

BWRDD DIOGELU PLANT CWM TAF  
CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

**BDPCT**

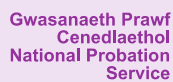
BWRDD  
DIOGELU PLANT CWM TAF

**CTSCB**

CWM TAF  
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015 - 2016**



***The Vision of the CTSCB is to ensure that children and young people in Cwm Taf, up to the age of 18, are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and are prevented from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and they live in an environment where their welfare is safeguarded and their wellbeing is promoted.***

***The Cwm Taf Local Safeguarding Children Board will work within the ethos of Voice and Control and engage with, listen to and hear the views of children and young people.***

## **What is the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB)?**

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 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.

This report summarises the work undertaken by the CTSCB from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

## **What does Safeguarding Children mean?**

The 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).

### ***What is Abuse and Neglect?***

Abuse means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Neglect means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being.

The CTSCB has an overall responsibility for challenging relevant agencies so that:

- there are effective measures in place to protect children 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.

## **The Structure of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB)**

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

### **Membership**

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
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
Superintendent	South Wales Police Pontypridd Police Station, Berw Road, Pontypridd, CF37 2TR

<b>CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	
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
Service Director, Adult Services (RCT)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Ty Elai, Dinas Isaf East, Williamstown Tonypany, CF40 1NY
Head of Safeguarding & Support (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
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 Tonypany, 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

<b>CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Head of Service - Learning (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Unit 5, Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ
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 work of the CTSCB is implemented by a number of Committees and Sub Groups. 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 groups are as follows:

#### ***CTSCB Operational Committee***

The Operational Committee is responsible for delivering the Board's Annual Plan, ensuring that the priorities of the Board and the work of the Sub Groups are taken forward. It also ensures that safeguarding information and performance is monitored and is effective in achieving positive outcomes for adults at risk.

The functions of the Operational Committee are to:

- To oversee the development of the Annual Plan for the CTSCB, identifying the strategic priorities for the Board.
- Develop an effective performance management system, as part of the CTSCB Annual Plan which will monitor safeguarding activity across Cwm Taf.
- Develop and monitor an effective risk register.
- To oversee and manage the CTSCB work plan ensuring that the agreed objectives are progressed.
- To ensure that there is accountability against each of the objectives.
- To receive highlight reports from each of the Sub Groups, to examine progress against objectives and report any key issues to the Board.

- Co-ordinate the annual review of the Annual Plan.
- Assist the Board by identifying priorities and issues for its consideration/ approval.

### **Quality Assurance and Standards Group (QASG)**

The purpose of QASG is to ensure that the work of the Board's partner agencies within the Cwm Taf region is of a high standard and that best practice is followed, whilst examining any significant practice issues. The specific objectives of the group are to:

- Encourage high standards of practice by all those involved in safeguarding children, promoting agency and individual accountability through the monitoring and evaluation of performance
- Review work undertaken by all agencies at every stage identified in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures, including complaints, thresholds, conference standards, service user experience, reporting significant issues to individual agencies and making recommendations about the actions required.
- Examine any significant practice issues arising from multi-agency working together on individual cases and resolving these where possible. Unresolved issues will be brought to the attention of the CTSCB.
- Provide a means of regular and effective communication, between the partners of the CTSCB at an operational level.

### **Case Review Group (CRG)**

Concise child practice reviews must be undertaken where, within the area of the Board, abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has:

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

**and** the child was neither on the child protection register nor a looked after child on any date during the 6 months preceding:

- the date of the event referred to above; or
- the date on which a local authority or relevant partner identified that a child has sustained serious and permanent impairment of health and development.

Extended child practice reviews must be undertaken where, within the area of the Board abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has:

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

**and** the child was on the child protection register and/or was a looked after child (including a care leaver under the age of 18) on any date during the 6 months preceding:

- the date of the event referred to above; or
- the date on which a local authority or relevant partner identified that a child has sustained serious and permanent impairment of health and development.

The CRG will ensure that the CTSCB discharges its functions in relation to Child Practice Reviews. The objectives of the Case Review Group are:

- To consider all child deaths and potentially life threatening injuries or permanent impairment of development that have occurred in the previous quarter across the Cwm Taf region, with the exception of children who have died as a result of life limiting illnesses or victims of road traffic accidents.
- To make formal recommendations to the Co-Chairs of the CTSCB if reviews are to be undertaken. Where a review is not to be undertaken, to recommend an alternative outcome e.g. audit/practitioner forum etc.
- To determine the scope, agency contribution and develop specific first draft terms of reference for each individual CPR and agree subsequent amendments.
- To ensure the functions of the PRUDiC<sup>1</sup> guidance have been discharged
- To establish Panels by nominating individual agency members to undertake specific Child Practice Reviews (CPRs)
- To monitor Case Review Action Plans to ensure that actions are carried out accordingly and within timescales
- To identify out of county/cross border representation and information when necessary, e.g. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- To determine when communication with parents is appropriate and necessary.

### ***Training and Communications Group (TCG)***

The TCG ensures that there is a clear process for managing the identification of training needs; feeding these into the planning and commissioning of training; and the evaluation of multi agency safeguarding training to ensure it is consistently meeting local need.

The TCG will also ensure there are effective mechanisms in place for sharing information, awareness raising and consulting with children, young people and their carers and professionals on matters relating to safeguarding children.

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<sup>1</sup> Procedural Response to Unexpected Deaths in Childhood - this sets out a minimum standard for a response and describes the process of communication, collaborative action and information sharing following the unexpected death of a child

The TCG oversees the work of a Delivery Group for multi-agency safeguarding children training.

### ***Protocols and Procedures Sub Group (PPG)***

During 2015/16 the PPG became a joint adults and children group that ensures that there is a clear process in place for the development and authorisation of protocols and procedures to safeguard children and adults at risk. This involves:

- Contributing to ensuring that national policies and procedures are monitored and remain fit for purpose
- Developing policies and procedures to co-ordinate what is done by the partners and bodies represented on the Boards Reviewing and updating all existing Safeguarding Boards protocols
- Ensuring that all partner agencies are involved in developing and updating Safeguarding, Adult Protection and Child Protection Protocols and Procedures
- Participating in consultations and co-ordinate the input of the Boards in order to produce additional protocols as required
- Ensuring that there is a level of agreement and understanding across agencies about operational definitions and thresholds for intervention
- Maintaining an effective link with the Training Sub Groups to ensure that newly developed protocols are incorporated into training programmes

### **The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The Cwm Taf Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns.

Since its launch in May 2015, the MASH has significantly improved the sharing of information between agencies, helping to protect the most vulnerable children and adults from harm, neglect and abuse.

Reports on performance are presented to the CTSCB on a quarterly basis and work has been ongoing during the year to strengthen the links to the governance of the Boards. This will further enhance safeguarding practice across the region and will inform our priorities for 2016/17.

### **What did the CTSCB aim to achieve in 2015/16?**

In our Strategic Plan for 2015-2016 we identified the following ***Priority Outcomes*** for the CTSCB:



- There are effective measures in place to protect children who are experiencing harm or who may be at risk of harm as the result of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm
- There is effective inter agency co-operation in planning and delivering protection services and in sharing information
- Promoting effective multi-agency support
- Anticipating and identifying where there may be individuals affected by safeguarding and working with service providers to develop earlier identification and preventative services
- Promoting inter-agency approaches to working with community groups and organisations where there may be populations at risk of harm
- Using inter-agency training and dissemination of learning and research to help build a more confident and knowledgeable multi-agency workforce

The Board also identified the following two priority areas:

- Promoting the engagement of children and young people, ensuring their have a strong voice in driving forward the safeguarding agenda in our region.
- Work with our looked after children population, to ensure that preventative services are appropriately targeted.

## **Performance and Achievements in 2015/16**

The sections below set out what the CTSCB did to achieve its priorities during the year:

### **1. Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014**

A significant amount of work took place during the year to prepare the Board for the implementation of the new Act from 6 April 2016. Common functions and procedures of both Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards provide a framework for improving safeguarding arrangements for everyone, regardless of age. This will continue to be a priority for both Boards.

