

E-Bulletin

01
SPRING 2023

Welcome...

to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board's Spring Bulletin for 2023.



Appointment of the new Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.

Lisa Curtis-Jones, Director of Social Services at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, has been appointed as the new Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.

The purpose of the Chair of the Safeguarding Board is to ensure that the Board fulfils its objectives to safeguard children and adults at risk within Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend (Cwm Taf Morgannwg) in compliance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

In addition to this, the Chair will champion the safeguarding agenda in Cwm Taf Morgannwg by ensuring that partner agencies work together to safeguard children and adults at risk.

Lisa commented, "I am pleased to have been appointed as Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and to help continue driving forward the vital work that the Board and its partners do in protecting all people in the region from abuse, neglect and harm."

Former Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Chair Paul Mee, leaves the post to take up his new role as Chief Executive of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.



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Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Bwrdd Diogelu
Safeguarding Board

For further information:

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Facebook: @CwmTafMorgannwg SafeguardingBoard

Twitter: @CTMSB1

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.
Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh.

CTMSB's Strategic Plan 2023-26

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board is pleased to share with you its newly published **Strategic Plan for 2023-2026**. This Plan sets out the priorities that the Board needs to focus on over the next three years, in order to safeguard children, young people and adults in RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend.



An introduction to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board's Induction Pack, for those who are involved in the work of the Safeguarding Board, has been updated and can be accessed via this [link](#).

The pack includes information on the purpose of the Board, key documents including the Board's Annual Report and Plan, details of membership and structure, with information on the Board's sub-groups.

Learning and Improvement Framework

The Safeguarding Board's Learning and Improvement Framework demonstrates how learning will be identified, disseminated and implemented in practice in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and adults within Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The Framework recognises that Board partner agencies have their own internal governance and learning structures and therefore, seeks to complement and build on current single agency arrangements by adding a multi-agency approach to support partner agencies to learn lessons from a range of functions and reviews and to use this learning to improve joint working.

To view the Framework, please select this [link](#).



Policies, Procedures and Guidance

The Policies, Procedures and Guidance documents that have been approved this year are as follows:

- ❖ **Child Protection Register Enquiry Protocol**
- ❖ **Core Group Resolution Process**
- ❖ **Child Protection Conference Protocol**
- ❖ **CTM Protocol for the Immediate Response to Critical Incidents**
- ❖ **Disclosure of Childhood Abuse by a Person who is now an Adult: Guidance for Practitioners**
- ❖ **Working with People who are Resistant to Engaging in the Safeguarding Process**
- ❖ **Multi Agency Chronology Guidance**
- ❖ **CTM Home Closure Protocol**

Duties to report children and adults at risk of abuse, neglect or harm

Section 128 of the 2014 Act requires a 'relevant partner' of a local authority (as defined in section 162) to inform the authority if they suspect a person in its area is an adult at risk (or if the person is in the area of another local authority, to inform that other authority). It also requires a local authority to inform another local authority (in Wales or in England) if an adult they suspect to be at risk is living or moving to the area of that other authority.

Select this [link](#) to view the Wales Safeguarding Procedures' information for practitioners explaining what they must do if they have concerns about an adult at risk of harm, abuse and/or neglect.

The A1 form and guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Section 130 of the 2014 Act requires a 'relevant partner' of a local authority (a youth offending team for any area of which falls within the area of the local authority or a relevant partner as defined in section 162) to inform the authority if they suspect that a child in its area is a child at risk (or if the child is in the area of another local authority, to inform that other authority).

A child at risk is one who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and has care and support needs. Section 130 also requires a local authority to inform another local authority (in Wales or in England) if a child they suspect to be at risk is living or moving to the area of that other authority.

Select this [link](#) to view the Wales Safeguarding Procedures' information for practitioners explaining what they must do if they have concerns about a child at risk of harm, abuse and/or neglect.

The C1 form and guidance can be accessed [here](#).



When to contact the police

If there are immediate concerns about the adult's safety or a criminal offence against an adult at risk has occurred, they should contact the police without delay to protect the adult from the risk of imminent danger.

Examples of possible crimes include: alleged sexual assault, alleged physical injury, allegations of theft, threats and aggressive behaviour by a suspected perpetrator. Human trafficking, honour killings, female genital mutilation (FGM).

All the above would indicate that there is a duty to make a report.

If in doubt as to whether an offence has occurred, seek advice from the police.

Practice Reviews

Regional Safeguarding Boards have a statutory responsibility to carry out a practice review in cases where a child, young person or adult at risk has:

- died
- sustained potentially life threatening injury; or
- sustained serious and permanent impairment of health.

The purpose of a review is to identify learning for future practice. It involves practitioners, managers and senior officers exploring the detail and context of agencies' work with an individual and family. The output of a review is intended to generate professional and organisational learning and promote improvement in future inter-agency adult protection practice.



