

CARDIFF AND VALE OF
GLAMORGAN REGIONAL
SAFEGUARDING BOARDS

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 – 2017

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FOREWORD

We are pleased to be able to present this first Safeguarding Annual Report for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Although the report is principally based on the 2016-17 year, it also covers part of the previous year (2015-16) and the early part of the current year (2017-8).

This reflects the need to describe the journey that each of the Regional Safeguarding Boards has undertaken over a 12-18 month period, during which we have experienced a degree of instability and adjustment in the midst of several personnel and other changes. As we hope the report explains, partners have addressed this challenge head on, by engaging in a process of strategic review in relation to each board, supported by expert external facilitation. The depth and focus of each of the Boards' reviews, has necessarily been different, with more work needed to reinvigorate what had become a somewhat stagnated adult board. Nevertheless, we are now confident that as a result, and in terms of structure, governance and strategic focus, we are much better placed to meet the challenges that an area as populous and diverse as Cardiff and the Vale presents in ever-growing volumes.

Whilst better placed to meet these operational challenges we need to signal some underlying concerns about capacity across the whole safeguarding agenda.

At all levels, but particularly at the front line, professionals are encountering significantly rising referral pressures and new and very challenging complexities that make new demands on expertise and skills, a trend that is echoed by our local courts and nationally. Phenomena that are either new in nature – (such as 'cuckooing' in the world of drug trafficking and its links with CSE, grooming of vulnerable adults and human trafficking) or more complex in their manifestation (highly complex networks of abuse with multi-factorial features and involving highly diverse minorities) are becoming a more regular feature in our Region. In an area with a rapidly growing city, these changing patterns and accelerating volumes are a real threat to safeguarding effectiveness. In this context, the determination and effectiveness of our front-line staff in all settings, is both commendable and reassuring. We cannot pretend however, that it is sustainable without further and substantial development and investment; good safeguarding comes at a price.

Similar issues in terms of capacity also impact on the ability of partners to work together. We are only too aware of the difficulties we face when we

cannot attract people with the experience, skill and expertise to support the activity of the boards themselves.

But there are highlights and there is much to be confident about in the improving quality of leadership and professionalism at all levels. This is reflected in the new dynamism in the two boards, in part stimulated by the advent of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014. In this regard, the development events themselves have played a really important part in setting our direction and energising partners around a clear vision.

We have significantly strengthened our approach to CPRs and APRs. We are proud of our now well-established and creative CSE strategy and we are forging links nationally and internationally to ensure we are in the vanguard of what is a fast changing area. We have been able to engage the local Mosques in a mutually beneficial dialogue that is the basis for a growing level of trust and confidence. Finally, we are pleased to have taken the opportunity to lead the review of the All Wales Adult and Child Protection Procedures and to be able to report that this is developing at an appropriate pace, with good support from colleague professionals across all agencies and regions.

While we can be proud of our achievements to date, we acknowledge that there is a great deal more to be done. We are confident that with the appointment of a new Safeguarding Business Unit, and the filling of other key posts, will enable us to move forward at the pace we need to sustain and continue to develop strong relationships with children, adults, families, communities, professionals as well as other agencies, partnerships and Boards.

TY



Co-Chair & Director SS CC

LC



Co-Chair & Director SS VoG

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect. Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding children and adults at risk. Every child and adult at risk should be protected from being hurt, put at risk of harm or abused, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity.

A child or adult at risk is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts harm, or fails to act to prevent harm.

Children and adults at risk could be at risk of abuse in a family, institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

Adult at risk

The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 states that an adult at risk is an adult who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Abuse

“Abuse” means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse (and includes abuse taking place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place), and “financial abuse” includes: -

- having money or other property stolen;
- being defrauded;
- being put under pressure in relation to money or other property;

INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE THE CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARDS?

There are two separate regional safeguarding boards covering the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan health board and local authority areas, one being responsible for safeguarding adults in the area and one for safeguarding children.

The Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Children Board (RSCB) was established in April 2013 as a result of merging the two separate safeguarding children boards that covered the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Council areas respectively and which had been in place since 2007. The Lead Partner for the Regional Children's Safeguarding Board is the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Adults Board (RSA B) was established in 2015. Again this new regional board was the result of a merger of two previously separate boards in each of the local council areas. The Lead Partner for the Regional Adults' Safeguarding Board is the City of Cardiff Council.

