

Welcome to this edition of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board's (CTMSB) Bulletin which has been developed in partnership with the agencies that are represented on the Regional Safeguarding Board.

The role of the CTMSB is to jointly ensure that children, young people and adults at risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend are safeguarded from abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm

### The CTMSB Business Unit

The Business Unit supports the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board to deliver its safeguarding responsibilities, as well as providing co-ordination of the Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

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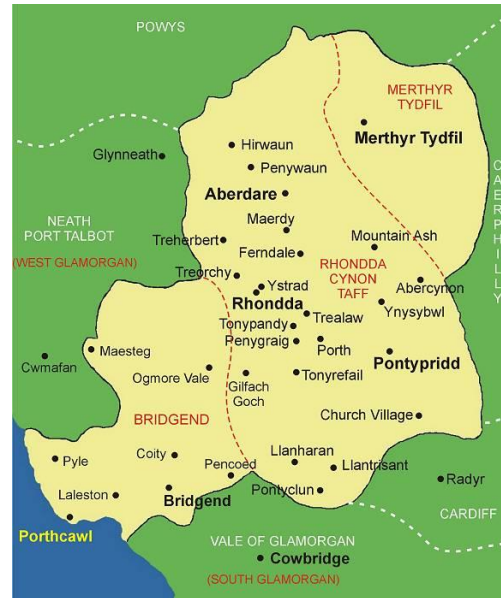
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## Newly formed Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1st, Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board became Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB) and now covers the local authority areas of Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil.

We are currently in the process of transition and part of this process includes:

- Reviewing the membership and terms of reference for the Board and all sub-groups
- Developing a joint work programme for the Board to implement the Annual Plan
- Identifying the documents that are common to both Cwm Taf (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf) and Bridgend and developing new joint protocols and procedures.
- Seeking opportunities to align the safeguarding training and learning activities across the region.



## The Safeguarding Board gets a new look

To reflect our new geographical footprint, the Board has developed a new logo. Thank you to all those who provided feedback while it was being designed.



In addition to a new logo, we also have a new [Facebook page](#) which will assist us in achieving one of our priorities within the Annual Plan, which is to *'Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies'*.

Please give the page a 'like' and share amongst friends and colleagues.

If you have any information which you would like to be posted onto the page or if you have any news or events which you would like us to share, please let us know by e-mailing [ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk) or by direct message on Facebook.

We're also excited to be coming towards the final stages of our new website. The changes include a new design, a clearer layout, search facility and a professional

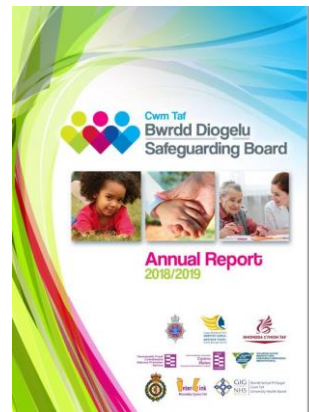
log-in function, making the site the go-to place for both professionals and the public in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region on all safeguarding matters.

If you have any suggestions or documents that you would like uploaded onto the website please contact the Business Unit [here](#).

### **Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2018/19**

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board's Annual Report for 2018/19 has now been published and is available on the Board's website and can be accessed via this [link](#).

The Report highlights the work that the Board has undertaken during 2018/19 in pursuit of its aims to ensure that the people within Cwm Taf (and Cwm Taf Morgannwg, as of 1st April 2019), are safeguarded from abuse, neglect and other forms of harm.



### **CTMSB Annual Plan 2019-20**

The CTMSB published its Annual plan for 2019-20 earlier this year and has proposed to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse.
2. Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies.
3. Ensure that the transition to the new regional footprint for safeguarding is managed effectively.

To view the Safeguarding Board's Annual Plan in full for 2019/20 please click [here](#).

## Recently Approved Policies

Below are a number of policies and procedures that have been recently approved and uploaded onto the CTMSB website:

- [Multi-Agency Chronology Guidance to support the QA and Case Review Process](#)
- [Guidance on Working with People who are Uncooperative](#)
- [Principles and Approach to Transition](#)
- [Core Group Guidance](#)
- [Guidance in Relation to Pre-birth Referrals and Conferences](#)
- [Protocol for Resolving Concerns Regarding Inter-Agency Safeguarding Practice](#)

## Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

The Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has recently updated the forms to be used for professionals when making both adult (A1) and children (C1) referrals to the MASH.

