



**Diogelu Gwent
Gwent Safeguarding**

**GWENT
SAFEGUARDING
STRATEGIC PLAN
2018-2019**



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INTRODUCTION

This is the first strategic plan across Gwent which has been produced to cover the work of both the Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GwASB) and the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB). In previous years each Board had produced a three year strategic plan which included overarching priorities and a detailed annual work plan for each area of business.

This year, in order to achieve a level of consistency across Wales, a decision was taken to amalgamate the individual plans and produce one strategic plan for the region. Two of the four strategic priorities were shared across the Boards, and in line with the Welsh Government and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, published guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard People' Volume 1, it was decided that the prescribed information would be better placed in a single document which covered the one year period as required. We have reviewed our information from previous plans and reports carefully during this process to ensure a continuity of work across the region. We hope that our new format will re-align the work of both Boards and also achieve some consistency of reporting across Wales.

The Gwent region incorporates Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Local Authorities. The Regional Safeguarding Boards have been in existence since 2011 for GwASB and 2013 for SEWSCB. These regional arrangements replaced the previous Area Adult Protection Committees and Local Children Safeguarding Boards.

The Chairs of both Boards are Directors of Social Services in the Region. They are actively supported by Vice Chairs who come from the Local University Health Board and local authority Children's Services.

Our Plan has been produced in conjunction with Board members and a wide range of stakeholders, professionals and volunteers who contribute to the work of the Board, through the sub groups, task and finish groups and our Local Safeguarding Network Practitioner Forums.



Keith Rutherford
Chief Officer Social Services
Torfaen



Damien McCann
Director of Social Services
Blaenau Gwent

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

The Welsh Government” Working Together to Safeguard People Guidance” Volume 1 states that the objectives of a Safeguarding Children Board are:

- a) To protect children within its area who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- b) To prevent children within its area from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

The objectives of a Safeguarding Adults Board are:

- a) To protect adults within its area who -
 - (i) Have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 - (ii) Are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect
- b) To prevent those adults within its area mentioned in paragraph (a) (i) becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

In order to achieve these objectives both Boards have agreed a vision statement, which ensures that when we do business we are clear about our purpose and goals:

The Vision of SEWSCB is:

All children and young people in South East Wales are protected from abuse and neglect, live in safe homes and communities and are supported to achieve their full potential.