The City of Cardiff Council's Director of Social Services hosts the Safeguarding Business Unit that supports the operation of both boards.

In both cases, these Regional Boards were established to reflect the new national safeguarding agenda in Wales and the priorities that flow from the requirements of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB).

Whilst the remit of each regional board is distinct in terms of focusing expertise, resources and attention on the needs of children and adults respectively and the membership of each reflects those distinct needs, both boards bring together the main agencies that have day-to-day responsibility for protecting children, young people and adults from abuse, neglect and other forms of harm. Although each board has a distinct identity and each requires different professional expertise to function effectively, the two boards also share common challenges and approaches in delivering safeguarding responsibilities, particularly in relation to those individuals in transition from childhood to adulthood.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Safeguarding partners in both boards have been highly active over the last 2 years in terms of reviewing our own effectiveness. At this early stage in the life of the two relatively new boards, this preparedness to challenge ourselves has played an important part in preparing for the SSWB Act, in terms of focusing our strategic grip on current and emergent key priorities (for

example in relation to CSE, the 'In Search of Accountability; A Review in the neglect of older people living in care homes investigated as Operation Jasmine' review, Dementia and Human Trafficking) and in terms of supporting sound operational practice and learning. Although the RSCB has sustained a comprehensive work programme, including the core activities associated with Child Practice Review work, audit, and training, the board has recognised the need to 'declutter' committee structures and improve business planning. For the RSCB, the focus of board review has therefore, been a question of adjusting governance, moving away from a separate Board and Executive Board structure and aligning leadership for key priorities more effectively.

The RSA B meanwhile has had a steeper hill to climb in terms of re-energising and refocusing its purpose and effectiveness, in part because it was only established in 2015, but also because partners recognised early on that we had never taken the opportunity to undertake any form of self-assessment since operating on a regional basis or given sufficient attention to what we were trying to achieve. The advent of new statutory responsibilities for adult safeguarding also stimulated the need to revisit the role and remit of the primary focus of board activity during the second half of 2015 and the whole of 2016-17 was therefore on making the board fit for purpose.

Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards – Synergy and Partnership

In undertaking their reviews, both boards have been clear that continuity of identity and a degree of separation remains important in terms of maintaining an undiluted and dedicated focus on the specific challenges associated with safeguarding children and adults respectively. There is no appetite to merge the boards into a single entity and this is consistent with the policy position as we understand it nationally. That said, both boards also recognised that the previous and largely impermeable separation of the boards' governance arrangements did not lend themselves to learning lessons in common, addressing issues that affected both children and adults or even to the efficient use of agencies' and partners' time.

Both boards therefore agreed to work more closely and that this will be facilitated by running board meetings consecutively under the chairpersonship of 'Co-Chairs' who will share responsibility for both boards. This allows for a degree of continuity (the Director of Social Services Cardiff was chair of the RSAB from July 2015 until April 2017 and one of two vice chairs for the RSCB 2013 until April 2017) and shared expertise. It also recognises the spirit and intent of the SSWB Act as outlined below:-

“ There is one set of regulations for the functions and procedures of both Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards. This is in line

with the commitment to provide a framework for improving safeguarding arrangements for everyone and that any artificial barriers based on age begin to be broken down. It recognises that Boards will operate in parallel that arrangements for the Boards should allow sharing, exchange and joint-working on matters of mutual concern, and that this should be supported wherever possible by common functions and procedures.” (Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014)

These new arrangements will take effect in November 2017.

Structure, Membership, Roles and Responsibilities

As part of establishing these new arrangements the operational structure, membership, and roles and responsibilities of the RSA B and RSCB have been reviewed resulting in a number of changes, some of which are still ongoing. As of July 2017, the reporting structure has been revised and new arrangements are in place.

Safeguarding Business Unit

The City of Cardiff Council Social Services Directorate hosts the Joint Safeguarding Business Unit (SBU) for the Boards and is funded on the basis of the National formula. The SBU is overseen by Cardiff’s Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Review and is supported in its day-to-day work by the unit’s Business Manager.

The ability of the boards to operate effectively was challenging over a protracted period through 2015 and until 2017.