The new forms, along with the guidance documents, can be accessed via this [link](#).

Please ensure that previous versions are removed from your systems to ensure that the correct forms are used.

## Referrals for Child and Adult Practice Reviews

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board must undertake a Child Practice Review (CPR) in cases where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and the child has died, sustained potentially life threatening injury or sustained serious and permanent impairment of health or development. An Adult Practice Review (APR) must be undertaken where there have been similar circumstances relating to an adult at risk. The statutory guidance issued under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, provides the Board with further information relating to this criteria to support appropriate decision making.

The Board has developed Individual Case Referral Forms, one for children and one for adults at risk, to support agencies in making a referral for a CPR or an APR. A useful checklist at the front of the form allows the referring agency to provide a brief overview of the circumstances of the case. This allows the Board to make a decision on whether a Review is required, or whether an alternative piece of work, such as a case audit, may be more appropriate.

The links to the forms can be found by selecting the links below:

- [Adults](#)
- [Children](#)

All Board partner agencies are encouraged to refer cases where there may be a requirement to carry out a Review. Completed forms should be submitted to the CTMSB Business Manager, Nicola Kingham [nicola.kingham@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.kingham@rctcbc.gov.uk)

### **Reminder for partners to complete and return the EPC pro-formas**

The CTMSB continues to use agency pro-formas in order to identify all the communication and engagement work relating to safeguarding carried out within Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The return rate from agencies is getting better, however there is still room for improvement in order to capture all activity that is taking place throughout the region.

The Board's Engagement, Participation and Communication Group (EPC) has recognised and started to implement ways in order to make it easier for agencies to submit their information, namely monthly reminders and the development of an e-form so that colleagues can complete and submit the form online.

If your agency has undertaken any EPC safeguarding work which you would like to inform the Board of, please let us know via the e-form which can be accessed [here](#).

### **Safeguarding Week 2019**

Safeguarding Week this year has been confirmed across Wales as 11th to 15th November 2019. The theme for the region for this year is Domestic Abuse.

If your agency is planning an event or activity during Safeguarding Week, please complete the pro-forma to enable the Board to track all activity and include on the website and programme.

If you would like to get involved, please phone the Business Unit on 01443 490122 or email at [ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk)

### Learning from a Child Practice Review

A child practice review was carried out by Cardiff and the Vale Safeguarding Board in response to the death of a young child, due to physical abuse.

The child had been adopted by a same sex couple. Amongst the learning was the importance of professionals who work with children who are deemed to be in 'safe placements' maintaining professional curiosity about injuries.

There was learning too for health professionals who responded to the child when she was brought for medical attention.

It was also recommended that in all future cases involving same sex relationships, the names of the parents are to be used rather than 'mother or father' in order to avoid confusion about which parent the record refers to.

### Professional standards in relation to the recording of information

A recent Adult Practice Review (APR) undertaken highlighted the importance of ensuring that professional recordings were kept up to date across all service areas including provider services.

This would ensure that where requests for support, referrals for specific input and safeguarding concerns could be tracked to ensure appropriate action is taken.

### Reporting of incidents within care settings

The Review (above) also showed that incidents of assaults within care settings, both on staff and other residents, are occurring without being reported.

The reviewers recognised the complexity of supporting individuals in care settings who lack capacity and may be displaying aggressive behaviour. However, in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, where abuse or neglect of an adult at risk is known or suspected, a safeguarding report must be made to social services and also to the police.

Reports to the police on patient on patient or patient on staff assaults should be made by phoning 101, unless there is an emergency and an urgent response is required, in which case, staff are to phone 999.

To view the report, please select this link: [APR](#)

## Response times for child protection referrals

Early learning from a Child Practice Review (CPR) has highlighted the need for professionals to be aware that when they make a child protection referral they should expect a response from children's social care within 7 days.

If no feedback is received within seven days, it is the responsibility of the person who made the referral to follow this up.

If the practitioner is not content with the proposed action, they should challenge the decision and if necessary escalate their concerns by invoking the 'Protocol for Resolving Concerns about Inter-Agency Safeguarding Practice'.