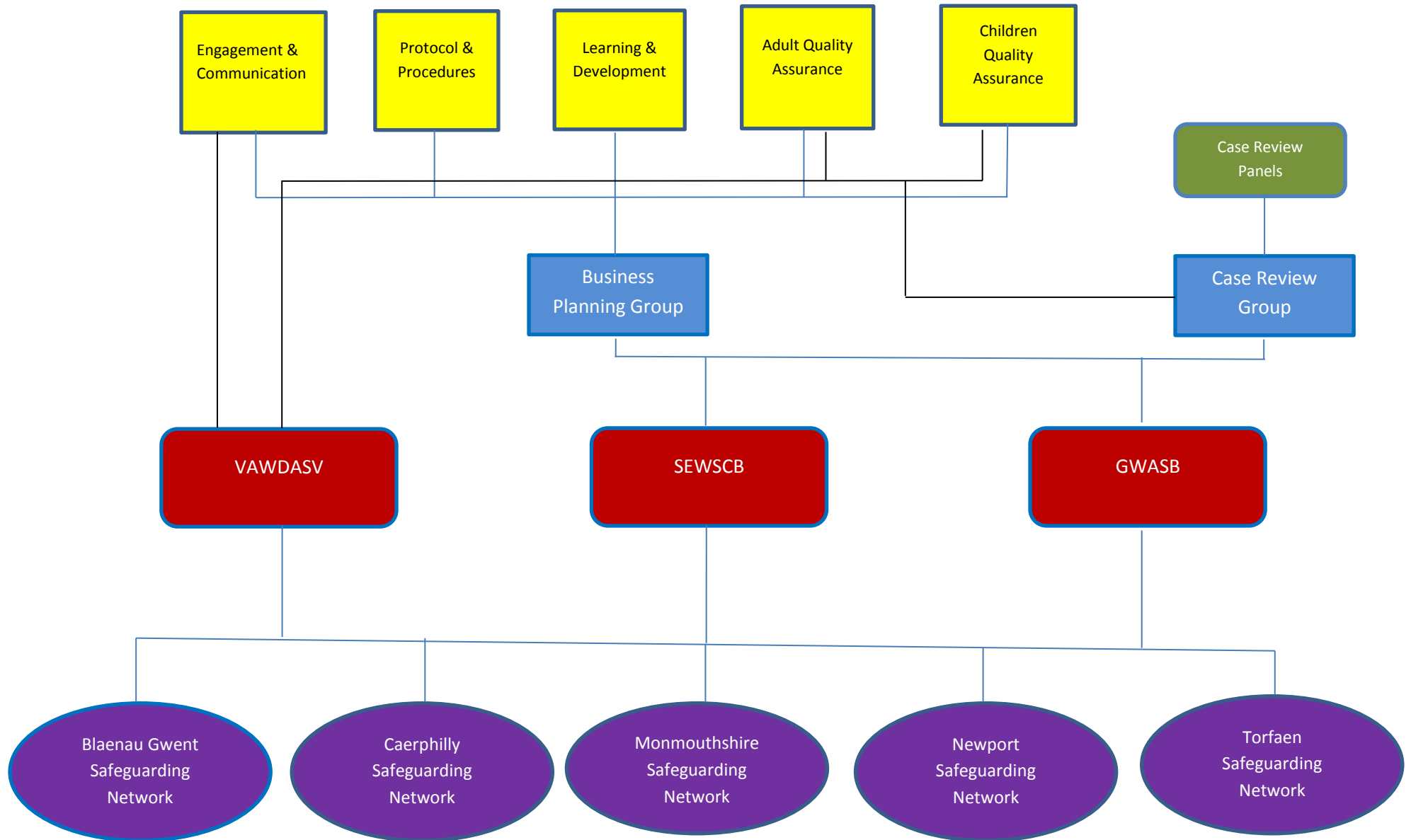
The Vision of GwASB is:

We protect adults who have care and support needs, and are experiencing or are at risk of, abuse and neglect. We work to prevent further adults across Gwent from becoming at risk of abuse and neglect

It is the role of both boards to set the strategic direction of safeguarding, including policy direction and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding within agencies across the region. Boards commission practice reviews and disseminate learning to practitioners which ensures that local learning is widely known and that safeguarding is high on the agenda at all levels of the workforce.

HOW DO THE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS WORK?

Regional Strategic Safeguarding Structure



The above diagram illustrates the structure of the safeguarding Boards and their sub groups. It also includes the regional Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board. This is a pilot in the Gwent region and both safeguarding Boards work collaboratively with partners, offering support to ensure that this regional Board works effectively across the region too.

A number of our sub groups report to both Boards, at this point in time our Quality Assurance groups are still separated as the issues each deals with are very different. In order to provide assurance to Board members that we are examining practice at the correct levels we have no plans to combine these two groups just yet.

Our Local Safeguarding Networks meet every two months. Their purpose is to make sure that we maintain a local connection to the regional Boards. This was deemed important by Board members when local boards were regionalised.

In addition, every six months the Local Safeguarding Network Forums provide the opportunity for a range of multi agency practitioners to come together to network and receive information on topics relevant to the locality and their safeguarding work. These forums have proved very popular and an excellent way of keeping staff and volunteers involved in the work of the Boards. They have also given us the opportunity to consult with practitioners on a variety of topics which in turn informs Board members.

WHO ARE THE BOARD MEMBERS?

Membership

The membership of each Board is as follows:

SOUTH EAST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEMBERSHIP	
Damien McCann Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Chair	Director of Social Services
Gareth Jenkins Caerphilly Social Services Vice Chair	Head of Children's Services
Tanya Evans Chris Bradley Blaenau Gwent Social Services	Head of Children's Services Service Manager
Nicola Barrett Caerphilly Social Services	Service Manager
Jane Rodgers Diane Corrister Monmouthshire Social Services	Head of Children's Services Safeguarding Manager
Sally Jenkins Mary Ryan Newport Social Services	Head of Children's Services Safeguarding Manager
Jason O'Brien Deborah Davies Torfaen Social Services	Head of Children's Services Group Manager Safeguarding
Lin Slater Ann Hamlet Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	Assistant Director of Nursing Head of Safeguarding
Dr Aideen Naughton Kathy Ellaway Public Health Wales	Designated Doctor, Safeguarding Children Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children
Nikki Harvey Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	Safeguarding Lead Officer
Leanne Brustad Gwent Police	Detective Superintendent
Dermot McChrystal Torfaen Education	Head of Education
Nic Davies National Probation Service Wales	Head of Gwent Local Delivery Unit