1. Senior Operational Leadership - The post of Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Review in Cardiff stood vacant for over 12 months at a crucial time in the life of both boards and was compounded by the absence of an effective Business Manager for 18 months. In both cases agency managers were engaged but this failed to bring with it the necessary focus, knowledge and commitment to support board effectiveness.
2. Agreement to a settled operational budget took too long to resolve leading to a 6 month delay in the process of recruiting the full SBU team, which in turn took longer than expected due to the quality of applications and the need to go out to advert for applicants on 2 occasions over several months.

Despite this, the newly appointed Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Review in Cardiff, the newly appointed Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Service Outcomes in the Vale, and the Business Manager for the Boards have brought a renewed energy, commitment and focus to the Board Business. The Boards now have a fully functional Safeguarding Business

Unit as of September 2017, which comprises a Strategic Business Manager, two dedicated Strategic Business Coordinators and a Business Administrator.

ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report reviews the strategic priorities, key actions and milestones, for the period April 2016 to March 2017. It takes into account both the current requirements placed on Safeguarding Boards by Welsh Government and the statutory guidance in relation to Part 7 of the [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#). Under that guidance, Safeguarding Boards are required to produce and publish an annual report each July evidencing progress made against the previous year's Annual Plan. The Act, supplemented by the regulations, provides for when and how the annual plans and reports are to be published and prescribes the content of both the annual plans and the annual reports.

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

REGIONAL SAEFGUARDING CHILDREN 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
Local Authority	
Tony Young CO-CHAIR	Director of Social Services, Cardiff
Lance Carver CO-CHAIR	Director of Social Services, VOG
Irfan Alam	Assistant Director of Children's Services, Cardiff
Rachel Evans	Head of Service for Children and Young People Services
Alys Jones	Operational Manager of Safeguarding and Review, Cardiff
Natasha James	Operational Manager of Social Services Safeguarding & Service Outcomes Resources & Safeguarding, VOG
Health	
Sheila Harrison	Acting Executive Nurse Director, 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	Director of Nursing, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Velindre NHS Trust	
Jayne Elias	Assistant Director of Nursing & Service Improvement, Velindre NHS Trust
Susan Morgan	Executive Director of Nursing & Service Improvement, Velindre NHS Trust
South Wales Police	
Stephen Jones	Superintendent for Eastern BCU, South Wales Police
Claire Evans	Superintendent, Central BCU, South Wales Police
Sue Hurley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager of South Wales Police
National Probation Service	
Peter Thomas-Greenhill	LDU Head for National Probation Service
Jane Foulner	Senior Probation Officer for National Probation Service
Community Rehabilitation Company	
Victoria Harris	LDU Head for Wales Community Rehabilitation Company

Education	
Jacqueline Turner	Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Cardiff
David Davies	Head of Achievement for All for School Improvement & Inclusion
Sally Brereton	Head Teacher of Gladstone Primary School
Anna Davies	Deputy Head Teacher of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School
National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales	
Linda Davies	Designated Nurse for NHS Wales National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales
Alison Mott	Designated Doctor, National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales
Visas and Immigration	
Kala Smith	Technical Specialist & UASC Lead for UK Visas and Immigration
Rhiannon Chatterton	Head of Asylum for UK Visas and Immigration
Housing	
Mike Ingram	Operational Manager of Housing Services, VOG
Kate Hustler	Operational Manager of Housing Services, Cardiff
Youth Offending Service	
Paula Barnett	YOS Manager for Children and Young People Services, VOG
Daniel Jones	YOS Manager for Children and Young People Services, Cardiff
Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust	
Nikki Harvey	Head of Safeguarding for WAST
Third Sector	
Tracy Holdsworth	Service Manager, NSPCC
Emma Phipps Magill	Service Manager, NYAS
Jackie Vining	Assistant Director, Barnardo's
Morgan Fackrell	Chief Executive of Cardiff Women's Aid
Advisors in Attendance	
Sheila Davies	Operational Manager for Legal & Democratic Services, Community Team Legal, Cardiff

