

**Powys County Council  
Scrutiny Report**

<b>Committee:</b>	Health and Care Scrutiny
<b>Date:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report regarding 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 meeting

**1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?**

Name:	Role:
Nina Davies	Director of Social Services and Wellbeing
Councillor Church	Portfolio Holder for a Safer Powys

**2. Why is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider the subject?**

To scrutinise the way the Corporate Safeguarding Board monitors safeguarding across the whole Council, and progress against the Action Plan.

**3. Role of the Committee:**

**The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:**  
To read and note contents of the update regarding the Corporate Safeguarding Board, scrutinise the work and its impact, and provide constructive challenge to the Council about its safeguarding activity in an impartial and independent manner.

**4. Key Scrutiny Questions:**

**What Key areas should the Committee focus on:**  
Summary of most recent Corporate Safeguarding Board activity including updates about work in progress, achievements and action plans.

**5. Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members:**

**To assist the Committee when scrutinising the topic:**

5.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities :

5.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality  
[focus on value]

5.3 A look at any risks  
[focus on risk]

5.4 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration

- Collaboration
- Involvement

**[focus on wellbeing and future generations]**

5.5 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language [focus on equality and the Welsh language]

**[focus on equality and Welsh Language]**

**Key Feeders (tick all that apply)**

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue		External / Internal Inspection	x
Existing Commitment / Annual Report	x	Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan		Impacting Public / other services	
Service Integrated Business Plan			
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships			

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

For Cabinet 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025

For Health and Care Scrutiny Information 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025

For Governance and Audit Information 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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**REPORT AUTHOR:** Nina Davies, Director of Social Services and Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report

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**REPORT FOR:** Information

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Cabinet is requested to note this update from the Corporate Safeguarding Board.

1.2 The Corporate Safeguarding Board last met on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024; this report summarises the information provided and discussed at that meeting.

## 2. Agenda discussions

### 2.1 Review of Progress against actions in the Safeguarding Regulatory Tracker

2024/25	Q1	99	19 December 2022	Follow-up Review of Arrangements for Corporate Safeguarding - Powys County Council	The Council should assure itself that all directorates are fully considering safeguarding risks, have suitable escalation and mitigation processes where necessary and, where appropriate, ensure directorate risk registers reflect that consideration.	Adult Social Care	31 March 2023	On track	For 2 years, safeguarding has been embedded within annual self-evaluation. All services undertake a self evaluation, and consider risk. Services escalate via senior staff to CLT, where it is a weekly standing agenda item. Risk registers are reviewed at least quarterly and discussed at performance reviews, with Senior Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet.	Embedding safeguarding as an integral part of the annual self-evaluation gives it appropriate weight and consideration across the council. It is not a separate stand-alone item. safeguarding is something that all services have a responsibility towards. In this way appropriate oversight will be sustained.	Regular monitoring at CSIG, CSIG to consider annual self-evaluation	Open	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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It was recommended that the above item is left on tracker and reviewed in 2025. The board agreed.

### 2.2 Audit Wales – Follow Up

Chair provided a run-through of the Audit Wales Follow Up Inspection report for attendees. It was confirmed that the report had been to Governance and Audit Committee and is a follow up from a previous inspection.

Audit Wales noted PCC had fully implemented 7 of the 11 recommendations, with plans in place to address the remaining 4 recommendations. There were no new recommendations in the report for PCC. Recommendations 6, 7, 8 and 9 have 'areas for future focus' and it was decided by the Board that an action plan would be created and provided to the next meeting (March 2025) to be reviewed.

Recommendation	Judgement of Progress
R1 The Council needs to urgently assure itself that it	Implemented

