



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

REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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



**STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER**





CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Five Domains of Safeguarding Effectiveness	6
Our priorities for 2023-2024	8
- Priority 1: Safeguarding Fundamentals	10
- Priority 2: Effective Safeuguarding Reviews	14
- Priority 3: Responding to Safeguarding Themes	18
Highlighting Our Achievements	22
Section 137 Requests for Information and Adult Protection & Support Orders	30
Our Safeguarding Partnership	31
Budget	32
Contact us	33
Appendix	34





INTRODUCTION

The Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board (CVSB) RSB annual report provides a summary of our progress against the board's priorities over the past 12 months.

It provides an opportunity for the board to reflect and review the work that has taken place across the Cardiff and Vale region.

We continue to work in a very challenging social and financial landscape for public services.

The safeguarding workforce across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan continue to show incredible skill and tenacity, working relentlessly as they face these challenges.

The benefits of strong partnership working between health, social care and wider public is key to ensure sustainable outcomes for people across the region.

Sarah McGill - Corporate Director, People and Communities

Lance Carver - Director of Social Service, Vale of Glamorgan



FIVE DOMAINS OF SAFEGUARDING EFFECTIVENESS

<p>1. Safeguarding Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the board assured that arrangements are effective in identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns?. • What are the outcomes of regional safeguarding processes and interventions?
<p>2. Multi-agency Activity and Data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the board assure itself that existing protocols between agencies work effectively, when individuals are identified as at risk from harm? • What data is collected around this, how is it shared and what evidence has emerged in the period?
<p>3. Thematic Hotspots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What key thematic sources of harm which require a safeguarding response locally are evidenced in Board data? • What steps have been identified to respond to this thematic evidence?
<p>4. Service User Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the RSB's objectives regarding collecting service user feedback in relation to direct safeguarding activity? • What do the metrics that capture this feedback tell the Board? • How does the Board plan to respond to this evidence and over what timescale?
<p>5. Workforce Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is known about the profile of the safeguarding workforce? • How is recruitment and retention affecting delivery of safeguarding duties? • To what extent is multi-agency training provided to and taken up by the safeguarding workforce (as profiled)? • What evidence is available to assure the Board that agencies understand and respond to the well-being and support of the safeguarding workforce?

How are we assured that our Multi-agency Safeguarding Processes are effective?

Progress has been made by Cardiff and Vale's Regional Safeguarding Board to review, shape and test the National Multi Agency Safeguarding Performance Framework across the region. Once embedded the framework will provide a coherent, accurate and appropriately balanced picture of safeguarding effectiveness and a shared national understanding of whole-system strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement and development. Integral to the approach are the Five Domains of Safeguarding Effectiveness.

These domains will be highlighted via a key throughout the Annual Report to showcase the areas of progress and good practice in these areas.

A summary of Cardiff and Vale's progress against the domains within 2023-24 is also outlined below.

Safeguarding Domain



SAFEGUARDING PROCESS

- **How is the board assured that arrangements are effective in identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns?**
- **What are the outcomes of regional safeguarding processes and interventions?**

During 2023-2024 Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board have reviewed and strengthened the Safeguarding Board's [governance arrangements](#). This has allowed for a more streamlined and coordinated oversight of the breadth of the board's work and the arrangements in place to effectively identify and respond to safeguarding concerns. A board risk register is now in place which allows for the escalation, review and mitigation of any barriers in place that effect multi agency partners effectively responding to safeguarding concerns. In addition, the development of our Board [Data Dashboard](#) allows for live access for partners to review and progress the actions that are assigned to their organisation, as well as having live oversight of the overall progress of reviews, recommendations and actions.

To support board partners in effectively responding to safeguarding concerns, the board has been working on ensuring the National Training Standards and Framework are being embedded across the region. A [training self-assessment](#) has been undertaken by board partners which assesses the current status against the standards, improvement actions have been generated and reviewed on a 6 monthly basis. To support the development and coordination of training across the regions, a training coordinators network has been established, whilst although in its infancy, will be instrumental in ensuring training is coordinated, multi-agency opportunities are enhanced, duplication is avoided, and resources are better shared.

The SUSR implementation is a real opportunity to streamline and strengthen the safeguarding review process for the region. A successful SUSR pilot has been completed in Cardiff and Vale and key learning in relation to the process has been captured. To support implementation a Review Manager has been appointed to the Business Unit who will manage the SUSR implementation and coordinate the progression and completion of review learning. A Case Review improvement plan has been drafted which outlines the changes required to ensure effective and successful implementation of SUSR.

MULTI AGENCY ACTIVITY AND DATA

- *How does the board assure itself that existing protocols between agencies work effectively, when individuals are identified as at risk from harm?*
- *What data is collected around this, how is it shared and what evidence has emerged in the period?*

This year Cardiff and the Vale Safeguarding Board have been working on developing and progressing the National Performance Framework. In 2023-2024 board partners and regional performance teams reviewed and made comment in relation to the draft performance framework prototype. Test data was collected in relation to the core metrics and feedback was provided to the national board in relation to this exercise. Board partners are keen to ensure that effective analysis is undertaken of the data we begin to capture, to allow for key themes, gaps, and trends to be raised to board for discussion and action. To support this the business unit will look at strengthening the capacity within the team to allow for this analyst function. In the year ahead the regional board will work closely with NISB and partners to implement the framework.

An annual Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding [Board self-assessment](#) was undertaken in October 23.

This saw an overall improvement in the RAG status of the assessment domains. The self-assessment analysis, along with the improvement actions generated were presented to board and will be reviewed at 6-month intervals. In addition, the board has implemented a self-assessment assurance framework for partners to allow for board oversight and assurance on the safeguarding self-assessments undertaken by individual agencies.

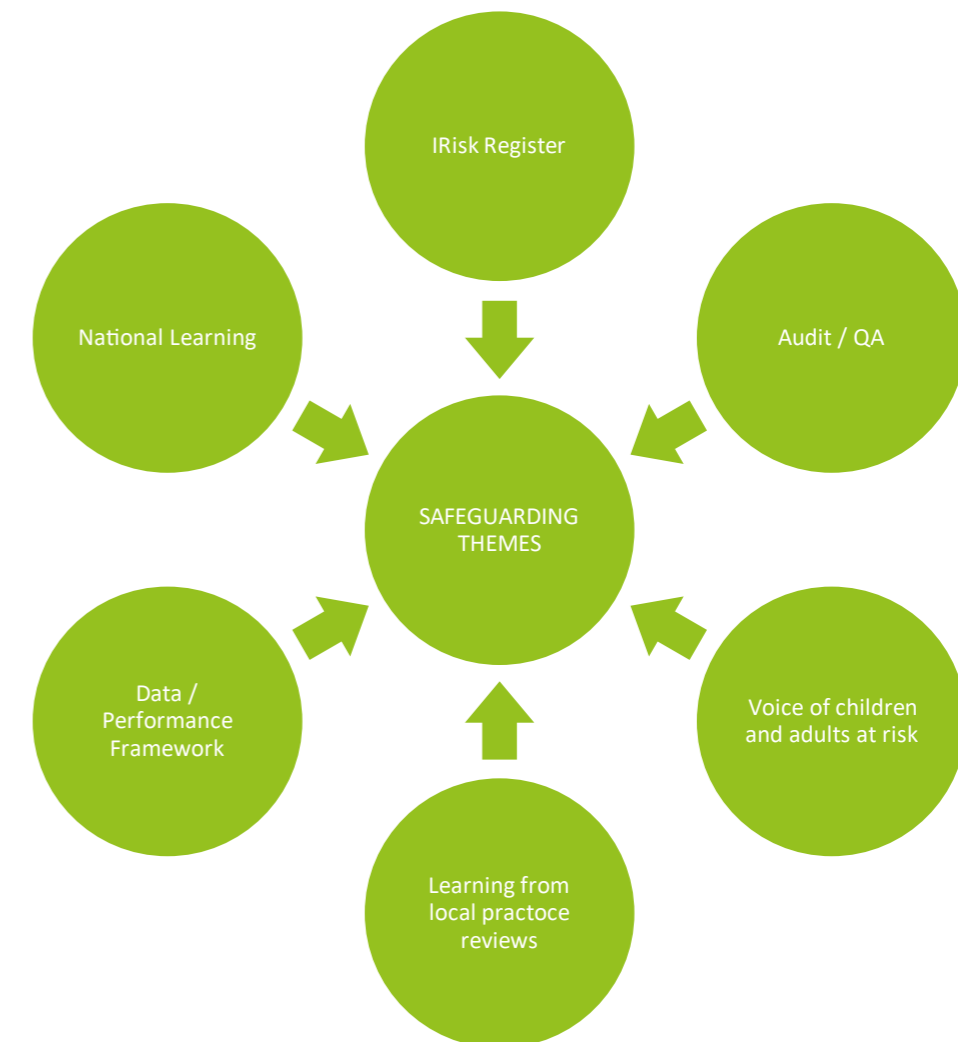
The Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board Delivery Group have oversight of the Policies and Procedures tracker which captures the information on the development and review of all multi-agency policies and protocols. Data will be captured in the Board data dashboard to provide assurances on the multi-agency use of multi-agency protocols e.g. Protocol for the Resolution of Professional Differences, Complaints and Safeguarding Allegations and Concerns.

