

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-14

**COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

5TH NOVEMBER 2013

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

Agenda Item 5

CWM TAF ADULT SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT – 1ST APRIL 2012 TO 31ST MARCH 2013

Author: Bob Gatis, Service Director, Community Care. Tel. No. 01443 425444

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Adult Safeguarding Board (CTASB) through its Annual Report. This is attached as Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Agree the contents of the CTASB Report and
- 2.2 Note the work undertaken by all staff involved in the protection of vulnerable adults

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In July 2000, issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act, the Welsh Assembly Government, through its Social Services Inspectorate, launched a guidance document 'In Safe Hands'. The guidance called for the development and implementation of multi-agency Policy and Procedures to protect and support vulnerable adults from abuse and inappropriate care
- 3.2 In response to this guidance, in December 2001, the South Wales Inter-Agency Policy and Procedures was published and implemented across seven local authorities in South Wales, the South Wales Police, National Health Service Trusts, Local Health Boards and Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales. In April 2011 this Policy was replaced by the Wales Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.
- 3.3 The Wales Adult Protection Policy and Procedures require each Local Authority to establish Area Adult Protection Committees (AAPC). Rhondda Cynon Taf AAPC had been operational since 2002, and was chaired by the Service Director Health and Social Care. The AAPC was replaced in September 2011 by a new

joint Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Adult Safeguarding Board. Management Information contained in the Report is submitted to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, Local Government Data Unit, who then produce a report on adult protection activities across Local Authorities in Wales.

- 3.4 The guidance requires that the Director of Social Services reports annually on the work undertaken to protect vulnerable adults in the County Borough.

4. KEY POINTS

- 4.1 The adult protection concerns dealt with in this reporting year were 564 compared to 582 the previous year.
- 4.2 The statistical information included in the Report sets out referral trends, sources of referrals with specific client groups, types of abuse reported, patterns of intervention and types of investigations undertaken, etc.
- 4.3 There continues to be robust collaborative activity amongst all partner agencies. Regular meetings are held and partnership working continues to be effective in safeguarding.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5TH NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Item: Cwm Taf Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report – 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013

Background Papers

**Officer to contact: Mr Bob Gatis, Service Director, Community Care
Tel No 01443 425527**

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Appendix 1



CWM TAF ADULT SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to inform Cwm Taf Adult Safeguarding Board about Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil activity under the Wales Interim Policy and procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse. Comparisons have been made with the previous year.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 During this reporting year there have been 564 concerns (referrals) for Rhondda Cynon Taf and 227 Concerns (referrals) for Merthyr Tydfil relating to the abuse of vulnerable adults. These concerns have been managed in compliance with the All Wales Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.
- 1.2 The information contained in this report relates to 113 (RCT) and 88 (Merthyr Tydfil) referrals which have been resolved through the Adult Protection procedures. Out of the remaining 451 referrals 44 cases are still being investigated and a further 365 concerns have been managed through the safeguarding process as the concern did not meet the threshold for Adult Protection within RCT. Out of the remaining 139 referrals 44 cases are still being investigated and a further 77 concerns have been managed through the safeguarding process as the concern did not meet the threshold for Adult Protection in Merthyr. A further 18 cases received were inappropriate to adult protection.
- 1.3 In September 2000, the Welsh Assembly Government through its Social Services Inspectorate launched a guidance document entitled 'In Safe Hands'. This guidance called for the development and implementation of Multi-agency Policies and procedures to protect and support Vulnerable Adults from abuse.