<p>has robust arrangements in place for corporate safeguarding and use appropriate mechanisms such as the governance and audit committee, scrutiny, The Corporate Safeguarding Group and internal audit to help it achieve that assurance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council is now using different mechanisms well to promote the corporate safeguarding agenda.</li> <li>• These mechanisms include a robust Corporate Safeguarding Board, reports going to different member forums (Governance and Audit Committee, Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet) and considering how Internal Audit can contribute to the strengthening of the Council's corporate safeguarding arrangements. For example, in 2023 Internal Audit completed a review of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.</li> <li>• The annual self-assessment audit process for service areas provides an additional cross-Council assurance mechanism</li> </ul>
<p>R2 The Council should agree and implement a corporate safeguarding policy and ensure it is easily accessible and understandable to staff, members and other stakeholders, and that it is reviewed periodically to ensure it is kept up to date and embedded in the day-to-day workings of every service in the Council</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council approved its Corporate Safeguarding Policy in December 2022. There is a commitment to review the policy in 2025.</li> <li>• The Corporate Safeguarding Policy is published on the Council website and the Council intranet, so it is easily accessible to stakeholders.</li> <li>• The Corporate Safeguarding Policy is clear in its messaging and there is also a onepage summary of the policy available on the Council website which further aids the accessibility and understanding of the message.</li> <li>• The Corporate Safeguarding Policy features an annual self-assessment audit tool for service areas. This mechanism helps embed safeguarding in the day-to-day working of every service in the Council</li> </ul>
<p>R3 The Council needs to urgently ensure that the Corporate Safeguarding Group is carrying out its responsibilities in accordance with the Group's own Terms of Reference 'to ensure that all members and staff fulfil their roles and responsibilities in helping to keep people safe from harm and abuse, acknowledging that safeguarding is everybody's</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Corporate Safeguarding Board, as it is now called, now operates more effectively and in accordance with its own Terms of Reference.</li> <li>• The Corporate Safeguarding Board is central to the improvement that is evident in promoting corporate safeguarding awareness throughout the Council</li> </ul>

<p>business in every service within the Council'</p>	
<p>R4 The Council needs to publicise the roles and responsibilities of the lead officer and lead member for corporate safeguarding to strengthen corporate leadership and accountability.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has taken steps to widely publicise the roles of lead member and lead officer for corporate safeguarding. For example, this information is on the Council website and in the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.</li> <li>• The staff and members we interviewed perceived there to be much higher awareness of the lead roles than at the time of our last report.</li> <li>• The Council understands that promoting awareness needs to be a continuous process and not a one-off event and the Council has appropriate arrangements to do so</li> </ul>
<p>R5 The Council should review the need for having two Disclosure and Barring Service policies. If it decides to keep the two policies, it should be clear as to the rationale why, and clear on the following matters, to avoid confusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who the policies apply to;</li> <li>• ensure they are reviewed at the same time;</li> <li>• are consistent with each other; and</li> <li>• that anyone using the policies is sighted that they are both current and up to date.</li> </ul>	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council now has a single Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) policy in place, removing the potential for confusion that there was previously.</li> </ul>
<p>R6 The Council should produce central guidance on the recruitment of volunteers to help to ensure consistency across the Council.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has produced a Volunteering for the Council policy that is applicable to all areas of the Council, except schools.</li> <li>• Schools are asked to adopt the model Volunteering in Schools policy, and the Council has oversight arrangements to ensure that schools are using that policy.</li> <li>• The Council has confirmed that regular volunteers are required to undertake the corporate mandatory safeguarding training, but the Volunteering for the Council policy is not clear on this.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has confirmed that it intends to update the Volunteering in Schools policy to make corporate safeguarding training a compulsory part of the induction for regular volunteers. Currently, this training is not compulsory.</li> </ul> <p>Area for future focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Council assured that the Volunteering for the Council policy is being implemented effectively?</li> <li>• Is the Council assured that the Volunteering for the Council policy and the Volunteering in Schools policy are clear that completion of the corporate safeguarding training is mandatory?</li> </ul>
<p>R7 The Council should gather contractual monitoring information from across all Council Directorates to ensure they are all robustly monitoring and quickly addressing safeguarding-related actions.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are several actions in progress that have the potential to strengthen the Council's arrangements and corporate oversight. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A new contract management framework is due to be rolled out which categorises contracts on value, risk (including safeguarding) and it provides a standard approach to how the Council manages contracts. So, if there is a platinum contract, there is a higher level of scrutiny. If it is a bronze contract e.g. a stationery contract, then it is lighter touch monitoring.</li> <li>– A new strategic contract management officer started work with the Council in Summer 2024 and they will be responsible for rolling out the new contract management framework and for identifying further training programmes for those contracts below the £1m per annum threshold (there is other training planned for contracts over the £1m per annum threshold).</li> <li>– The Council are currently exploring procuring a new contract management system which would have all information on contracts in one place instead of held within different departments. This would provide greater corporate visibility.</li> <li>– The Council are piloting a contract management survey. The survey has been sent to suppliers in the social care department and includes questions about</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>their safeguarding practices and mechanisms. The Council's aim is to learn from the pilot and implement a wider survey approach. This would form one of the mechanisms of the contract management framework.</p> <p>– The Corporate Safeguarding Board is due to receive a further update on this matter in Autumn 2024.</p> <p>Area for future focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Council assured that its new contract management framework and system is delivering the intended insight and oversight?</li> </ul>
<p>R8 The Council should accelerate the rate of compliance with the completion of mandatory safeguarding training for staff and members so that 'all members and staff fulfil their roles and responsibilities in helping to keep people safe from harm and abuse'.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has made good progress in addressing most aspects of this recommendation.</li> <li>• It has high rates of compliance with mandatory safeguarding training (92.2% for staff, 100% for members) and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) training for both staff and members (93.5% overall (excluding schools' staff) and members at 97% compliance).</li> <li>• Schools' staff VAWDASV training compliance is 61% so there is room for improvement in this area.</li> <li>• The Council does not currently have overall rates of compliance with schools' staff compliance with mandatory safeguarding training. However, the Council plans to have a system in place by Autumn half-term to enable it to do this</li> <li>• We have identified a wider issue in respect of corporate safeguarding training. Currently, there isn't corporate oversight of volunteers safeguarding training. The oversight is done within service areas. From the one spreadsheet we've received as an example as part of this review, there are compliance gaps in terms of volunteers completing mandatory corporate safeguarding training.</li> </ul> <p>Areas for future focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Council assured that it has effective corporate oversight of mandatory safeguarding training for volunteers?</li> <li>• Is the Council assured that the rate of schools' staff compliance with VAWDASV</li> </ul>

