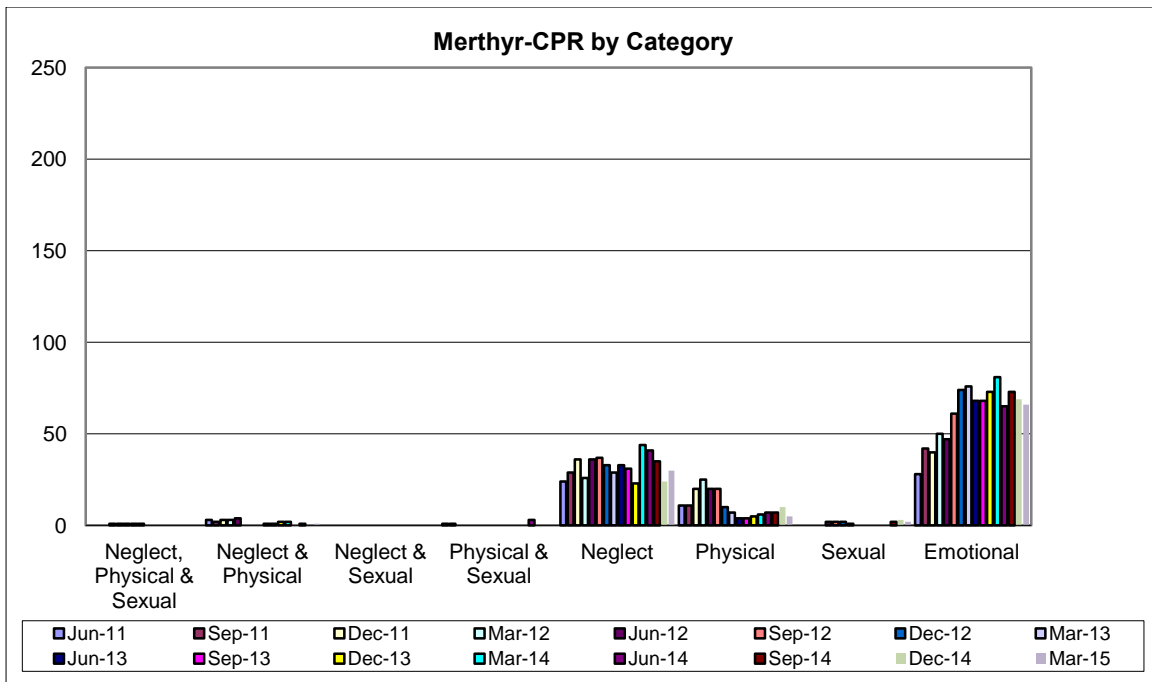
Child Protection Registration by category

In RCT the highest numbers of children on the register were in the Neglect and Emotional categories, although the latter had continued to decrease during the year.



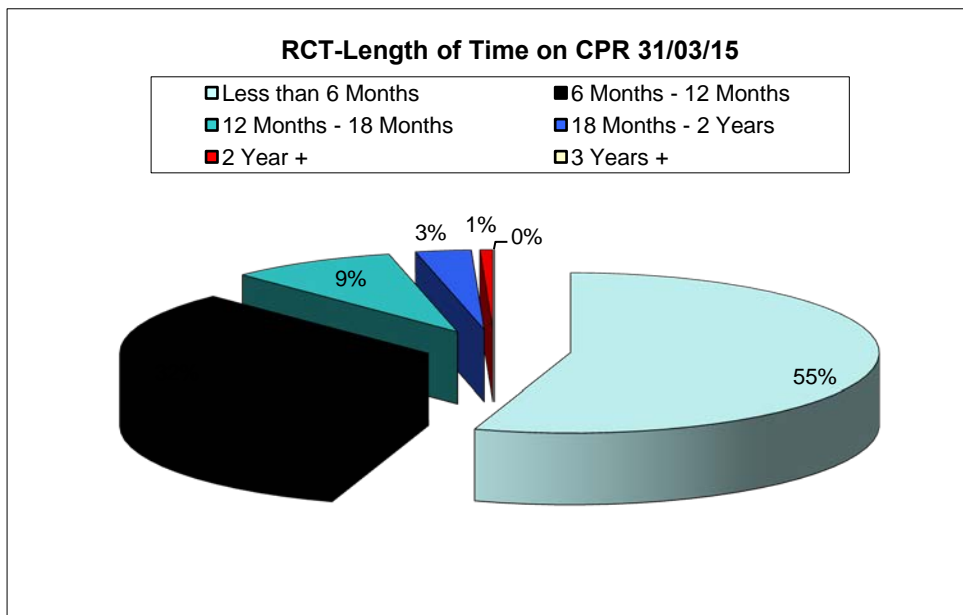
In Merthyr Tydfil, the numbers categorised under Emotional remain the highest, although there was a decrease in this category as the year progressed. There has also been a decrease in the numbers of children in the Neglect category.

