



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

C&FS Scrutiny Performance Panel – 5th December 2022

Update from Regional Safeguarding Board

Purpose	To present the annual plan and 2021/22 annual report of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board.
Content	<p>The annual plan provides an overview of priorities that the Safeguarding Board is looking to achieve over the financial year. The annual report reflects on the work of the board for the previous year.</p> <p>A highlight report has been produced below to give an overview of both reports</p>
Councillors are being asked to	Receive and consider these reports.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Louise Gibbard
Lead Officer(s)	Dave Howes – Director of Social Services Julie Davies – Head of Child & Family Services
Report Author	West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board – Damian Rees Rebecca Shepherd
Legal Officer	N/A
Finance Officer	N/A
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) regulations and codes of practice issued under part 7 (Safeguarding) clearly set out the requirements of a Safeguarding Board to produce an Annual Plan and an Annual Report each year. The Annual plan is published on the 31st March each year and the Annual Report on the 31st July each year.
- 1.2 The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB) was established to promote, inform and support multi agency safeguarding for Children and Adults across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

The WGSB is a multi-agency forum, which brings together representatives of each of the main agencies and professionals who are responsible for helping to protect Children and Adults from abuse and neglect.

The WGSB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing on how the different services and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard children and Adults, and for making sure that arrangements work effectively in bringing about better outcomes for Children and Adults in West Glamorgan.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

2.1 Actions taken to achieve our outcomes

The Board uses a programme management approach to achieve the outcomes set out in their business plan. The Board acts as a representative group at strategic level holding overarching responsibility for safeguarding within their organisations and across the regional partnership. In order to achieve the outcomes required the Board developed a structure to ensure it is best placed to fulfil its requirements. The Boards and their management groups have terms of reference which are reviewed annually to ensure they are fit for purpose and aligned with legislation. The Chairs of the Boards also hold the statutory director roles in one of the local authorities within the Board area. All Board members have a role profile, which they are required to sign at the point of induction so as to ensure they understand their agency's commitment to the work of the Board.

The WGSB operate joint management group meetings – The Board has a Policy Procedure Practice Management Group (PPPMG) and a Quality Performance and Monitoring Management Group (QPMG). There is a Joint Training Management Group (JTMG) and a Joint Practice Review Management Group (PRMG). The PRMG group ensures a consistent and timely approach to practice review referrals,

identifying reviewers, panel members and Chairs. The group operates on behalf of both boards to fulfil Board functions and has a quality assurance role in scrutinising practice review reports and action plans to ensure smooth sign off, completion and publication. Agencies represented on the Board take lead responsibilities by chairing management groups, which encompass chairs from local authority, health board and police.

The Board has a joint business plan where overarching desired outcomes are set alongside what action is required to achieve the outcomes. Each of the identified actions are allocated to either one of the Management Groups or to an individual who are then held to account via a monitoring process. This strategic plan is then broken down into individual management group work plans which are reviewed at each meeting, milestones checked and achieved and risks/issues and achievements reported to Board meetings using status report templates.

Due to the pandemic, it was recognised that the Board needed to take a pragmatic approach because it was identified that it may not be able to set priorities as it has done in previous years. As a consequence, it was agreed we continued this year once again with a covid-related approach.

2.2 Safeguarding Priority Outcomes 2021/22

During 2020 – 2021 the Safeguarding Board entered into uncharted waters: a global pandemic. As a result of this, the Board changed its intended Plan for 2020 – 2021 developing a plan to respond to uncertainty. The pandemic dictated the need for a flexible approach, whilst reinforcing the need for Safeguarding to remain a priority for all agencies and organisations across the region. Much has been learnt over the course of the last year with agencies and organisations being pushed and tested to their limits in response to these unprecedented times. There will undoubtedly be much more to learn moving forward and it is not yet possible to know what impact the pandemic has had on individuals, families and communities across the region. As we will remain in pandemic status for some time to come, it is important that we continue to view safeguarding through the lens of uncertainty and this is reflected in our plan for 2021/2022. The priorities for 2021-2022 were as follows:-

- To develop a clear picture of the impact Covid 19 is having across the Region i.e. For individuals, communities, the work force and partner agencies.
- To oversee and review the efficacy of measures taken by agencies as they realign governance, processes and practice to respond to Covid 19.

- To ensure the response to Covid 19, across the region, is measured, legal and consistent and that safeguarding remains the golden thread.

2.3 **How have we made a difference? Quality Performance Management Group (QPMG)**

The QPMG was established to ‘...monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB) and local organisations, individually and collectively...’ (QPMG ToR, dated 2021). The aims of this group being:

- Promote high standards of safeguarding work, in line with the Boards Strategic Priorities
- To foster a culture of continuous improvement and learning
- Identify and act on areas for improvement
- Identify good practice to inform learning
- Provide direction to local audits in respect of specific themes to be subject of the audit process
- Co-ordinate senior regional response to high risk providers, business continuity and safeguarding issues
- Look at themes of strategic issues which will then be fed back to the Board.
- Ensure the consistency of policy and practice throughout the two local authorities.

The group is well established with good attendance from across the partnership over the past year, despite the pressures brought about by a global pandemic, subsequent post-pandemic pressures and the current cost of living crisis, which has and will undoubtedly continue to impact upon safeguarding practices locally, regionally and nationally as more individuals, families and communities are plunged deeper into poverty.

2.4 **Summary of the work undertaken by QPMG over the year 2021 – 22.**

Over the course of the last year, the QPMG has continued to monitor and seek assurance from matters arising pandemic and post-pandemic. The key assurance the group has sought is in respect of each agencies capacity and capability to fulfil its safeguarding functions. Whilst pressures are notably acute across Health and Adult Social Care, no agency has reported these pressures to be undermining the delivery of their safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

2.5 Policy Procedure & Practice Management Group (PPPMG)

The Policy, Procedure and Practice Management Group (PPPMG) has a key role in achieving the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board's (WGSB) overall objectives and functions which are:

'Ensuring that effective policies and working practices are in place to protect children and Adults and that they are properly coordinated remains a key role for Safeguarding Boards. Only when these are in place should Boards look to their wider remit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and Adults.'

The PPPMG have continued to focus on reviewing their policies to ensure they are in line with the new procedures, and have sought assurance from partner agencies that they have done the same.

The PPPMG ensure that as a group it is interconnected with the other subgroups within the Safeguarding Board to support the Board meeting its objectives.

The aim of WGSB Policy, Procedure & Practice Management group is to –

- Coordinate and ensure the effective development of multi-agency Policy, Procedure and Practice documents (PPP) for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and Adults in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot local authority areas.
- Receive, review and facilitate consultation of All Wales and Regional forums PPPs developed for the purpose of safeguarding children
- Develop and maintain a shared library function for all WGSB ratified documents.

2.6 Practice Review Management Group (PRMG)

Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the provisions for Safeguarding Adults and Children for all partner agencies. Volumes 2 & 3 clearly sets out the statutory guidance, which requires Safeguarding Boards to undertake Child Practice Reviews and Adult Practice Reviews as, identified. The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board's Practice Review Management Group (PRMG) has a key role in achieving these functions of learning, reviewing and improving safeguarding practice. The Practice Review Management Group is the platform from which these reviews will be undertaken on behalf of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Children Board and the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Adults Board.

The PRMG has an appointed chair and co-chair and engagement across all agencies remains high.

Decision making and monitoring of referrals and reviews is well embedded into the PRMG. This process is now consistent across Child and Adult Practice Reviews. The group continue to meet bi-monthly as a joint management group and challenge is welcomed as part of expected practice to ensure that any decision making will stand scrutiny. We encourage a learning culture and even when a referral does not meet the criteria for a specific review either a MAPF or a single agency review will be considered and the group updated accordingly with the learning.

The pandemic caused a need to change the way we managed Practice Reviews and learning events moved to a virtual platform via Microsoft Teams. These events have proved to be a success and attendees have engaged well with the new process.

All reviews continue to be presented to Board with a report, action plan and seven minute briefing. The seven minute briefing has proved an effective tool for cascading the learning from reviews.

During 2021-22, the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board PRMG received:-

- 2 Child Practice Review (CPR) Referrals – 1 progressed into a concise CPR, and 1 Multi Agency Professional Forum (MAPF).
- 3 Adult Practice Review Referrals – 1 progressed into a MAPF, 1 didn't meet the criteria and 1 didn't have enough information and would be delayed until the next meeting, which is out of the scope of this report.
- During the last financial year, the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board published 2 Adult Practice Reviews.

2.7 Training and Learning

In 2021-22 the WGSB has continued to deliver training on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019, across Children and Adult Services. Learning events in relation to child and adult practice reviews has continued to take place and good practice disseminated.

Specialist training in Child Sexual Abuse was commissioned from the Lucy Faithful Foundation on the following topics:

- Assessing the protective skills of mothers, partners and adult carers
- Promoting positive pathways for young people who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviour
- Understanding child sexual abusers
- Understanding child sexual abusers and the internet

Training was also delivered on Sexual Violence Disclosures by local specialist services:

- An Introduction to Domestic Abuse
- The Edge Project: Domestic Abuse Awareness, Equality & Inclusion
- Sexual exploitation awareness
- The Effects of Domestic Abuse on Survivors (Adult & CYP)

Exploitation training

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Exploitation has been completed by a total of 200 individuals in 2021/22 This includes a WGSB regional multiagency group co-delivered with CVS. Additionally, Exploitation e-learning has been completed by 30 staff.

A group have been set up to address delivery of multi agency training. The group have agreed to deliver Exploitation training and will be compiling a list of multi- agency training, which can be co-delivered. The Group will pull together joint experiences of delivery into a new pack, which can be delivered either face-to-face or virtually over one day or several sessions, as different formats work better for different agencies.

Junior Safeguarding Board

The Junior Safeguarding Board (JSB) is a platform for children and young people from across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea to have a voice regarding safeguarding issues in their communities. The JSB actively promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child through workshops, events and campaigns to promote positive change in our communities.

The West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board and Officers supporting the Junior Safeguarding Board work closely to ensure the issues that are deemed important by children and young people across West Glamorgan are addressed. It has been a priority of officers supporting the JSB to establish joint ways of working to facilitate the participation of children and young people, and a feedback mechanism between children and young people in West Glamorgan and the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board, and vice versa. The JSB comprises of children and young people from schools across West Glamorgan including schools that cater for Additional Learning Needs and Complex Needs and community groups.

Throughout 2021-2022 the work of the JSB has had to adapt. Restrictions, due to Covid have limited face to face meetings and school visits. However, officers have continued to work behind the scenes to champion safeguarding issues for children and young people in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot in a number of ways.

In June 2021, the Junior Safeguarding Board were presented an award at the WGSB Safeguarding Recognition Awards for Inspirational Contribution made by Young People.

West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board priorities for 2022-2023

Our Strategic Plan sets out how the WGSB will work towards achieving their Vision for West Glamorgan. Our Plan is based around four key priority areas that will guide our work:

1. Learn from experience to improve how we work (Create a synergy between the four points to drive the three year plan)
2. Improve awareness of safeguarding across all communities and partner organisations
3. Develop and deliver citizen-led approaches to safeguarding
4. Develop and deliver regional approaches to safeguarding practice

3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary

3.1 Please see attached report

4. Legal implications

4.1 None

5. Finance Implications

5.1 None

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 None

Glossary of terms: Please add glossary of terms if you are using acronyms

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A: Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix B: Joint Annual Plan 2022-25