	<p>training is improving?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Council assured regarding schools' staff compliance with mandatory corporate safeguarding training?</li> </ul>
<p>R9 The Council needs to clarify its expectations of contractors in respect of safeguarding training because there are currently discrepancies in the Council's approach.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has taken steps to clarify these expectations and to remove the previous discrepancies in approach.</li> <li>• The Procurement and Contracts webpage on the Council website has been updated to include details on Safeguarding Training expectations for suppliers. The Instructions to Tenderers document links to this webpage.</li> <li>• However, the Council has not updated the Contractors Guidance for Safer Recruitment. Our 2022 report found that 'The Contractors Guidance for Safer Recruitment could be stronger on mandating safeguarding training. It currently just recommends (as opposed to mandates) 'that all employees that come into contact with children, young people and/or adults at risk receive children and/or adult safeguarding awareness training'.</li> </ul> <p>Area for future focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Council assured that its Contractors Guidance for Safer Recruitment has been updated and is consistent with other Council policies in its requirements for contractors to do safeguarding training?</li> </ul>
<p>R10 The Council should improve the quality of corporate safeguarding performance information that goes to Cabinet and scrutiny to facilitate improved oversight of corporate safeguarding.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been significant improvement in this area, with regular Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Reports going to GAC, Health and Care Scrutiny and Cabinet. There has been good engagement from members and value added in challenge and suggestions from members.</li> <li>• The quality of corporate safeguarding information going to members has improved from what it was at the time of our 2022 report.</li> </ul>
<p>R11 The Council should assure itself that all directorates are fully considering safeguarding risks, have suitable escalation and mitigation processes where</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategic Risk Register includes risks that relate to safeguarding.</li> <li>• Safeguarding features on several service area risk registers.</li> <li>• All services complete annual safeguarding self-assessments which potentially helps</li> </ul>



<p>necessary, and, where appropriate, ensure directorate risk registers reflect that consideration</p>	<p>those services with the assessment of corporate safeguarding risks in their areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, there are appropriate escalation and mitigation processes, although one minor weakness identified was that two of the safeguarding risks in the Homelessness service risk register had no controls or actions (i.e. mitigations) recorded against them.</li> </ul>
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Concern was noted that the number of training/policies may make potential volunteers hesitate to sign up. It was confirmed that within education, for staff and volunteers, a six-hour safeguarding training needs to be completed over a 3-year period. It was confirmed that there are shared concerns regarding the ask on volunteers, however, the National Training Framework is very clear that if you do a set role there are minimum training requirements for those roles.

It was noted that within the HR system Trent, PCC are able to upload and provide the training module to volunteers and the system would also provide a way to monitor and provide assurance that the training modules are being completed and refreshed. Timescales were requested for adding volunteers to Trent and monitoring volunteers mandatory training - it was confirmed it would take a few months, update to be provided at March meeting.