REGIONAL SAEFGUARDING ADULT 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
Local Authority	
Lance Carver CO-CHAIR	Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan
Tony Young CO-CHAIR	Director of Social Services, Cardiff
Suzanne Clifton	Head of Service for Adults, Vale of Glamorgan
Amanda Phillips	Assistant Director of Adult Services, Cardiff
Alys Jones	Operational Manager of Safeguarding and Review, Cardiff
Natasha James	Operational Manager of Social Services Safeguarding & Service Outcomes Resources & Safeguarding, VOG
Andy Cole	Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Manager
National Health Service	
Sheila Harrison	Acting Executive Nurse Director, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Linda Hughes-Jones	Head of Safeguarding, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Lynn Davison	Lead Nurse, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board
Suzanne Wood	Consultant, Cardiff & Vale Public Health Medicine
Velindre NHS Trust	
Jayne Elias	Assistant Director of Nursing & Service Improvement, Velindre NHS Trust
National Safeguarding Team, Public Health	
Linda Davies	Designated Nurse for NHS Wales National Safeguarding Team, Public Health Wales
South Wales Police	
Claire Evans	Superintendent, Central BCU, South Wales Police
Stephen Jones	Superintendent, Eastern BCU, South Wales Police
Beth Aynsley	Independent Protecting Vulnerable Services Manager, South Wales Police

National Probation Service	
Peter Thomas-Greenhill	LDU Head for National Probation Service
Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	
Nikki Harvey	Named Professional for Safeguarding
South Wales Fire and Rescue	
Shaun Moody	Group Manager Community Safety and Partnerships
Third Sector	
Sandra Roberts	Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
Jeff Hawkins	Age Connects Cardiff
Care Providers	
Brian West	Care Homes Association
Mandy Evans	Learning Disability & Supported Living Care Providers
Advisors in Attendance	
Carolyn Goodall	Senior Lawyer, Legal Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN:

i. IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

As set out in the RSCB's 2016 – 2017 Annual Plan the Board identified the following priorities:

- a. Child Sexual Exploitation
- b. Safeguarding Practice in Preventative Services
- c. RSCB Functions

ii. ADDRESSING THE PRIORITIES

Under each of these priorities, the RSCB set out a number of outcomes and objectives to ensure the priorities were tackled effectively and successfully. The RSCB is pleased to be able to evidence significant progress against key objectives, albeit the Board also recognises that some areas have not had the attention they require, in large part because of the leadership and business management gaps highlighted above. Despite this capacity deficit, professional operational staff and managers from all partners have engaged in key priorities with commitment and enthusiasm. A particularly good example of this has been the delivery in Cardiff of the CSE Strategy which has energised and focused practitioners across all agencies across the region.

a. Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was fully embedded into the RSCB Annual Plan for in 2014 and gathered significant momentum during 2015-2017.

In order to monitor and evidence the work ongoing, RSCB established a multi-agency CSE Strategic Group. This CSE Strategic group was also responsible for the development and implementation of an Action Plan in relation to a Multi-agency Professional Forum (MAPF) commissioned in 2015.

Training opportunities are provided to all agencies, ensuring raising awareness of CSE and instilling confidence in staff when dealing with CSE

As well as all the effective work ongoing in the CSE Strategic group, representatives from the RSCB contributed to the review of the All Wales CSE Protocol lead by Dr Sophie Hallett. Both Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan CSE Leads made a significant contribution to this along with other statutory agencies including South Wales Police, Health and Probation.

The success of the CSE strategy in Cardiff acting as a 'pilot site' has enabled the region as a whole to widen its scope and application. The plans are aligned with the Local Authority corporate plans and with departmental

delivery plans. The Vale of Glamorgan have established a Task Force and Cardiff run Multi Agency Strategy Meetings (MASM) (and Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings (MACE) meetings where all CSE issues are addressed.

A Child Sexual Exploitation Professional Interest Group (CSE PING) was established in October 2015 and has been running successfully in Cardiff. It is open to anyone who has a professional interest in CSE prevention across the region. The specific purpose of the group is to ensure a coordinated, cohesive approach to tackling CSE, to support professional learning and skill development across agencies (most of whom operate regionally) and to act as spur to policy development. The meetings have a simple format; there are presentations from practitioners who share learning from a case study, presentations from organisations talking about what they do and how to access the services. There is also a News Desk section where members are invited to give an update on changes or developments within their organisation. There is also a presentation on local and national practice developments, research or policy changes. Importantly, the CSE PING ensures that good practice is shared on a multi-agency and inter-authority basis and provides excellent opportunities for communication activities both with professionals and with children and their families.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) piloted a four question Shortened SERAF in the UHB's Emergency Department (ED) between the months of April 2015-June 2015. The tool gives staff working in a clinical environment with face-to-face contact the opportunity to ask questions relating to risk of CSE, a positive disclosure results in referral to Children Services.

Work with students in schools across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff is ongoing, raising awareness of CSE with children and parents.

South Wales Police have been undertaking a considerable amount of work in relation to CSE. The Board representative for Eastern BCU took on the role of the Chair of the CSE Strategic Group. The charity PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation) is promoted by SWP Child advocates. A Problem Profile was completed in autumn 2016 and it is intended to repeat this profile in autumn 2017.

Partner agencies have also produced literature for bespoke service groups who could be expected to identify CSE risks – such as taxi drivers and staff working in the evening and late night economy.

The RSCB are extremely proud of the achievements in terms of CSE to date and will ensure this work is continued.

b. Safeguarding Practice in Preventative Services

We acknowledge that during 2016-2017 this priority and our work in relation to neglect was deferred. During the Development Day in November 2016, it was felt that other priorities needed to take precedence in 2017-2018 however, neglect will feature as a priority on the Boards agenda.

c. RSCB Functions & Development Activity

As outlined in pages 5-7 above, the need for review and reform was recognised and addressed during 2016-17. The Board is now confident that it has the infrastructure, leadership, governance and planning arrangements in place to enable it to function much more effectively during the remainder of the current year and beyond.

Development Day

On 20th January 2017, members of the RSCB took part in a Development Day facilitated by Professor Jan Horwath, Emeritus Professor of Child Welfare in the Department of Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield, with aims to:

- Evaluate how effectively the Safeguarding Board provides strategic direction in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the region.
- Identify improvements the Board can make to focus, systems and processes.

There was much discussion during the day regarding priorities and focus of activity for the next business planning cycle. These discussions helped to inform the Annual Plan for 2017-2018.

Members of the Board also agreed that there was room for improvement in terms of the way in which the Main Board operates and how it engages with the Sub-Groups. Plans to ensure this happens have also been addressed in the Annual Plan for 2017-2018 and can be found on pages 5-7 in this report.

The Development Day provided a good opportunity for Board members to build effective working relationships, share good practice and establish what the priorities for the Board needed to be. This was a successful event and one that is already shaping the activity of the Board more effectively.

Meetings

During 2016-2017 there were three RSCB Main Board meetings held with one extraordinary Main Board meeting being held to discuss key priorities and Child Practice Reviews. The Executive Board met on 4 occasions. Across all meetings, there was good attendance from partners at all meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITY & OUR AGENDA

Other than those priorities set out in the 2016-2017 Annual Plan, a wide range of emergent issues also were considered and addressed at Board meetings.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

Kathryn Ashton of Public Health Wales presented a series of reports examining the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the Welsh population and their impact on health and well-being across the life course. The series includes reports on:

- The prevalence of ACEs with health-harming behaviours in the Welsh Adult population
 - The impact of ACEs on chronic ill-health, use of health and social care services and premature mortality in Welsh Adults
 - The impact of ACEs on mental well-being in Welsh Adults
- All C&V RSCB members were asked to compile a compendium of Early Intervention and Prevention services that each agency can contribute.

Partner agencies agreed to compile a compendium of Early Intervention and Prevention services that each agency currently delivers with a view to reviewing how these can be effectively aligned or developed to respond to the ACEs policy agenda.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

The important work on the IICSA was considered by the Board following the launch of its Wales operation in November 2016. Alys Jones (Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Review, Cardiff) updated the Board on the opening of a new office in Cardiff, with workshops being delivered and referrals being accepted. Members of the Board were asked to share the work of IICSA within their agencies.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

A report concerning the challenges associated with FGM was brought to the July 2016 meeting by Linda Hughes-Jones (Head of Safeguarding, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board). A presentation was then circulated to the Board in November 2016 by Karen Jewell to outline the All Wales position. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) training has been introduced in Midwifery and rolled out to other areas during 2016-17. The representative, who attends the Board from UK Visas and Immigration, Kala Smith, invited members to an open forum in 2017 to aid people in their understanding of FGM. Partner agencies agreed to ensure FGM was monitored and the

information provided shared among their agencies. There is an appropriate level of monitoring and an increasing level of intervention in relation to FGM in the region, and this is triggered principally within midwifery and other health service settings. That said, professionals are highly conscious of the hidden nature of this abuse and the need for continued vigilance and awareness raising.

Medical Illustration Process

The Medical Illustration Process protocol was shared with Board Members by Sheila Harrison (C&V UHB) in November 2016 with all members approving of the protocol and encouraging for this to move forward.

Modern Slavery

During 2016-2017 Modern Slavery became (and continues to be) a challenging agenda item for the Board, ensuring this is being monitored within all agencies. Modern Slavery, like trafficking is clearly one of the issues that crosses the boundary of both Boards and effective planning, coordination will require close collaboration across a wide range of adults, children's and community agencies and services. Work from the Wales Anti-Slavery Operation Delivery Group is regularly shared with members of the Board and the Business Manager attends meetings of the group as a representative from Cardiff and the Vale RSCB and RSA B.

Faith Sector

Early in 2017, plans were underway to strengthen the links between all agencies and the Faith Sector and in particular with Mosques and Muslim communities. A number of meetings were held with Muslim Council of Wales, Imams from a range of Mosques, Children Services, South Wales Police, Community and Cohesion Regional Team and the Youth Service. This led to the development of a Safeguarding Policy for Mosques and other Islamic settings. Planning has begun for an official launch of the final policy document during National Safeguarding Week 2017. The planning and preparation for this policy also ensured a training plan was developed. Training is scheduled to begin in September 2017 where the RSCB will provide training to all Mosques across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan on Safeguarding Children. The success of this engagement now provides a basis for engaging the communities in similar developments concerning adult safeguarding and this has been well received by local leaders.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS:

i. ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

As described in page 5-7 above, the RSAB is at an earlier stage in its development than the RSCB, and over the last year, work has been progressing on developing a robust and cohesive Adults board for the region.

Workshops

Board activity to date has included three workshops, which have developed the resilience of the Board and strengthened relationships amongst Board members, enabling it to agree main priorities for the next three years. The workshops were held on the 18.11.15; 11.03.16 and 22.06.16 and were facilitated by Professor Jan Horwath. Professor Jan Horwath has undertaken research in conjunction with many national and international agencies, and in Wales specifically she has undertaken work with the Welsh Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Social Services to support the transformation of safeguard effectiveness for children at board level and in relation to child protection planning in cases of chronic neglect.

Supported by Professor Jan Horwath's facilitation the Board considered the following issues:

- Understanding and strengthening Board and agency accountability
- Identifying and agreeing key areas priorities and exploring success and evaluation methods
- Developing a an initial three year implementation plan for the priorities identified

On analysing the outcomes of the three workshops facilitated by Professor Jan Horwath, it was agreed that the two main priorities for the RSA B for 2016-17 to 2019-20 (3-year business plan) would be Domiciliary Care and Nursing Homes and Dementia. Outlines of this can be seen in the RSA B 2017-2019 Annual Plan.

WORK OF THE SUB GROUPS:

Some of the work undertaken by individual Sub Groups is outlined below.

Training Sub Group

During the period and again as part of our governance review this sub group was combined as a shared function across both boards in order to enhance efficiency and coherent delivery.

Early in 2017, the Training Sub Group initiated a Training Mapping Exercise to find out what Training was being offered by individual agencies. This piece of work is ongoing into 2017-2018 and will help to identify any good practice but also any gaps that the Training Sub Group will need to identify. The request of the National Independent Safeguarding Board for data and intelligence about overall workforce resilience and expertise in terms of safeguarding, exposed some clear deficits in terms of the safeguarding community's ability to understand the needs of our workforce, either at an agency or regional level. This challenge is shared by the Regional Social Care Workforce Board with whom the Sub-group is now engaged.

Audit Sub Group

Boards are agreed that they each require a separate audit sub-group because of the need for attention to detailed issues of practice and a reliance on operational expertise relating to technical issues.

During the year 2016-2017, the RSCB Audit Sub group unfortunately did not meet although it has previously been highly active and effective in challenging agencies and playing a critical role in supporting the Director of Social Services in Cardiff in the Children's Services improvement journey. However, work was ongoing and our National Safeguarding Team representative, Alison Mott (Designated Doctor) led, coordinated and presented to Board the Multi agency re-audit into children who display sexually harmful behaviour. This provided the basis for improving practice in relation to Harmful sexual behaviour.

Communication and Engagement Sub Group

During the period, this sub group was combined as a shared function across both boards in order to enhance our ability to create and communicate a broad safeguarding narrative in respect of adults and children.

The Communication and Engagement Sub Group developed a communication strategy that was ready for use in 2016.

A Children's Safeguarding DVD was developed as a basis for awareness raising beyond the professional safeguarding community.

The Communication and Engagement Sub Group worked closely with Cardiff Web Team to update and redesign the original website and this was launched on 18th August 2016.

The Communication and Engagement Sub Group have since recognised that their work needs to be centred around the engagement of Children, Adults and their families and that will be incorporated into the Work Plan in 2017-2018.

CPR/ APR Sub Group

During the period and again as part of our governance review, this sub group was combined as a shared function across both boards. This was an area that suffered from ineffective leadership in relation to CPRs during the previous period and given the volume of referrals for CPRs in what is a large population area, this required review. It was seen as particularly important, that a common and disciplined approach to the way decisions are made to review any given case, how the review should be scoped, focused and conducted and who should undertake it, needed to be established in common. This takes account of the need in all cases, to adjust the expertise and professional input to ensure that any given case is considered comprehensively at an appropriate level of detail.

Since then, this Sub Group commissioned 3 out of 4 referrals for Child Practice Reviews with the remaining referral being reviewed via our MAPF process. The Sub Group have met on 4 occasions. The Terms of Reference were agreed in November 2016 and the Membership secured. There is a good representation of partner agencies on this Sub Group and all CPR panels convened in 2016 are working within particular timeframes. Links have been made with Welsh Government on a number of occasions as requested in SWBA Guidance to notify them of the CPRs commissioned and collaborative work has been underway with other Regional Boards to ensure a robust approach to the CPR Panel process. The CPR/ APR Sub Group acknowledge that work on Adult Practice Reviews is still in its infancy however, the Sub Group are already considering more referrals and we are confident that we can utilise the skills of our Sub Group members and other professionals to ensure an effective process is in process to manage these referrals.

In 2016-2017, the RSCB initiated a highly complex Multi-Agency Professional Forum (MAPF) for which the Board commissioned two independent reviewers. This MAPF resulted in a comprehensive piece of work being completed, including a robust action plan developed by the CSE Strategic Group.

MANAGING RESOURCES:

In 2016-2017, the Board agreed funding from all agencies and this was used to manage the business of the Board to include the following:

- Supporting Child and Adult Practice Review and MAPF processes – there were three Child Practice Reviews that were ongoing in 2016-2017 and one complex MAPF process (costs would include appointment of independent reviewers, resources provided, and facilitation of Learning Events etc.)
- Redesign of branding and website
- Development Day (venue, appointment of Professor Jan Horwath, refreshments etc.)
- Safeguarding Business Unit (SBU) staffing costs (to include Business Manager and interim admin support) and
- All administrative costs

COLLABORATION WORK:

Review of All Wales Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Procedures

Review of All Wales Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Procedures

We are pleased to be leading the review of the All Wales Adult and Child Protection Procedures and to be able to report that this is developing at an appropriate pace, with good support from colleague professionals across all agencies and regions.

Both the RSA B and RSCB work closely with a number of different areas to ensure effective functioning and the sharing of best practice.

Regional Safeguarding Boards

The Business Manager has already established close links with other Regional Safeguarding Boards via the All Wales Business Managers Group which meets bi-monthly, and with Welsh Government to ensure the sharing of good practice and All Wales initiatives.

Links have been made with Warwickshire Safeguarding Board in relation to a Child Practice Review process and these links are due to continue in 2017-2018 in readiness for the publication of a Child Practice Review Report.

National Independent Safeguarding Board

Simon Burch, a representative from the National Independent Safeguarding Board attends Board meetings on a quarterly basis and acts a point of contact for the RSA B and RSCB.

Welsh Government

Contact is made with Welsh Government on a regular basis to ensure they are updated on Child and Adult Practice Reviews as outlined in the SSWBA (2014). There are also links made during the bi-monthly meetings with Welsh Government and other Regional Board Business Managers.

CONTACT US:

Please contact the Safeguarding Business Unit for any additional information/ guidance via the following avenues:

Address:

Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

Room 342

County Hall

Cardiff

CF10 4UW



(02920) 871891

Email: CardiffandValeRSB@cardiff.gov.uk