
**ADULT SAFEGUARDING – CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN
REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 &
ANNUAL PLAN 2020-21**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with background information to inform their scrutiny of the Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2019–2020 & Annual Plan 2020-21. This cover 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 Board; a copy of the *Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2019-20*, attached at **Appendix A**; and a copy of the *Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Plan 2020-21* attached at **Appendix B**.
2. Members are advised that during 2019-2020, the Adult Safeguarding Board and Children Safeguarding Board developed into a combined, safeguarding people partnership with joint and integrated work between the boards being completely embedded into the Boards' structure and agenda under the chairpersonship of 'CoChairs' who share responsibility for both Boards.
3. Members are reminded that both the Annual Report and Annual Plan attached to this report combine the work of both adults & children safeguarding and it is the work pertaining to adults which falls into the remit of this Committee.

Overview of Adult Safeguarding

4. 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 Persons, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, as well as the European Convention of Human Rights.
5. The Act set 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 set by The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014



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


6. 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.

7. Abuse and neglect include:

Abuse and neglect

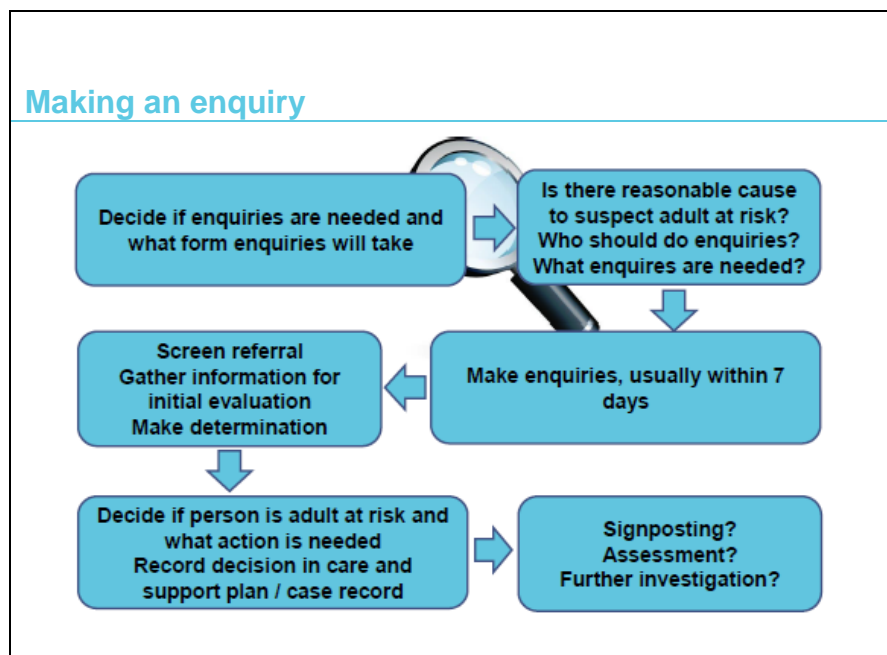
- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Financial
- Neglect
 - Taking place in any setting

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

A photograph showing the back of a person with curly hair sitting in a black wheelchair. They are wearing a colorful striped sweater. They are in a garden with a gravel path, green hedges, and trees in the background.

7. 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.

8. 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.



9. 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 Board

10. The Act established Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales. A range of statutory agencies are represented on the Boards, including health, probation, the police and local authorities.
11. 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.
12. The Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) was established in 2015 as a result of merging two separate safeguarding adults' 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.
13. The main objectives of the Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Adults 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 or other kinds of harm.
14. 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. As detailed at the start of this cover report, and as reflected in the Appendices, there is now greater focus on the two boards working together.

15. A diagram detailing the structure of Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board is attached at **Appendix C**. As detailed in the diagram, the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board is driven forward by a number of sub groups.

Collaboration

16. Both the Adult and Children Regional Safeguarding Boards work closely with a number of different organisations to ensure effective functioning and share best practice.

- I. All Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales meet regularly to share good practice and discuss areas for development.
- II. A key figure of the National Independent Safeguarding Board will sit on a Regional Board on a quarterly basis and acts as a point of contact between all parties.
- III. Both regional boards work closely with the Welsh Government via regular briefing meetings.

17. During September 2019, CASSC Members received a briefing note detailing Cardiff's partnership delivery. The note advised that at present (September 2019) there were no set links between the Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB), Public Service Board (PSB) and Regional Partnership Board (RPB) but there is work ongoing looking at implementing a framework between the RSAB and other boards. It is also to note that some of the RSAB Members also sit on either the PSB or RPB.

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2019-2020

18. Each year, the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board publishes its Annual Report setting out its progress, achievements and forthcoming priorities. The Board's 2019-2020 Annual report is attached at **Appendix A**.

The Annual report sets out:

- Overview of the Regional Safeguarding Board Duties & Responsibilities (page 4)
- Regional Safeguarding Board Structure (page 5)
- Board Membership (pages 6 – 7)
- Member Attendance & Contribution (pages 8 – 11)
- Annual Plan Implementation
 - I. Achieving the Outcomes (page 12)
 - II. Priority One: Workforce & Practice (pages 13 - 14)
 - III. Priority Two: Rights, Values & Voice of the Person (pages 15 – 18)
 - IV. Priority Three: Independent Provider Sector (page 19)
- Other Activity and Board Development
 - I. Work of the CPR & APR Sub Group (pages 20-25)
 - II. Training, Section 137 Request for Information & Adult Protection Support Orders (page 26)
 - III. Other Achievements of the Board (pages 27 – 29)
 - IV. Wales Safeguarding Procedures (page 30)
 - V. Other Areas & Hot Topics (pages 31 – 34)
- Collaboration Work (pages 35 – 36)
- Managing Resources (page 37)

19. Attached at **Appendix B** is the Cardiff & Vale Safeguarding Board Annual Plan 2020-21 which sets out the key priorities for the Board, and how they intend on achieving the priorities during the 2020-21 financial year. The priorities identified are:

- Workforce & Practice
- Rights Values & Voice of the Person
- Strengthening Links & Contextual Safeguarding

Scope of Scrutiny

20. Members are invited to review and assess the work of the Board during 2019-20 and its identified priorities and how it plans to address them and pass on any comments or recommendations to the Co-Chair of the Board, Sarah

McGill and Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Well-being Cllr
Susan Elsmore.

Legal Implications

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

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 Annual Plan attached at **Appendix B** and provide the Cabinet Member and officers with any comments, concerns or observations.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

29 October 2020