



CARDIFF AND VALE REGIONAL
SAFEGUARDING BOARD

Annual Report 2021-2022



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INTRODUCTION

This annual report is written during one of the most continually testing times for social care in Wales. We have experienced many national and local circumstances which have caused resource issues within all of our constituent agencies. This has clearly affected the performance of our strategic partnership across the region and has resulted in agencies prioritising front line services to ensure their own business continuity.

Due to the on-going difficulties with service provision and subsequent changes to service delivery caused by the effects of COVID 19 coupled with the difficulties with recruitment and retention of social care staff, the situation for safeguarding boards has remained pressurised. During this past year, the Regional Board recognises the dedication and continued commitment of its constituent members. Both agencies and individuals have shown resilience and optimism whilst working with the Regional Safeguarding Board and subgroups during this time of unprecedented pressure.

As a result of the above here at Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan we have recognised that to fulfil our statutory responsibilities as a leading multi-agency strategic partnership we need to continue to embed our revised structure and ways of working throughout our operations. These changes have enabled us to build on the strong foundations of partnership working in Cardiff and the Vale Regional Board whilst allowing us to respond flexibly to the demands placed on partners. We are also aware that we need to continue delivering on core business and meet our statutory functions, whilst these changes are embedded

We have temporarily changed our operating structure to ensure that key individuals can work as required within their own organisations yet still provide resources to the Regional Board, as necessary.

All our subgroups have recommenced and been refreshed with regards to chairing and vice chairing arrangements. We have also managed to ensure that child and adult practice reviews have been adequately resourced. However, because of ever more scarce resources we have had to purchase in specialists to act as chair and reviewers in this process. This demonstrates to us as a Board that there may be need to access specialist expert knowledge and experience for our review processes.

During the past year, year we met our all our statutory requirements as we continued to meet as a Board on our agreed schedule and held our members' development session on time to have a strong input for our annual plan for the coming year.

As stated previously the changes we have introduced have given us an opportunity to pause, reflect and refresh with regards safeguarding across the region. We have now decided to

CARDIFF AND VALE SAFEGUARDING BOARD

reflect and refresh our position with regards other strategic partnerships in the region, this is to ensure that the Regional Safeguarding Board is sighted within what is a very complex picture of statutory partnerships across the region. We are keen, as are our other statutory partners to ensure increased connectivity with partners and to reduce duplication of work which has safeguarding at its core.

This report outlines what we have achieved during 2021-2022 and links back to our annual plan covering this period. We are also keen to acknowledge what a difficult year staff have had and continue to face.



Tracey Holdsworth
(C&V RSB Co-Chair)
Head of Local Services
Wales, NSPCC



Lance Carver
(C&V RSB Co-Chair)
Director of Social
Services, Vale of
Glamorgan Council



Sarah McGill
(C&V RSB Co-Chair)
Corporate Director People
& Communities, Cardiff
Council

LIST OF MEMBERS CARDIFF AND VALE REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD (2021-2022)

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
Local Authority	
Sarah McGill (CO-CHAIR)	Corporate Director People & Communities, Cardiff
Lance Carver (CO-CHAIR)	Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Tracey Holdsworth (CO-CHAIR)	Head of Local Services Wales, NSPCC
Deborah Driffield	Director of Children's Services, Cardiff
Rachel Evans	Head of Service for Children and Young People Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Jade Harrison/ Rebekha Flynn	Operational Manager of Strategic Improvement and Strategy, Cardiff
Natasha James	Operational Manager of Safeguarding and Service Outcomes, Vale of Glamorgan
Amanda Phillips	Head of Resources and Safeguarding, Vale of Glamorgan
Suzanne Clifton	Head of Service for Adults, Vale of Glamorgan
Jane Thomas	Director of Adult Services, Cardiff
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
Katina Kontos	Named Doctor Safeguarding Children, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Ruth Walker	Executive Nurse Director, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Nicola Edwards	Head of Nursing - Safeguarding, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board
National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales	
Claire Thomas	Designated Doctor for NHS Wales National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales
Velindre University NHS Trust	
Annie Evans	Deputy Director of Nursing & Service Improvement, Velindre University NHS Trust
Nicola Williams	Executive Director of Nursing, Allied Health Professional and Health Science, Velindre University NHS Trust
South Wales Police	
Tim Morgan	Detective Superintendent for Eastern BCU, South Wales Police
John Lane	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager, South Wales Police

