



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



National Safeguarding Week

9th–13th November 2026

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

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



**STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER**



MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER

**10:00-
11:00**

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Fundamentals of DBS Disclosure and Barring

| Owain Rowlands - DBS Regional Outreach Adviser for Wales.

This one hour workshop provides an overview of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), covering both DBS check eligibility criteria and organisations' responsibilities for making barring referrals.

Join this one-hour session, hosted by Owain Rowlands, DBS Regional Outreach Adviser for Wales.

Owain works with organisations across Wales, regardless of size or sector, to help them understand the importance of safeguarding and the role of the DBS in safer recruitment and workforce management.

This workshop will cover:

- The role of the Disclosure and Barring Service
- Recent updates for those already familiar with DBS
- Understanding DBS checks and eligibility, including workforce and level of check
- What constitutes regulated activity
- An organisation's duties and responsibilities when making referrals to the DBS
- Understanding the DBS barring process and the consequences of being placed on one or both barred lists

This workshop is suitable for anyone with responsibility for DBS processes and safeguarding, including:

- Individuals who determine the level of DBS check required
- Staff involved in recruitment
- HR professionals
- Managers of individuals engaged in regulated activity
- Safeguarding leads and those in positions of trust
- Trustees
- Those involved in making referrals to the DBS

**11:00-
12:00**

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Introduction to Suicide Prevention & Papyrus' services

| Erin Williams - Suicide Prevention Officer, Papyrus

The session will give an introduction to the youth Suicide Prevention charity Papyrus and the services it can offer to those with thoughts of suicide and concerned others in order to keep a person safe. It will also discuss some common misconceptions around suicide.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency professionals

**13:00-
14:30**

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From Grooming to Exploitation: Understanding the Risks Facing Young People Today

| Wes Cunliffe - Youth Violence Prevention Advocate

Delivered by Wes Cunliffe, an experienced safeguarding practitioner and survivor of exploitation and serious violence, this powerful and engaging session will explore the realities of child criminal exploitation, knife crime, online grooming and the factors that make young people vulnerable to harm. Drawing on lived experience, frontline safeguarding practice, and real-life case examples, Wes will challenge common misconceptions about exploitation and provide professionals with a deeper understanding of the world many young people are navigating today.

The session will examine how exploitation has evolved, the role of social media in grooming and recruitment, the impact of harmful online influences, and why understanding youth culture is essential for effective safeguarding. Attendees will gain practical insight into recognising risk, engaging families, identifying hidden vulnerability, and strengthening multi-agency responses to protect children and young people.

What the Session Will Cover

- Understanding child criminal exploitation and the grooming process.
- How organised criminals recruit and manipulate young people online and offline.
- County lines, trap houses, debt bondage and exploitation tactics.
- Knife crime myths versus realities.
- The influence of social media, music, status and online culture.
- Emerging risks associated with Snapchat and other digital platforms.
- Masculinity awareness, online influencers and their impact on young people.
- Recognising hidden signs of exploitation and family fear.
- Effective multi-agency safeguarding responses and information sharing.
- Working with SEND children and young people experiencing exploitation and "mate crime".
- Learning from real-life case studies and lived experience.

This session will be relevant to:

- Social Workers
- Teachers and Education Staff
- Safeguarding Leads
- Youth Justice Practitioners
- Police Officers and PCSOs
- Early Help Practitioners
- Youth Workers
- Health Professionals
- Third Sector Organisations
- Anyone working with children, young people and families who may be vulnerable to exploitation.

TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER

**10:00-
11:00**

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Safeguarding in Practice: Understanding Complex Risk and Hidden Harm

| Louise Hughes - Head of Safeguarding and Advocacy, Age Cymru

The session highlights patterns, systemic challenges, and learning points, before setting out options for practical recommendations to strengthen early intervention, multi-agency working and protection for adults at risk. This presentation provides an overview of safeguarding insights drawn from Age Cymru case records across Wales between September 2025 and March 2026. It explores key themes including financial abuse, coercive control, self-neglect, dementia-related vulnerability, carer breakdown, and domestic abuse.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency professionals working with older people and families.

**13:00-
14:00**

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Honor's Story: Learning from Tragedy to Protect Children and Young People from the Risks of Ketamine

| Sarah Green - Founder of the H23 Foundation

In this powerful and deeply moving session, Sarah Green, founder of the H23 Foundation, will share the story of her daughter Honor and the circumstances leading to her tragic death as a result of ketamine addiction.