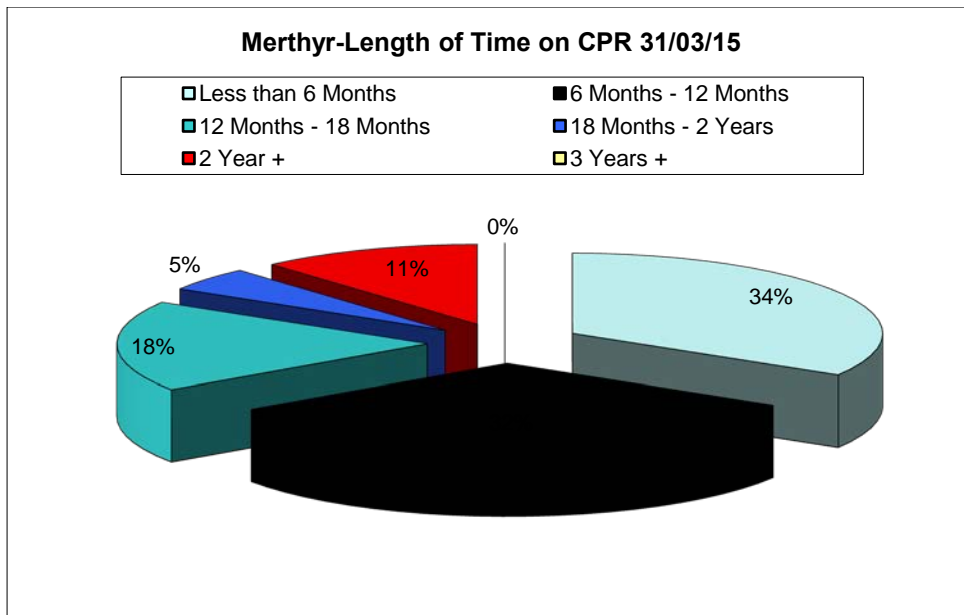




Length of time on the register

At the end of 2014/15, both in Merthyr Tydfil and in RCT, the highest proportion of children had been on the register for less than 6 months. Three children in RCT had been on the register for at least 2 years. These cases will have undergone an audit, as part of the quality assurance function of the Board, to identify the reasons and make recommendations to address any issues.