Concern was noted around having two separate policies, one in schools and one for for volunteers elsewhere within the authority. In response it was noted that the policy in education is there for schools to adopt, not a council policy, however, they do align. It was also noted that the training may seem a lot, however, the training does provide volunteers with essential and necessary tools to respond to any safeguarding concerns appropriately.

An update was provided on the Contract Management Framework/Systems. System is yet to be procured, and is due to go out to tender in early 2025. Assurance was provided that the new system will deliver on the aimed outcomes and that ongoing monitoring will continue. There is an estimated timescale of 6-9 months for implementation, the evidence will be provided to show the benefits of the changes being made in due course.

It was noted that Schools Mandatory Training compliance is now available on a BI Dashboard and they are looking to make this available for individual schools and Headteachers. Assurance was requested that this dashboard is being monitored and any follow ups with under performing schools will be taken place. It was confirmed this is a new development and that the school improvement advisors, who are the main link with the schools, have access and will challenge the schools as appropriate. Overall compliance rates will be highlighted in the regular Education Newsletter. It was suggested that the dashboard be provided to Chair of Governors, enabling challenge in Full Governing Body meetings. The above suggestion was noted and an action agreed to consider this further.

It was confirmed that the contractor's guidance for safer recruitment is being updated. The Head of Service confirmed this will be completed by the next meeting.

Chair thanked everyone that has been involved in delivering on the recommendations; including Board members that have driven this improvement in corporate safeguarding arrangements across the council.

## 2.3 Regional Safeguarding Board Update

The report covered updates and progress across different subgroups and initiatives:

### **Policies and Procedures Subgroup Update:**

- The subgroup continues to meet quarterly via Microsoft Teams to progress ongoing work. Key priorities are in progress, including the production of an updated draft of The Children's Threshold Document, The Right Help at the Right Time. A regional event to review the document took place in early September, and the document will be finalised early in the new year.

### **Regional Training Subgroup Update:**

- Several dissemination events have taken place to support learning from practice reviews across the region. The Safeguarding National Training Framework was completed and launched in November 2023. A regional task and finish group has been set up to oversee implementation.
- A mapping exercise is underway to assess what training is being delivered and how it aligns with the Training Standards and Framework. This work will be used to develop a reporting tool for the Executive Board.
- A regional implementation day took place on 2nd October 2024, presenting a new all-age multi-agency training package to support the delivery of Group B Training.

### **New Training Available Promoted by the Regional Safeguarding Board:**

- Various training opportunities have been promoted, including those from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Children's Society's #LookCloser Programme, Dewis Choice, and NSPCC.

### **Single Unified Safeguarding Review Update:**

- New statutory guidance for SUSR has been published. Any new cases referred to the subgroup will now be considered under this guidance.

### **National Safeguarding Week:**

- National Safeguarding Week took place in November, with a programme of events and resources available online.

### **On-going and Planned Regional Task and Finish Groups:**

- Various initiatives are in progress, including adult safeguarding development work, a rapid response model, and a task and finish group for fabricated and induced illness.

### **Artificial Intelligence/Information Sharing Project Update:**

- A project to use data and AI to support safeguarding interventions is underway, with funding from the Welsh Local Government Association.

### **Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) Overview Report:**

- The latest JICPA report focuses on protecting children aged 11 and under at risk of abuse and neglect. Findings highlight the benefits of co-located multi-agency teams and better pathways to support early intervention.

### **MARAC Funding re-arrangement Proposal:**

- A proposal for funding an independent chair for MARAC was not approved due to financial pressures. Alternative funding options are being explored.

### **Rapid Review Template:**

- A model has been approved to aid the identification of early learning for cases considered for a practice review.

### **Papers from Older Persons Commissioner:**

- Reports from the Older Persons Commissioner cover the impact of ageism and the abuse of older people.

No queries raised from the Board.

## 2.4 Safeguarding Self-Assessment Action Plan

The Board felt the dashboard could benefit from being able to drill down further. It was suggested that a more in-depth system is included, and the addition of a middle ground/'amber' option was included as the only options currently available are 'on' or 'off' track, it was also noted the N/A for services should not be noted as 'off track'.

It was suggested that qualifiers should be provided to mitigate the 'off track' status, and trends to show if a department is consistently off track.

It was agreed that some officers would look further into the Self-Assessment Dashboard with the Power BI Team before it is brought to the Board again.

## 2.5 Education Safeguarding Action Plan

This is a confidential item, it was noted that there are six priorities, under which sits 90 actions and 185 milestones. It was confirmed that 80% of the actions have been completed and 84.86% of the milestones have been achieved.