Drawing on her lived experience and the knowledge she has gained since Honor's death, Sarah will explore the devastating impact that substance misuse can have on children, young people and their families. The session will highlight the increasing risks associated with ketamine use, the warning signs that may be missed, and the challenges families often face when seeking help and support.

Sarah will also reflect on the lessons she has learned about gaps within systems and services, examining how professionals, organisations and communities can work together more effectively to identify concerns early, respond appropriately, and prevent harm. Through an honest and thought-provoking discussion, she will encourage practitioners to consider how safeguarding approaches can be strengthened to better protect vulnerable children and young people.

The session will provide valuable insight for professionals working across safeguarding, education, health, social care, policing and the third sector, offering both practical learning and opportunities for reflection.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency professionals working with children, young people and families.

Learning Outcomes

By attending this session, delegates will:

- Gain a greater understanding of the risks associated with ketamine use amongst children and young people.
- Hear firsthand about the impact of addiction on a child, family and wider community.
- Explore the barriers families can experience when seeking support.
- Reflect on safeguarding lessons and opportunities for earlier intervention.
- Consider how agencies can work together to improve awareness, identification and support for vulnerable children and young people.
- Strengthen understanding of their role in preventing harm and promoting safer outcomes.

**14:00-
15:00**

Com Networks: Alert for Safeguarding Children Partnerships | Counter Terrorism Policing HQ

**Microsoft
Teams**

Meeting

ID: 359 474
427 732 736

Passcode:
kd6ca3rb

This session will provide an overview of the emerging threat posed by Com Networks and their impact on children and young people. It will explore how these online networks groom, manipulate and exploit vulnerable individuals, including links to child criminal exploitation, online sexual abuse, self-harm, cybercrime and serious violence. The session will help professionals recognise warning signs and indicators, understand the risks to children, and consider effective safeguarding responses and referral pathways when concerns are identified.

This session has been arranged by Counter Terrorism Policing HQ, and is an external session.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency professionals working with children, young people and families.

**14:30-
16:30**

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Safeguarding, Substance Use and Multiple Needs: Understanding Risk, Capacity and Access to Support

| Samantha Drohan & Dave Vice Adferiad Recovery

This interactive 2-hour session will explore safeguarding when working with people experiencing substance use and other complex needs.

The session will look at how substance use can affect risk, decision-making and capacity, as well as some of the barriers people can face when trying to access support. Participants will explore practical ways to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns and consider how different services can work together to support people effectively.

The session will use real-life examples, discussion and practical activities to help staff feel more confident in responding to safeguarding concerns in a person-centred and trauma-informed way.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Recognise safeguarding risks linked to substance use and complex needs.
- Understand how substance use can affect capacity, decision-making and risk.
- Respond confidently to safeguarding concerns using person-centred and trauma-informed approaches.
- Work effectively with other services to manage risk and support people.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency safeguarding audience, including professionals working with both adults and children.

WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

**10:00-
12:00**

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Disrupting Exploitation

| Alice Walton - South Service Manager, The Children's Society

To break the cycle of exploitation and abuse we need to target those ultimately responsible. By using creative approaches and making the most of the available legislation, we can ensure perpetrators receive appropriate sentences for their crimes while helping prevent them from targeting children and young people in the future.

If you work with children and young adults (0-25 years) who are experiencing or at risk of exploitation and abuse, then you have a crucial role to play in disrupting their exploitation and stopping the perpetrators who are ultimately responsible. It is only by everyone playing their part in disruption that we will be able to keep all children and young adults safe while targeting those who cynically profit from their abuse.

What the Session Will Cover

- Exploring what disruption means, the tools available and their crucial role within safeguarding and protection plans for children and young adults
- Exploring the use of the Modern Slavery Act in disrupting perpetrators of exploitation and the use of evidence-led prosecutions
- Discuss the importance of taking a multi-agency approach to disruption
- Evidence best practice through learning from real life case studies
- Consider the application of disruption measures for those transitioning from childhood into adulthood.
- Explore the barriers and limitations to current legislation and civil orders valuable learning for attendees.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency safeguarding audience, including professionals working with children and young adults.