This case also identified that the Board needs to be assured by its partner agencies that practitioners are aware that when they have a child protection concern they should make a child protection referral whether or not the child is already known to children's social care in another context.



## Domestic Homicide Review

In May 2019, the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership, in conjunction with the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board (now known as the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board), published a Domestic Homicide Review into the death of a man residing in the Cwm Taf area.

This is a report which is produced following the death of a person through violence, abuse or neglect by someone with whom he/she had been in an intimate relationship with or someone from the same household.

These reports are produced with input from a number of agencies, with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death so that measures can be put in place to prevent, where possible, such incidences happening in future.

To view the report, please select the following links:

- [Domestic Homicide Review – Executive Summary](#)
- [Domestic Homicide Review – Overview Report](#)

A Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Practitioner Forum took place in March to share learning from this Review, with over 40 people attending from a broad range of organisations.

## The Safeguarding Board holds its first ever Good Practice event

Organisations from Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend came together in May for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board's first ever Celebration of Good Practice event.

The event showcased some of the good safeguarding practice that is being delivered throughout the region, with the organisations present representing a range of services that help to safeguard children, young people and adults.

This was an excellent opportunity for colleagues to see the range of services that exist and what opportunities there are to work and learn together.

Thank you to all those who attended.



If you would like to be part of next year's Good Practice event, please e-mail [ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk)

## Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The Safeguarding Board Chairs have posted a letter on the website advising parents/carers of the importance of ensuring that any private tutors that they engage with, to support their children, are DBS checked.

To view the letter please visit the Board's [website](#).

For queries regarding the Disclosure and Barring Service, please visit their [website](#).

## Stop it Now! Sessions

The Welsh Government has been working in partnership with Stop it Now! to deliver a campaign across Wales to combat child abuse.

Stop it Now! is a child sexual abuse prevention project, ran by the child protection charity, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.

10 sessions were held in Cwm Taf during 2018/19 and were open to both the public and professionals, with 147 attending the sessions in total.

For further information on the Stop it Now! campaign, please visit their [website](#).



## Sharing information to safeguard our communities

Welsh Government has issued new non-statutory advice for practitioners [on sharing information to safeguard children](#) and a [leaflet](#) on information sharing to safeguard people.

Please circulate this within your organisations.

# barod

## New substance misuse service

The new Integrated Substance Misuse Service offers support for Adults and Young People across Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf, who are affected by their own or someone else's drug or alcohol use.

The service is friendly and approachable and offers group work and one-to-one support, as well as training for professionals, helping to reduce the harm and stigma around substance use.

You can find more information about the service on the Barod website [www.barod.cymru](http://www.barod.cymru)

You can speak to someone for advice and information, or you can make a referral by calling the single point of contact 0300 333 0000

If you are a professional looking to find out more about Barod's services in Cwm Taf, then you can contact the Service Manager, [Katherine.griffiths@barod.cymru](mailto:Katherine.griffiths@barod.cymru)

## Principles and Approach to Transition Preparing Young People to Succeed in Adulthood

In September 2019, there are six Multi-Agency Practitioner Forums planned to launch the Safeguarding Board's 'Principles and Approach to Transition – Preparing Young People to Succeed in Adulthood'.

The Forums will be facilitated by Alex Beckham, Head of Service - Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse and members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.

This event will be relevant to both adults and children's service areas and wider partners and its objectives are:

- To raise awareness of the CTSB's 'Principles and Approach to Transitions' document.
- To consider the seven Principles of Transition
- To consider a shared approach to improving support to young people with additional support to young people with additional needs who are making the transition into adulthood.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Monday, 9th September	9:30am - 12:30pm	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre, Tyslorstown, CF43 3HR
Monday, 9th September	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre, Tyslorstown, CF43 3HR
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September	9:30am - 12:30pm	Hawthorn Leisure Centre, Rhydyfelin CF37 5LN
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Hawthorn Leisure Centre, Rhydyfelin CF37 5LN
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> September	9:30am - 12:30pm	Orbit Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1DL
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> September	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Orbit Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1DL

To book onto a session, please e-mail [socialcaretraining@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:socialcaretraining@rctcbc.gov.uk) or telephone 01443 281444.

Please note, these sessions are only available to those professionals within the Cwm Taf region.

**If you would like information included in the next bulletin, please e-mail [ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:ctmsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk)**