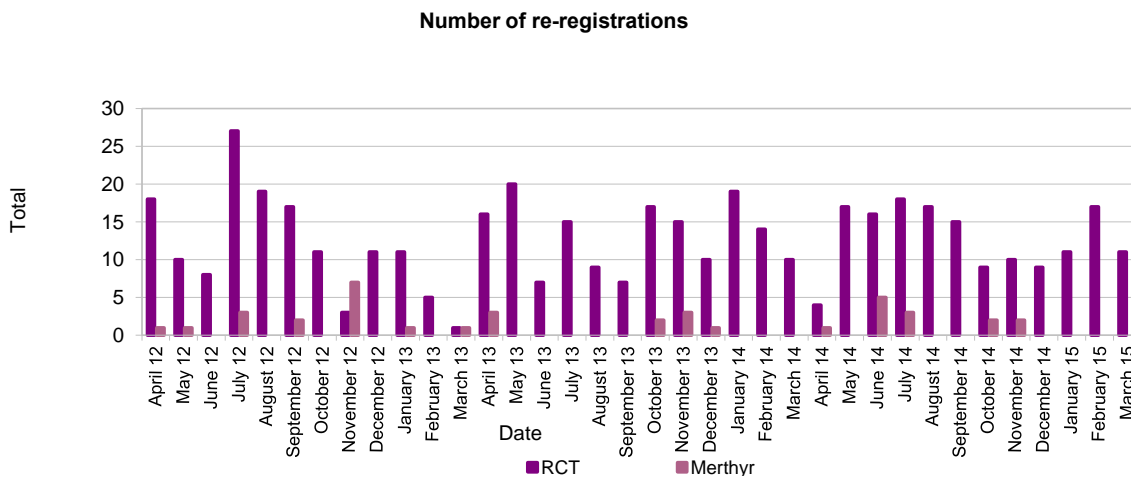




**Number of Re-registrations**

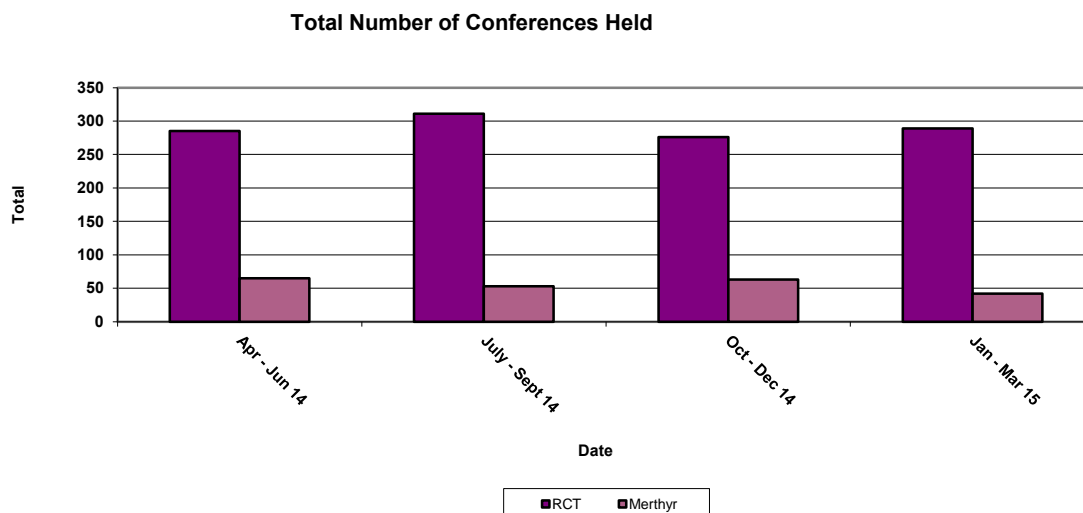
The number of re-registrations can indicate that the child protection processes are not achieving the planned outcomes to keep children safe and could be a cause for further investigation.

Of the new CP registrations in Merthyr Tydfil in 2014/15, 13 out of 111 were re-registrations (11.7%). In RCT, this figure was 154 out of 715 (21.5%). An audit of these cases will be carried out by the QASG in 2015/16.



**Number of Child Protection conferences held**

This is used as an indicator of the volume of work undertaken by agencies and Children Services. This figure is monitored to ensure that conferences are held within timescales and have appropriate representation. In Cwm Taf an average of just under 98% of conferences were held within timescales during 2014/15.



## CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION

The CTSCB has contributed to elements of the work of the Local Service Boards by reporting on safeguarding activity. It has also contributed to the development and delivery of the Single Integrated Plans in both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil.

By collaborating with other partnerships the Board ensures that there is clarity on what elements of safeguarding the CTSCB is accountable for and which elements the other strategic partnerships are accountable for.

The CTSCB raises awareness about safeguarding children and young people and actively seeks opportunities for children and young people to become engaged in its work.

Through the Child Practice Review process, the CTSCB has actively developed and encouraged collaborative working with neighbouring regional Safeguarding Children Boards to improve outcomes for those children and young people in need of protection and safeguarding.

## OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2015/16

As part of the Board's review of the annual work programme and in establishing the priorities for the coming year, the following priority areas have been highlighted:

- Consider opportunities for the integration of work across children and adults safeguarding
- Launch the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website
- Official launch of the Cwm Taf Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- Ensure that the Board is compliant and ready for the implementation of the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, which is due to start from 6 April 2016.
- Development of an improved reporting framework for the Board and its Sub Groups to report on safeguarding activity
- Ensure that there is a multi agency approach to Child Sexual Exploitation involving the sharing of information and intelligence to support practice
- Strengthen approaches to awareness raising in the community and the engagement of children and young people, ensuring they have a strong voice in driving forward the safeguarding agenda in our region.
- Develop a Cwm Taf Looked After Children Strategy to ensure that preventative services are appropriately targeted.

## ***HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN***

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 425003**

**In Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 725000**

Opening Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

**Out of Hours Emergencies** (for both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil):

To contact Children's Services outside office hours, at weekends and bank holidays, ring **Cwm Taf Emergency Duty Team on 01443 743665**.

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

If it is found that a child is being abused or is at risk of significant harm professionals will work together with the family to ensure that the child can be protected.

If you would like to report a non-urgent incident however, or have a problem or general query, you can call 101, the 24 hour non-emergency number for the police.

Further information can be found at [www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org) or you can e-mail [cwmtafsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:cwmtafsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk)