**13:00-
14:00**

Effective Safeguarding

| Susie Boxall - Cardiff and Vale Recovery & Wellbeing College

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This interactive virtual session will explore the foundations of effective safeguarding practice through the lens of professional curiosity, trauma-informed approaches and adult safeguarding. Drawing on the experience of the NHS Recovery and Wellbeing College, the session will consider how psychoeducational approaches, relationship-based practice and meaningful peer-to-peer conversations can support recovery, wellbeing and safer outcomes for adults, families and communities.

Combining professional and lived experience perspectives, participants will be encouraged to reflect on how understanding trauma, fostering trust and creating opportunities for supportive conversations can strengthen safeguarding practice. The session will also highlight the importance of information sharing, partnership working and practitioner wellbeing in promoting effective safeguarding within health and community settings.

What the Session Will Cover

- Understanding and applying professional curiosity in safeguarding practice.
- The principles of trauma-informed practice and how they support recovery, wellbeing and safeguarding within NHS and community settings.
- Exploring adult safeguarding fundamentals and promoting safety through collaborative, person-centred approaches.
- The role of the Recovery and Wellbeing College in supporting individuals through psychoeducational learning, peer support and wellbeing-focused interventions.
- Understanding the value of peer-to-peer conversations, lived experience and relationship-based practice in recognising risk and supporting recovery.
- Working effectively with families, communities and partner agencies to improve safeguarding outcomes.
- The role of information sharing and multi-agency working in preventing harm and supporting individuals at the right time.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency professionals working with children, young people and families.

THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER

**10:00-
11:00**

Vicarious Trauma and Resilience Webinar – New Pathways

| Matt Morandi - Training & Development Officer/ Counsellor & Lecturer

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This webinar will cover what vicarious trauma is, the signs and impacts along with protective factors and self-care techniques.

"The expectation that we can be immersed in suffering and loss daily and not be touched by it, is as unrealistic as expecting to be able to walk through water, without getting wet." (Remen, 2006).

'Our jobs don't come with health warnings, but perhaps they should. Supporting people who have experienced trauma inevitably impacts on us. Vicarious trauma affects every aspect of our lives, this can be short or long term. This webinar introduces the impact of working with those who have experienced trauma and how we can look after ourselves, and each other, to prevent vicarious trauma and continue to provide effective support.'

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency safeguarding audience

**11:30-
12:30**

The Scale and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse and its Implications for Practice

| Anna Glinski - Deputy Director, CSA Centre

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This session will present the recent findings from the CSA Centre's new report – The scale and nature of child sexual abuse: Review of evidence – a comprehensive analysis of the evidence of child sexual abuse across Wales and England. The findings are stark and reinforce the importance for all professionals in overcoming the barriers and challenges in practice in order to effectively identify and respond to concerns of child sexual abuse.

Participants will be invited to reflect on the barriers they face, both individual and systemic, and introduced to key resources to support them to identify signs and indicators, communicate with children and families, and work together effectively to support and safeguard children.

This workshop is suitable for:

Professionals working with children and families

**13:00–
14:00**

The Safeguarding Role of Relationships and Sexuality Education | Addysg Cwtch

[Click here to book a place via Eventbrite](#)

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) plays a vital role in safeguarding by helping children and young people develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise concerns, understand healthy relationships, communicate boundaries and seek support when needed. This interactive session will explore the link between RSE and safeguarding, highlighting how preventative and protective learning can reduce vulnerability to harm and support children to stay safe. Through discussion and practical scenarios, participants will examine how RSE can act as a preventative safeguarding tool and how professionals from different sectors can work together to reinforce key protective messages.

Delivered by Addysg Cwtch, a Welsh Government-funded education project supporting Relationships and Sexuality Education across Wales

This workshop is suitable for:

professionals working with children and young people across education, social care, health, youth services, policing and the third sector, particularly those with responsibilities for safeguarding, wellbeing, prevention and early intervention.

FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER

9am-5pm

CVSB Safeguarding Conference

All Nations Centre,
Sachville Ave, Cardiff,
Wales, CF14 3N

[Click here to book tickets](#)

The CVSB Conference will build on this year's NSW theme, "**Safeguarding Fundamentals**", with keynote speakers delivering a range of presentations that explore the theme in greater depth. The afternoon programme will feature a series of interactive workshops, providing attendees with opportunities to further enhance their knowledge and practice.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Multi-agency audience