
**ADULT SAFEGUARDING – CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN
REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19.**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with background information to inform their scrutiny of the Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2018 – 2019. This report provides: an overview of the duties regarding adult safeguarding, as set out by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014; an overview of the Regional Safeguarding Adults Board; and a copy of the *Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2018/19*, attached at **Appendix A**.

Overview of Adult Safeguarding

2. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (hereafter referred to as the Act) sets out the duties and responsibilities for local authorities and relevant partner organisations¹ with regard to safeguarding. Part 7 of the Act details the specific duties and requirements regarding safeguarding. Other parts of the Act also apply to safeguarding cases, such as the overarching duty to promote well-being, to have regard to people’s individuality, dignity and views, and support them to participate including considering whether advocacy support is necessary. Practitioners must also have regard to the United Nations Principles for Older

¹ The Act defines relevant partners as the police, other local authorities, probation, local health boards and NHS trusts.

Persons, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, as well as the European Convention of Human Rights.

3. The Act sets out a new pathway for adult safeguarding which includes:
- A new definition of an adult at risk
 - A new duty for all relevant partners to report an adult at risk
 - A new duty for a local authority to make enquiries if it has reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) is an adult at risk.

Adults Pathway



4. The **new definition of 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 authority is meeting any of those needs).
 - As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

5. Abuse and neglect include :

Abuse and neglect

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Financial
- Neglect
 - Taking place in any setting

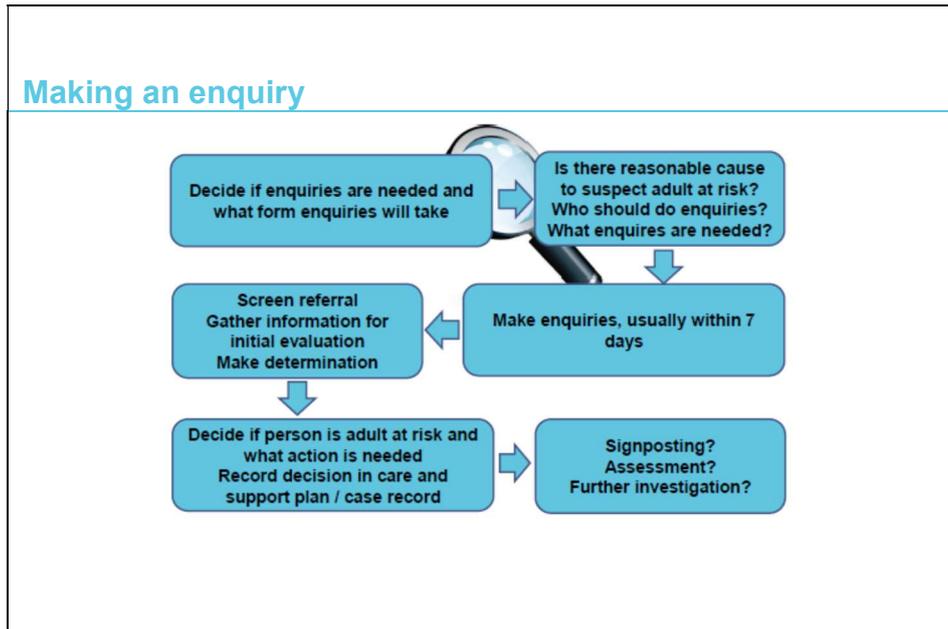
- Violent offences
- Sexual offences
- Property offences
- Hate crime
- Exploitation



6. The **new duty to report an adult at risk** requires relevant partners that have reasonable cause to suspect that a person is an adult at risk and appears to be within the authority's area, or within another local authority's area, to inform the local authority of that fact. Information must be shared in accordance with the 'Welsh Accord for the Sharing of Personal Information' (WASPI). This accord clarifies that organisations should share the minimum necessary information on a need-to-know basis with the person's consent, but can share without consent where there is a risk of abuse or serious harm to themselves, or others.

