



Bwrdd Diogelu Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff & Vale Safeguarding Board



National Safeguarding Week 2023

SUMMARY REPORT



This document is
available in Welsh /
Mae'r ddogfen hon
ar gael yn Gymraeg



**STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER**





NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING WEEK

13TH – 17TH NOVEMBER 2023

Safeguarding Week is an annual event that is supported by both Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB), with the aim of raising awareness amongst professionals and the community of key safeguarding messages, through the delivery of a range of both virtual and in-person events.

This year, the Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board chose 'Exploitation' as our local theme and hosted and coordinated a programme of successful awareness raising events which were delivered across the region.

'Exploitation can happen to anyone, anywhere'

Exploitation can take many forms and can often go unnoticed or unreported. It can happen to anyone, anywhere and can affect both children and adults. As part of the Board's commitment to address this issue, exploitation falls within one of the 3 main priorities within the Board's Annual plan for 2023 and will continue to be an ongoing priority for the Board.

The Cardiff & Vale Safeguarding Board developed and published its Regional Exploitation Strategy ([Exploitation-Strategy_ENGLISH.pdf \(cardiffandvalersb.co.uk\)](#)) in 2019, and since its publication a significant amount of work has been undertaken across the region to address and respond to exploitation.

'Exploitation' was chosen as the local theme for this year's National Safeguarding Week in order to raise awareness of this issue and to highlight the significant amount of work that has been undertaken across the region to address and respond to exploitation.



18

Events took place across the week

373

professionals attended online events across the week

Over 30

different organisations were represented at events across the week

184

people attended the Safeguarding Week Conference

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

A coordinated programme of events, providing a range of both virtual and in-person training and awareness raising events, was widely disseminated across the region and included the following highlights:



- Safeguarding Children and Young People Who Go Missing From School/Home'
- NSPCC Let's Talk PANTS
- Human Trafficking and Safer Travel
- St Giles – Gangs, County Lines, Serious Youth Violence
- Identity and Patriotism
- An Overview of County Lines
- Signs & Indicators of Child Exploitation
- National Referral Mechanism: An Overview
- Barnardos – Healthy Relationships, Development and Sexual Behaviour in Primary School
- Barnardos - 'Sexual Development and Behaviour: Considering Sexual Bullying and Harassment in Secondary School aged children
- Exploitation Awareness Raising Event: 'Tackling Exploitation – It's Everyone's Responsibility
- NISB National Event: Thematic Review of Child Practice Reviews 'Strengthening Our Collective Safeguarding Responsibility'
- Fearless - County Lines and Knife Crime
- Safer Wales - the nature and prevalence of adult sexual exploitation



FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

“Thank you, very informative”

(Safeguarding Children and Young People Who Go Missing From School/ Home)

“It was a fascinating talk... thank you!”

(human trafficking and safer travel)

Useful tool to use with families and child friendly resources are helpful”.

(NSPCC Lets Talk Pants)

“First class training session. It brought a whole new perspective to this subject and delivered it through a different lens. The trainer Jonathan was outstanding, engaging and very informative...”

St Giles – Gangs, County Lines, Serious Youth Violence

“Thank you – insightful session”

Signs & Indicators of Child Exploitation

“Excellent”

(National Referral Mechanism: An Overview)

“The trainers had such excellent knowledge and insight into the topic – the conversation was facilitated really well and with such a feeling of learning together. Really appreciated that the session was offered as part of safeguarding week, it offered a great opportunity for refreshing in this area which does come up through my own work, which involves supporting school based counsellors in primary schools”.

(Barnardos – ‘Healthy Relationships, Development and Sexual Behaviour in Primary School’)

Really enjoyed and will be easy to transfer into my working practise, thank you”.

(Barnardos - ‘Sexual Development and Behaviour: Considering Sexual Bullying and Harassment in Secondary School aged children’)

“Really enjoyed that so informative and great delivery”

(Fearless - County Lines and Knife Crime)

“Thank you so much - really so helpful”

(Safer Wales)





CARDIFF AND VALE REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD CONFERENCE 2023

As a fitting finale to the week, a CVSB Conference was held at Cardiff City Football Stadium with a key thematic focus on Exploitation,

The conference was opened by Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Social Services. A number of excellent presentations were delivered on the various forms of exploitation across both children and adult safeguarding and interactive workshops were held as part of the afternoon session.

Workshops included:

- **Crafting Mendable Masculinities (In Practice)**
- **Understanding child sexual abuse in the context of exploitation**
- **St Giles Cymru – Lived Experience Volunteering Model & Quality Framework**
- **Wales Without Violence: Preventing Exploitation among Children and Young People**
- **CVSB Practice Reviews – Embedding Learning into Practice**

The conference concluded with a powerful and emotive presentation delivered by a keynote speaker, Sammy Woodhouse, a survivor of the Rotherham CSAE scandal and exploitation campaigner, who shared her personal story of how she is rebuilding her life after surviving criminal and sexual exploitation as a teen.

“Brilliant day, very informative and Sammy’s lived experience was a real highlight. Diolch yn fawr”

“Sammy Woodhouse gripped me. What a remarkable young woman let down by so many, has made me even more determined to make a difference and make changes to the way staff are trained to look out for the issues Sammy faced”

“Thank you again, being able to hear firsthand such a hard hitting survivor account by the inspiring Sammy Woodhouse was a perfect way to finish off and provided that extra motivational energy to keep going the extra mile”.



COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

A number of targeted communications and staff briefings were disseminated to partner agencies and 3rd sector in the lead-up to NSW, in order to promote and raise awareness of the programme of events. There were also several communication packages developed and disseminated to raise awareness of the National campaigns that were launched as part of the week's activities.

#LookCloser

The Look Closer (#LookCloser) campaign and resources, developed by the Children's Society, were disseminated across schools throughout Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. This includes a comprehensive and engaging social media campaign designed to raise awareness of child exploitation and the important role that we can all play in preventing it. Resources were also shared, which included bilingual posters and leaflets, along with suggested social media posts.





The National **#MakeTheCall** campaign was also launched as part of NSW. The campaign encourages the wider community to share their concerns if they are worried about a child/young person and to make the call to their local social services or 101. This will be a social and digital campaign running during November and December.

Don't think
“WHAT IF I'M WRONG”,
think
“WHAT IF I'M RIGHT”



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**The Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Board
would like to express their thanks to all those who
helped to make the week's events such a success.**