**SOUTH EAST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
MEMBERSHIP**

Giles Mason HMP Usk / Prescoed	Governor
Diana Binding Community Rehabilitation Company	Assistant Chief Executive
Michaela Rogers Youth Offending Services	Service Manager
Liz Baker Barnardos Cymru	Assistant Director of Children's services
Bethan Manners Legal Services	Senior Solicitor
Ian Bakewell Monmouthshire Housing	Housing Manager
Peter Kennedy Torfaen Voluntary Alliance	Senior Executive Officer
Martin Featherstone GAVO	Chief Executive Officer
Liz Evans Bron Afon Housing Association	Head of Housing
Eleri Thomas Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Deputy Commissioner
Mel Roach Kelly Richards and Steve Berry SEWSCB Business Unit	Business Unit Manager Development Officer x 2

GWENT WIDE SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Keith Rutherford Torfaen County Borough Council Chair	Director of Social Services
Lin Slater Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vice Chair	Assistant Director of Nursing
Alyson Hoskins Blaenau Gwent Social Services	Head of Adult Services
Christopher Bradley	Chair of Blaenau Gwent Local Safeguarding Network
Jo Williams Caerphilly Social Services	Head of Adult Services
Nicola Barrett	Chair of Caerphilly Local Safeguarding Network
Julie Boothroyd Monmouthshire Social Services	Head of Adult Services
Ian Bakewell	Local Authority Housing Representative
Chris Humphrey Newport Social Services	Head of Adult Services
Mary Ryan	Chair of Newport Local Safeguarding Network
Gill Pratlett Torfaen Social Services	Head of Adult Services
Deborah Davies	Chair of Torfaen Local Safeguarding Network
Dr Nigel Farr Public Health Wales	Designated Doctor, Safeguarding
Nikki Harvey Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	Safeguarding Lead Officer
Leanne Brustad Gwent Police	Detective Superintendent
Steve Bartley	Office of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Kay Galvin South Wales Fire Service	Head of Education
Nic Davies Heather Nicholls	Head of Gwent Local Delivery Unit Deputy Head Gwent Local Delivery Unit

GWENT WIDE SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD MEMBERSHIP

National Probation Service Wales	
Giles Mason HMP Usk / Prescoed	Governor
Diana Binding Community Rehabilitation Company	Assistant Chief Executive
Rebecca Haycock VAWDASV	Regional Advisor
Victoria Hiscocks Derwen Cymru	Director
Peter Kennedy Torfaen Voluntary Alliance	Senior Executive Officer
Martin Featherstone Louise George GAVO	Chief Executive Officer Facilitator
Eleri Thomas Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Deputy Commissioner
Mel Roach Stephen Berry and Kelly Richards Regional Safeguarding Business Unit	Business Unit Manager Development Officer x 2

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIC PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF THE BOARDS?

In order to combine the previous strategic plans of both safeguarding Boards we undertook work with Board members, sub group members and practitioners to establish our current position in relation to our work plans and agree a baseline. Our completed work items and progress to date will be reported as required to Welsh Government in our next Annual Report 2017 to 2018.

Whilst completing this work we established an emerging key theme which has influenced the strategic direction of our work in the coming year, 2018 to 2019. We examined how our work has changed over the past year and the type of work which was most prevalent in essential services provided by all partners.

From this work we established that **resilience** was a key to all of the work streams that we need to prioritise this year. Research has provided information about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and how being subject to a number of these can affect individuals throughout their lives, it became apparent that all of the work we are involved with could be linked back to a lack of resilience at various points in life, this is especially prevalent when it is coupled with the additional complication of poor emotional and mental health.