- 1.4 In response to 'In Safe Hands' the South Wales Adult Protection Forum evolved and developed the South Wales Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults. This Policy was then implemented across the seven local authorities in South Wales.
- 1.5 Each local authority was required to set up a Management Group to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Policy. These groups were known as Area Adult Protection Committees (AAPC).
- 1.6 Respective area adult protection committees were in both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil Area. These have been operational since May 2002 and have since been replaced in September 2011 by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adult Board (CTSAB).
- 1.7 There is a requirement for each Safeguarding adult board to publish an Annual Report on Vulnerable Adult activity for their local authority.
- 1.8 A Vulnerable Adult is defined as being 'A person aged 18 and over, who is or may be in need of Community Care Services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or serious exploitation'.
- 1.9 Abuse may be physical, psychological, financial, sexual or neglect, and can be perpetrated by anyone in a paid or unpaid capacity.
- 1.10 Each year local authorities across Wales are asked by the Welsh Government to collect information relating to the completed adult protection referrals. This information is sent to Welsh Government who then publish a Report on vulnerable adult activity across the twenty two local authorities in Wales.
- 1.11 The method used to collect information is via a standardised way to facilitate consistency in reporting across Wales, it is then transferred to a data base devised by Welsh Government. The information is entered at the end of the adult protection process, this is the point when the adult protection concerns raised initially have been resolved, either by way investigation and/or putting measures in place to help minimise any further occurrences. Many of these cases are subject to continued care management support.
- 1.12 The Safeguarding teams in both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil and Team Managers across the divisions have specific roles in the adult protection process. These staff have received comprehensive training to undertake their role as a Designated Lead Manager (DLM) under the adult protection procedures
- 1.13 Their responsibilities include liaising with key agencies within one working day of receiving the referral. This initial discussion provides an opportunity to consider the concerns and put in place measures to

assist in minimising the risks, and arrange a strategy meeting within seven working days. In more serious cases it may be decided that because of the nature of the incident the police would take primacy to investigate.

The Adult Protection Process includes the following Key elements:

- 1.14 Several meetings may need to be held with key agencies depending on the complexity of the case. The initial strategy meeting will require agencies to share all available information, risk assess the situation for the individual and the wider public if this is appropriate and to appoint the most appropriate agency to investigate. A Protection Plan is agreed and key people are identified to ensure the plan is managed
- 1.15 When the investigation is completed a meeting is convened to consider the outcomes and members are asked to examine all available information and come to a consensus on the outcome for example if the allegation was upheld or not. Often investigations can become protracted and in some cases particularly if there is a Police investigation the case can remain open for many months, sometimes years, until there is an outcome, for example a Court case or a coroners inquest.
- 1.16 The final parts of the process involve organising an Adult Protection Case Conference, the person and their family / carer are invited to attend along with key agencies to receive an outcome of the investigation and to put in place any support they may require to help them feel safe. In some cases it may be necessary to hold a review six weeks after the Case Conference. It is at this point the case will become closed to adult protection but may become an open case to the social work teams for ongoing services.

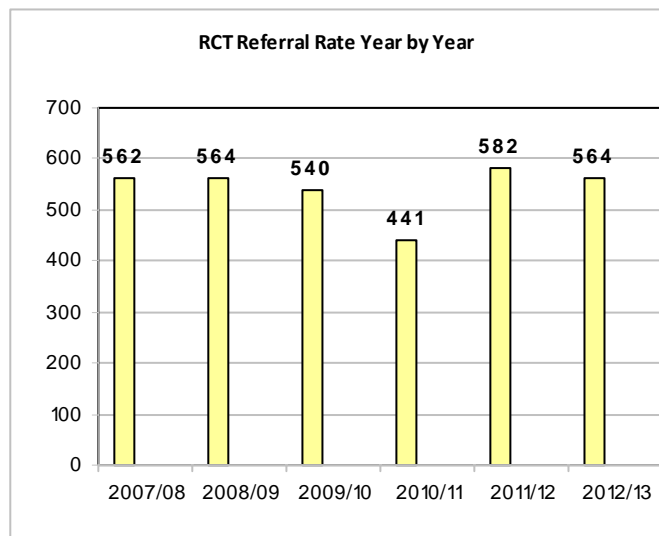
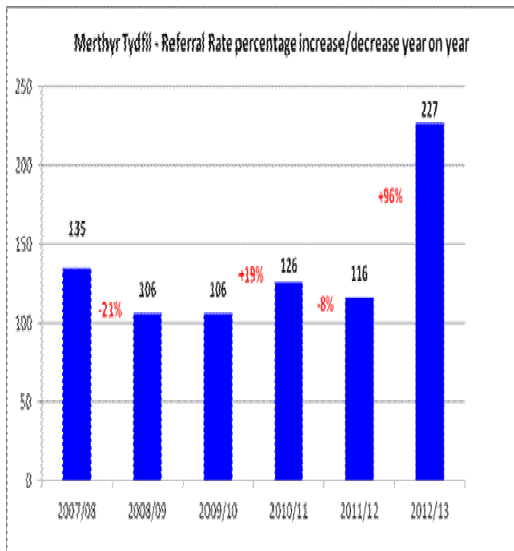
2.0 All Wales Profile