National Probation Service	
Hannah Williams	LDU Head for National Probation Service
Education	
Mike Tate	Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Cardiff
David Davies	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, Strategy & Housing Need, Housing & Communities, Cardiff
Youth Offending Service	
Kirsty Davies	YOS Manager for Children and Young People Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Angharad Thomas	YOS Manager for Children and Young People Services, Cardiff
Home Office	
Sian Kirk	Safeguarding Lead – Wales and South West Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration Directorate
Her Majesty's Prison Service	
Helen Ryder	Governor, HMPS
Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust	
Nikki Harvey	Head of Safeguarding for WAST
South Wales Fire and Rescue	
Laura Thomas	Safeguarding Lead Officer, Community Safety
Third Sector	
Wendy DeBruin	Service Manager, NSPCC
Candice Lloyd	Service Manager, NYAS
Liz Baker	Assistant Director, Barnardo's
Care Providers	
Brian West	Chair of Vale of Glamorgan Care Homes/Care Forum Wales
Mandy Evans	Learning Disability & Supported Living Care Providers
Advisors in Attendance	
Sheila Davies	Operational Manager for Legal & Democratic Services, Community Team Legal, Cardiff
Victoria Davidson	Operational Manager, Legal Services, Vale of Glamorgan

We welcome the new members to the Board. All new members followed the Board induction process and met with BSU Manager, identified buddies and co-chairs, if requested.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

In our Annual Plan we had three main priorities which were set out for this year:

Priority 1	Workforce and Practice
Priority 2	Rights, Values and Voice of the Person
Priority 3	Strengthening Links and Contextual Safeguarding

All the above priorities relate to both Children and Adults.

We held a development session for all Regional Safeguarding Board members, and we were able to check progress against our proposed outcomes:

It was acknowledged by all members that due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 response and the difficulties with maintaining a stable workforce by agencies most of our priority outcomes would not be met during this year.

We also recognised that we would need to change our priority outcomes going forward as the above situation coupled with current changing priorities and providing a positive response to the Ukraine resettlement crisis has dictated a change of direction of our work. We did also acknowledge that as a strategic partnership we managed to divert resources across agencies and respond positively where needs arose.

We have written our Annual Plan for the forthcoming year with these newly identified priorities in mind but accepted that we need to think about 'going back to basics'. This is because many responses from partners have been distorted by needing to respond to crisis situations which leaves no room for flexibility when delivering services.

It has given us a distinct perspective as to how we operated during this challenging time. It also informed our work going forward and has provided insight to members to enable new ways of working, reporting and governance to ensure we discharge our functions as effectively as possible.

As mentioned previously we will continue to work more closely with a range of other strategic partnerships across the region which will enable us to work more collaboratively in the future.

PRIORITY ONE: WORKFORCE AND PRACTICE

OUTCOME

People are safer as a consequence of a sufficient workforce being supported, skilled capable and knowledgeable in order to objectively safeguard children and adults in the region.

OBJECTIVE

The Board has assurances that there are effective interagency safeguarding practices which are supported by policies and procedures, with robust training and that there is a sufficient workforce.

We have agreed the formation of a new subgroup which monitors the action plans and recommendations of all Child and Adult Practice Reviews and ensures that all Board agencies are compliant with these. This group has achieved much progress with regards the outstanding actions from previously published reviews. We recognised that this was a workstream that had previously drifted, and it was difficult to keep up to date with progress for each completed review.

To address this, we produced a composite action plan which included all outstanding recommendations from reviews. The group began what proved to be an arduous task of monitoring all actions. An enormous amount of work has been completed to ensure that recommendations have been completed and implemented with individual agencies confirming actions to evidence outcomes.

We now have a requirement that as part of our review process a 7-minute briefing is produced by reviewers and panel members. This is disseminated with the final report, ensuring that all key learning points are given to Board members and other practice managers to be disseminated throughout the wider workforce.

We are working with a local training provider and commissioned two bespoke training packages which are available on our website. These are aimed at a multi-agency audience who may be required to be involved in the child or adult care support and protection process following making a report to statutory services. We have also arranged to host a 'train the trainer' session to ensure that these resources are distributed to a wide multi agency audience.