We know that for young people breaking the cycle from ACE's relies on the building blocks of resilience which include one or more stable, caring child adult relationships, being equipped to manage your own behaviour, feeling you can overcome hardship and guide your destiny, and being involved and connected. All of our work with children and young people promotes and encourages these elements, hopefully to build and support resilience as our children and young people mature into adulthood.

Our work with adults seeks to maintain and support resilience through times of difficulty, vulnerability and crisis. This is also true of the work we undertake with the older members of society where we seek to promote their independence and maintain their resilience through a number of, sometimes unintended, lifestyle changes.

In order to quantify the work undertaken to build, improve and maintain resilience in our population and for the purposes of this plan we have broken our work streams down to cover the following strategic priority objectives which are linked to each individual Board, and one that is shared by both.

South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board

- Reducing the effects of compromised parenting on children's well-being
- Improving our work with adolescents who exhibit risky behaviours

Gwent wide Adult safeguarding Board

- Targeting interventions towards adults who are at risk of specific types of abuse
- Improving the Quality of Residential Care across the region

Both Boards

- Improving the effectiveness of the Regional Safeguarding Boards

In order to identify what needs to improve to achieve each of these priority objectives we have produced a summary of actions that will be implemented by the sub groups of the Boards.

We will ensure that detailed work plans are produced for, and owned by, these sub groups and these will form the basis of our reporting framework in next years Annual Report. These work plans will include detailed actions and chart progress by each of the groups, enabling us to quantify the work as it is completed and allowing a 'smarter' reporting process.

Our summary of actions for each work stream has been included as the next part of our plan to illustrate what we intend to do and how we plan to do it. A short narrative explanation of why these priorities were chosen has also been included.

SUMMARY OF OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND HOW WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE THEM

South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB)

Strategic Priority 1 – Reducing the Effects of Compromised Parenting on children’s well-being

Outline of Need: Many children are adversely affected by living in homes where capacity to parent effectively is compromised. South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board has learned that many children and young people are frightened, worried or harmed by their parent's illness or behaviour. Examples of this include neglect, social exclusion, domestic abuse, mental illness and substance misuse. This severely affects the resilience of children and young people. Current data, case audit and case reviews show that these issues are present in a high number of cases in which children have been seriously injured or died as a consequence of abuse and/or neglect. There are emotional and physical consequences of compromised parenting which can be indicators of distress and harm for children. Therefore, it is the intention of the SEWSCB to prioritise the Effects of Compromised Parenting this year, aligning priorities in accordance to local evidence and demonstrating consistent improvements within this key safeguarding area.

Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators?	Sub-Group Lead
Neglect	A fully reviewed, revised and re-launched Neglect Protocol which reflects the Neglect Audit findings.	Revised Neglect Protocol will assist in the early identification and better management of cases where children are at risk of this type of abuse.	Protocols & Procedures Group
Neglect	An audit of neglect cases is undertaken as outlined in our Quality Assurance framework and the results fed into the Quality Assurance	A fully reviewed, revised and re-launched child protection planning training package and guidance document in light of the learning from	Learning & Development Group

	Group for analysis	<p>this audit.</p> <p>Training and guidance will reflect the learning from this audit and make clear the roles and responsibilities of core groups and members</p>	<p>Protocols & Procedures Group</p> <p>Quality Assurance & Performance Group</p>
Emotional Abuse	To ensure Board representation on the VAWDASV Board and sub-groups. Information about this work is included in the Quality Assurance framework	Ensure Board members act as both safeguarding and VAWDASV champions within regional and local forums to ensure that work programmes reflect the need to safeguard children	<p>Board Members</p> <p>Quality Assurance & Performance Group</p>
Emotional Abuse	Business Planning Group to establish examples of best practice across region and to work with Safeguarding Networks to disseminate to front line practitioners	Emotional abuse workshop topics to be presented to SEWSCB and local Safeguarding Networks	<p>Board members</p> <p>Local Safeguarding Networks</p>

Strategic Priority 2 – Improving Our Work with Adolescents who Exhibit Risky Behaviour

Outline of Need: Adolescence has long been considered as a period of increased risky behaviour. South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board has learned from local Child Practice Review findings, that risky behaviours can be identified as going missing, online risk-taking, self harm and/or suicide getting involved in anti social/criminal behaviour and drug and/or alcohol misuse. Research suggests that risk behaviours tend to ‘cluster’ and participation in multiple risky behaviours can be associated with lack of resilience resulting in a range of negative outcomes such as low educational attainment, being bullied, emotional health problems and exploitation. When we talked to young people we found they were worried about risky on-line behaviours and wanted more information to help keep them safe.

Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators?	Sub-Group Lead
CSE	For there to be a review of the existing quality assurance processes which operate on a local level.	To develop / introduce more robust systems to ensure a consistent standard of analysis and review to ensure that learning from audit impacts on practice	Quality Assurance & Performance Group
CSE	SEWSCB to ensure that all elements of the National CSE Action Plan are fully actioned. The Board should monitor progress of the implementation against the plan.	SESCB members are fully appraised of progress and can direct services to ensure compliance	Local Safeguarding Networks SEWSCB members

Exploitation	SEWSCB to consider how CSE victim mapping can be taken forward regionally and building on local mapping activity.	The commissioning of regional CSE victim mapping through MASE meetings. This will need to be Police-led given the link to existing victim-mapping activities within the Missing Team.	MASE Meetings – Reporting into Business Planning Group
Exploitation	Local Safeguarding Networks to identify key issues for children and young people in their area and recommend priority themes for future focus.	The implementation of a regional action plan, which will be developed as a result of the priority themes and will inform the work plan of the relevant sub groups	Local Safeguarding Networks
Online Risky Behaviours	Raise awareness of internet safety identified by SEWSCB engagement with children and young people, parents and carers and professionals	Information is disseminated through SEWSCB agencies and local safeguarding networks and website	Local Safeguarding Networks
			Engagement & Communication group
			Learning & Development group
Substance Misuse	Raise awareness of the level of substance misuse amongst young people and the links between substance misuse as a grooming tool and precursor to exploitation vulnerabilities.	Business Planning group to establish baseline information with regard to young people's substance misuse in each locality and use information to raise awareness and target preventative services	Local safeguarding Networks
			Engagement & Communication Group
Young Peoples Mental Health and Wellbeing	Raise awareness of mental health concerns and the links to vulnerabilities of young people in relation to maintaining their wellbeing	To raise awareness of the links between vulnerable young people and mental health issues. Increase the delivery of training around prevention of suicide and self harm	Learning and Development group
			Local Safeguarding Networks

Gwent-wide Safeguarding Adult Board (GwASB)

Strategic Priority 1 – Targeting Interventions towards Adults who are at risk of Specific Types of Abuse

Outline of Need: Many adults are adversely affected by a number of different types of abuse. Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board has learned that many adults are frightened, worried or harmed by the behaviour of others. Examples of this include neglect, domestic abuse, financial abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and sometimes sexual abuse. This severely affects a person’s ability to maintain resilience, thus reducing protective factors in their lives. Current data, case audit and case reviews show that these issues are present in a high number of cases in which adults have been seriously injured or died as a consequence of abuse and/or neglect. There are emotional and physical consequences of abuse and neglect, which can be indicators of distress and harm in adults. Therefore, it is the intention of GwASB to prioritise specific types of abuse this year, aligning priorities in accordance to local evidence, the ACE’s agenda and promoting resilience, thereby demonstrating consistent improvements within this key safeguarding area.

Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators?	Sub-Group Lead
Neglect	A comprehensive regional data set to establish a base line of neglect cases dealt with by adult protection teams	Neglect data from each local authority area collated to establish the prevalence of cases in the region	Quality Assurance and Performance Group
Neglect	To develop a set of comprehensive guidelines for practitioners to equip them to recognise and address issues concerning neglect in adults in need of care and	The guidelines are produced, endorsed by GwASB and disseminated amongst professionals The information included in the neglect	Protocols & Procedures Group