The practice reviews that the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board carried out and published in 2022 are:

Adult Practice Reviews:

- **APR 06/2020 Report**
- **APR 06/2020 7 Minute Briefing**

- **APR 02/2021 Report**
- **APR 02/2021 7 Minute Briefing**

- **APR 01/2021 Report**
- **APR 01/2021 7 Minute Briefing**

Child Practice Reviews:

- **CPR CTMSB 04/2021 Report**
- **CPR CTMSB 04/2021 7 Minute Briefing**

- **CPR CTMB 5/2020 Report**
- **CPR CTMB 5/2020 7 Minute Briefing**

- **CPR CTMSB 02/2020 Report**
- **CPR CTMSB 02/2020 7 Minute Briefing**

Professionals who wish to refer a case for consideration of a Practice Review are asked to complete the appropriate form and return to the Safeguarding Board Business Unit via email: **ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk**.

For the forms, guidance and further information on practice reviews, please select this **[link](#)**.

Section 117 aftercare

A recommendation from an Adult Practice Review states that when children are detained under the mental health act and are subsequently entitled to Section 117 aftercare, professionals within children's social care should familiarise themselves with the requirements under the Mental Health Act and Section 117 aftercare.

To find out more about the Mental Health Act and Section 117 aftercare, please select this **[link](#)**.

Preventing and Tackling Child Abuse and Exploitation

An e-bulletin has been produced which contains information and a range of resources which were developed as part of the implementation of the Welsh Government's **National Action Plan on Preventing and Tackling Child Abuse**.

This National Action Plan (the 'Plan') considers Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and helped the Welsh Government in assessing the implementation of the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard People- Volume 7- Safeguarding children from Child Sexual Exploitation (links below) and the All Wales Practice Guides on **CSE** and **HSB**. There are also Practice Guides available on **Online Abuse**.

🔗 **Safeguarding children from Child Sexual Exploitation**

🔗 **Easy read version**

🔗 **Youth Friendly version**

To view the e-bulletin, please select this [link](#).



Safeguarding Week 2023

The date of Safeguarding Week 2023 has been confirmed as 13th – 17th November.

Safeguarding Week is an annual, national campaign focusing on a wide range of safeguarding issues affecting our communities in Wales. Each of the Regional Safeguarding Boards co-ordinate a programme of educational and awareness raising activities and events, aimed at the public and professionals.

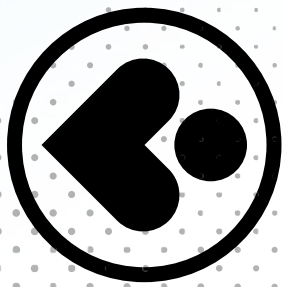
If you would like to be part of the multi-agency task group to help to plan for Safeguarding Week in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, please e-mail ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk.



'All Wales Protocol – Reducing the Criminalisation of care experienced children and young adults'

The Welsh Government published the '**All Wales Protocol – Reducing the Criminalisation of care experienced children and young adults**' in March.

A **Youth Friendly** and **Easy Read** version is available, as well as **short animation** about the advice in the protocol:



A practical toolkit for use by professionals – Missing People

A toolkit has been prepared which aims to turn the principles in the All Wales Protocol: reducing the criminalisation of care experienced children and young adults. It is hoped that this will be used as a resource to train and support multi agency colleagues working with care experienced children and young adults.

National Charity Missing People in partnership with Llamau and consultant Claire Sands were commissioned by the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4Cs) to develop this toolkit.

To access this toolkit, please select this [link](#).

A short video has also been produced to give an introduction to the toolkit. View the video [here](#).

Practice reminder - Professional responsibilities to absent parents

The publication of a recent child practice review highlighted the requirement for all practitioners working with families to be reminded of their responsibilities to parents who are not actively involved in their child's life.

When working with the family and child, all attempts to ascertain their whereabouts and consider how we are to include them must be recorded.

Not having parental responsibility must not be used as an automatic reason to exclude and in cases where for instance a father doesn't have parental responsibility but there is no dispute about paternity, it should be explored what part they could play in the child's life and the child protection process.

For information from the Wales Safeguarding Procedures on involving parents in the child protection conference, please select this [link](#).

Ending Physical Punishment in Wales

March 2023 marked the one-year anniversary of the 'Ending Physical Punishment in Wales' law coming into force, with a communications campaign, including TV and radio adverts, that were broadcast in February.

Sector factsheets have been updated and are available on the Welsh Government [website](#).

Information for Parents leaflet is available in a number of community languages, and has also been updated to reflect that the law has now changed.



Shaping the Future of Safeguarding in Wales

During Safeguarding Week 2022, the National Independent Safeguarding Board Wales, in association with the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, held a webinar on 'Shaping the Future of Safeguarding in Wales'.

This webinar is available on the National Independent Safeguarding Board Wales' website and can be accessed via this [link](#).

Help is at Hand

This guide is aimed at the wide range of people who are affected by suicide or unexplained death.

It aims to help people who are unexpectedly bereaved in this way. It also provides information for healthcare and other professionals who come into contact with bereaved people, to assist them in providing help and to suggest how they themselves may find support if they need it.

To access this guide, please select this link:
<https://sshp.wales/en/help-is-at-hand/>

Suicide and Self harm Prevention Cymru Training Hub

This platform is for anyone looking for training and development opportunities that can help them, their communities, or their workforces, to develop their awareness, understanding and skills in relation to the management and prevention of suicide and self harm.

This is a resource to help you find:

- ② freely available online learning opportunities
- ② training and development programmes for yourself, your teams and colleagues

To access this guide, please select this link: <https://sshp.wales/en/>