The need for better multi-agency sharing has been identified regionally and nationally through a variety of means and particularly from the learning of Practice Reviews. Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board have been working with the Communities and Housing Services in Cardiff Council in exploring available technology (Single View of the Child) to aid agencies in improving information sharing.

THEMATIC HOT SPOTS

- *What key thematic sources of harm which require a safeguarding response locally are evidenced in Board data?*
- *What steps have been identified to response to this thematic evidence?*

To ensure the board is continuously and effectively responding to safeguarding themes, a number of ways in which themes can be identified or raised are outlined in the boards Continuous review model.



Specific themes were identified in the 2023-2024 annual plan and further details of how these have been progressed across the year are outlined in [progress review table](#).

SERVICE USER FEEDBACK

- ***What are the RSB's objectives regarding collecting service user feedback in relation to direct safeguarding activity?***
- ***What do the metrics that capture this feedback tell the Board?***
- ***How does the Board plan to respond to this evidence and over what timescale?***

Ensuring service user voice, engagement and participation is captured effectively in a meaningful way is an area in need of further development across Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board. Good practice exists within individual agencies, and practice has developed to ensure service users are at the heart of service delivery, however improvements are required in relation to how we review and respond to feedback in the work of the board. Service users and their families are given opportunities to engage in Child and Adult Practice Review processes and encouraged to feedback experiences at the end of the process. Families involved in Cardiff and Vale reviews have been provided with the opportunity to directly feedback to the SUSR team. The Board Business Unit are working alongside the SUSR team and other Board areas to ensure this feedback from families is embedded into the development of the SUSR and that we continue to engage families in a meaningful, collaborative way.

Across 2023-24, where possible, service user feedback has been obtained in relation to the development of board published policies and procedures. In addition, a set of participation principles has been drafted and are out for consultation, which will provide the expectations and standards that would be expected of all board partners in relation to communication, engagement and participation. To support these principles the board are working on developing a clear communications plan.

WORKFORCE INFORMATION

- ***What is known about the profile of the safeguarding workforce?***
- ***How is recruitment and retention affecting delivery of safeguarding duties?***
- ***To what extent is multi-agency training provided to and taken up by the safeguarding workforce (as profiled)?***
- ***What evidence is available to assure the Board that agencies understand and respond to the well-being and support of the safeguarding workforce?***

Capturing partnership workforce information is not currently embedded in the work of the board. Individual agencies will have oversight of this information and the risk register provides a mechanism to raise any particular issues or barrier to the board for discussion. With the further development and implementation of the national performance framework, we hope more robust analysis of data relating to workforce will be visible to board partners.

Multi-agency safeguarding training has been a core priority for the board, and although there have been some delays, the board now have in place a group of multi-agency professionals who will deliver the training content that has been approved by partners. This training roll out will begin in May 2024, and will be a pilot roll out, to allow for the training to be updated and strengthened across the pilot delivery phase. This will also allow for training content to be aligned to any agreed within the National Training Standards implementation. Throughout 23-24 a variety of practice development sessions, professional networks and training opportunities have been delivered and cascaded to multi agency partners, particularly within National Safeguarding week, however the roll out of the specific multi-agency safeguarding training will ensure that partners understand the roles and responsibilities of the different safeguarding partners.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024

PRIORITY 1: SAFEGUARDING FUNDAMENTALS

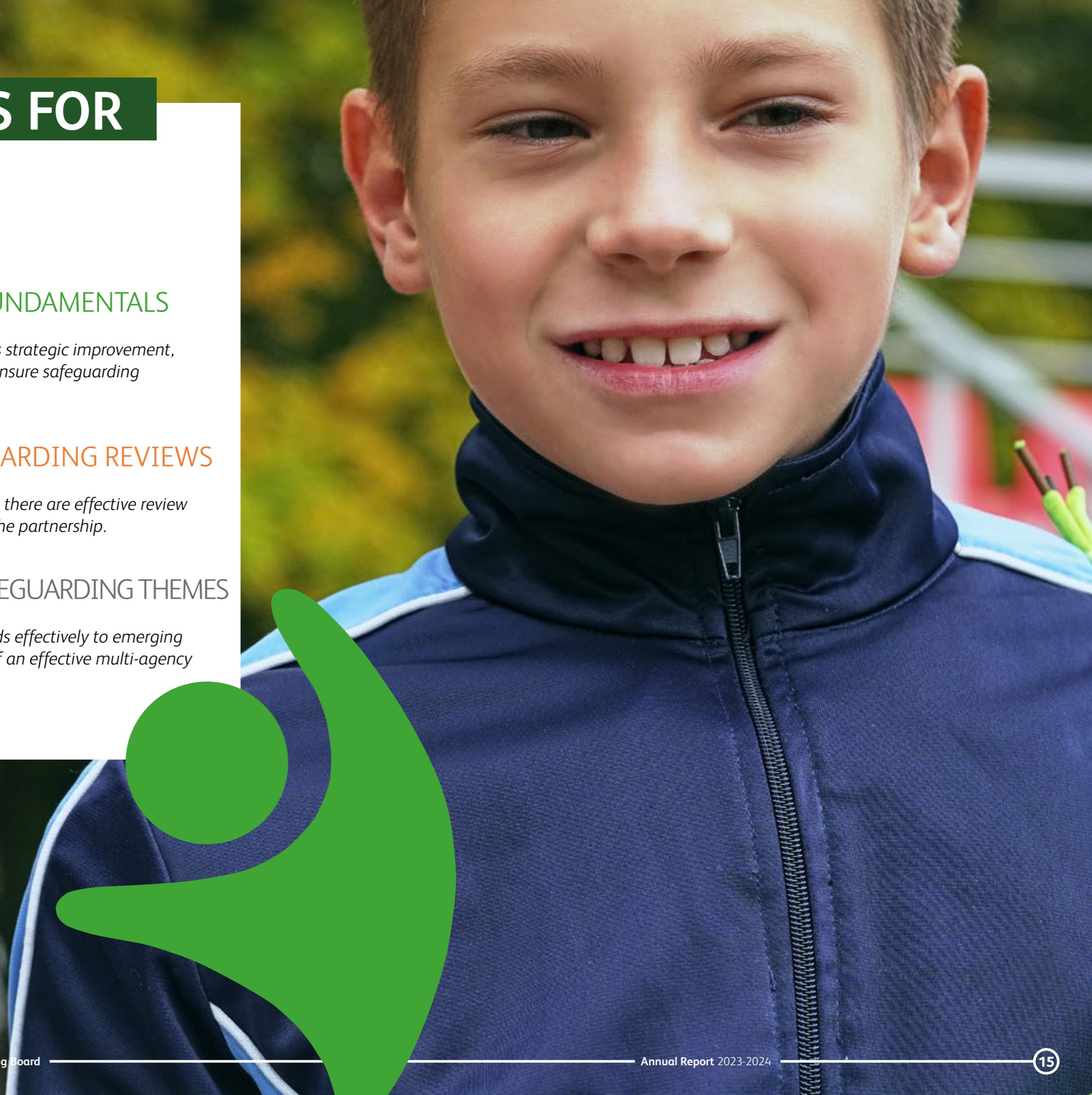
OUTCOME: *The regional safeguarding board supports strategic improvement, effective partnerships and workforce development to ensure safeguarding fundamentals are strengthened across the region*

PRIORITY 2: EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS

OUTCOME: *The Regional Safeguarding Board ensures there are effective review processes and review learning is implemented across the partnership.*

PRIORITY 3: RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING THEMES




OUTCOME: *The Regional Safeguarding Board responds effectively to emerging safeguarding themes and supports the coordination of an effective multi-agency response*












PRIORITY 1: SAFEGUARDING FUNDAMENTALS

OUTCOME:

The regional safeguarding board supports strategic improvement, effective partnerships and workforce development to ensure safeguarding fundamentals are strengthened across the region