	support, both in the community and care settings	guidelines should be included in the training packages available for professionals working with adults	Learning & Development Group
Neglect	To raise awareness with the public of neglect cases that may be occurring in the community or care settings and encourage concerns to be reported	A campaign to raise awareness of the dangers associated with neglect of adults, to include information about how and where to report concerns	Engagement and Communication Group
Financial Abuse	To work closely with adult protection teams and Gwent Police colleagues to establish the extent of reported financial abuse across the region	To highlight the levels of financial abuse to professionals	Quality Assurance & Performance Group
Financial Abuse	Decide on a range of measures to be taken to tackle financial abuse in the community and help individuals remain safe. Gather information about the frequency of Lasting Power of Attorney across the region.	Raising awareness of varying examples of financial abuse with professionals and citizens across Gwent. Supporting individuals to tackle this type of abuse from carers, relatives and people in the community	Quality Assurance & Performance Group
			Engagement & Communication group
Financial Abuse	Business Planning Group to establish examples of best practice when dealing with financial abuse across region and to work with Safeguarding Networks to disseminate to front line practitioners	Financial abuse workshop topics to be presented to GwASB and local Safeguarding Networks	GwASB
			Local Safeguarding Networks

Strategic Priority 2 – Improving the Quality of Care

Outline of Need: GwASB has acknowledged that the quality of care provided to our most needy groups has long been the highest priority for the range of multi agency service providers across Gwent. In recent years the Dr. Flynn report “In Search of Accountability” has particular resonance across the region. Much activity has taken place including audits, awareness raising and ‘mapping and gapping’ work to benchmark and improve outcomes for adults in residential settings. We are mindful that we need to maintain and support resilience in people to achieve best outcomes in all care settings including those in domiciliary care settings too. This can prove to be a difficult area of work to address but GwASB has agreed the following priority outcomes in order to begin to take forward this agenda along with the existing priorities in residential settings. Work will commence on the following priority areas this year aligning priorities in accordance to local evidence and demonstrating consistent improvements within this key safeguarding area.

Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators?	Sub-Group Lead
Consistent Level of Intervention	Establish a baseline for safeguarding intervention across the region in residential care	Collation of information and data about adult protection concerns to establish base line	Quality Assurance & Performance Group
Consistent Level of Intervention	Develop a guidance document across all Local Authority areas to ensure consistency of approach when making interventions	Guidance for professionals is produced which includes information about when safeguarding concerns require an intervention	Protocols & Procedures Group
Consistent Level of Intervention	Guidance document is used across the region as part of everyday practice	Guidance document is agreed by GwASB and disseminated to professionals Information about the levels of intervention is included in all GwASB agreed training modules	GwASB
			Local Safeguarding Networks
			Learning & Development Group

Consistent Levels of Intervention	GwASB approved training for practitioners working with adults in residential, domiciliary and community care provided across the region	The current GwASB approved modules of training are reviewed and revised to include the guidance on consistent intervention	Learning & Development Group
Consistent Levels of Intervention	GwASB approved modules of training are delivered in a co-ordinated way to care providers	The 'delivery group' model used in Children's safeguarding is adopted to provide generic safeguarding training for care providers	Learning & Development Group
Managing Avoidable Pressure Damage	To have in place clear systems and process for reviewing instances of significant and avoidable pressure damage understood and agreed across agencies.	There is appropriate investigation, actions and learning resultant from the identification of significant avoidable pressure damage. Any resultant documentation will be evidence based and in line with National procedures	GwASB
			Local safeguarding Networks
			Learning & Development group
Advocacy	Use information collated previously and collect new relevant data to establish a benchmark of current level of uptake of advocacy. It is expected that this data is reviewed after a year to consider the impact of this work.	The 'benchmark' will inform the prevalence of the use of advocacy across the region and will illustrate gaps in provision	Quality Assurance & Performance Group
Advocacy	Raise awareness amongst professionals of the entitlement by individuals to all forms of appropriate advocacy	The workforce across all care sectors are offering advocacy, especially, when safeguarding issues are identified	Local safeguarding Networks

<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>Produce a range of tools to raise awareness of advocacy. This will enable the offer of appropriate advocacy to become embedded in practice</p>	<p>These messages can be disseminated through a variety of methods including staff briefings, web based resources, media clips, printed materials and practitioner forums</p>	<p>Engagement & Communication</p> <p>Local Safeguarding Networks</p>
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Joint Strategic Priority – Maintaining an Effective Regional Safeguarding Board

Outline of Need: Both South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB) and Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GwASB) have the lead strategic roles in ensuring that children and adults in the region are protected from abuse, neglect and all forms of discrimination and live in an environment that promotes their well-being and keeps them safe. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 specifies the key functions for maintaining an effective regional Safeguarding Board. These include the important function of reviewing the efficacy of measures taken by those partners with safeguarding responsibilities to implement the objectives of the Board and also reviewing the performance of the Board and its partners in carrying out its objectives in safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk. Therefore, it is imperative that the Boards meet their statutory obligations, with regard to ensuring that safeguarding is at the core of the preventative agenda of the regional partnership that they provide strong leadership and hold agencies to account for safeguarding Adults.

Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators?	Sub-Group Lead
Improving Communication	A two-way communication process between GwASB, SEWSCB and local Safeguarding Networks.	Regular dissemination of bi-lateral information	GwASB and SEWSCB members
			Local Safeguarding Networks
Self Assessment	The Boards will accurately assess areas of strength and areas of development for Board partners and represented bodies.	To complete a Section 135 safeguarding audit of all Board partners and represented bodies. To use the Section 135 audit feedback to inform the implementation of a self assessment day.	GwASB and SEWSCB members
			Business Planning Group Reporting Framework
Self-assessment	The Boards will accurately assess their performance in carrying out their objectives.	To complete a self assessment audit with Board partners.	GwASB and SEWSCB members
			Business Planning Group Reporting Framework

Raising GwASB and SEWSCB profile	Establishing strong links with South East Wales nominated representative of National Safeguarding Board	Views and interests of GwASB and SEWSCB are strongly represented at a national level.	GwASB Chair, SEWSCB Chair and Members
Raising GwASB and SEWSCB profile	The strategic Annual Plans and Reports owned by GwASB and SEWSCB are regularly presented to local Public Service Boards and South East Wales Strategic Partnership Board.	Public Service Boards receive routine presentations from GwASB and SEWSCB and have a strong awareness of key safeguarding priorities to include in their local agenda Safeguarding becomes embedded in a range of corporate activities.	GwASB Chair , Vice Chair, SEWSCB Chair and Vice Chair and Business Manager
Raising GwASB and SEWSCB profile	GwASB and SEWSCB are represented at any all-Wales safeguarding groups.	Views and interest of GwASB and SEWSCB are strongly represented through attendance at all-Wales Policies and Procedures Group, all-Wales Business Managers Group and all-Wales Child Protection Coordinators Group.	GwASB and SEWSCB and Sub-Group Members
Performance Management	The Quality Assurance Group works on producing a multi- agency performance framework, which enables members to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding practice across the region	Individual elements which form a performance framework are agreed Agencies begin to provide data and qualitative information to the group An annual audit programme is agreed and implemented. In future years the collated information is analysed and presented to GwASB and SEWSCB	Quality Assurance & Performance Group

HOW MUCH DO WE PLAN TO SPEND?

The Board is funded by contributions from statutory partner agencies who have agreed the funding formula as set out in the Welsh Government document 'Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 1 – Introduction and Overview ', the guidance which accompanies the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

This funding resources a regional safeguarding business unit consisting of a Business Manager, Development Officers and Administrative Support staff who provide support for both Children and Adult Boards, the sub groups and Local Safeguarding Networks.

The Boards also provide an extensive multi agency regional training programme. This consists of a range of generic safeguarding courses which enable free access for practitioners and volunteers across the region. They are designed to complement and add value to the training provided by workforce development teams in the region.

The specific costs for this support are set out below. These costs have remained static for the past three years.

Total costs	£355,000
Staff costs	£289,000
Day to day running costs	£26,000
Child Practice Reviews	£4,000
Adult Practice Reviews	£4,000
Training Programmes	£22,000
Engagement / Websites & Publicity / Professional events (including National Safeguarding Week)	£10, 000

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

Across Gwent we have a long history of collaboration across agencies and partnerships. This collaborative work is reflected in the membership of both of our Boards which includes not only the statutory partners prescribed in guidance, but also voluntary sector partners and those where safeguarding is an integral part of their work.

This inclusive approach allows us to include partners who can influence the safeguarding agenda on a local, regional and national level. This is demonstrated by our close working relationships with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Older People's Commissioner and nationally recognised bodies such as Barnardos Cymru.