A multi-agency Task Group was convened to deliver an Action Plan, based on the new requirements and duties contained in the Act. These included:

- National Independent Safeguarding Board - being set up in 2016/17

- Functions of the Safeguarding Boards - Terms of Reference updated as appropriate
- Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Business Unit - joint support unit established to ensure that the Children and Adults Boards fulfil their statutory responsibilities
- The funding of the Boards - new funding formulae adopted and agreed in relation to the contributions of partners from 1 April 2016 onwards
- New Annual Plan format adopted and published on 31 March 2016

## 2. Children Safeguarding Performance

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 2015/16 a new reporting scorecard was developed to report on performance. The following areas of performance in relation to child protection were monitored by the Board. Some measures of success are linked to national indicators, some are new as a result of the new Act and others have been developed for local purposes.

### Key:

↑	Performance has improved over the quarter but remains below target
↓	Performance has dropped over the quarter & remains below target
↑	Performance has improved over the quarter & target has been met
↓	Performance has dropped over the quarter but remains on target
↔	No change in performance over the quarter & target not met
↔	No change in performance over the quarter but target has been met

Measures of success	2014/15		2015/16		Performance	
	RCT	MT	RCT	MT	RCT	MT
The number of children on the Child Protection Register	447	104	458	101	↑	↓
Rate of children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 population	90	84	92	82	↑	↓
% of children on the Child Protection Register who have previously been registered	24%	20%	32%	27%	↓	↓
% of children subject to a Child Protection contact <sup>2</sup> that has resulted in a Section 47 <sup>3</sup> investigation	80.5%	48%	84%	92%	↑	↑
% of S47's that result in an Initial CP Conference	59%	86%	40%	45%	↓	↓
% of Child Protection conferences held within timescales	94.9%	98.9%	96.4%	99.1%	↓	↑
% of de-registrations that have been on the Child Protection Register for less than 6 months	37.6%	35.7%	36.8%	20.9%	↓	↑
% of de-registrations that have been on the Child Protection Register for more than 2 years	4.6%	10%	2.7%	14.5%	↑	↓
% of Core Groups held within timescales	95.7%	91.2%	92.6%	94.7%	↓	↑
% of children on the Child Protection Register who are allocated a social worker	100%	100%	99.7%	100%	↓	↔
% of children who have dual status (looked after and on the CP register)	3.5%	12.5%	11.1%	6.9%	↓	↓
The average length of time for all children who were on the CPR during the year	263 days	386 days	244 days	400 days	↑	
Number of pre-birth child protection conferences convened during the year	58	13	49	10	↑	

### ***What does this mean?***

- The numbers on the Child Protection Register have remained consistent compared to 2014/15, although the rate per 10,000 population has increased slightly in RCT with a drop from 84.1 to 72.9 in Merthyr Tydfil. These figures are much higher than the rate for Wales as a whole (47 in 2014/15) with RCT recording the highest rate in Wales.
- Neglect continues to be the highest category of registration in RCT (44%) with emotional abuse being the highest category in Merthyr Tydfil (50%).

<sup>2</sup> A contact refers to the first point of enquiry

<sup>3</sup> Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 sets out a local authority's duty to investigate child protection concerns

This reflects the situation across Wales (2014/15) with 40% of cases at the end of the year being for neglect and 35% for emotional abuse.

- There has been an overall increase in Child Protection (CP) contacts in RCT (2,329 compared to 1,535 in 2014/15) with Merthyr Tydfil remaining stable with 293 (292 in 2014/15).
- In RCT
  - 87% of child protection contacts led to an investigation;
  - of these 42% progressed to an Initial Child Protection Conference;
  - and 84% of these were registered.
- In Merthyr Tydfil:
  - 76% of child protection contacts resulted in an investigation;
  - of these 43% progressed to an Initial Child Protection Conference;
  - and 86% of these were registered.
- As at the end of the year, 17 children in RCT had been on the Child Protection Register 3 or more times. The number of children on the CPR less than 12 months was RCT 395 out of 458, Merthyr Tydfil 84 out of 101.
- For new registrations during 2015/16, 50% in RCT and 55% in Merthyr Tydfil were in the 0-4 age group. This compares to the national picture which recorded 41% of children in this group in 2014/15.
- The percentage of child protection conferences held within timescales remains well within Welsh Government guidelines and has improved further since the commencement of MASH (1.5% improvement).

The data above would suggest that there have been significant changes following the implementation of MASH. More contacts are being progressed but there is a significant fall out after the Section 47 investigation. This would suggest thresholds have changed, although further audit work will be undertaken during 2016/17 to fully evidence this assumption.

### **3. Improving Multi Agency Safeguarding Practice**

#### ***Protocols and Procedures***

In January 2016, the existing Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) Protocols and Procedures Sub Group (PPG) expanded its remit to include adults safeguarding.

The PPG has reviewed all existing documents to identify those that are relevant to both children and adults. These include:

- Guidance for Practitioners: Disclosure of Childhood Abuse by a Person who is now an Adult - which provides guidance to practitioners on responding appropriately when adults disclose abuse that they experienced as a child
- MASH Information Sharing Guidance - this ensures that each decision to request and share information with individual organisations is considered in terms of whether it is necessary and proportionate.

Child-specific documents reviewed or developed during the year include:

- Schools Child Protection Policy - disseminated to all schools in Cwm Taf
- Protocol on Working with Families who are not Co-operating with Safeguarding Concerns - guides staff on responding when working with reluctant and uncooperative families. This has been built into Core Group/Conference training programme to increase awareness.
- Bruising and Soft Tissue Injuries in Children not Mobile - provides frontline professionals with information about what to do if they observe bruising or otherwise suspicious marks to children who are Not Independently Mobile
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) All Wales Guidance - The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines FGM as: all procedures (not operations) which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.

All CTSCB policies, protocols and procedures are translated into Welsh and published on the CTSB website ([www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org))

### ***Learning from Audits and Reviews***

The Quality Assurance Standards Group (QASG) carried out a number of audits during the year with themes and lessons identified and shared with partner agencies. These included:

- Annual Audits:
  - Children who have been on the Child Protection Register for more than 2 years.
  - Children who have been deregistered but subsequently become registered again following another investigation
  - Child Protection Medicals undertaken by Health
  - Children on the Child Protection Register who do not have an allocated social worker
- First Time Entrants to custody - this information is provided by the Youth Offending Service on a quarterly basis.

- Children who have been deregistered within 6 months of being placed on the Child Protection Register.

The QASG reviews the work undertaken by all agencies at every stage identified in the Child Protection Procedures. Child protection performance data is scrutinised each quarter to inform improvements and to identify themes and potential audits. This included:

- Children who are already on the Child Protection Register who are the subject of a further investigation for a separate incident
- Dual status - those children on the Child Protection Register who are also Looked After
- Conference complaints - where parents/carers complain about a decision made at conference or the process followed.
- Quarterly professional concerns report - where there are safeguarding concerns relating to a professional who is working with a child/young person
- Powers of Police Protection cases - where the police exercise their powers to remove a child who is at immediate risk of significant harm
- Children and young people subject to the Risk Taking Behaviour Protocol<sup>4</sup>

Significant practice issues arising from multi-agency working together on individual cases are examined and resolved through the Causes for Concern process. This process allows practitioners who are working with children and young people in finding a resolution when they have a professional disagreement or concern in relation to interagency safeguarding practice.

Specific themes arising from the work undertaken by QASG during the year have included:

- The ongoing high numbers of neglect cases and the need to increase the use of the Assessment Tool for Neglect (priority for 2016/17)
- Increase in CP contacts and the fall out following an investigation - to be looked at during 2016/17
- The need to carry out work to address the high numbers of 'stuck cases' i.e. those that are on the child protection register for long periods or when the Child Protection Plan is not reducing the risks.

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<sup>4</sup> Provides guidance and a risk management tool that should inform decision making about safeguarding children and young people involved in risky behaviour e.g. sexual exploitation, drug and alcohol misuse, going missing

### **Child Practice Reviews**

The Case Review Group did not commission any reviews during 2015/16. One Child Practice Review was published in April 2015 and another was ongoing during the year. Other developments included:

- Joint Child/Adult Practice Review referral form developed for use by partners to refer to the relevant Group for consideration
- PRUDIC Checklist developed - to ensure that the Case Review Group oversees actions as a result of the PRUDIC process
- Multi-agency Practitioner Workshop held in September 2015 involving 40 members of staff from different agencies
- Three completed Child Practice Reviews were the subject of a series of multi agency feedback sessions held in November and December 2015 involving over 200 members of staff from different agencies. Key areas of learning included:
  - Issues of multiple births
  - Families not co-operating and what needs to be done to address this
  - Improvements to child protection conference and core group<sup>5</sup> processes

The CTSCB, in conjunction with the CTSAB, agreed to commence their first joint Adult/Child Practice Review at the start of 2016. This report is due to be finalised early in 2017.