ACTION	OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR	WHAT NEXT?
MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING		
<p>1. Implement the Regional Safeguarding Board's programme of multi-agency safeguarding training</p> <div data-bbox="246 835 626 940"> Multi-agency Activity & Data Workforce Information </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohort of staff trained in multi-agency safeguarding delivery. Training content refreshed and updated. Dates planned for 2024 to test and roll out multi agency safeguarding training. 	<p>Multi Agency training remains high on the Regional Safeguarding Board priorities. This will be further progressed in 2024-25.</p>
<p>2. Review and respond to the boards progress against the National Training Standards implementation</p> <div data-bbox="246 1098 418 1203"> Safeguarding Process </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A training self-assessment was developed and completed by RSB partners to assess progress against the National Training Standards Analysis was undertaken of the assessment returns and improvement actions have been generated by partners. Training priorities for the board were agreed. A training Coordinators Network was established made up of training offers across the multi-agency partnership. Best practice training materials and tools have been shared across organisations. Action Plan developed by training group to further develop the Cardiff and Vale training offer in line with the standards. 	<p>Improvement actions will be reviewed and updated at the 6- and 12-month mark.</p> <p>Training Self Assessments will be repeated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Training oversight and development is a core activity for the board and will continue in 2024-2025</p>
DATA AND INSIGHTS		
<p>3. Produce a performance framework and ensure Board are receiving relevant safeguarding data and data reflecting the boards progress against key objectives and actions in line with national performance framework developments</p> <div data-bbox="246 1696 418 1801"> Multi-agency Activity & Data </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power BI Data dashboard produced enabling live analysis of board performance data. Progress against reviews, recommendation and actions generated from reviews is now visible to Board members. National Performance Framework prototype has been reviewed by delivery group and regional test data has been collated to inform NISB prototype. 	<p>Performance Framework will be further developed to provide regular data analysis to the board to inform future developments, highlight gaps and areas of concern and support the board in identifying and learning from best practice across the region.</p>



ACTION	OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR	WHAT NEXT?
<p>4. Develop a Regional Safeguarding Board Risk Register and framework for the escalation of issues across the safeguarding partnership.</p> <p></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Register is now in place for Cardiff and Vale RSB. • Risks are discussed as a standing agenda item at delivery group and board. • Deep Dive discussions are held to explore risks in more detail and to agree multi agency mitigating actions. 	<p>The risk register will form part of RSB business as usual procedure.</p>
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT		
<p>5. Raise awareness of the Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board's work by ensuring it is promoted widely to the workforce, communities, and other relevant partnerships within the region</p> <p></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff and Vale newsletter has been developed and the first issue has been circulated. • Improvements to the RSB website are underway to support easy access to information, updates, and guidance. • National Safeguarding Week was used as a platform to promote the work and learning produced by the Board via thematic workshops. • Induction meetings held between new members of staff and Business Uni to further promote the work of the Board 	<p>An annual Communications plan will be developed for the board that will support the dissemination regular and consistent information and updated to board partners and communities across the region.</p> <p>Roll out of formal process of induction offer for new members of staff within agencies to promote understanding of Safeguarding Board work.</p>
<p>6. Raise awareness of Safeguarding, the signs to spot and where to get help and support with professionals, partners and our communities.</p> <p> </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Safeguarding Week provided an opportunity to raise awareness of exploitation with the workforce, partner agencies and communities. The week included a series of workshops, practice development sessions, a public facing campaign and a regional conference centred around the theme of exploitation. • Progress has been made to develop a digital MARF, this will improve the quality of MARF submissions as well as providing user friendly processes for professionals to submit concerns. 	<p>The Digital MARF will be launched, and training and resources will be developed to support practitioners in making high quality safeguarding referrals.</p> <p>Annual Communications plan will be in place.</p> <p>Programme of Practice development sessions will be coordinated by the RSB Business Unit</p> <p>Website redesign will help make this information more accessible.</p>
<p>7. Ensure children, young people and adults at risk are active participants in shaping and improving service design and delivery across the region</p> <p></p>	<p>A review of the RSB framework for Communications, Engagement and Participation has been undertaken.</p> <p>It has been agreed a set of engagement principles will be developed for all partners.</p> <p>Families and community groups have had the opportunity to test, feedback and shape the neglect toolkits/guidance developed.</p> 	<p>Engagement and Participation Principles will be launched</p>

PRIORITY 2: EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS

OUTCOME:

The Regional Safeguarding Board ensures there are effective review processes and review learning is implemented across the partnership.

ACTION	OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR	WHAT NEXT?
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVIEW PROCESS		
<p>1. Develop a new framework to provide visibility of the status of review learning implementation at Board meetings, including thematic analysis and a RAG rating for each action</p> <p></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Tracker in place and Power BI dashboard produced and made available to board members. • Dashboard includes live updates and progress status or reviews and recommendations and includes thematic analysis. 	<p>The use of the dashboard will be further embedded into practice to improve oversight and progression of workstreams.</p>
<p>2. Deliver the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) Pilot and support roll-out of the SUSR within the region</p> <p></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSB response collated for the WG consultation on the SUSR guidance. • RSB representation of WG working groups to support the shaping and implementation of SUSR • SUSR Pilot underway. Report drafted, ratified and published (March 2024) • Pilot Learning captured and submitted • Case Review Group Improvement plan drafted to strengthen governance arrangements to support and facilitate SUSR implementation. 	<p>A local SUSR implementation plan will be developed to ensure effective roll out of the process in 24-25</p> <p>CRG Improvement Plan actions will be embedded</p>
PANEL SKILLS AND RESILIENCE		
<p>3. Provide high-quality training for Review chairs, reviewers, and panel members</p> <p> </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members and Chairs training was commissioned and delivered to 31 members of staff representing 9 partner organisations. • Cardiff and Vale RSB have contributed to the development of the new training materials for SUSR training roll out via the working group • Professionals have been identified across the region and have attended the pilot training programme. • Nominations have been made across the region for the National Approved Chairs and Reviewers List • 4 members of staff across the region have undertaken OWHR training 	<p>The agreed SUSR training package will be rolled out to professionals across the region.</p>




ACTION	OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR	WHAT NEXT?
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT		
<p>4. Develop a ‘dissemination of learning’ framework to ensure learning is shared effectively, systematically and sustainably with all professionals working with children and adults at risk</p> <p>Workforce Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft framework developed – further work required to align with the Communications, engagement and participation framework / principles under development. 	<p>The finalised framework will be embedded across the RSB partnership.</p>
DELIVERING IMPROVEMENT AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE		
<p>5. Provide effective oversight to ensure the delivery of key improvement actions emerging from completed safeguarding reviews</p> <p>Safeguarding Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined governance arrangements are now in place. • Single delivery group implemented to strengthen oversight of improvement actions across the breadth of the boards workstreams. • consolidation exercise was undertaken to ensure SMART actions and recommendations were captured effectively. • Data dashboard in place to allow for live oversight and progression of actions by all board partners. • Review manager in post to provide consistent oversight of the programme of reviews. 	<p>This is a core area of activity for the Regional Safeguarding Board and will continue into 24-25.</p>





PRIORITY 3: RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING THEMES

OUTCOME:

The Regional Safeguarding Board responds effectively to emerging safeguarding themes and supports the coordination of an effective multi-agency response

ACTION	OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR	WHAT NEXT?
EXPLOITATION		
<p>1. Complete a review of the regional exploitation strategy and produce a delivery plan to address any gaps identified</p> <p>Thematic Hotspots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff and Vale Exploitation Strategy (2019) was reviewed by the Exploitation task and finish group. • Position statement against progress has been produced. • Refreshed Regional Exploitation Delivery plan drafted • Exploitation was identified at the safeguarding theme for 24-25 and a number of practice and awareness sessions delivered across the region. 	<p>The RSB will continue to have oversight in relation to the progress against the Strategy and the refreshed exploitation Delivery Plan.</p>
SEXUAL ABUSE		
<p>2. Review our progress against the National Action Plan for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and ensure recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse are implemented within the region</p> <p>Thematic Hotspots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Sexual Abuse task and finish group established to review progress against the All-Wales action plan for preventing and responding to sexual abuse, the IICSA report recommendations and related recommendations from regional reviews. • Position statement drafted for board outlining the progress made. • Working with Action for Children to undertake a regional 'snapshot' self-assessment in relation to the regional response to CSA which will provide some key areas of improvement for 24-25 • Cardiff and Vale RSB are represented on the working groups to shape and develop the new All Wales Action plan for CSA. 	<p>The agreed SUSR training package will be rolled out to professionals across the region.</p>
DOMESTIC ABUSE		
<p>3. Ensure visibility of the new regional VAWDASV strategy at the Regional Safeguarding Board and support the dissemination of review learning across the VAWDASV network</p> <p>Thematic Hotspots</p>	<p>VAWDSV strategy shared with board partners</p> 	<p>RSB will further align the cross-cutting priorities of VAWDSV board and Regional Safeguarding board.</p>

ACTION	OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR	WHAT NEXT?
TRANSITIONAL SERVICES		
<p>4. Develop transitional safeguarding services to ensure holistic support for young people aged 18-25 entering adulthood</p> <p>Thematic Hotspots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding theme was explored via the exploitation task and finish group. • Models of best practice have been explored across the region and joint working between child and adult services has been strengthened locally. 	<p>This priority needs to be unpicked further to understand what is required to support transitional arrangements across the region.</p>
SELF-NEGLECT		
<p>5. Develop a self-neglect toolkit and ensure effective dissemination to practitioners across the region</p> <p>Thematic Hotspots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Self Neglect Toolkit – Toolkit developed and ratified by board in March 24. Consultation was undertaken with housing professionals and the hoarding project board. Plans are in place launch disseminate the toolkit along with a programme of practice development workshops, • Child Neglect Strategy – Strategy developed and ratified by board in March 24. Plans are in place launch disseminate the strategy along with a programme of practice development 	<p>RSB will launch the toolkits alongside a package of awareness raising and learning activity</p>

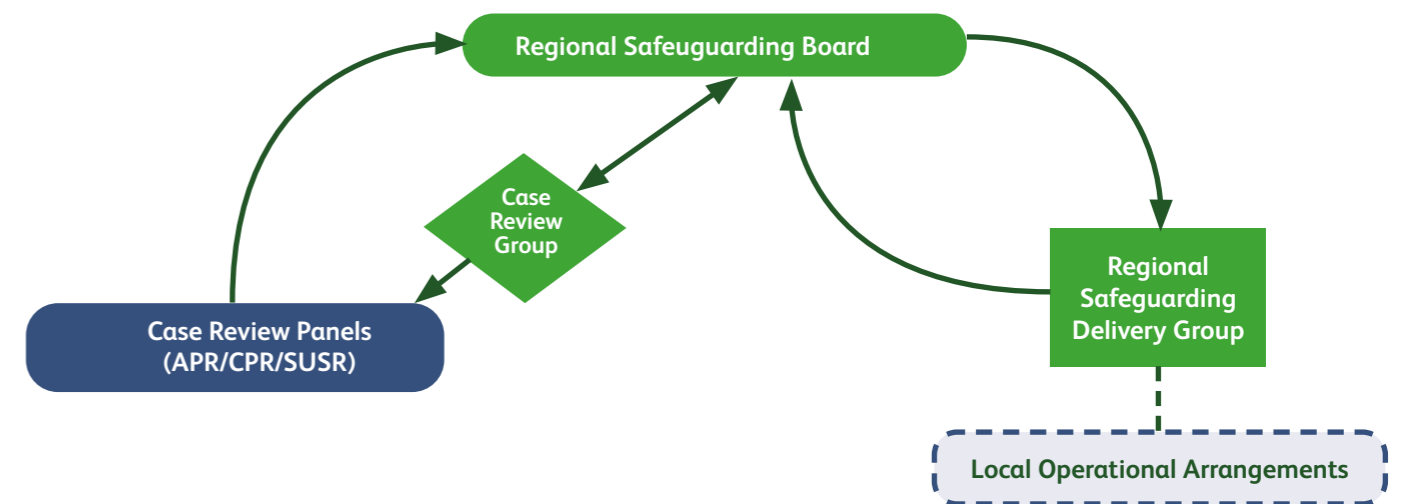


GOVERNANCE REVIEW

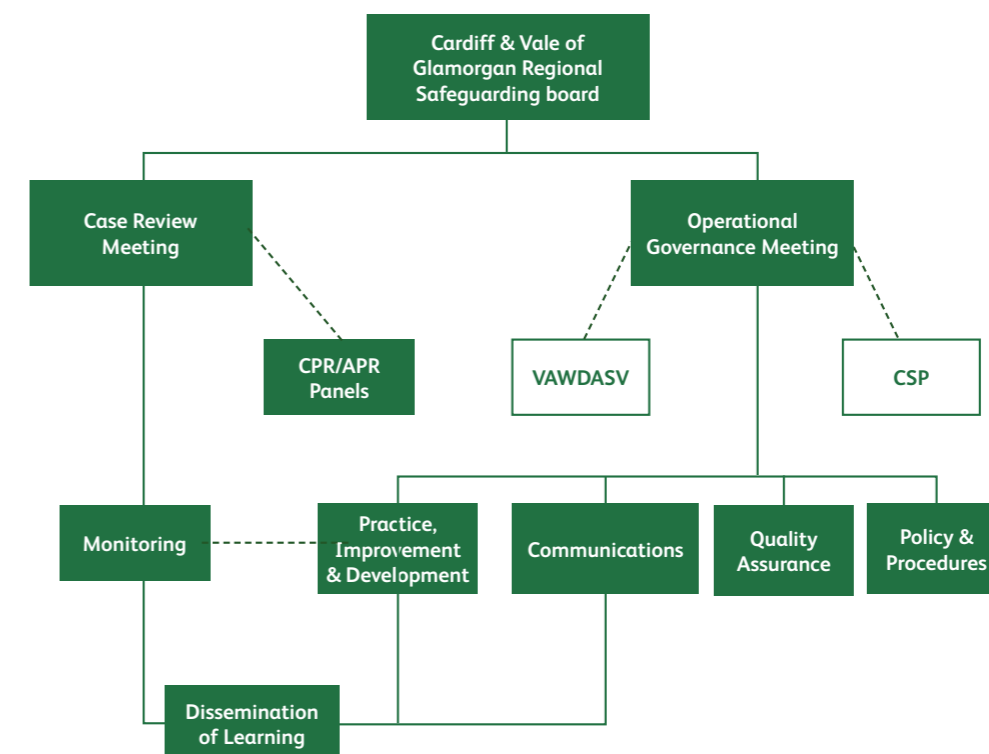
In Spring 2022 the Regional Safeguarding Board agreed to pilot a more streamlined set of governance arrangements and replaced the subgroup meetings with a single delivery group. The arrangements were reviewed at the 2024 Development Day and an agreement was reached to continue with these arrangements as business as usual. The refreshed arrangements have allowed for the following;

- Increased capacity for board partners to attend meetings, all delivery group meetings have been well attended by partners allowing for robust discussion and fast paced development of workstreams.
- Business Unit capacity has increased allowing for this resource to be reshaped to better support implementation of review learning and delivery of Annual Plan
- Single oversight of development and progression of workstreams had resulted in less fragmented discussions and planning.

Regional Safeguarding Board – Current Governance



Regional Safeguarding Board – Previous Governance



HIGHLIGHTING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS...

RSB Data Dashboard

- In July 2023 a data tracker was developed to enable enhanced analysis, progression and scrutiny of the work of the board.
- A Power BI Dashboard was also developed as a data visualisation tool to present the data in a user-friendly way and allows for live analysis of the data.
- The Dashboard currently includes analysis of; 'reviews', 'recommendations' and 'chairs and reviewers' and Board, Delivery Group and Case Review Group members can get access.
- This is a separate exercise but will complement the work that will be progressed for a board 'safeguarding performance framework'.



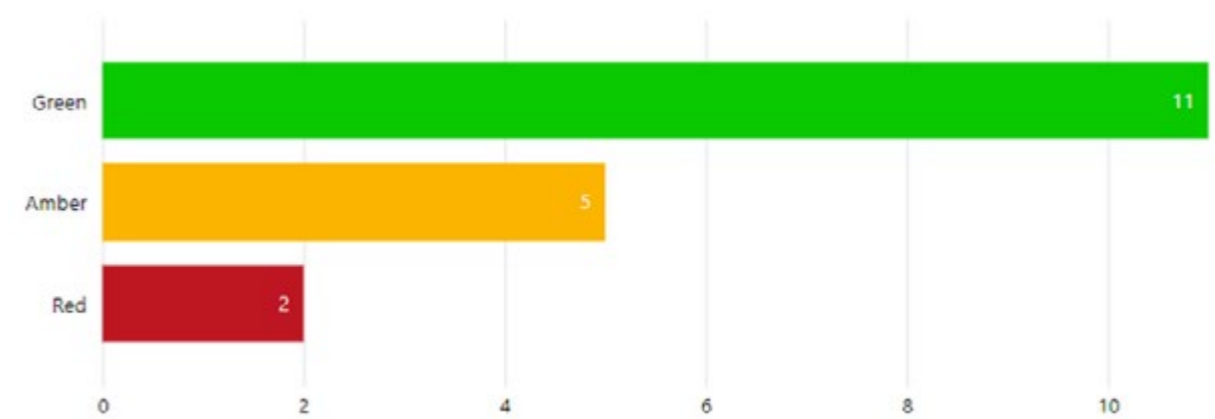
DATA SNAPSHOT – PRACTICE REVIEWS

Current Practice Review – Overview

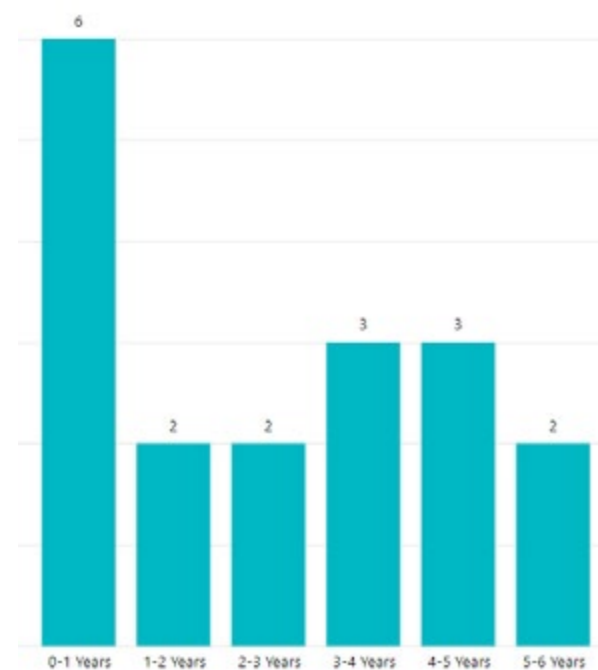


18 Practice
Reviews &
MAPFs
ongoing

'In Progress' Review Progress RAG



Timescales Since Referral – 'In Progress' Reviews

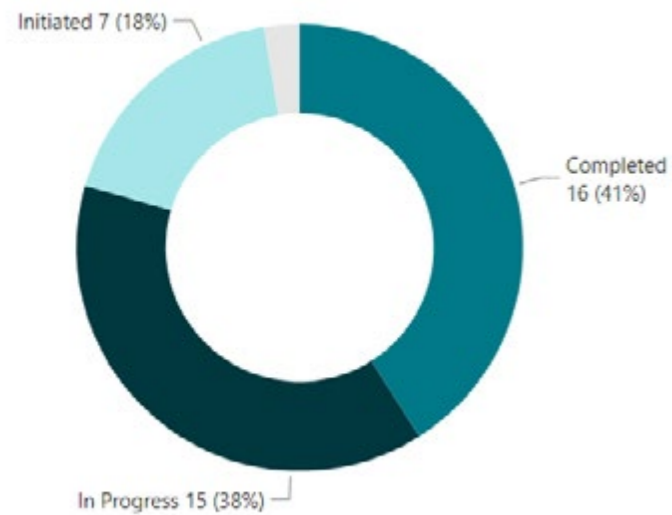


55% of reviews in progress over 2
years (83% in July)

44% of reviews in progress over 3
years (61% in July)

DATA SNAPSHOT – RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS / SELF-ASSESSMENT

Open Recommendations – Overview

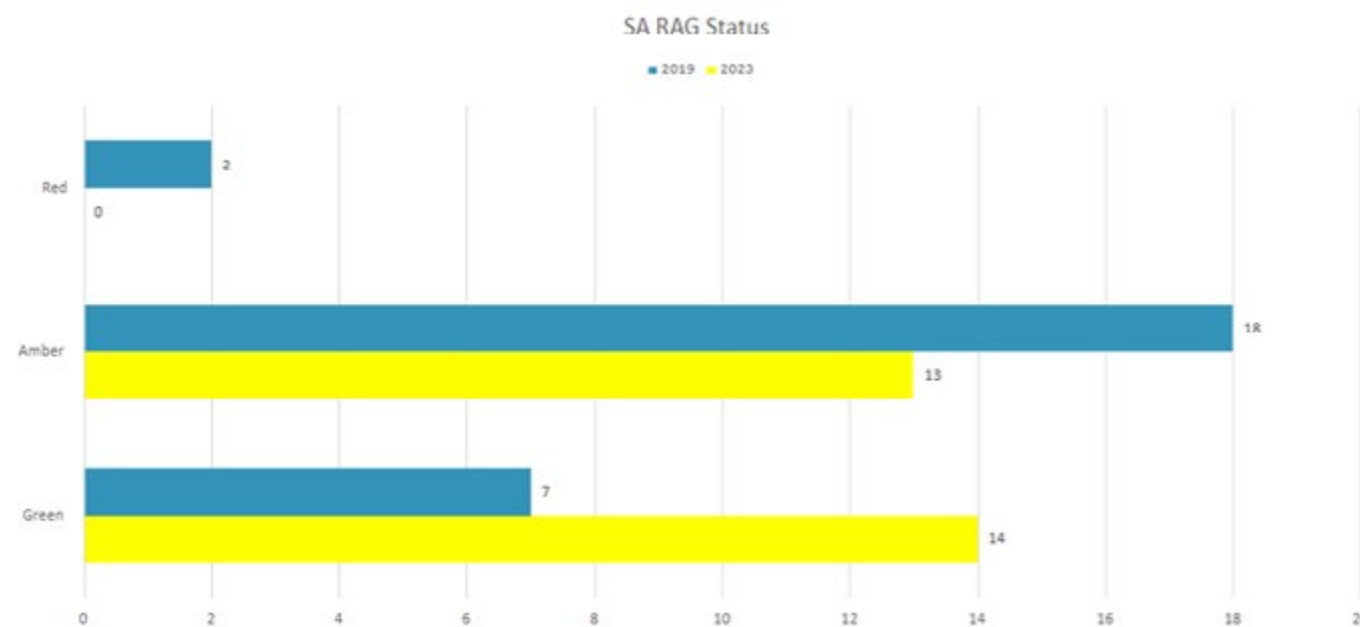


23
Actions
to be
completed

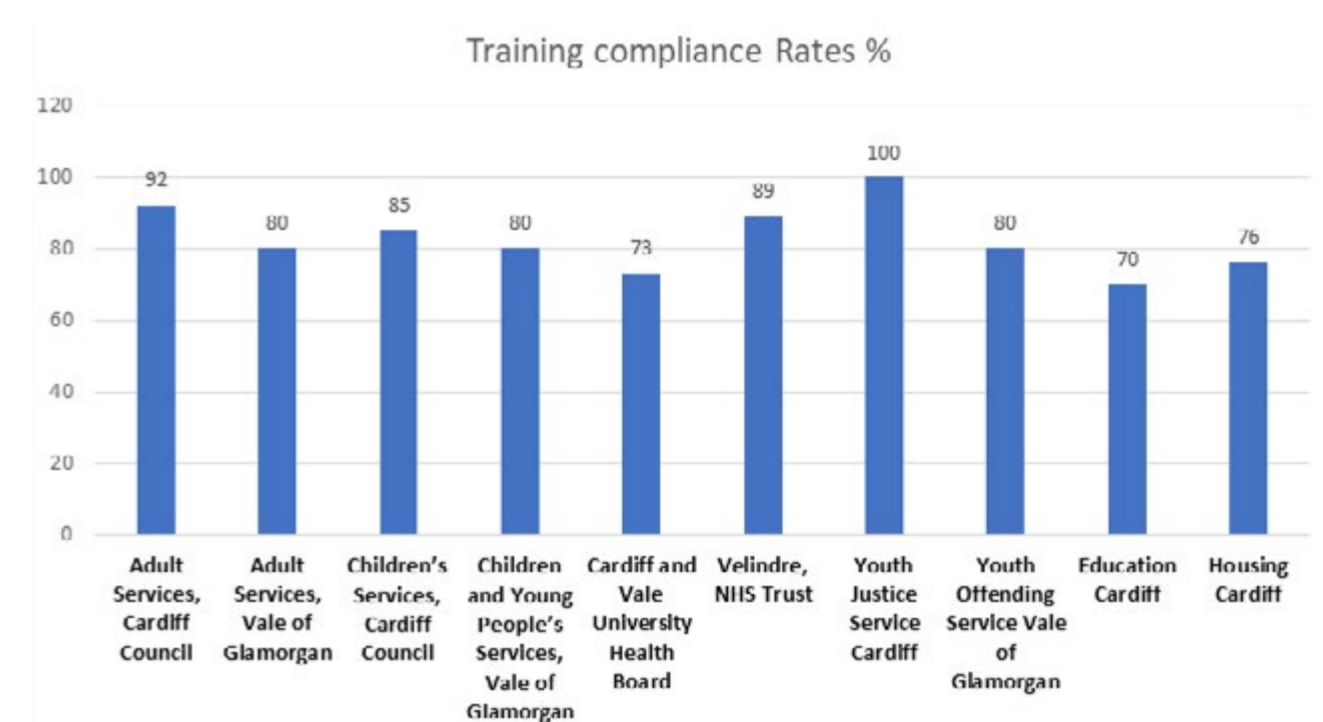
Recommendation Progress July – Dec 23

	July 2023	March 2024	Progress
Open Recommendations	60	38	▼
Incomplete	84% (50 recs)	35% (21 recs) (of overall since July)	▼
Green	16% (10 Recs)	45% (17 recs)	▲
Amber	58% (35 recs)	47% (18 recs)	▼
Red	18% (11recs)	11% (4 recs)	▼

Self-Assessment Analysis



Training Self-Assessment – Group A Training Stats



SECTION 137: REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Under Section 137 in the SSWBA, a Safeguarding Board may, for the purpose of enabling or assisting the Board to perform its functions, ask a qualifying person or body to supply specified information to which subsection (2) or (3) applies to— (a) the Board, or (b) a person or body specified by the Board.

This year Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board have not had to use any Section 137 requests.

Adult Protection and Support Orders (ASPO)

Under Section 127 in the SSWBA, “an authorised officer may apply to a justice of the peace for an order (“an adult protection and support order”) in relation to a person living in any premises within a local authority’s area.

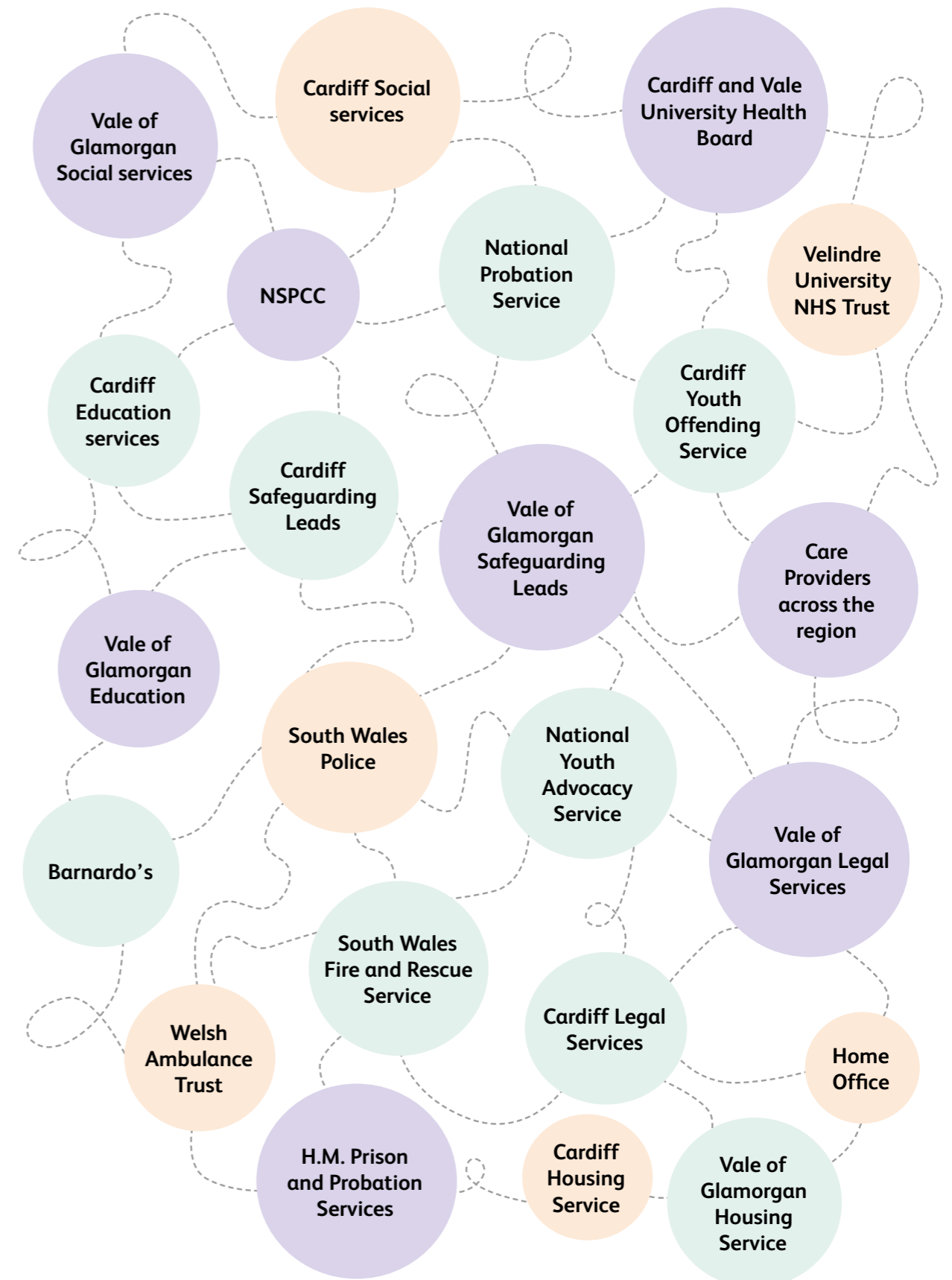
The purposes of an adult protection and support order are—

- (a) to enable the authorised officer and any other person accompanying the officer to speak in private with a person suspected of being an adult at risk,
- (b) to enable the authorised officer to ascertain whether that person is making decisions freely, and
- (c) to enable the authorised officer properly to assess whether the person is an adult at risk and to make a decision as required by section 126(2) on what, if any, action should be taken.

During 2021-2022, CVSB did not need to use the powers under this section.

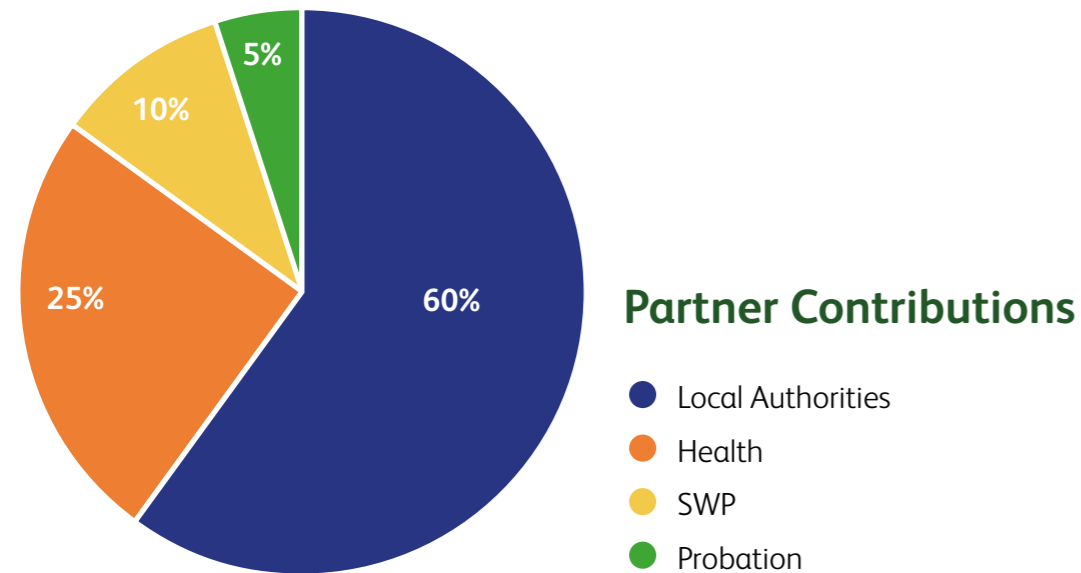
OUR SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

Our member organisations have all contributed to the delivery of our shared safeguarding priorities:



BUDGET

Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Board uses the national funding formula to assess and identify annual financial contributions from statutory partner agencies. The graph and chart below show how the Board agreed funding from all agencies in 2023-2024:



Organisation	Proposed Contribution Combined	Organisation Split	Current Contribution to RSB Split (%)	Current Contribution Split (£)
Local Authorities	60%	Cardiff Council	67%	£60,000.00
		Vale of Glamorgan Council	33%	£30,000.00
SWP	10%	South Wales Police	100	£15,000.00
Health	25%	Cardiff and Vale UHB	81.25%	£30,468.75
		Velindre University NHS Trust	18.75%	£7,031.25
Probation	5%	National Probation Service	100%	£7,500.00

CONTACT US

Vale of Glamorgan

Children

If you have concerns about a child living in the Vale of Glamorgan please refer your concerns to Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Services:

Contact the Intake and Family Support Team on **01446 725 202**

Out of Office Hours Emergency Duty Team: **029 2078 8570**

Adults

If you have been, or still are the victim of abuse, or you know someone who you think is being abused or neglected, please contact:

Vale of Glamorgan Adult Services: **01446 700111**

Out of Hours: **02920 788570**

Cardiff

Children

If you have concerns about a child living in Cardiff, please refer your concerns to Cardiff Children's Services.

Contact the Children's Access Point on **029 2053 6490**

Out of Office Hours Emergency Duty Team: **029 2078 8570**

Adults

If you have been, or still are the victim of abuse, or you know someone who you think is being abused or neglected, please contact:

Cardiff Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): **02922 330888**

Out of Hours: **02920 788570**

If a child or an adult is in immediate risk of harm or danger, call 999 and speak to the police.

For general enquiries:

If you would like further information about the work of the Safeguarding Board, please contact the Safeguarding Board's Business Unit:

Email: cardiffandvalersb@cardiff.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.cardiffandvalersb.co.uk/>

APPENDIX

1. NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING WEEK SUMMARY REPORT
2. DEVELOPMENT DAY REPORT
3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP
4. RSB GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



National Safeguarding Week 2023

SUMMARY REPORT





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”.

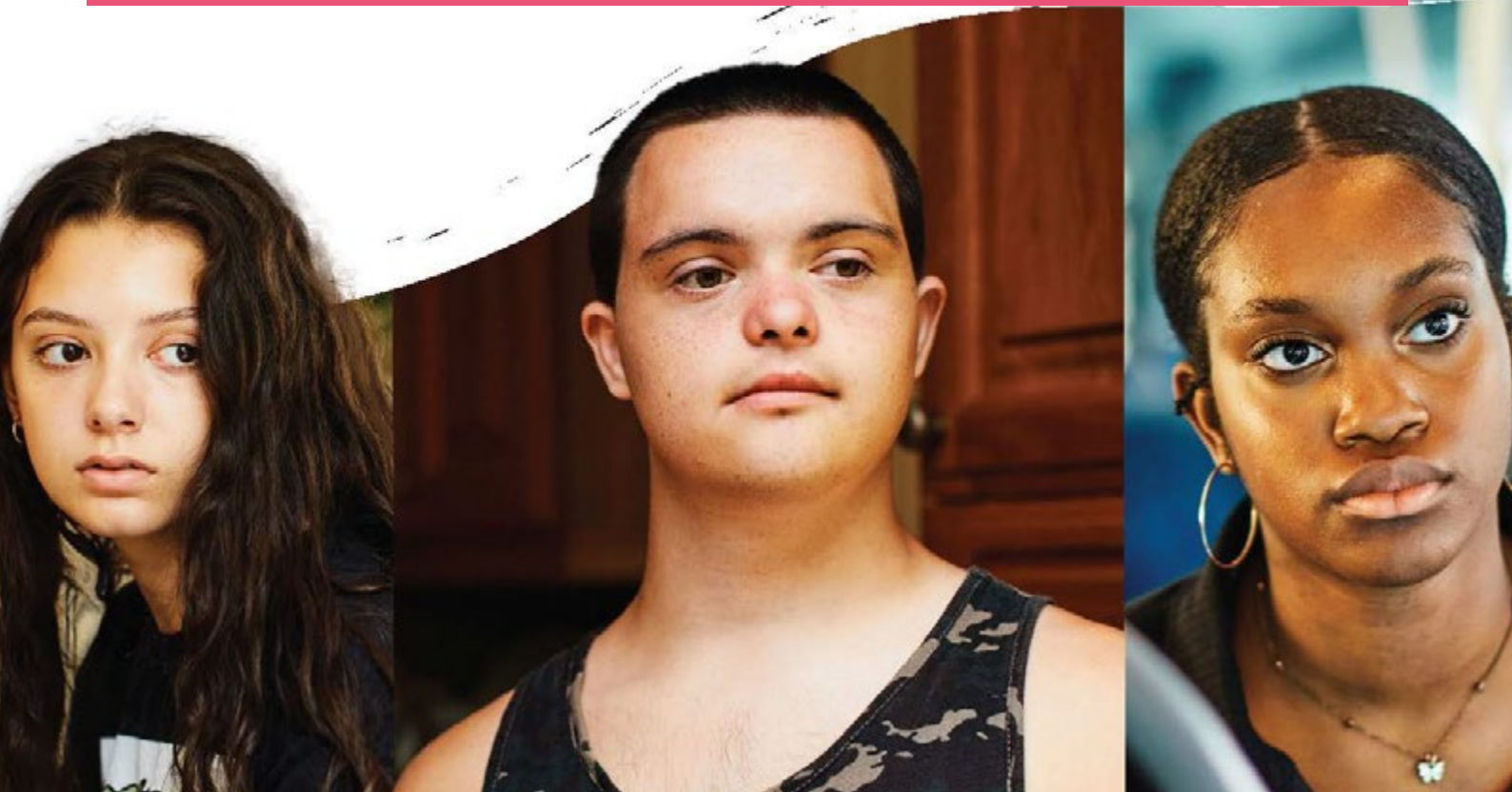


COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

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”



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.



Development Day Summary Report

23RD JANUARY 2024



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg


This document is available in Welsh

Regional Safeguarding Board Development Day

The RSB development day provided a chance to reflect on the work that has taken place over the past 12 months and an opportunity to listen, engage and learn from all partners to review the Regional Safeguarding Board priorities for the year, identifying the areas where additional focus from the Board will add value and support practitioners in safeguarding children and adults at risk across the Cardiff and Vale region.

 35

professionals
attended the
development day

 20

organisations /
departments were
represented across
Cardiff
and the Vale

Progress against the Annual Plan Priorities 2023/24

Joint chairs of the regional Safeguarding board Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People and Communities and Lance Carver, Director of Social Service, Vale of Glamorgan, facilitated a review of the current priorities within the annual

plan highlighting some key areas of good practice and asking participants to reflect on the progress to date and suggest ways in which we can build upon the progress in 2024/25.

The current plan has three priority areas:

PRIORITY 1: SAFEGUARDING FUNDAMENTALS

OUTCOME: The regional safeguarding board supports strategic improvement, effective partnerships and workforce development to ensure safeguarding fundamentals are strengthened across the region

PRIORITY 2: EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS

OUTCOME: The Regional Safeguarding Board ensures there are effective review processes and review learning is implemented across the partnership.

PRIORITY 3: RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING THEMES

OUTCOME: The Regional Safeguarding Board responds effectively to emerging safeguarding themes and supports the coordination of an effective multi-agency response.

23/24 Progress Highlights



Training self-assessment developed and completed by board partners analysis of the data has been undertaken and improvement actions have been generated for all partners as a result



Board risk register now in place, process embedded to review risks and discuss and implement mitigating actions across the partnership.



Progress has been made in developing and implementing board performance framework in line with NISB national performance framework prototype.



SUSR Pilot has progressed well and board input and representation is embedded into SUSR national working groups to ensure processes are in place for a successful SUSR implementation and roll out.



Robust exercise undertaken to consolidate and make SMART the outstanding review recommendations. Significant progress has been made in progressing recommendations and actions generated from reviews



Board data dashboard developed which provides live analysis for partners on the status of reviews and associated recommendations as well as thematic analysis. This supports partners in progressing improvements.








Board self-assessment undertaken, and improvement actions generated, and a board self-assessment framework developed and agreed by partners.



Successful National Safeguarding week delivered – with 18 events taking place across the week, over 350 professionals in attendance representing over 30 different organisations.

Key Challenges

-  Performance data – data quality and capacity to effectively analyse the data we hold, ensuring access to all
-  Breadth of safeguarding thematic priorities – difficult to assess progress
-  Ensure clear ownership of actions / recommendations
-  Clarity in language used – need to all understand what we are trying to achieve
-  Workforce budgets, national pressures and demands in service

“We must keep the momentum going”



How do we build on our progress ?

- Be more **preventative** than reactive in our approach
- Improve and strengthen **information sharing**
- Ensure the progress we have achieved is **sustained**
- Measure the **impact** of our outcomes – is what we are doing making a difference?
- **Training** – more central coordination of the regional training offer, ensure consistency of training and the multi-agency aspect is key.
- **Data / Performance** – strengthen the progress made in relation to the performance framework, link to wider data developments (Single View)
- **Comms and Engagement** – need to ensure learning from reviews is effectively disseminated and understood.
- Breakdown the thematic areas into more **specific actions**
- Strengthen the **joint working** with other governance arrangements for example VAWDSV, how can we work jointly on the cross-cutting priorities?

Data and Risk Review

Sian Sanders, Head of Community Safety and Cohesion and Rebecca Brockway, Policy and Development Manager reviewed the data, self-assessment findings and an analysis of the current board risk register for discussion.