We are also working to develop a group of managers from multi-agency backgrounds to deliver the programme of our two bespoke packages on a regular basis. This work will be supported by the RSB business unit.

We developed and facilitated a training course for prospective chairs and reviewers of Child or adult practice Reviews. We also delivered this training across the South Wales Region in conjunction with the support of colleagues from Gwent and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Board areas.

We have continued to encourage all Board members to bring new or emerging areas of concern for full discussion at Board meetings. We have used these 'Hot Topics' to direct the strategic direction of the RSB. This has helped us identify areas of work that may not have been prioritised previously.

PRIORITY TWO: RIGHTS, VALUES AND VOICE OF THE PERSON

OUTCOME

Children, and adults who have care and support needs, feel heard and empowered where there are safeguarding concerns

OBJECTIVE

Provide children, young people and adults with an opportunity to engage with and participate in the work of the Board and within the safeguarding process

We have worked with one of the designated advocacy suppliers for children and young people in our region to establish how best to engage with children and young people across a range of ages and abilities.

We have ensured that families are fully engaged with our review process and their views and opinions are sought on an individual basis to inform our final reports.

These views are regularly shared with practitioners via learning events and publication of review reports. We also use 7-minute briefings to inform key findings.

We worked in collaboration with colleagues from the local health board and those providing support packages to people who may have been isolated or shielding. We built on the Welsh Government theme of 'Together we can keep people safe' by encouraging their participation, gave them information about reporting concerns, and asking for advice and assistance. We also provided a signposting service about a range of available services that may be required due to social isolation or mental health and wellbeing concerns.

A repository now exists on our website which provides information for both professionals and the public about resources that are available for them to use. All

regionally agreed protocols and documents are stored here along with reports from reviews, to provide easy access to RSB workstreams

Our communication and engagement group has recommenced meetings, and we have a new chair and vice-chair in post. The group is progressing work to prioritise how best to make more robust connections within the social care workforce. We are also putting into place arrangements to have a more consistent approach towards a two-way information flow between RSB members and the wider workforce. We are also well underway with plans for a more consistent dissemination of learning following reviews. We have begun work on an engagement and participation framework with young people. This is work we hope to continue and conclude in the coming year.

We participated fully in National safeguarding week by hosting a variety of virtual events. These events were held across the week culminating in our regional safeguarding awards. This was well attended and well received by professionals who felt that the award ceremony went a long way to providing recognition for their outstanding efforts during the preceding year.

PRIORITY THREE: STRENGTHENING LINKS AND CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

OUTCOME

Consistency in the way that people are safeguarded across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan

OBJECTIVE

Make stronger links with Public Service Boards and Community Safety Partnerships to understand and respond to safeguarding risks to people, assessing environmental and exploitation risks to align with Contextual Safeguarding

We have worked hard to strengthen links with our other strategic partnerships in the region and have increased our profile with the Community Safety Partnership in Cardiff by our participation in the Single Unified Safeguarding Review Process. This has resulted in greater understanding across partnership of respective roles and responsibilities. We have put into place plans to begin a review in the region using a blended approach to enable learning to be embedded in the new statutory guidance which is currently being formulated at a national level.

We produced an exploitation strategy to begin to understand and tackle how children and young people as well as adults at risk may become involved. This is due to be progressed to a delivery plan which will enable practitioners to have a range of interventions. Our

workstreams which cover individual aspects of exploitation have recommenced and we are appraising our progress in areas such as female genital mutilation, asylum seeking children, and sexual exploitation and abuse.

During National Safeguarding week we produced and launched information about self-neglect which is available as a resource for practitioners and the public. We have consolidated this work by forming two groups to develop both child and adult neglect toolkits which can assist practitioners who are working these cases.

We have continued to work consistently on our Child and Adult Practice reviews to ensure that we are continually learning about the quality of safeguarding practice in the region. Our new practice improvement and development group are keen to use their remit to ensure that learning both local and national is widely disseminated amongst practitioners and the public. We are well underway with plans to have a robust programme of network events that will encourage safeguarding to be at the core of all services going forward.

We have also ensured that all early learning from reviews currently in progress is highlighted at our Board.

We have also completed production of several regional documents and protocols including:

- Duty to Report Form
- Multi-Agency Referral Form
- Immediate response Group Protocol
- Completion of our Data Dashboard
- Completed our actions in the Nation Action Plan on Child sexual Abuse.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR ANNUAL PLAN

As stated above we acknowledge that our Annual Plan for the forthcoming year incorporates many of the outstanding actions from last year, though some have been changed to reflect the new priorities that we now have. We have added to this list some new actions because of the difficulties that have been highlighted above and the emerging themes identified as a result.

Our work and activity over the past year has concentrated largely on meeting the Regional Board's statutory functions and ensuring that Board members have been informed and satisfied that safeguarding continued to be at the core of all duties and responsibilities of its constituent agencies.

As our new operation model become embedded in the way that we conduct business we are already able to see improvements. These include the more consistent way of disseminating learning from reviews, an ability to be more flexible and respond to emerging themes and making progress in sharing information and reducing duplication between statutory partners.

The above coupled with a more robust framework for governance and monitoring and an improved reporting framework through our new Operational Governance Group allows us to conclude that we are making progressing on most areas of business despite the constraints we face.

COLLABORATIVE WORK THAT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN

As we have experienced such difficulties to service delivery across all constituent agencies, the collaboration that has taken place across Board agencies has been exceptional.

We have managed to work with all partners to ensure that Board meetings have been places where open and honest debate has been encouraged. Board members have been assured by colleagues that each agency response to the pandemic has been safe and proportionate.

We have also collaborated with many agencies outside of Board member remit. We have worked closely and regularly with Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board via meeting with both Chairs and Business Units.

We have relied upon the help and advice of many more agencies including the third sector, to publicise the need for safeguarding to be at the top of everyone's agenda, especially through safeguarding week.

We have also worked closely with other Regional Safeguarding Boards to ensure consistency of message and policy across Wales

We have continued to work with colleagues across Wales to host the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Group.

We are also reliant upon safeguarding specialists across the region to provide advice and guidance to our policy development and have used practitioners at all levels to contribute to new policy and protocol development via newly formed workstreams.

SECTION 137 – REQUEST 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 C&V RSCB have not had to use any Section 137 requests.

SAFEGUARDING BOARD ACHIEVEMENTS

As a Board we rely on the experience, knowledge, and resources of all our members and their respective workforces. This has been one of the most difficult years in which we have had to function since the introduction of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in 2006.

Many agencies have had to divert staff to fulfil distinct roles and functions which in turn means that resources that we normally rely upon have not been available for use in multi-agency fora that the Board would facilitate.

In the last year we have also become acutely aware that staff, skills and experience have been depleted across social care not just our region but nationally. This has become a problem for all Board agencies and consequently for some of the work we would like to progress, so we recognise that we have not made as much progress with our performance framework as we had hoped.

Despite these constraints in our region, we have prioritised the assurance to Board that all agencies were able to practice safely throughout the pandemic and concentrated upon our core business.

We tackled a backlog of review cases which had built up in our region. We negotiated with Board members, subgroup chairs and other colleagues to ensure that we had suitable professionals to tackle this backlog.

We have managed to reduce the backlog by ensuring that we paired up reviewers to ensure that experienced staff worked with those less confident. We provided training for prospective reviewers and panel chairs. Our business unit prioritised this work and provided unparalleled levels of support to complete the reviews. We even looked for innovative ways to complete Multi Agency Professional Forums to ease the burden on staff and reduce the backlog to more manageable proportions.

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BOARDS' WORK

As has been highlighted above as a Regional Board we are solely reliant upon member contributions to ensure that our Board performs its statutory duties.

We have been lucky during the past year that we have still had good responses from all agencies when calling upon their resources.

Our groups are chaired by several different agencies Including:

Vale of Glamorgan Social services

Cardiff Social services

NSPCC	Vale of Glamorgan Safeguarding Lead
National Probation Service	Cardiff Safeguarding Lead
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board	Cardiff Youth Offending Service
Cardiff Education services	Velindre University NHS Trust
	National Youth Advocacy service

In addition, we have had contributions to our review process from all the agencies mentioned above plus:

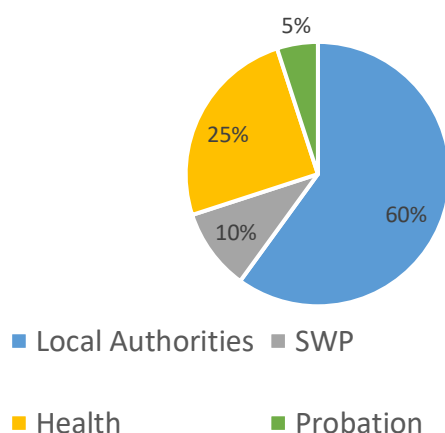
South Wales Police	Welsh Ambulance Trust
Vale of Glamorgan Education	Barnardo's
Cardiff Housing Service	South Wales fire and Rescue Service
Vale of Glamorgan Housing Service	Home Office
Cardiff legal services	Care Providers across the region
Vale of Glamorgan legal services	

MANAGING RESOURCES

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 2021-2022:

Partner Contributions



Organisation	Proposed Contribution Combined (%)	Organisation Split	Current Contribution to RSB Split (%)	Proposed 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

UNDERLYING THEMES AND CHANGES TO PRACTICE

As a Board region we identified exploitation and Child sexual abuse as an emerging theme. It was identified in several diverse ways, by the increase in exploitative crimes in our area, by professionals becoming more aware of the difficulties associated with vulnerability and exploitation or abuse and because of several case practice review referrals which related to exploitation and abuse.

As a Board region we decided to tackle this area of work head on and participated in training for professionals provided for us by the centre for expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.

A number of key individuals were trained and because of this we now have a more co-ordinated approach to dealing with sexual abuse by front line teams. Practice leads provide help and support to practitioners to recognise and work with children and families where sexual abuse is apparent.

We are in the process of completing an historical child practice Review which deals with familial sexual abuse and have used the expertise gained above to reflect upon and review the differences in current practice to those used when our historical review took place.

We have also made a real connection between sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and have begun workstreams to establish how the two forms of abuse interact.

We have also begun work on two practice reviews where exploitation of young people resulted in their deaths. One case was a child and the other an adult (two weeks after becoming 18). We are using an innovative process to look at both as individual reviews but the chair and one of the reviewers are working on both cases, to ensure consistency of approach. We will produce two reports but bring the learning together to disseminate across our workforce. We plan to complete this work in the coming year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INTO THE BOARDS' WORK

We acknowledge that this is an area that we need to improve upon. Although we began work on an engagement and participation framework, we have not achieved what we set out to do at the beginning of the year.

As highlighted above during the pandemic we reached out to our most vulnerable by producing and disseminating literature and a radio information piece to ensure that the public were aware that services provided 'business as usual' .

We hope to improve performance in this area by using our new structure as set out in our Annual Plan and working more closely with communication specialists from our Local Authorities.

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.

DISSEMINATION OF LEARNING AND TRAINING

The majority of multi-agency learning that emanates from the Regional Safeguarding Board is as a result of published child and adult practice reviews. We did not publish any reviews during this year, however, there has been lots of early learning which has been identified as part of the review processes.

We have introduced 7-minute briefings as part of our review feedback, and we ensure that as any form of learning is identified it is converted into the briefing format to ensure dissemination.

In addition, this year we have invested in training for prospective chairs and reviewers. Two courses have been provided. One was delivered on a face-to-face basis and the other was virtual. The virtual course was across the South Wales region and was very well received.

As a consequence, we have a pool of at least twenty managers who have been trained to undertake these roles. As a result of the COVID 19 restriction we have seen a rise in cases being referred into our subgroup for consideration and due to consistent staff turnover, we will need to provide regular training for this group at least twice a year.

We have also used WG training grant money to commission a local training company to develop a bespoke multi agency training programme which be available to agencies via a 'train the trainer' route. This package will provide guidance and advice to any practitioner who is making a report to statutory services and then becomes part of the care, support and protection process.

In future years we aim to bring together a delivery group of professionals to facilitate the training packages on our behalf.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ADVICE

Our Board region is a full and active participant in many national initiatives, we take a lead on the project Board for the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

Any advice or guidance that is issued on a national level is fully considered at Board level where we ensure there is a standing information item to cover all subjects.

We are also active participants in the national initiative of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process. We have representation on all subgroups of this project and are working towards being involved with a review.

CONTACT US

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS:



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**



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**



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



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:

Tel:
02922 330880

cardiffandvalersb@cardiff.gov.uk

Email:

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

CARDIFF AND VALE SAFEGUARDING BOARD

Address:

Regional Safeguarding Board
Room 342
County Hall

Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff Council
CF10 4UW