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

Cwm Taf MASH was formally launched by the First Minister on 21 May 2015.

#### **Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister For Wales:**

*“The new MASH will make a real difference in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in the Cwm Taf region. A truly joined up approach, MASH will provide a valuable service to make sure those at risk get access to the help and support they need.”*

During its first year of operation the MASH has brought about improvements in information sharing, timeliness and decision-making. New referral forms via a single point of contact have supported an improvement in recording safeguarding concerns.

All child safeguarding concerns that are referred into MASH are prioritised by Children Services. Urgent and emergency child protection referrals will be flagged and dealt with in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 (AWCCP) i.e. “whether a child is at imminent risk of harm and whether emergency protective action needs to be taken”. Before MASH, as there were

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<sup>5</sup> A Core Group is made up of professionals and the family and is responsible for developing and implementing the child protection plan

four district triage teams allocating this work, this risk assessment process took longer to action and therefore response times and intervention was slower.

MASH has made the decision-making process more efficient as child protection concerns are now RAG<sup>6</sup> rated by Children Services in the MASH and entered onto the information sharing system (Mhub) which allows partner agencies to disclose relevant safeguarding intelligence promptly.

Since the implementation of MASH, strategy discussions<sup>7</sup> are more efficient as they are usually held within 24 hours and include all the relevant agencies, thus improving compliance with the AWCPP.

#### 4. Improved Practice With Specific Groups Of Vulnerable Children And Young People

During the year, the CTSCB prioritised areas of work to support the most vulnerable children and young people.

##### ***Children Displaying Risk-taking Behaviour***

The Risky Behaviour Protocol, endorsed by the Board in December 2014 was rolled out across Cwm Taf in 2015. This protocol provided practitioners with guidance on the procedures to be followed in the small number of cases where children and young people were deemed to be placing themselves at a high level of risk due to their own behaviour.

A suite of tools were developed to support the protocol and a Risky Behaviour Management Group was set up to oversee the relevant cases.

A summary of the cases subject to the protocol during 2015/16 is presented in the table below:

Type of Risk Taking Behaviour	RCT	MT
Drug & Alcohol Misuse	4	1
Going Missing	2	
Sexual Exploitation	8	5
Sexual Harmful Behaviour	2	1
Trafficking	1	
Violent Behaviour	1	
Adverse Criminal Justice Contact	1	
Self Harm/Suicide/Para Suicide	2	
Other	1	
Total	22	7

<sup>6</sup> The RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating enables practitioners to prioritise cases based on risk

<sup>7</sup> Strategy discussions involve agencies establishing whether there is a need to progress to an investigation



Early in 2016 the process was reviewed and it was agreed that the process and the remit of the Management Group could be further improved. The outcome of this work will occur during 2016/17.

### ***Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)***

Following the publication of the Jay and Casey reports into CSE in Rotherham the Board undertook an Audit of agencies preparedness for any potential similar occurrences and a subsequent Action Plan was developed and approved.

The publication of the All Wales Action Plan for CSE has informed further developments to the CTSCB Plan and this work will be ongoing during 2016/17. In December 2015 an overarching CSE Task Group was established, with representatives from all Board agencies to oversee the implementation of the CSE Action Plan.

The CTSCB carried out a pilot data collection exercise at the start of 2016 to begin scoping out the cases being considered in Cwm Taf. This will be further developed during 2016/17.

The links to Licensing have been recognised by the Board and as a result training for taxi drivers has been put in place.

The Merthyr Tydfil Youth Forum presented their DVD 'Caught in Traffick' at the CTSB website launch in 2015. This has since been shared with schools across Cwm Taf.

### ***Children Looked After***

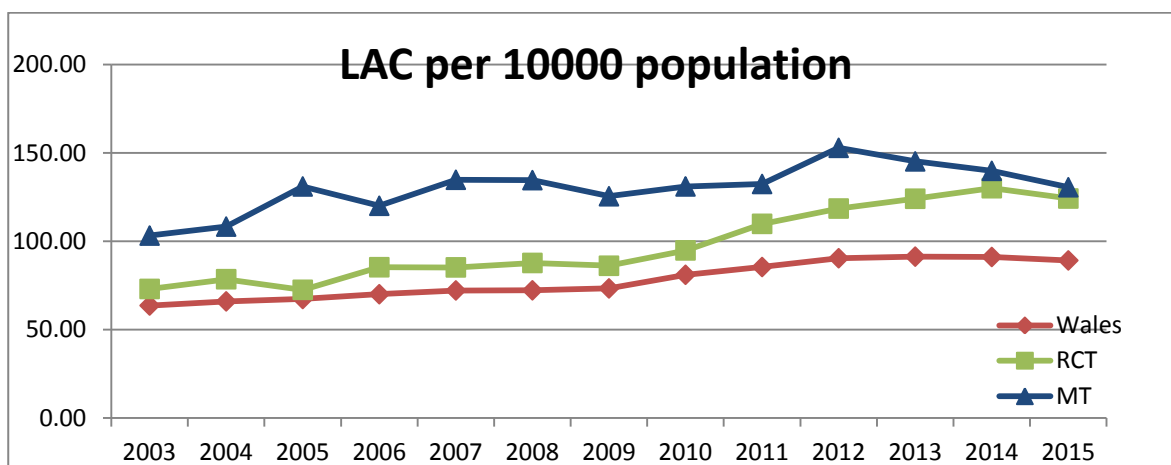
A Children Looked After Prevention Strategy and Statement of Purpose was commissioned by the CTSCB during the year.

The strategy sets out how Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil Children's Services, together with partner agencies, will meet the needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families, improve outcomes and safely reduce the number of children within the region who need to become looked after.

The strategy states that the proportion of children looked after across Cwm Taf averages at 135 per 10,000, which is over a third more than the Welsh average and over double the English average.

The table and graph below shows a consistent steady increase in the numbers of Looked after Children, across Wales, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. It also highlights the average number of children across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr is higher than that of the Welsh average. Despite this, the number of Looked After Children across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil is reducing at a greater pace than across Wales.

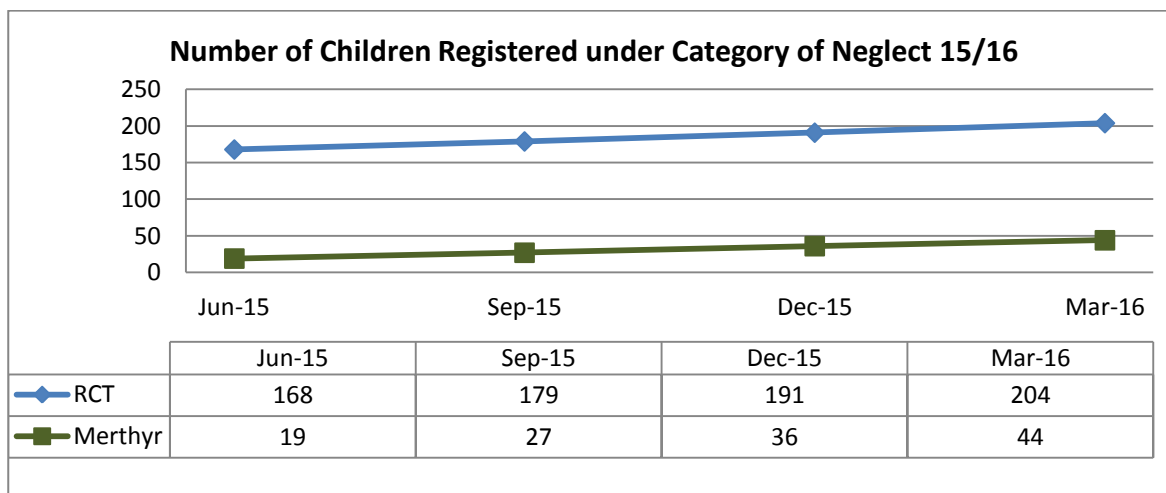
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Wales</b>	64	66	67	70	72	72	73	81	85	90	91	91	89
<b>RCT</b>	73	79	73	85	85	88	86	95	110	119	124	130	124
<b>MT</b>	103	108	131	120	135	135	125	131	132	153	145	140	131



A subsequent action plan has since been in development, which has been informed through consultation with key partners and with groups of children and young people. Regular reports have been provided to the Board throughout the year and further implementation will take place during 2016/17.

**Children and Young People Experiencing Neglect**

Neglect is once again becoming the highest category of registration across Cwm Taf. The figures for Cwm Taf for 2015/16 are presented below:



In RCT, the percentage of children on the Child Protection Register under the category of Neglect increased from 40% at 31/12/15 to 45% at 31/03/16.

In Merthyr Tydfil, the percentage of children under the category of Neglect increased from 40% at 31/12/15 to 44% at 31/03/16.

However QASG audit work has indicated that the Assessment Tool for Neglect is not being used consistently. This will be addressed in 2016/17 and has already been built into multi-agency safeguarding training.

### ***Immediate Response to Critical Incidents Protocol***

The CTSCB has a Immediate Response Protocol in place to provide support to manage the consequences of critical incidents (such as suicide) involving children and young people under the age of 25 years in order to ensure that those who are affected, including friends, family, professionals and the wider community, are effectively supported.

During 2015/16, there was one Immediate Response case where a meeting of all key professionals was held within 3 days of the incident. Immediate actions were agreed on a multi-agency basis to ensure positive outcomes for all identified individuals.

## **5. Holding Agencies to Account**

The CTSCB continues to review the efficacy of measures taken by partners and other bodies in relation to safeguarding. This aim is supported by a strong partnership ethos.

All policies, procedures and protocols are shared with Board members to cascade within their agencies.

### ***The Role of Partner Agencies***

All the required statutory partner agencies in Cwm Taf are represented on the Board, Operational Committees and Sub Groups. In addition, there is representation from the following organisations:

- Wales Ambulance Service Trust
- Interlink/VAMT (Voluntary Sector)

All agencies are actively involved in the work of the Board and fully participated in Board events during 2015/16, including Safeguarding Week. The specific responsibilities of the partners during the year were as follows:

- Cwm Taf UHB:
  - Chair of the CTSCB Operational Committee
  - Chair of the Risky Behaviour (and subsequently Challenging Cases) Group
  - Vice Chair of the CTSCB
- MTCBC
  - Chair of PPG
  - Co-Chair of CTSCB
  - Chair of CSE Task Group
  - Appointed as Chair of Joint Child/Adult Practice Review Panel

- Appointed as Independent Reviewer for Joint Child/Adult Practice Review
- RCTCBC
  - Chair of QASG
  - Co-Chair of CTSCB
  - Host of the CTSB Business Unit
  - Independent Reviewer for a Child Practice Review
- South Wales Police
  - Host of the formal launch of the MASH which 1<sup>st</sup> Minister attended
  - Hosted the CTSB Website Launch
- Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service:
  - Chair of TCG (from June 2015)
  - Chair of Child Practice Review Panel
- Wales Probation Service
  - Chair of TCG (up to June 2015)
- Voluntary Sector
  - Chair of the CRG
- Public Health Wales
  - Independent Reviewer for a Child Practice Review

### ***Challenge of Partner Agencies***

During 2015/16 a new Scorecard performance reporting system was developed. This enables each CTSCB Sub Group to report to the Board on key measures of success and areas of improvement.

Individual agencies are requested to report to the Board on the outcome of internal agency reviews and inspections to support effective challenge at a multi-agency strategic level. In 2015/16, this included:

- Police and Crime Commissioner Plan and Budget - consultation
- HMIC South Wales Police Inspection (Child Protection)
- MTCBC Estyn Inspection
- Admissions Guidance - Health
- WAO Audit of safeguarding arrangements in MT
- CSSIW National Inspection & Care Planning of Looked After Children & Care leavers who exhibit vulnerable or risky behaviours - considered with LA action plans to address

In 2016/17 consideration will be given to reviewing the Section 28 audits<sup>8</sup> to ensure compliance across all partner agencies.

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<sup>8</sup> Section 28 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the key arrangements, roles and responsibilities for each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The Joint Boards Development Day, held in January 2016, involved partner agencies challenging each other on the achievements of the Board in 2015/16 and this has informed our priorities for 2016/17.

## **6. Collaboration with other Agencies, Partnerships and Boards**

The CTSCB has been proactive in collaborating and consulting with other agencies, partnerships and Boards during 2015/16.

### ***Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board***

The creation of the MASH and a joint Safeguarding Boards Business Unit in 2015/16 served as catalysts for progressing ongoing joint working arrangements across both the Children and Adults Boards.

This has included:

- A joint Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website, launched in November 2015
- Safeguarding Week 2015
- A Joint Safeguarding Board in place from December 2015
- A Joint PPG Group in place from January 2016
- Joint Boards Development Day in January 2016

### ***Other Safeguarding Boards***

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

The CTSCB also collaborated with Bradford Safeguarding Children Board in designing Wales' first ever Safeguarding Week in 2015.

### ***Local Service Board***

Links to the LSB have continued via the Co-Chairs of the CTSCB and other Board members. During the year, a common reporting system was developed, using a Performance Reporting Scorecard, to enable the Board to provide the LSB with information on performance.

This arrangement will continue during 2016/17 when the Cwm Taf Public Services Board is established and further opportunities will be explored to align the work of both Boards, in light of the Partnership Review which is due to be completed in 2016.

### ***Welsh Government***

The Safeguarding Boards Business Managers across Wales and other key Board members have continued to engage with the Welsh Government on issues relating to safeguarding. This has become more proactive in preparation for the implementation of the new Act and the creation of the National Independent Safeguarding Board.

Members of the Board have also been involved in the development of the National CSE Action Plan and the national work on the Neglect Tool.

### **All Wales Child Protection Coordinators Group**

Representatives from the CTSCB attend the All Wales Child Protection Co-ordinators Group. This is a primarily a networking and information sharing group, which is also recognised by the Welsh Government as a stakeholder for consultation and policy development purposes.

### **PREVENT**

The CTSCB has established links with PREVENT, the UK governments long-term strategy for countering terrorism and the associated Channel process, the early intervention, multi-agency, safeguarding programme designed to support individuals identified as being vulnerable to being drawn in to violent extremism, or terrorist related activity.

WRAP Training (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training will be made available to CTSCB members in 2016/17.

### **MASH Collaboration**

During the year the MASH has received visitors from across the UK and has been recognised as good practice by many agencies:

*Deputy South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Sophie Howe*

*“Serious Case Reviews across the country have repeatedly told us that failure to share information has been a key factor when things go wrong. The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub is a major step towards addressing this. We hope that by bringing partners and professionals together we will be better placed to protect people in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. I pay tribute to the strong leadership and determination from the local authorities and BCU Commander Chief Supt Sally Burke. The MASH has already been highlighted as best practice and this is a tribute to everyone involved.”*

*Wendy Williams, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary.*

*“As a result of the development of the MASH, agencies are able to hold strategy discussions on a daily basis and to implement actions to protect individuals and families who are most in need. I was impressed by the manner in which all officers dealt with what must be a harrowing area of policing. They demonstrated professionalism, with great sensitivity, patience and understanding”.*

*Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales):*

*“I was impressed to hear what the MASH team has been able to achieve through partnership and collaboration between agencies, setting a best practice standard for others”.*

In addition agencies across the UK have visited the Cwm Taf MASH to learn from its development. These have included:

- Cardiff Local Authority/South Wales Police
- Gwent Police with local authorities

- West Mercia Police and Herefordshire / Worcestershire Councils
- Dorset Police
- London Metropolitan Police Force
- Cwm Taf MASH has also been recommended as a “good practice” MASH on the Police On-line knowledge area (POLKA College of Policing).

Presentations were also made to the following:

- ESVG / Welsh Government
- Cwm Taf Regional Collaboration Board
- Police and Crime Commissioners Conference
- University of South Wales
- Cardiff Local Service Board
- Gwent Police
- Permanent Secretary to Wales (visit to MASH)
- Shadow Home Secretary (visit to MASH)

### ***Local Authority Public Protection***

Members of the local authority Public Protection Departments presented their risk assessments of walked routes to schools to the CTSCB Operational Committee. These will be reviewed annually.

### ***Children's Commissioner***

The Commissioner also spoke at the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website launch in November 2016.

### ***Coroner's Office***

Meetings were held in 2015 with the Coroner and his Officers to strengthen the links with the CTSCB and ensure that information in relation to child deaths is shared promptly.

## **7. Engagement, Participation and Communications**

The CTSCB actively seeks opportunities to raise awareness of safeguarding and for children and young people to become engaged in its work. This has been supported by a number of promotional activities and events during the year. These include:

- An E-Bulletin, highlighting safeguarding news items
- Launch of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website ([www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org))
- Merthyr Tydfil Youth Forum attended the Website Launch in 2015 and presented their DVD 'Caught in Traffick'
- Safeguarding Week 2015 - a joint event across both Safeguarding Boards and the first of its kind in Wales. Activities included:
  - Safeguarding Bingo

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Training
  - Child Practice Review feedback session
- Safeguarding Boards articles have been published in the Merthyr Tydfil newsletter 'Contact'
  - A leaflet for parents was developed to explain the Child Practice Review process
  - All CTSCB Protocols are now bilingual and published on the Boards website.

## 8. Training and Learning

During the year the following safeguarding training courses were delivered via the local authorities' training department and multi-agency delivery group to multi-agency professionals.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
	MT	RCT	MT	RCT	MT	RCT	MT	RCT
No. L2 Safeguarding Children Courses held (multi-agency)	0	3	1	2	0	1	1	3
No. Attending L2 Safeguarding Children Training (multi-agency)	0	41/44 - 93%	13/21 - 62%	34/41 - 83%	0	9/12 - 75%	10/20 - 50%	51/59 - 86%
No. L3 Safeguarding Children Training Courses held (multi-agency)	0	6	1	6	1	7	1	9
No. Attending L3 Safeguarding Children Training (multi-agency)	0	158/164 - 96%	15/20 - 75%	122/131 - 93%	20/27 - 74%	171/191 - 90%	15/21 - 71%	210/236 - 89%

### How did the CTSCB use its Resources in 2015/16?

During 2015/16 the Safeguarding Boards Business Unit was redesigned to ensure that both the Children and Adults Board were fully supported in meeting their obligations in preparation for the new Act. A new Cwm Taf Safeguarding Business Manager was appointed in August 2015 with responsibility for both the Adults and Children's Boards.



In November 2015 both Safeguarding Boards negotiated a funding formula for 2016/17, based on the guidance issued under Part 7 of the SS&WB Act 2014. This secured the financial contributions of all statutory partners to meet the required resources to deliver the business of the Boards, ensuring compliance with the requirements of the new Act.

## **What does the CTSCB plan to do in 2016/17?**

In January 2016 the Children and Adults Boards held their first joint Development Day to identify the achievements of the Board in 2015/16 and evaluate and agree the priorities for each Board for 2016/17.

These priorities have been agreed based on identified areas for development and improvement, taking into consideration emerging themes and statutory requirements. These have been incorporated into the Board's Annual Plan for 2016/17 and will include:

- Improvements to the governance arrangements of the CTSCB to ensure compliance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- The need to proactively engage with the community and provide children and young people with opportunities to participate in the work of the Board
- Continued collaborative opportunities with the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board, to include training and communications
- Further improvements to the MASH to support effective information sharing and safeguarding processes
- Further developments to quality assurance processes to improve multi agency safeguarding practice
- The need to identify Board members who will act as 'champions' for specific areas of work, including Neglect, CSE, Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm and Children Looked After

## ***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 425006

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 public holidays, ring the 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) if you have any queries relating to this report.

BWRDD DIOGELU PLANT CWM TAF  
CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

**BDPCT**  
BWRDD  
DIOGELU PLANT CWM TAF

**CTSCB**  
CWM TAF  
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

**CYNLLUN BLYNYDDOL  
ANNUAL PLAN  
2016 - 2017**



## 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.

The CTSCB operates within the statutory guidance set out in Section 139 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014<sup>1</sup> and in exercising its functions under the Act the CTSCB will have due regard to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The CTSCB monitors how well agencies and other partnerships undertake their work with regard to safeguarding children and ensures safeguarding is embedded in all working practices.

This Annual Plan will support the evaluation of the work of the Board and will make it accountable to the public, statutory partner agencies and to the inspectorate bodies.

The CTSCB will make this Annual Plan public by placing it on the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website ([www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org)).

### **OUR VISION**

***To ensure that children and young people in Cwm Taf, up to the age of 18, are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and are prevented from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and they live in an environment that promotes their wellbeing.***

***The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board will work within the ethos of Voice and Control and engage with, listen to and hear the views of children and young people.***

**Giovanni Isingrini (Co-Chair)**  
**Director of Community and Children's**  
**Services**  
**Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC**

**Lisa Curtis-Jones (Co-Chair)**  
**Chief Officer (Social Services)**  
**Merthyr Tydfil CBC**

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<sup>1</sup> From hereon in known as 'the Act'

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The Lead Partner of the CTSCB is Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) County Borough Council. 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 Act 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 Unit 5, Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ
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
Executive Nurse Director Cwm Taf University Health Board	Cwm Taf University Health Board LHB Headquarters Ynysmeurig House, Abercynon, CF45 4SN
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	Ty Catrin, Maritime Industrial Estate Maesycoed Pontypridd, CF37 1NY
Director of Place and Transformation (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN

<b>CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Service Director, Adult Services (RCTCBC)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Ty Elai, Dinas Isaf East, Williamstown Tonypany, CF40 1NY
Head of Safeguarding & Support (RCTCBC)	Tŷ Catrin, Maritime Industrial Estate, Maesycloed, Pontypridd, CF37 1NY
Safeguarding Manager, Adults and Children (MTCBC)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC Unit 5, Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ
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 (RCTCBC)	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
Service Director, Adult Services (RCTCBC)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Community Services Municipal Buildings, Llewellyn Street, Pentre, CF41 7XW
Head of Legal - Community Care and Children (RCTCBC)	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 Unit 1 Charnwood Court Heol Billingsley Parc Nantgarw Cardiff, CF15 7QZ.
Named Professional for Safeguarding	Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust Ty Conwy /Conwy House 1st Floor, Castle Court Phoenix Way Swansea, SA7 9LA

The CTSCB has a well-established Sub Group structure in place to support the delivery of its objectives and to carry out its functions effectively. This enables the Board to focus on its overall responsibility of setting the strategic direction for Board partner agencies and challenging them on the effectiveness of safeguarding measures.

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

**Operational Committee** - ensures that the business and functions of the Board are carried out effectively. In delivering this Annual Plan, the Operational Committee will ensure that the outcomes and improvement priorities of the Board and the work of the Sub Groups are taken forward.

**Quality Assurance and Standards Sub Group** - encourages high standards of practice through the auditing, monitoring and evaluation of performance and reviewing the work undertaken by partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across Cwm Taf.

**Case Review 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. The Group also ensures that action plans arising from reviews are monitored and implemented.

**Protocols and Procedures Sub Group** - this is a joint Children and Adults Group that is responsible for developing, reviewing and updating policies, protocols and procedures to co-ordinate what is done by each representative body to safeguard children and adults.

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

## **THE MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)**

The Cwm Taf Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns, across Cwm Taf.

The MASH is the first point of contact for new safeguarding concerns and has significantly improved the sharing of information between agencies, helping to protect the most vulnerable children and adults from harm, neglect and abuse.

The MASH directly receives safeguarding concerns from professionals such as teachers and doctors; as well as members of the public and family members via Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC contact centres.

A MASH Senior Managers Group (SMG) has also been set up to oversee the ongoing development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to ensure it continues to achieve its goal to improve safeguarding and promote the welfare of children, young people

and adults at risk. The Group reports to the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards and escalates risks and issues as appropriate.

## **WHAT ARE OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES?**

The key objectives of the CTSCB, as defined by the Act are:

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

These key objectives will underpin the work of the CTSCB in the coming year. The Board will also operate 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.

Section 130 (4) of the Act 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).

The CTSCB aims to meet its objectives in the coming year by:

- Being clear about what outcomes it is seeking to achieve and what the statutory partners should deliver in relation to safeguarding children and young people in Cwm Taf
- Challenging relevant agencies to ensure that there are effective measures in place in to protect children
- Anticipating and identifying where there may be children and young people at risk and working with service providers to develop earlier identification and preventative services.
- Working together in partnership with children, young people and the community and promoting inter-agency approaches to working with community groups and organisations where there may be populations at risk of harm



## **WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR?**

The CTSCB has identified the following as its priority outcomes to support the achievement of its objectives for the coming year:

- 1. The Board has a robust structure and clear governance arrangements in place that supports its effective operation and its compliance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.**
- 2. Children and young people who are particularly vulnerable have been identified and the Board is assured that there are measures in place to protect them and to prevent them from becoming further at risk.**
- 3. The Board is proactive in engaging with its communities and children and young people are given the opportunity to participate in the work of the Board.**
- 4. The Board is assured that there are effective inter-agency safeguarding practice and processes in place, supported by robust quality assurance and information sharing systems**
- 5. The Board ensures that safeguarding inter-agency training and dissemination of learning and research is used to support a more confident and knowledgeable multi agency workforce**
- 6. The Board actively pursues opportunities for collaborative working with other agencies, partnerships and boards to support the pursuance of its objectives.**

## **HOW DO WE INTEND TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES?**

Our Plan to achieve these outcomes is set out on the following pages.

## OUR PLAN FOR 2016/17

### Outcome 1: The Board has a robust structure and clear governance in place that supports its effective operation and its compliance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

#### What does this mean?

The Act sets out the core functions of a Board which incorporate an extensive range of activities. To enable the Board to carry out these functions there must be a structure in place to support the successful implementation and delivery of its work programme. Responsibility for a Board's effectiveness lies with the Board on a corporate basis and with each Safeguarding Board partner individually.

The Board is required to co-ordinate the activities of each person or body represented in relation to protecting and preventing abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm to children and to ensure the effectiveness of those activities. In turn, each Safeguarding Board partner has a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Board on which it is represented is operating effectively.

Priority Area	Where are we now?	What needs to improve?	What do we need to do?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure success?
<b>1.1 Governance</b>	The CTSCB is well established and makes links to the Single Integrated Plans within each local authority via the Cwm Taf Local Service Board.  The CTSCB has agreed its terms of reference and role profiles are in place for Board members.	There needs to be a clear link between the CTSCB and the new statutory Public Service Board (PSB).  The CTSCB must respond to the outcomes of the review of strategic partnerships.  There is a need to ensure that terms of	CTSCB to ensure that there is a clear line of reporting governance in place to enable it to continue its role of holding agencies to account	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Reports to PSB
			CTSCB to respond to the strategic review of partnerships		Alignment of partnerships work completed and actions implemented
			Ensure that the Terms of Reference and membership of the Board are reviewed and updated		Terms of Reference reviewed and approved
			Develop an induction pack for new Board members		Induction pack developed and approved

		reference, chairing arrangements and role profiles for Board members are up to date and agreed by all.	Role profiles to be agreed by all Board members		Role profiles reviewed and approved
<b>1.2 Reporting</b>	The Board's Sub Groups currently report on a quarterly basis to the Board via the Operational Committee. The Annual Report for the Board is completed each year.	Ensure that reports are consistent and are demonstrating outcomes.	Introduce a consistent scorecard reporting system for all Sub Groups that sets out measurable performance targets and outcomes.	Operational Committee	Quarterly outcome-focussed scorecards presented to the Operational Committee
		The Annual Report for 2015/16 needs to be published by 31 July 2016.	Complete and publish the Board's Annual Report by 31 July 2016		Annual Report completed
<b>1.3 Risks</b>	There is currently a risk register in place for the CTSCB	The risk management process needs to be further developed to ensure that this is continuously monitored and reviewed by all Board members	Develop new risk register and agree with Board.	Operational Committee	Risks and mitigating actions are identified Risks are managed, reduced or eliminated
			Ensure that all sub groups contribute and update the risk register.		
			Place as a standing item on the Operational Committee agenda and escalate risks to the Board as appropriate.		
<b>1.4 Safeguarding Business Unit</b>	The current Business Unit consists of 2 members of staff that have historically supported the CTSCB only.	The Business Unit support structure needs to be strengthened to ensure the Board (as well as the Adults Board)	Establish new structure of Business Unit and appoint staff as appropriate	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Business Manager	New staff appointed

		is well supported and compliant with the Act.	Secure appropriate funding contributions from partner agencies to support the effective operation of the Unit.		Partner agreements in place	
<b>1.5 Policies &amp; Procedures</b>	The CTSCB Policies and Procedures Sub Group (PPG) is well established and has a work programme in place that is monitored on a quarterly basis. The Group has recently expanded its remit to incorporate adults policies and procedures.	The work programme of the Sub group needs to be further developed to incorporate the Adults policies and procedures.	Develop the work programme of the PPG to include Adults and MASH policies and procedures.	Protocols and Procedures Sub Group	Joint work programme in place.  Policies and procedures reviewed in accordance with the timescales included in the work programme	
			Ensure that the Group responds to any changes to the All Wales Procedures for children and adults as a result of the Act.			Quarterly reports submitted to the Operational Committee
			New scorecard reporting format to be developed			Training/awareness raising requirements are remitted to the Training and Communications Sub group as appropriate
			Ensure that the PPG continues to review and update policies and procedures and makes recommendations on appropriate training/awareness raising			
<b>1.6 Social Services &amp; Wellbeing Act</b>	The Act will come into force on 6 April 2016. An action plan is already in place to ensure that the Board is compliant	Actions contained within the SS&WB action plan to be implemented accordingly	SS&WB Action Plan to be monitored by the Boards Reports to be presented to the Board via Operational Committee on a quarterly basis and risks/issues escalated where required	SS&WB Act Task and Finish Group	Quarterly highlight reports and progress on actions presented to the Board on a quarterly basis. To include risks and issues requiring escalation.	

**Outcome 2: Children and young people who are particularly vulnerable have been identified and the Board is assured that there are measures in place to protect them and to prevent them from becoming further at risk**

**What does this mean?**

Keeping children who may have needs for care and support safe is everyone's responsibility. This means feeling safe and being safe with those with whom they live and who support and care for them, as well as being safe in environments outside the home where they may live, travel, play, learn, work or undertake sport, cultural, leisure and other activities. This responsibility lies primarily within the family or with carers and within the wider community. However, there are some groups of children who are particularly vulnerable, perhaps as a result of their own behaviour or as a result of compromised parenting. The Board has a responsibility to ensure that a proportionate response is adopted to protect these groups of young people and actions are in place to prevent them from becoming at further risk of abuse, neglect or harm.

Priority Area	Where are we now?	What needs to improve?	What do we need to do?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure success?
<b>2.1 Neglect</b>	Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.  The CTSCB acknowledges that some parents will require extra support from services to ensure that their children are cared for adequately.	Improved interventions need to be in place to address the 'Toxic Trio' - domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse - which have been identified as common features of families where neglect or harm to children has occurred. They are viewed as indicators of increased risk of harm to children and young people.	Improve the usage of the Assessment Tool for Neglect	Quality Assurance Sub Group	Improved use of the Assessment Tool for Neglect
			Develop a toolkit to deal with the escalation of challenging cases	Protocols and Procedures Sub Group	Toolkit developed and published on the website
			Carry out audits of cases where neglect is a recurring theme	Quality Assurance Sub Group	Number of audits completed
			Share learning from audits and reviews	Training and Communications Group	Number of learning events held where neglect was a theme
			Ensure that training incorporates lessons from neglect cases and how interventions can be put in place to address the issues	Training and Communications Group	Number of training programmes that include the theme of neglect

			Ensure that actions arising from the national neglect work is implemented	Operational Committee	Report to Board on outcome of national neglect work
			Identify a Board member to champion this work	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Board member identified
<b>2.2 Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	<p>Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of child abuse. It happens when a young person is encouraged, or forced, to take part in sexual activity in exchange for something.</p> <p>A National CSE Action Plan has recently been published to address CSE in Wales. The CTSCB has addressed this on a regional basis by producing its own action plan.</p>	<p>The CTSCB action plan needs to be progressed further as annual reports will be required by the Welsh Government. In addition, data collection of CSE cases needs to be carried out and reported to the Welsh Government</p>	Progress with CTSCB Action Plan for CSE, ensuring that it complies with the Welsh Government's National Action Plan and the '4 Ps' to Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue.	CSE Task Group	<p>Action plan implemented and monitored</p> <p>Annual Report on CSE submitted to Welsh Government</p>
			Progress with data collection monthly returns	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Business Unit	Monthly returns submitted to Welsh Government
			Develop the toolkit for challenging cases to include the SERAF risk assessment tool for all cases where CSE is a risk	Protocols and Procedures Sub Group	<p>Toolkit on challenging cases developed</p> <p>Number of SERAF assessments carried out</p>
			Progress development of an effective Perpetrator Management Programme in line with the CSE Action Plan	CSE Task Group	Perpetrator Management Programme in place
			Identify a Board member to champion this work	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Board member identified

<b>2.3 Suicide and Self Harm</b>	The Cwm Taf UHB currently co-ordinates a Reduction of Suicide and Self Harm multi-agency Steering Group which delivers elements of the Talk to Me 2 Strategy, considers critical incidents, bereavements and cases of self harm and the delivery of training in this area	Partnership working is vital in supporting children and young people at risk of harming themselves.  There is a need to improve links between the current steering group and the CTSCB.	Consideration to be given to bringing the Steering group functions into the CTSCB structure.	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Governance arrangements established for Steering Group functions
			Review the Strategy and Self Harm Strategy on a Cwm Taf regional basis		Local Strategy reviewed to deliver Children's elements of Talk to Me 2.
			Identify a Board member to champion this work		Board member identified
<b>2.4 Looked After Children</b>	The proportion of looked after children across Cwm Taf averages at 135 per 10,000 population. This figure is over a third more than the Welsh average. While we will always need to safeguard and look after some children, we believe that, by working more effectively together with our partner agencies we can reduce the number of children who end up needing intensive interventions.	Placing a child into care is often the best outcome for them but more needs to be done to ensure that all children in care are healthy and safe, have the same opportunities as their peers and can move successfully into adulthood. Families with emerging difficulties need support earlier and more effectively, and help to build up their resilience and independence	Monitor the safeguarding element of the Cwm Taf LAC Prevention Strategy with a goal to improve partnership working and ensure more children and young people remain living within their family or kinship network, and achieve positive outcomes	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	LAC Prevention Strategy approved by the Board, Lead identified and safeguarding element monitored on a quarterly basis.
			Listen to children and young people about how services are delivered.		
			Identify a Board member to champion this work		

**Outcome 3: The Board is proactive in engaging with its community and children and young people are given the opportunity to participate in the work of the Board**

**What does this mean?**

A Safeguarding Board should ensure that it develops knowledge and understanding of its objectives and of the nature and scope of abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm in its area.

These are important steps in fostering relationships and building mutual trust between a Safeguarding Board and its community, and raising awareness throughout the area of the need to protect and prevent abuse and harm to children and adults who may have needs for care and support.

Children who are, or may be, affected by the exercise of a Safeguarding Board's functions must be given the opportunity to participate in the Board's work. Safeguarding Boards must work within the ethos of the theme of Voice and Control which underpins the Act to support people to achieve their personally identified outcomes.

Priority Area	Where are we now?	What needs to improve?	What do we need to do?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure success?
<b>3.1 Communications Strategy</b>	Communications and marketing is currently the responsibility of the Training and Communications Sub Group.	There is a need to improve the methods by which the Board publicises its work by engagement and collaboration with other agencies and by discussions with users and members of the public.	Carry out a review of the current Training and Communications Sub Group remit	Training and Communications Group	Review of training and communications completed and recommendations implemented
	The Board currently seeks opportunities to promote its work	There is a need to review the approach taken to communications to ensure that it sits within the correct governance structure of the Board.	Develop a joint children and adults Communications and Engagement Strategy.  Ensure that all communications are developed to suit the audience, ensuring readability and translated into Welsh.		Communications and Engagement Strategy developed and implemented



<b>3.2 Safeguarding Boards Website</b>	The new Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website was launched in November 2015. This is a joint website with the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board.	The website needs to be regularly updated and developed to support the Board's Communication Strategy	Website to be updated and maintained, including Welsh translation.  Partners to be encouraged to contribute to the ongoing development of the website.	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Business Unit	Number of hits on website  Feedback received via the website
<b>3.3 Participation</b>	The Board currently engages with children and young people on an ad hoc basis via existing groups such as the Youth Forum and LAC groups	At least once a year Safeguarding Boards must give children the opportunity to participate in one or more events of the boards work.	Links to be made with the Cwm Taf Public Engagement Group and existing groups in Cwm Taf, including the newly established Citizens Panel	Training and Communications Group	Participation included in the Board's Communication Strategy.
			Each Board meeting to consider opportunities for engaging with children and young people Evaluation process to be developed to ensure that feedback received is meaningful	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Record of Board discussions to include participation of children and young people  Number of children and young people participating in the work of the Board
			Safeguarding Week 2016 to involve an event for children and young people	Training and Communications Group	Engagement activities to be evaluated
<b>3.4 Safeguarding Week</b>	The Safeguarding Boards hosted Safeguarding Week	Plans are underway for Safeguarding Week 2016. Consideration is to be	Safeguarding Week to be held in 2016, to include a professionals/ stakeholder event and a public	Training and Communications Group	Safeguarding Week held and evaluated

	2015, the first of its kind in Wales.	given to this being a national event	event.		
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**Outcome 4: There is effective inter-agency safeguarding practice and processes in place that are supported by robust quality assurance and information sharing systems**

**What does this mean?**

Safeguarding Boards are required to co-ordinate the activities of each person or body represented on the Board in relation to protecting and preventing abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm to children and to ensure the effectiveness of those activities. They have an overall responsibility for challenging relevant agencies in an area so that:

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

Priority Area	Where are we now?	What needs to improve?	What do we need to do?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure success?
4.1 MASH	The Cwm Taf Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was launched in 2015 and has significantly improved the sharing of information between agencies, helping to protect children and adults from harm, neglect and abuse.	With the MASH being fully operational for almost a year, there is a need to evaluate its impact to date and review the current processes to ensure that they are achieving positive outcomes. A MASH Senior Managers Group has been set up to oversee this.	Carry out a process mapping exercise to review the effectiveness to date	MASH Senior Managers Group	Process mapping completed and a proposal in place to make appropriate changes
			Carry out an evaluation of the MASH, to include feedback from service users and professionals		Evaluation carried out with recommendations for further development and improvement
			Embed the performance of the MASH into the work of the CTSCB's QA Sub Group		MASH data incorporated into the QA Scorecard
4.2 Information Sharing	WASPI Information Sharing agreements are in place within the MASH	There is a need to ensure that adequate systems are in place to enable the effective sharing of safeguarding information	Consider areas for development, including agreements between third sector organisations and	Operational Committee	Information Sharing protocols in place

		amongst all agencies	other statutory agencies.  Develop wider information sharing arrangements between other local authority MASH		
<b>4.3 Escalation processes</b>	The CTSCB has approved a number of protocols and tools to manage risky or challenging cases	There is a need to ensure that there is an appropriate escalation procedure in place which is consistently applied across all cases where risks are not being reduced	Carry out a review of current processes of escalating cases, taking into consideration the use of peer group/multi-agency supervision	Protocols and Procedures Sub Group	Protocol/toolkit for resolving challenging cases approved by the Board
<b>4.4 Quality Assurance</b>	The CTSCB's Quality Assurance and Standards Group (QASG) monitors, audits and quality assures the effectiveness of local organisations' and individuals' work to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people across Cwm Taf.	There is need to continue the work of the QASG through the monitoring and evaluation of performance and carry out audits, as appropriate, to ensure that there are improved outcomes for the child. This work will be captured and monitored via a new scorecard reporting format.	Agree the format for the new scorecard reporting format	Quality Assurance Sub Group	QASG reporting scorecard in place
			Develop the QASG work programme for the coming year		QASG work programme in place
			Complete quarterly reports to monitor performance		Quarterly reports submitted to Operational Committee
<b>4.5 Systems</b>	A new Information System for social care and some elements of the NHS is to be introduced by the end of 2017. The NHS has	Systems to support safeguarding need to be updated and modernised to comply with the forthcoming changes.	Operational services to link in with Information systems work being undertaken in preparation for CCIS for Wales.	Local Authority Leads  Cwm Taf	PI & reporting framework requirements are met.  MHub is fit for purpose.

	multiple, some still paper-based, systems.	The MASH Mhub data sharing platform requires further development, including the roll out of Mhub for Cardiff MASH and of wider MASH ICT systems to ensure that these are fit for purpose.	Work with Information Teams within local authorities to ensure that PI & reporting requirements can be met.	Safeguarding Children Board	
	The Welsh Government is introducing a new Safeguarding Performance framework from April 2016.		MHub upgrades to be completed		
	The MASH Mhub system is currently in place.				

**Outcome 5: The Board ensures that safeguarding inter-agency training and dissemination of learning and research is used to support a more confident and knowledgeable multi agency workforce**

**What does this mean?**

As part of developing a positive culture of learning and development, a Safeguarding Board should ensure that information is widely disseminated within the workforce to inform them about best practice and learning arising, reviews, audits and other Board activities. It should also ensure that practitioners are receiving or have access to the training they need in child protection and the prevention of abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

Understanding the nature and extent of abuse, neglect and other forms of harm and the effectiveness of services to prevent and protect children from harm are fundamental to improving the knowledge base of a Safeguarding Board and ensuring informed decision making. A Safeguarding Board should therefore provide for research and evaluation studies either, in some cases, by undertaking or commissioning small scale studies or by co-operating with and encouraging agencies to co-operate with studies being undertaken locally or nationally.

Priority Area	Where are we now?	What needs to improve?	What do we need to do?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure success?
5.1 Research	The CTSCB currently contributes to research on an ad-hoc basis, for example, responding to	The CTSCB may seek to develop relationships with academic and other policy and research organisations to	Consider ways of commissioning research or linking into existing research	Training and Communications Group	Number of research opportunities identified

	consultations and contributing to national work.	influence and promote good practice.	Consider ways of utilising individual research projects		
<b>5.2 Training</b>	The CTSCB has a well established Training and Communications Sub Group which ensures that there is a clear process for managing the identification of training needs; feeding these into the planning and commissioning of training; and the evaluation of multi agency child protection / safeguarding training.	The Board's strategy for training should take account of the training needs of practitioners, themes and learning arising locally or nationally from audits, child practice reviews, investigations and research findings.	Consider methods for carrying out a training needs assessment to identify gaps in current provision	Training and Communications Group	Training Needs Assessment considered
			Develop and maintain training calendar and report on progress and evaluations		Training calendar in place and progress reports presented to the TCG on a quarterly basis
<b>5.3 Information</b>	The CTSCB's main source of information to professionals and the public is the website.  There are leaflets available and a bi-annual E-Bulletin is produced.	The provision of Information Advice and Assistance is central to the Act. The CTSCB needs to ensure that people have easy access to high-quality information.  Information will need to be up to date and relevant.	Ensure that the website is regularly updated to include accessible information that is easy to read and complies with Welsh Language requirements. To include updates on new and emerging issues	Training and Communications Group	Updates to website completed and are translated into Welsh
			Produce a bi-annual E-Bulletin for professionals for both adults and children safeguarding		Two E-Bulletins produced

			Existing leaflets reviewed and updated and new leaflets developed		Number of leaflets reviewed, updated or developed
			Identify opportunities to provide information on the Board e.g. press/newsletter articles		Number of articles published
<b>5.4 Learning</b>	The CTSCB ensures that learning from Child Practice Reviews, case audits and inspections is shared with practitioners on a multi-agency basis	There is a need to continue with this responsibility to ensure that information is widely disseminated within the workforce.	Plan, develop and implement Learning Events and Multi Agency Practitioner Forums (MAPF) where appropriate	Training and Communications Group	Number of learning event and MAPF carried out during the year
<b>5.5 Child Practice Reviews</b>	The Case Review Group ensures that the CTSCB discharges its functions in relation to Child Practice Reviews (CPRs).	There is a need to ensure that the Board complies with any updates to the Welsh Government Child Practice Review Guidance and that action plans are in place to monitor the recommendations from Child Practice Reviews.	Ensure that CPR actions plans are monitored and implemented	Case Review Group	Number of actions plans monitored
			Ensure that formal recommendations are made to the Co-Chairs of the CTSCB if reviews are to be undertaken.		Number of Child Practice Reviews carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government guidance
			Ensure the functions of the PRUDiC guidance have been discharged.		PRUDiC checklist completed for all cases

## Outcome 6: The Board actively pursues opportunities for collaborative working with other agencies, partnerships and boards to support the pursuance of its objectives

### What does this mean?

Effective collaboration and multi-agency working are pre-requisites to the delivery of a Board's responsibilities.

Some activities, including child practice reviews, may involve co-operating or collaborating with other Safeguarding Boards or similar bodies in other countries of the United Kingdom which work under different jurisdictions and different policies and procedures. In these circumstances, great care will be required to ensure clarity about the processes and accountability involved in such joint work.

A Safeguarding Board should address these issues through its Board partners and bodies represented on the Board where an agency is providing services in Wales to citizens from other countries of the United Kingdom who may have experienced abuse or be vulnerable or at risk of harm. The role of the Board and its members is to ensure that service providers are aware of their responsibilities and take into account the different policies and procedures applying in each country, keeping the needs of a child or adult who has needs for care and support at the centre.

Priority Area	Where are we now?	What needs to improve?	What do we need to do?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure success?
<b>6.1 Partnerships</b>	The Board is currently contributing to a review of all partnerships in the Cwm Taf area.  Links are also in place to the Single Integrated Plans and the Social Services and Wellbeing Implementation Plan.	There needs to be a clear matrix in place for the delivery of all strategic functions, including safeguarding, across Cwm Taf.  Links also need to be made to the newly established Public Service Board (PSB).	Ensure that clear links are in place with partnerships and that the safeguarding function forms part of these links.  Ensure that partnership links include the statutory and voluntary sectors	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Partnership Review completed and contribution of Safeguarding Boards is evident
<b>6.2 Adults Board (CTSAB)</b>	The Act has one set of regulations for the functions and	There is a need to develop a commitment to provide a framework for improving	Continue to Identify opportunities for integration	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children	Joint Board meetings held Joint Sub Groups developed Joint initiatives in place e.g.

	<p>procedures of both Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards. The CTSAB is more recently established than the CTSCB and is still undergoing development.</p> <p>Opportunities for collaboration between both Boards are being identified.</p>	<p>safeguarding arrangements for everyone and that any artificial barriers based on age begin to be broken down.</p> <p>Opportunities need to be sought for the Board to operate in parallel and arrangements for the Boards should allow sharing, exchange and joint-working on matters of mutual concern, and that this should be supported wherever possible by common functions and procedures.</p>		Board	website, safeguarding week, communications
<b>6.3 National Independent Safeguarding Board</b>	<p>The Act sets out the responsibilities of this newly created Board. It will work alongside Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards to secure consistent improvements in safeguarding policy and practice throughout Wales.</p>	<p>Although the Safeguarding Boards are not accountable to the National Independent Safeguarding Board they must give an account of their activity to the National Board and supply it with any information or shared learning it requests.</p>	<p>Establish effective links between the CTSCB and the National Board</p>	<p>Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board</p>	<p>Requests for information responded to within timescales Collaborative initiatives completed</p>
<b>6.4 Regional and other</b>	<p>There are a number of networks currently in</p>	<p>The Board should continue to work co-operatively or act jointly</p>	<p>Continue with existing networks and evaluate</p>	<p>Cwm Taf Safeguarding</p>	<p>Number of cross border protocols developed</p>



<p><b>National Safeguarding Boards</b></p>	<p>place that the Board contributes to. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The All Wales Procedures Group</li> <li>▪ Business managers network</li> <li>▪ SWP Safeguarding Children Group</li> </ul>	<p>with other Boards and seek opportunities to further collaborate with the aim of achieving a more coherent and consistent approach across Wales.</p>	<p>effectiveness</p> <p>Identify opportunities for further collaboration</p>	<p>Children Board</p>	<p>Number of collaborative initiatives with other Boards</p>
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## OUR RESOURCES FOR 2016/17

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards for Adults and Children have agreed a budget to support both Boards in 2016/17. The Business Manager for the Boards will manage this budget within the financial regulations set by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, the Lead Partner for the Boards.

The Boards are jointly funded by the statutory partners i.e. both Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf local authorities, Cwm Taf University Health Board, South Wales Police National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company.

The details of the budget for 2016/17 are set out below:

Budget for 2016/17	
Staffing Costs	154,660
Accommodation Costs	5,800
General Expenditure	15,550
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>176,010</b>

Contributions from Partners	% Split	Amount	% Split	Total
Rhondda-Cynon-Taf CBC	60%	105,606	80%	84,485
Merthyr Tydfil CBC			20%	21,121
Cwm Taf UHB	25%	44,003		44,003
South Wales Police	10%	17,601		17,601
Probation Service	5%	8,801		8,801
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>176,010</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>176,010</b>

## 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:

**For Members of the Public call:**  
**Rhondda Cynon Taf: 01443 425003**  
**Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 725000**

Opening Hours:  
 Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
 Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

**For Professionals call the MASH:**  
**Rhondda Cynon Taf: 01443 742928**  
**Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 743619**

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

To contact Children's Services outside office hours, at weekends and public 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)