Significant work has taken place to better understand our data in relation

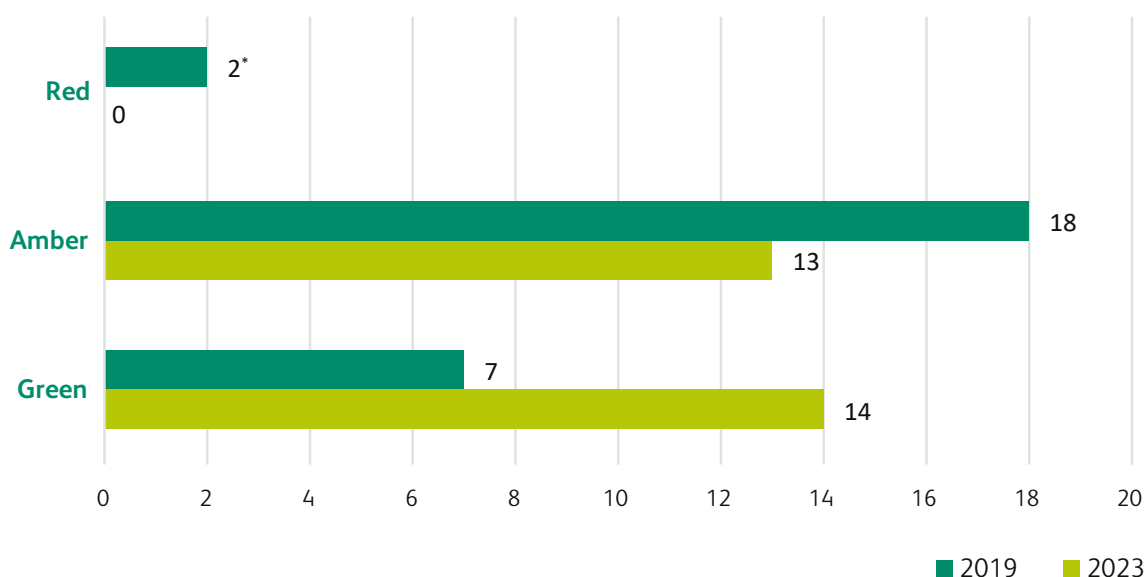
to reviews and the progress in relation to actions generated from review recommendations.

Reductions have been made in the timescales since reviews have been initiated and our Board Self-Assessment highlights the progress that has been made in improving the core function of the board.

Recommendation Progress

	July 2023	December 2023	Progress
Open recommendations	60	38	↓
Incomplete	84%	38% (of overall since July)	↓
Green	16%	37%	↑
Amber	58%	50%	↓
Red	18%	13%	↓

Board Self Assessment Analysis



* The two RED areas identified in 2019 have been progressed to amber in the 2023 assessment, these were:

- We review the training needs of practitioners, identify training activities and ensure training is provided in a collaborative way.
- The Board commissions research where needed in order to improve outcomes for children and adults.



Training Priorities Discussion

- Good training offer across partner organisations – how do we better work together to deliver joint offers
- Training coordinators network is a positive step – need to build on this
- Multi Agency Training is a priority
- Doesn't always have to be training in the traditional sense
- Facilitate opportunities for practice development, multi agency discussions, forums, networks
- Single Central coordination of training offer within the board business unit
- Need to improve our mandatory compliance across the board – safeguarding is essential training



Risk Register Discussion

- Positive to have a platform to raise and discuss risks as a board partnership
- Need to be clear on how risks are raised to board / the risk thresholds and how the register links with individual partners risk logs
- Once performance data is in place this will compliment the register and highlight areas of focus
- Need to be clear in relation to which risks are under board control, what are internal risks and what are external



Other risks that may need consideration

- Effective multi agency working
- Learning effectively from reviews – cascading learning to all
- Right Care, Right Person

Key Themes, Learning and Recommendations from recent Practice Reviews and MAPFs

During their presentation Kate Bishop, Business Manager RSB and Beth Ansley CRG Chair, highlighted the current position in terms of safeguarding practice reviews and the key learning drawn from them for the board's consideration.

6 new referrals

- 3 Children
- 3 Adults (1 agreed APR, 1 agreed MAPF)

4 Published reviews

- 2 APRs
- 2 CPRs

Themes of Learning





Learning from reviews Discussion



Clear cross over of themes from national review learning and local practice reviews



All Wales repository will support in pulling together learning themes from across Wales



Improved processes now in place regionally to ensure SMART actions are in place and are aligned with similar actions



Need to dig deeper into repeat recommendations – how do we ensure the specific actions are meaningful.



How do the recommendations / annual plan priorities link with individual partner agencies priorities to be able to translate into practice.



Information sharing is key – improving people's understanding of legislation



We don't always have to focus on training and raising awareness as ways to progress change – we need to look at what partners can do to enable change in their organisations.

Safeguarding Themes

Attendees were asked to consider and discuss what they believed to be the main safeguarding issues to consider in the year ahead.

Sexual Abuse/CSA

Children not in education

Voice of the Child

Professional curiosity

Radicalisation

Impact of domestic abuse on children

Mental health

Community development

Online Exploitation

Substance misuse / Child Substance Misuse

Family engagement

Impact of social media

In Summary



The regional safeguarding board development day was a great opportunity to bring partners together to discuss the achievements and progress made as well as discussing the key priorities for the board moving forward. It is more important than ever that we work together in a SMART and efficient way to ensure children and adults at risk are safeguarded effectively.

From the event and in further discussion with the board members, an annual plan will be developed for 2024 -25 which will frame the outcomes and achievements we hope to evidence and celebrate at our next Regional Safeguarding Board Development Day

If there is anything you would like to discuss or to further input to this summary report, please contact a member of the RSB business unit cardiffandvalersb@cardiff.gov.uk

APPENDIX 3

CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The membership complies with the guidance issued under Part 7 (Section 134(2) of the SS&WB Act 2014). A list of members is below:

NAME	POSITION
CHAIRS	
Lance Carver	CO-CHAIR Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Sarah McGill	CO-CHAIR Corporate Director People & Communities, Cardiff
LOCAL AUTHORITY	
Deborah Driffield	Director of Children's Services, Cardiff
Rachel Evans	Head of Service for Children and Young People Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Natasha James	Operational Manager of Safeguarding and Service Outcomes, Vale of Glamorgan
Iain McMillan	Head of Service, Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Jason Bennett	Head of Service for Adults, Vale of Glamorgan
Dave Murray-Dickson	Operational Manager Adult Services, Cardiff
Melanie Godfrey	Director of Education, Cardiff
Elizabeth Jones	Head of Achievement for All for School Improvement & Inclusion, Vale of Glamorgan
Nick Jones	Operational Manager of Housing Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Sandra Canham	Operational Manager, Strategy & Housing Need, Housing & Communities, Cardiff
Kirsty Davies	YOS Manager for Children and Young People Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Angharad Thomas	YJS Manager for Children and Young People Services, Cardiff

NAME	POSITION
HEALTH BOARD	
Jason Roberts	Deputy Executive Director of Nursing, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Linda Hughes-Jones	Head of Safeguarding, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Nicola Edwards	Head of Nursing - Safeguarding, Swansea Bay University Health Board
NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING TEAM, PUBLIC HEALTH WALES	
Claire Thomas	Designated Doctor for NHS Wales National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales
VELINDRE NHS TRUST	
Fiona Davies	Head of Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons, Velindre University NHS Trust
SOUTH WALES POLICE	
Clayton Richie	Detective Inspector, Public Protection Department, South Wales Police
Beth Aynsley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager, South Wales Police / Case Review Group Chair
NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE	
Eirian Evans	Head of Probation Delivery Unit Cardiff & Vale
EDUCATION	
Melanie Godfrey	Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Cardiff
Elizabeth Jones	Head of Achievement for All for School Improvement & Inclusion, Vale of Glamorgan
HOUSING	
Nick Jones	Operational Manager of Housing Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Sandra Canham	Operational Manager, Tenant Services, Housing and Communities
HOME OFFICE	
Gemma Ware	Safeguarding Operations Manager, Asylum Safeguarding Hub, Home Office

NAME	POSITION
HIS MAJESTY'S PRISON SERVICE	
Amanda Corrigan	Governor, HMPS
WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST	
Nikki Harvey	Head of Safeguarding for WAST
SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE	
Melanie Evans	Safeguarding Lead Officer, Community Safety
THIRD SECTOR	
Sarah Crawley	Director, Barnardo's
CARE PROVIDERS	
Brian West	Chair of Vale of Glamorgan Care Homes/Care Forum Wales
ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE	
Leanne Weston	Operational Manager for Legal & Democratic Services, Community Team Legal, Cardiff
Victoria Davidson	Operational Manager, Legal Services, Vale of Glamorgan

APPENDIX 4

CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD GOVERNANCE