A written report was requested to be brought to the March Board meeting.

## 2.6 JICPA Report and Action Plan

A report was provided to update on the Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) conducted in Powys County Council in October 2023.

- **Inspection Overview:** In October 2023, multiple agencies conducted a Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements in Powys County Council, focusing on various aspects of child protection and multi-agency cooperation.
- **Primary Focus:** The review evaluated responses to abuse and neglect allegations, quality of assessment and decision-making, protection of children under 11, leadership, and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- **Methodology:** The inspection methodology included evaluating the multi-agency 'front door', a deep dive into children's experiences, and assessing leadership and governance quality.
- **Case File Audits:** Six in-depth case file audits and ten front door referrals were reviewed, focusing on multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and communication effectiveness.
- **Positive Findings:** The inspection highlighted effective joint working, positive multi-agency culture, and specific areas of good practice such as strategy discussions and a clear CP medical pathway.
- **Areas for Development:** Identified areas for improvement included multi-agency training, effectiveness of outcome strategy meetings, and increased conference participation for children and young people.
- **Action Plan:** A multi-agency action plan was developed to address identified improvements, with regular monitoring and feedback to Care Inspectorate Wales.
- **Overall Outcome:** The overall outcome of the JICPA inspection was positive, assuring the public of effective safeguarding partnerships in Powys.

Board requested that a further update on the JICPA Action Plan be provided in 6 months.

## 2.7 Mandatory Safeguarding Training

A report was provided covering various aspects of safeguarding awareness and training, focusing on violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence (VAWDASV).

- **Safeguarding Training Completion Rates:** The report highlights that safeguarding awareness training is mandatory for all council staff, with a current completion rate of 95.7% as of December 4th, 2024.
- **Volunteer Training:** Efforts have been made to identify service areas using volunteers and ensuring they undertake mandatory safeguarding training. The iTrent system will be used to monitor compliance in the future.
- **VAWDASV Training Framework:** The document details the compliance rates for VAWDASV Level 1 awareness training across different departments and schools, noting an overall compliance of 93.2% for corporate staff and 62.1% for school staff.
- **National Training Framework Achievements:** The report mentions that more than 35,000 professionals completed Group 1 training in 2023-2024, with local authorities achieving a 73% completion rate. Additional training for Level 2 and Level 3 is ongoing.

The high compliance figures were noted across PCC for Safeguarding, but Board highlighted the low school rates, which was discussed in Item 4.

A query was raised regarding Section 1.2 and the training of volunteers in Countryside Access, around why the volunteers are not obliged to undertake safeguarding training as they do come into contact with members of the public and some of the volunteers themselves may be vulnerable adults and asked if this can be reconsidered. Board agreed and Head of Service to be asked to review and feedback.

It was highlighted within section 3.3 that the Spotlight to Safeguarding updates are being shared more widely, which was welcomed.

## 2.8 Safeguarding in Education

This item was marked as confidential as it included an update on national and local Elective Home Educated pupils. The report also outlined progress with regards to attendance in schools, in terms of policies and practice. Noting that the Powys Education service' work on absence has been recognised as best practice with a presentation to Cysur, and work progressing with Attendance Network, and Attendance Policy Framework.

## 2.9 Safeguarding in Housing – For Information Only

The report provides data on homeless presentations from care leavers and their current accommodation status, as well as details about housing applications from care leavers.

- **Homeless Presentations from Care Leavers:** There are currently 15 households with live homeless cases involving care leavers, either due to priority need or support needs related to being a care leaver.
- **Current Accommodation Status:** The report lists various types of temporary accommodations where these households are staying, including housing association accommodations, private rented sector accommodations, own stock temporary accommodations, and B&Bs.
- **Housing Applications from Care Leavers:** There are 48 housing applications flagged for care leavers aged 25 or under, with specific preferences for locations such as Welshpool, Newtown, and Brecon.

## 2.10 Adult Services Safeguarding Performance - For Information Only

- **Safeguarding Referrals:** In October, 133 safeguarding referrals were received, with 41 progressing to enquiry, showing a significant increase from last month.
- **Efficiency:** 100% of enquiries were completed within the statutory timescale, indicating high efficiency in handling cases.
- **Common Abuse:** Neglect and physical abuse were the most common categories, with most incidents occurring in care homes and individuals' homes.
- **DoLS Progress:** The DoLS team allocated 30 assessments and granted 24 but faces challenges due to resource limitations and a shortage of Best Interest Assessors.
- **Backlog Issues:** There is a significant backlog of 367 pending DoLS assessments, highlighting the need for additional resources and improved processes.

## 2.11 Children's Services Safeguarding Performance - For Information Only

The report summarises the activity and performance of the Children's Services Front Door team from August to October 2024, highlighting contacts, referrals, assessments, and child protection activities.

- **Contacts and Referrals:** The number of contacts to the Front Door team varied, with 692 in August, 767 in September, and 957 in October. Most contacts were managed through information, advice, and Early Help.
- **Assessments:** Assessment completion rates within timescale fluctuated, with initial wellbeing assessments varying from 80% in August, dropping to 56% in September, and rising to 69% in October. Section 47 assessments were consistently completed within timescale, with a high of 92% in September.
- **Child Protection Register:** The number of children on the child protection register increased from 116 in August to 131 in October, with consistent removals but higher referrals leading to more children being placed on the register.
- **Statutory Visits:** Performance in completing child protection statutory visits remained high, with 860 visits conducted from August to October. Despite pressure on staffing capacity, the number of visits and the percentage completed within timescale increased in October.

## 2.12 Updated SURS Guidance - For Information Only

<https://www.gov.wales/single-unified-safeguarding-review-statutory-guidance-0>

## 2.13 Feedback on National Safeguarding Week - For Information Only

National Safeguarding Week 2024

- **Dates:** 11th to 15th November 2024.
- **Theme:** "The right help at the right time."
- **Organizers:** CWMPAS and CYSUR, the Regional Safeguarding Board.

Key Events

- **Conference:** Multi-agency practitioners' conference at Medrus Centre, Aberystwyth University.
  - **Topics:** Early intervention, trauma recovery, and input from service users.
- **Webinars:** Various topics including myth-busting in information sharing, thematic lessons from child and adult practice reviews, and safeguarding transgender young people.

Additional Information

- **Resources:** Presentations and resources from regional events available for download.
- **Social Media:** Follow updates on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CYSURCymru.

## 2.14 MAWW Annual Report - For Information Only

The **Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards Annual Report 2023-2024** provides a comprehensive overview of the objectives, achievements, and activities of the Boards over the past year. Here are the key points:

### 1. **Introduction and Objectives:**

- a. The report outlines the progress made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of their joint Annual Strategic Plan for 2023-24. Significant efforts were dedicated to developing the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process and a national training framework.

### 2. **Board Structure:**

- a. The Boards serve the communities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, and Powys, working collaboratively within a multi-agency setting. The Boards aim to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and provide support to professionals.

### 3. **Achievements and Activities:**

- a. The Boards have been involved in various activities, including the development of training materials for the SUSR Framework, the successful delivery of in-person training, and the publication of several Practice Reviews.
- b. The Boards held their second Safeguarding Awards Ceremony to recognise the contributions of key workers in safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

### 4. **Collaboration with Other Bodies:**

- a. The Boards have collaborated with various bodies, including Welsh Government, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and other Regional Safeguarding Boards.

### 5. **Training and Development:**

- a. The Boards have continued to deliver a comprehensive training program, including professional curiosity training and safeguarding training for various agencies.
- b. National Safeguarding Week featured a range of events and webinars focused on safeguarding in rural communities and mental health.

### 6. **Challenges and Themes:**

- a. The report highlights challenges such as increasing demand, recruitment and retention issues, and the need for improved understanding of the Mental Capacity Act.
- b. Themes identified in Practice Reviews include engagement with fathers, consideration of accumulative risk factors, and the need for better information sharing between agencies.

### 7. **Service User Feedback:**

- a. The Boards have implemented various initiatives to gather feedback from service users, including the Junior Regional Safeguarding Board (CADW) and the Survivors Panel.

### 8. **Financial Assessment:**

- a. The report provides an assessment of how the Boards use their resources, including financial contributions from statutory partner agencies and the costs associated with legal challenges.

### 9. **Future Plans:**

- a. The Boards plan to continue their work on the SUSR process, develop digital resources for training, and address key themes identified in Practice Reviews.

This summary captures the main points of the report, highlighting the Boards' commitment to safeguarding children and adults in Mid and West Wales

## 3. **Future Corporate Safeguarding Board Meetings**

3.1 Future meetings are scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

#### **4. Recommendation.**

4.1 Cabinet receives this briefing as an update from the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Board, to ensure Cabinet are fully sighted on the work to date.

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