- 2.1 CSSIW published an analysis of the All Wales annual data as at year end 2012, a pertinent summary of findings is included here for members.
 - The rate of referrals of alleged abuse received varies considerably across Wales. From a high of 5.4 per thousand population in Torfaen, to a low of 1.7 in Pembrokeshire and Gwynedd in 2011-12.
 - Neighbouring local authorities can have markedly different rates of referrals.
 - The most common victims of alleged abuse continue to be older women. The ratio of completed referrals for women to men was almost 2:1 in 2011-12.
 - As in previous years the largest proportion of victims of alleged abuse lived in their own home in the community.

- Physical abuse was the most commonly referred concern, followed by neglect.
- Staff were the people most likely to be alleged to be responsible for abuse in 2010-12 (44 per cent of referrals) followed by relatives (25 per cent of referrals).
- 21 per cent of the adult protection referrals completed during the two years 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2012 had allegations that were proved, while 26 per cent were found to be inconclusive.

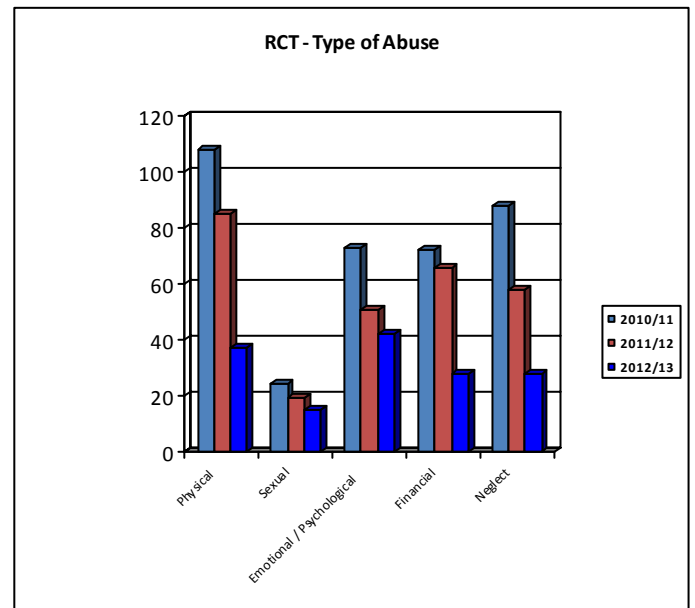
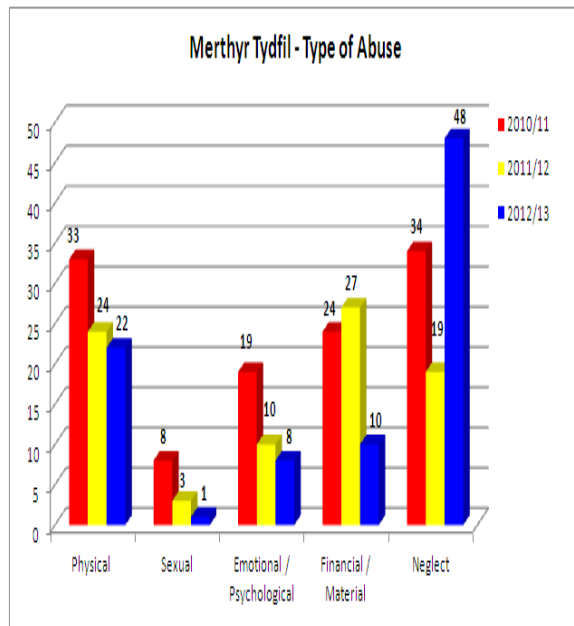
3.0 Management Information 2012-2013