7. The **duty for local authorities to make enquiries** applies if a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) is an adult at risk. The local authority must:

- Make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken (whether under this Act or otherwise) and, if so, what and by whom.
- Decide whether any such action should be taken.



8. Enquiries must start with the person’s wishes, feelings, views and needs. However, practitioners should consider whether coercion or intimidation is being used to persuade the person to refuse to participate. Practitioners must also consider mental capacity and must consider advocacy. Enquiries end with a determination about what is needed next, which may be a formal investigation or a criminal investigation or, where the adult is not at risk, signposting, information or assessment. The decision must be recorded in the care and support plan if there is one, or on the case record if not. Enquiries should be completed within seven working days of a local authority being notified.

Overview of Regional Safeguarding Adults Boards

9. The Act established Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales. A range of statutory agencies are represented on Boards, including health, probation, the

police and local authorities. Regulations of the Act stipulate a Safeguarding Adults Board to cover the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan region.

10. Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board is a multi-agency partnership comprising of statutory, independent and charitable organisations who work together to safeguard adults and children from abuse. There are two 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.

11. The Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) was established in 2015 as a result of merging two separate safeguarding boards that covered the regions of Cardiff and the Vale respectively. The role of the RSAB is to ensure the effective coordination of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of local adults who may be at risk of abuse and neglect within the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan area. The Board aims to promote awareness and understanding of abuse and neglect among service users, carers, professionals, care providers and the wider community and works to generate community interest and engagement to ensure that safeguarding is “Everyone’s Business”.

12. The main objectives of the Board, as outlined in the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 are:

- To protect adults within its area who have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs) and are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- To prevent those adults within its area mentioned above, from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2018-2019

13. Each year, the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Adults Board publishes its annual reports setting out its progress, achievements and forthcoming priorities. The Board's 2018-2019 Annual report is **attached at Appendix A.**

The report sets out:

- What is Safeguarding (page 5)
- Introduction
 - I. What are the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Boards? (page 6)
 - ii. Annual Report (page 7)
- Membership (pages 10 – 11)
- Meetings and Attendance (page 13)
- Safeguarding Adults
 - I. Identified priorities (page 20)
 - II. Addressing the priorities (page 20 – 21)
 - III. Other Activity and Our Agenda (pages 22-23)
- Collaboration Work
 - I. Adults and Children Safeguarding Agenda (pages 24-27)
 - II. Work of the Sub Group (pages 27-37)
 - III. Collaboration work with other Safeguarding Boards and the Welsh Government (page 37)
- Managing Resources – Budget & Expenditure (pages 28 – 40)

15. As set out in the Annual Report, the Board has identified the following priorities for the year ahead:

- Domiciliary and Care Home Sector
- Workforce

16. Under each headlined priority, a number of actions have also been agreed:

- **Domiciliary and Care Home Sector**

- I. Domiciliary and Care Home Forums;
- II. Aligning the two local authorities care provider protocols;
- III. CIW Inspection Reports taken to the Board on an exception basis;
- IV. Increased engagement and involvement with people who hold care and support needs
- V. Develop advocacy arrangements

- **Workforce**

- I. Development of policies and procedures for workforce responsibilities
- II. Multi-agency training

Scope of Scrutiny

17. Members may wish to review and assess the Board's identified priorities and how it plans to address them and pass on any comments or recommendations to the Co-Chair of the Board, Claire Marchant and Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being Cllr Susan Elsmore.

Way Forward

18. Members are invited to consider the information set out in the attached report at **Appendix A**, and identify any issues they wish to receive further information on.
19. Councillor Susan Elsmore (Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being) has been invited and may wish to make a statement. Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services and Co-Chair of the Regional Safeguarding Board and Kate Bishop, Safeguarding Services Manager have also been invited to take Members through the Annual report.

Legal Implications

20. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

21. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Consider the contents of the Regional Safeguarding Annual Report attached at **Appendix A** and provide the Cabinet Member and Director of Social Services with any comments, concerns or observations.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

5 September 2019