

# Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE) Cardiff



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd  
Working for Cardiff, working together

# Contextual Safeguarding in a Welsh Context

- Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014: Working Together to Safeguard People. Volume 7 – Safeguarding Children from Exploitation
- Issued under section 28 of the Children Act 2004 and section 139 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrined in the Rights of Children & Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Boards TACKLING EXPLOITATION STRATEGY



# The Issues

- Increase in young people being exploited, particular rise in criminal exploitation
- A need to broaden current exploitation response wider than Child Sexual Exploitation
- Increase incidents of violence that has caused harm to others across the City
- Increase in young people being involved in criminal activity
- The need to manage 'gang' and serious youth violence across the city differently and its repercussions to others
- Organised Crime prevalence for drug supply within Cardiff and identification of County Lines however this isn't well understood
- Increased risks to parents, wider families and staff
- Lack of mechanisms to effectively share information and intelligence above individual case management in order to understanding the broader issues and needs.
- Gaps in knowledge in order to best support children who are being exploited i.e managing debt
- Need to work more effectively across the Council, Police and Partners to effectively disrupt exploitation above case management
- Missing Young People



# 1. Identification of Risk

## SAFE Exploitation Screening Tool - Requires a partnership approach

Supports the identification of child exploitation across the partnership including across Directorates  
This includes capturing concerns where there is evidence, indicators and on “gut feelings”

### Single gateway for referrals:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Supports targeted early help
- Daily case discussions on police intelligence
- Case management decisions within existing CS teams
- Application of SAFE screening tool

### Increasing connectivity of other existing mechanisms to identify risk – this includes but not limited to

- NRM (County Lines/ Trafficking)
- Missing notifications
- Risk Management Panel (YJS)
- MAPPA
- Early Help
- Community Safety



# 3. Contextual Safeguarding – A community response

## SAFE Locality Operational Group seeks to...

### Phase 1

- Intends to address the gap above individual case management
- Provides a birds eye view of the threat/issues/risk across the city
- Plan a multi-agency response to identify and disrupt contextual safeguarding risks in our communities
- Develop robust locality partnership action plans to develop intelligence, pursue and prosecute perpetrators and disrupt exploitation activity
- Build relationships with a wide range of professionals outside of traditional processes
- Identify and share intelligence relating to;
  - peer networks
  - locations that pose a risk to children
  - potentially harmful adults
- Conduct mapping around children and identify others who may be at risk (but not yet open to services)
- Work closely with community members to increase the awareness of exploitation risks and how to keep safe
- Explore ways in which we can enhance prevention and early intervention in order to build safe communities at the earliest opportunity

### Phase 2

- Ensure effective support and safeguarding for children transitioning into adulthood between ages 18 to 25. Exploitation can affect vulnerable adults equally and it is important there is an effective and robust information sharing



# What we are learning from the SAFE Operational Groups

- Huge partnership interest and buy in
- Improved multi-agency relationships, communication and information sharing
- Lots already happening in communities to safeguard, prevent and disrupt
- Importance of information sharing and communal learning
- Themes and trends move at pace, regular updates and communication is needed
- Risks to and impact for young people, families and communities is increasing
- Gained a good understanding of the current risks, what is happening to address them and what we need to do
- Identified connections – for those at risk and those perpetrating
- Increased understanding of indicators
- Increased understanding of the need for early intervention



# 5. Early Thematics – SAFE Operational Group North Pilot

**Out of 30 children/young people identified in North Locality**

**Age range 11- 18, most commonly 14-17**

- 43% are either on Statement, or School Action/School Action plus. *National average 4.3% (Wales, 2018)*
- 77% have less than 80% school attendance
- 7% are permanently excluded from education, 30% have been excluded for fixed terms
- 37% have a red VAP Education rating
- 37% are recorded as Child Exploitation, 40% as Child Sexual Exploitation and 4% as both
- 33% are known to YJS, of these 40% are on Prevention Orders, with the remaining 60% split between Rehabilitation, Youth Restorative Justice, S91 license, Detention, Referral Order and Awaiting Order.
- Where drug use is identified, all but one have declined substance misuse intervention – significant unmet need
- If involved in potential dealing / drug running they are also taking drugs
- 50% have missing episodes
- Only 16% live with their parents, all but one are living with mother rather than both parents. (All others in residential, foster care or prison – due to exploitation or parenting or both).
- Majority males. All the females are due to CSE. Recent pattern of CE concerns being identified in girls from connections to males
- District and postcode orientated violence – what is the driver? Drugs or locations



## 7. SAFE Learning and next steps

Ensure intel systems are in place operationally and strategically to report on and shape practice and policy

Training cohort of Social Care professionals / Management / OM

SAFE Family Conference Pilot with 5 families – police agreement required

Intel Analyst required to support SAFE model

Strengthen Early Prevention identification and response with VPU and partners

Comms and awareness raising with partners and communities

Explore how SAFE can expand to 18-25 and link with Human Trafficking MARAC

Continually seek to bridge the gap between NRM devolved panel and SAFE

The links between missing and exploitation and responding



**Any Questions?**