Merthyr Tydfil	Rhondda Cynon Taf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 227 referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 564 referrals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88 cases were closed during the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 113 cases were closed during the year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 (7.9%) referrals were deemed to be inappropriate • 77 (33.9%) cases were dealt with as Safeguarding concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 (7.4%) referrals were deemed to be inappropriate • 365 (64.7%) cases were dealt with as Safeguarding concerns



There is a 96% increase in referrals to Merthyr safeguarding team whereas in RCT the referral rate appears to be more stable.

Type of Abuse



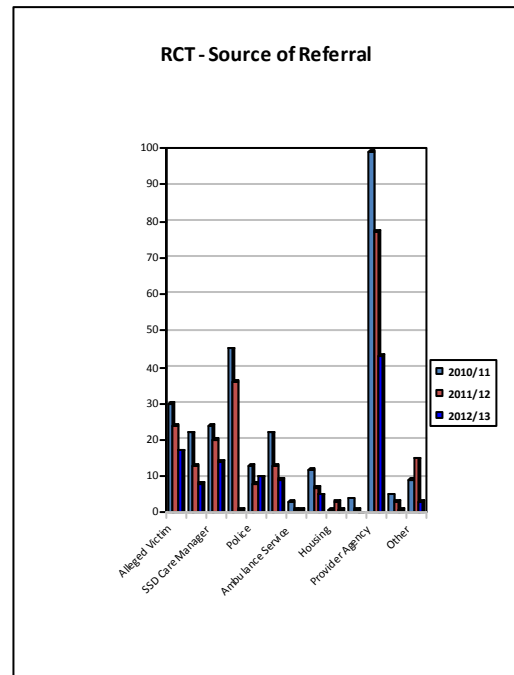
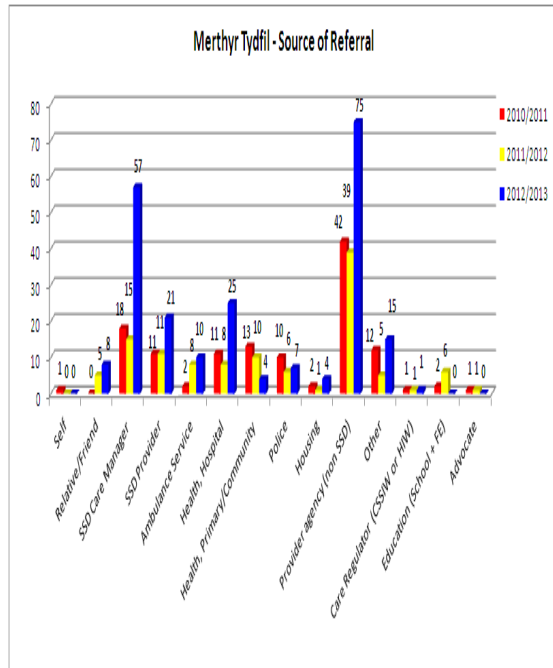
RCT

- Emotional / Psychological abuse is the most prevalent making up 42 of the referrals
- Physical abuse is the second highest 37 referrals
-

Merthyr

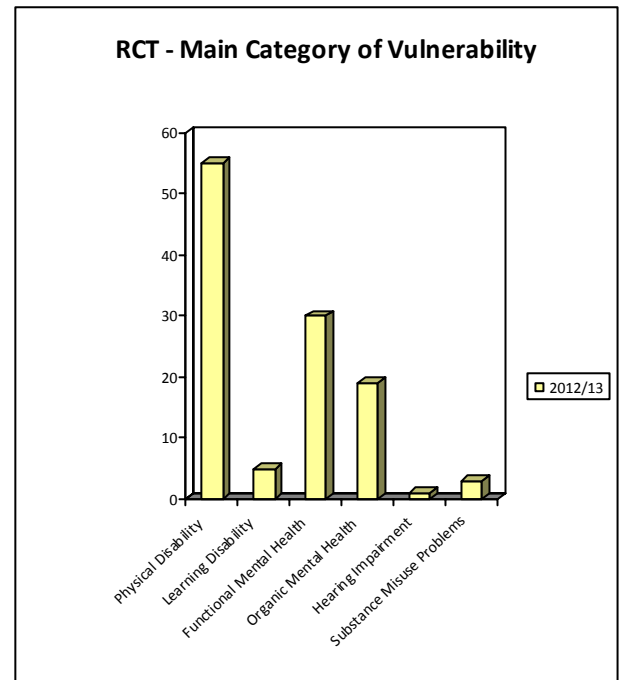
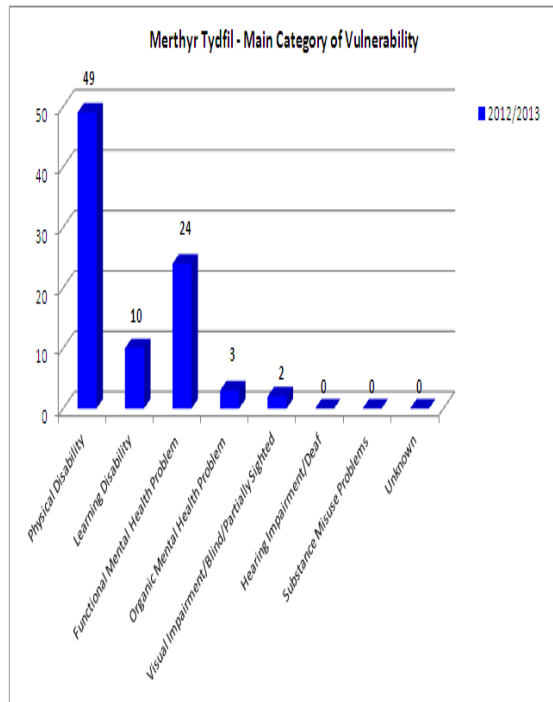
- Neglect was the highest category of abuse making up 48 of the referrals
- Physical abuse is the second highest 32 referrals

Source of Referral



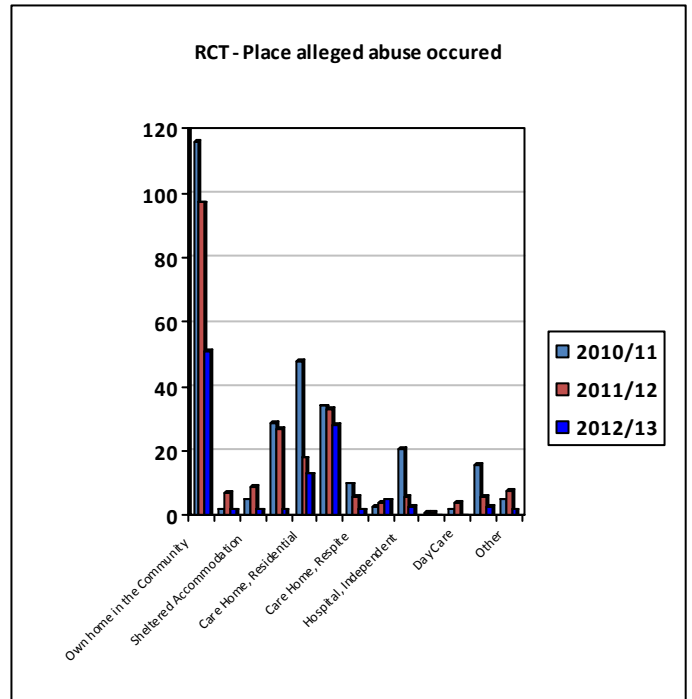
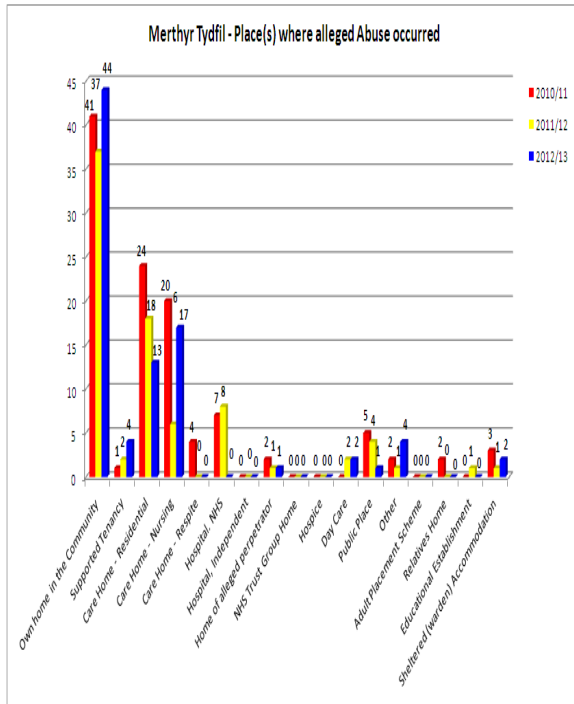
The highest number of referrals were made by a provider both in house and external providers totalling 44 referrals

Main Category of Vulnerability



The highest number of referrals from both RCT and Merthyr were in respect of older people.

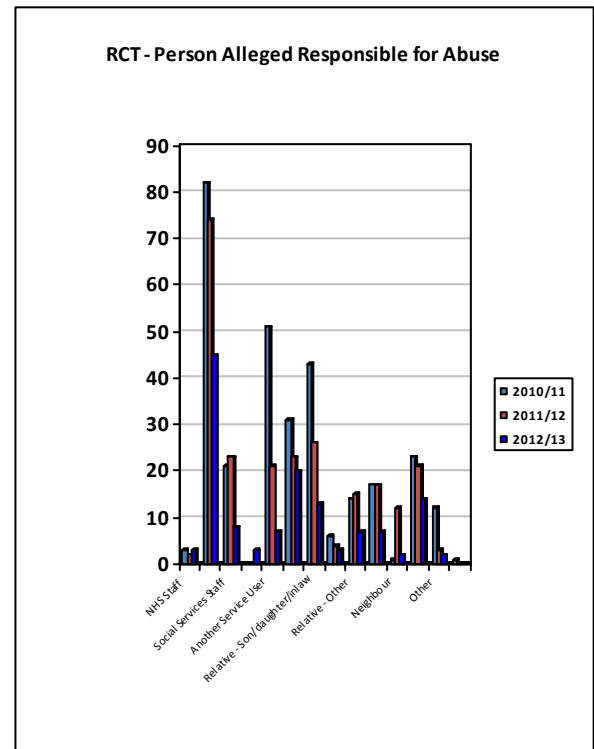
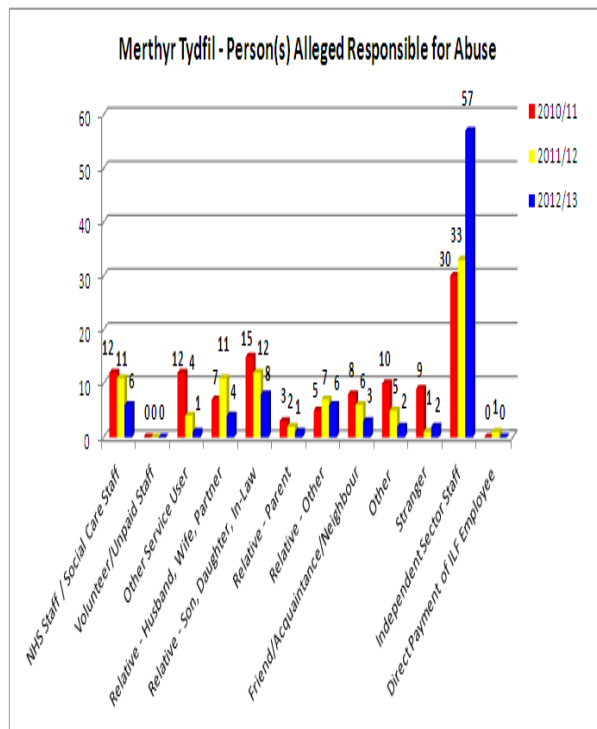
Place Alleged abuse occurred



The highest numbers of referrals collectively occurred in a person own home, 51, RCT and 44 Merthyr.

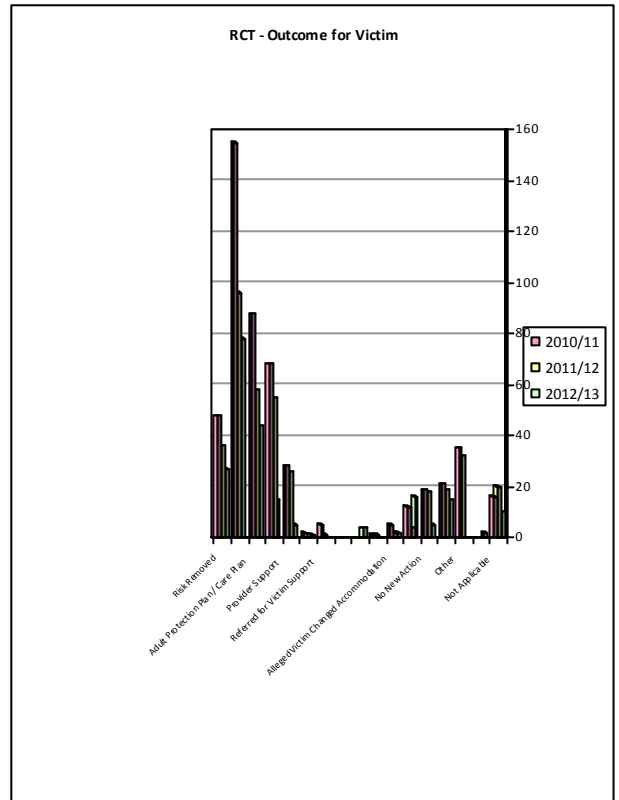
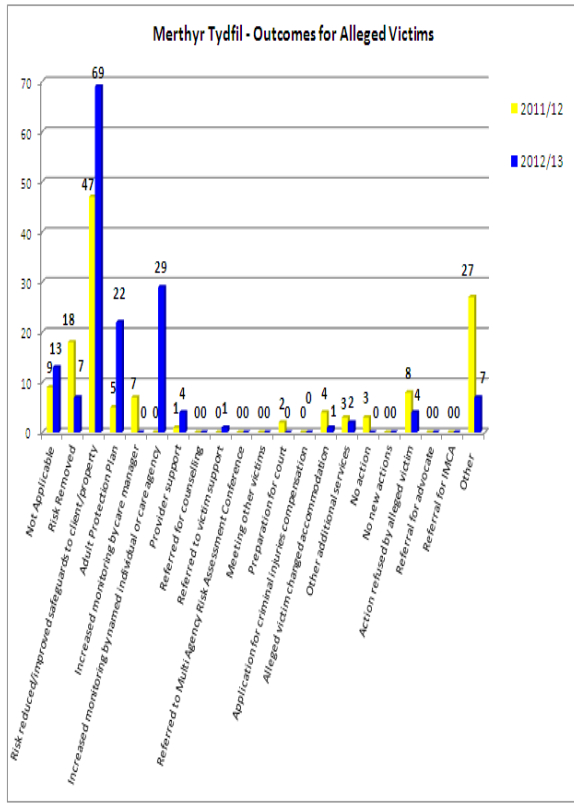
Allegations that occurred in a care home setting to include supported tenancy are the second highest totalling 45 RCT and 34 Merthyr.

Person Alleged Responsible for Abuse



- Paid staff in either Social Services NHS or the Private Sector made up the largest proportion of people in both RCT and Merthyr
- Relatives collectively were the second highest

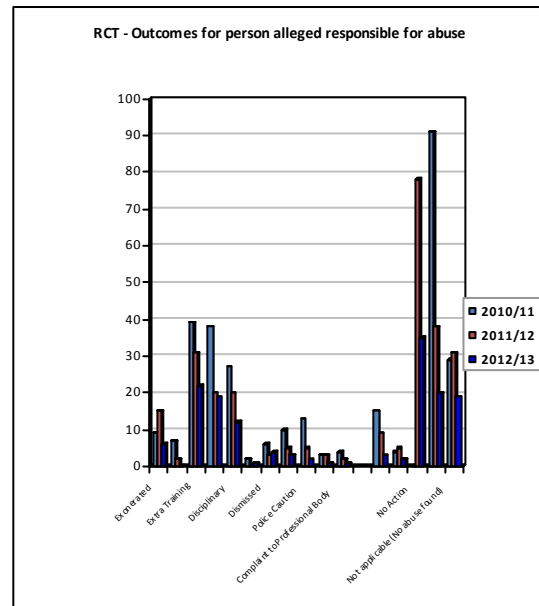
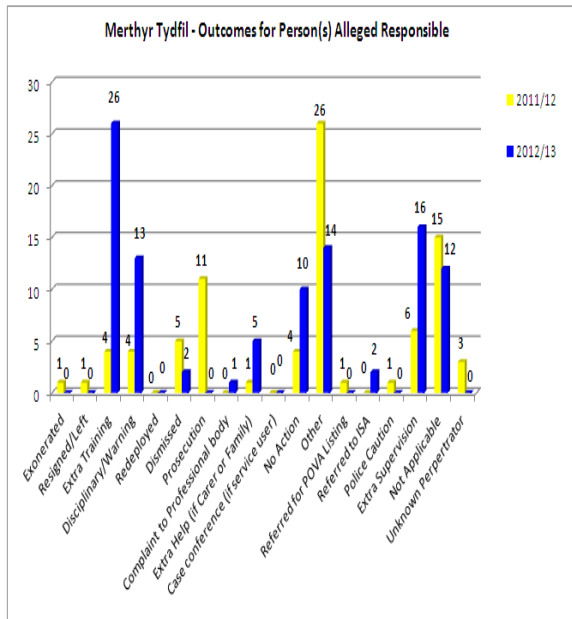
Outcomes for Alleged Victims



There is a higher number of outcomes than referrals indicating that in some cases the person has received more than one service, for example the risk may have been reduced by way of additional monitoring and they may also have received additional services.

- It was not applicable in 10 cases for RCT and 13 for Merthyr, this may be for example the person has died or the person allegedly responsible for the abuse has moved away.

Outcomes for Person Alleged Responsible



Other actions

In some instances the person allegedly responsible for the abuse chooses to resign or leave before the conclusion of the investigation is reached.

In these situations the employer is asked to continue with their investigation as if the person was in still in their employment. If the concern of abuse is upheld the individual responsible would be either dealt with by the Courts or the employer may reach the decision they would have been dismissed if they were still in their employment.

In both situations their name and details would be forwarded to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for them to consider if the person should be placed on a barring list which would prevent them from working with vulnerable people in the future.

Any outcomes for the alleged person responsible for the abuse that are not able to be categorised are identified as 'other' some examples of these are:

Some examples of 'other'

- Police interviewed service user
- GP referral to Psychiatric Assessment
- Multi Disciplinary Meeting
- Work day shifts only
- Police made an ASBO referral
- Moved to separate unit

- Referred to probate
- Police Warning
- Professional strategy meeting
- Recall to Prison