In Gwent we are lucky to have a close working relationship with a number of other regional partnerships:

The strongest links exist with the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategic Partnership Board. Our strategic support teams work collaboratively and are co-located for part of the working week. We also provide an administrative support role with regards training and a number of strategic meetings for the VAWDASV partnership. The Safeguarding Boards have been instrumental in the production of the VAWDASV strategy document and associated delivery plans and we ensure that our engagement and communication work is undertaken across the children, adult and VAWDASV agenda. The reporting framework and governance for this work is also across all three strategic Boards. We have also begun work on a regional pilot to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews as part of the work of the Safeguarding Boards. Our aim is to improve dissemination of learning from these reviews across the region in a more timely manner. This work is in an early stage of development and will continue for the foreseeable future.

More recently we have made stronger links with the Regional Partnership Boards. Our Board chairs are also chairs of a number of partnership forums, and Board members ensure that the work from relevant partnership groups is recognised and reported at Board level. In the coming year we plan to develop these collaborative links and production of regional strategic plans including the Gwent Area Plan will take account of the safeguarding priorities in our plan.

We have begun work across the region in relation to advocacy and this work will also continue in the coming year. We believe that this is an excellent example of collaborative working as it is not only across partnerships from the Gwent region, but is a tangible example of working across a number of partnerships and agencies in both statutory and voluntary services.

We have also begun to work more closely with the regional Area Planning Board and have used the information provided by the regionally commissioned substance misuse service provider to inform production of our new Quality Assurance framework. This work will continue in the coming year and we are actively working towards further collaboration with this partnership.

We will continue to work in close partnership with the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB). Our link member attends all Board meetings and provides regular updates on the work of the NISB.

We acknowledge that there needs to be further collaboration and improved communication with the NISB in relation to production of strategic documents and the reporting and governance framework set out in guidance. We intend to improve this communication in the coming year.

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

In the more recent past we have re-structured our engagement and communication sub group to cover both Safeguarding Boards and also the VAWDASV strategic Board. In order to ensure that we do take account of the voices of those we seek to protect and support we have introduced a number of methods of doing so.

We have a member of the Gwent Citizen Panel who attends all of our sub group meetings. We discussed at length the appropriateness of have a young person to attend all meetings, but after much consideration it was decided that it would be more appropriate to consult with children and young people on specific occasions or in relation to specific pieces of work that would be more relevant to their agenda. We have in the past used various methods of communicating with young people including youth forums and school councils, an interactive drama production for a specific year group, viewpoint electronic surveys and general awareness raising events. We plan to continue with as many of these forms of engagement in the coming year that we can resource.

In the coming year this approach to engagement and communication will also be used in conjunction with the sub group representation to reach the wider adult population. These methods enable us to target our resources to be informed about the most relevant strategic priorities identified by the Boards.

Through our partner organisations we have worked closely with survivors of VAWDASV in the development of the VAWDASV strategy. We will continue to link in with this through our joint Engagement and Communication work and the Gwent Survivor Engagement Group.

We have also used our Local Safeguarding Network Forums to ensure that practitioners and volunteers have been consulted about more practical elements of the Boards work including the content of our websites and the provision of training. We intend to continue this form of consultation to inform our work in the coming year.

We have worked hard in the Gwent region to ensure that our partners are fully consulted when we develop new policies or procedures and we have a well tried and trusted mechanism for ensuring this two week consultation process is an integral part of endorsing our documents. This process will continue via website consultation through the next year.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

Everyone has a duty to be alert to concerns about the abuse and neglect of people and know to whom they should report their concerns.

If you are worried that a child or adult is being abused or neglected you must report your concerns to your local Social Services contact. Details are listed below:

Caerphilly:

Concerns about an adult:

Tel: 0808 100 2500

Concerns about a child:

Tel: 0808 100 1727

Monmouthshire:

Concerns about an adult:

Tel: 01291 638928

Concerns about a child:

Tel: 01291 635669

Blaenau Gwent:

Tel: 01495 315700

Torfaen:

Tel: 01495 762200

Newport:

Tel: 01633 656656

After 5pm and on weekends and bank holidays please contact the South East Wales Emergency Duty Team on 0800 328 4432.

If you think a person is in immediate danger then contact the Police on 999.

If a person tells you something that concerns you or them, listen carefully and say that you will need to share this information.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

For further information on safeguarding people go to:

www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk