

North Wales Safeguarding Board

**Annual
Report
2018/19**



Introduction

Everyone has the right to be safe.

Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from harm, abuse or neglect.

As the North Wales Safeguarding Board, we cover one of the largest areas in Wales. We work to protect children and adults across the six North Wales local authorities.

This is challenging. There are different communities, with different issues and needs.

There is a:

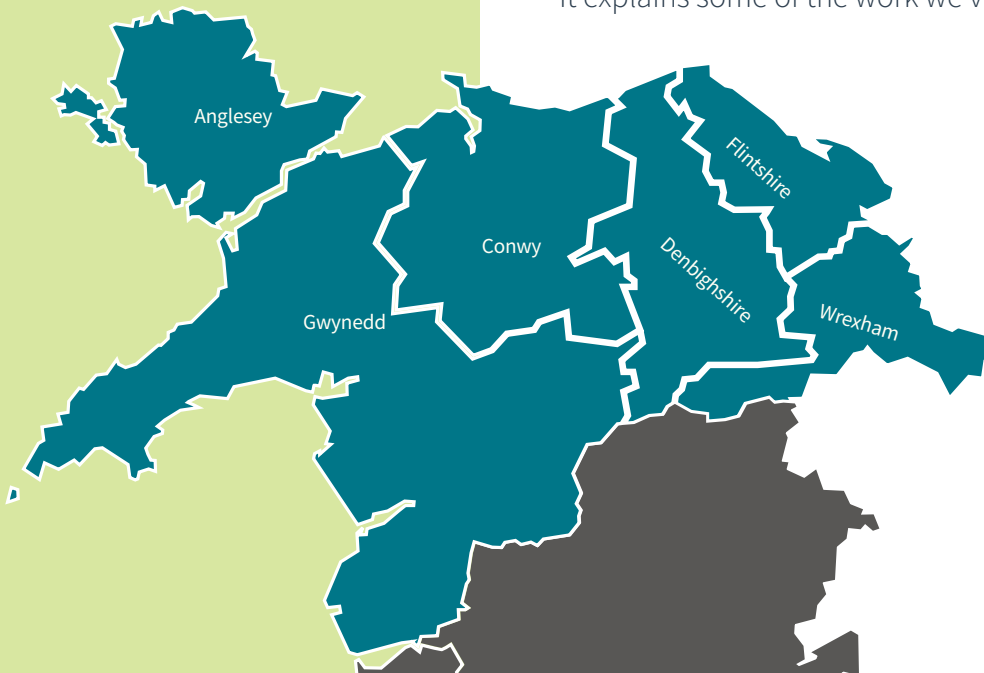
- North Wales Safeguarding Children Board
- North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board

Every safeguarding board is set up to:

- protect children and adults who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, abuse, neglect or harm
- stop children and adults becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or harm

This is our third annual report.

It explains some of the work we've done over the last year and our plans for the year ahead.



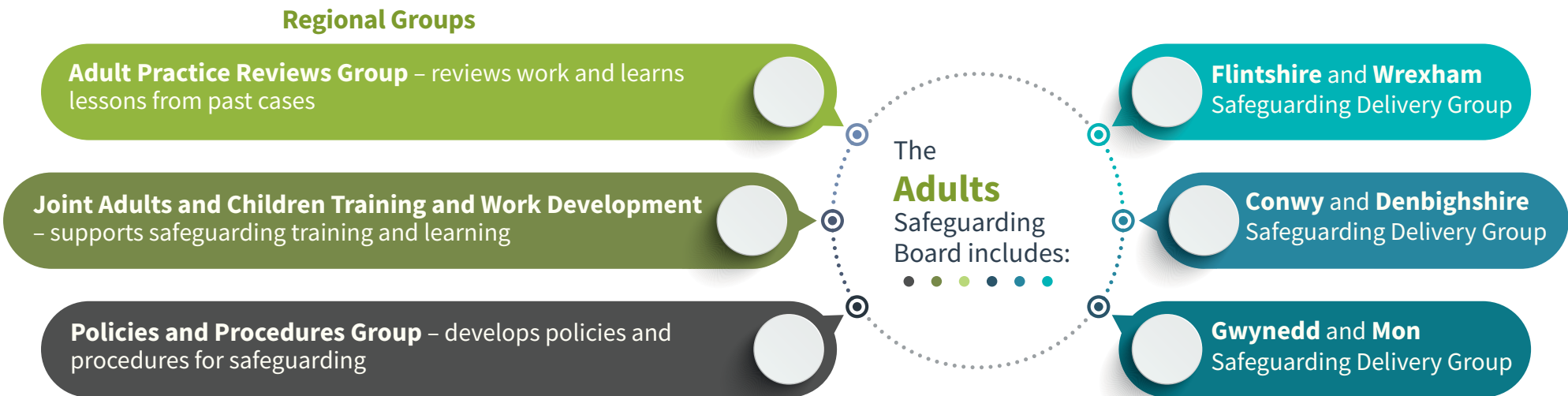
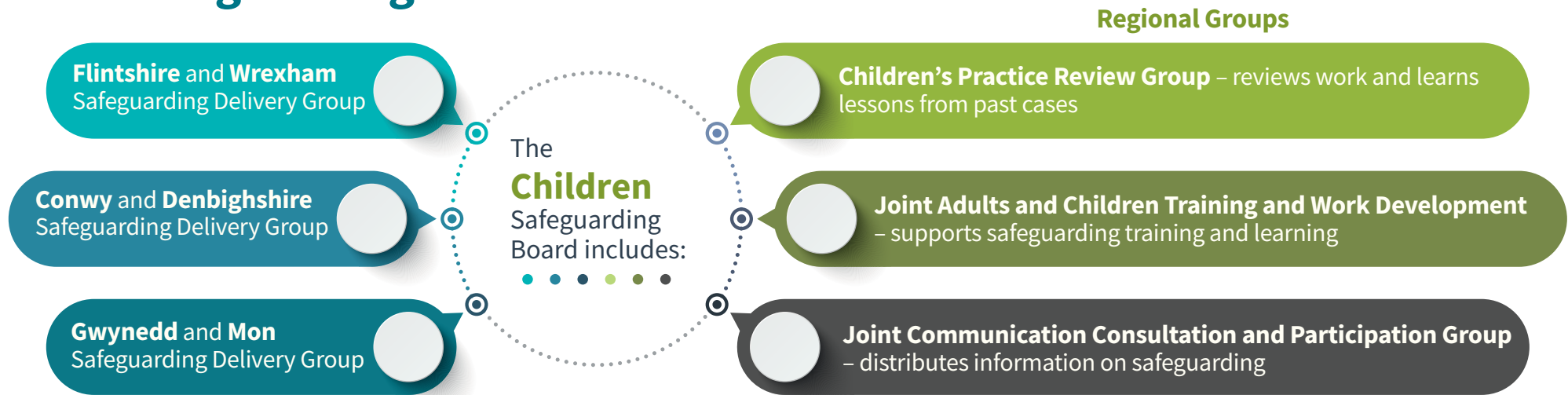
The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Safeguarding boards were set up across Wales as part of this law. It makes sure services work together and keep people safe from harm.



Working together – keeping people safe

About the Safeguarding Boards



You can find out more about the Safeguarding Boards here:
northwalessafeguardingboard.wales

Actions

This is a snapshot of some things we've been doing this year.

We have:

- continued to improve
- connected and built working relationships
- learned from previous experiences and case studies
- developed a clear, common purpose for safeguarding across North Wales
- used our plans to reach our priorities
- set up a Partnership Task and Finish Group to look at our structures
- started to deal with issues like County Lines across the region

County lines is when gangs and organised crime networks groom and exploit children or vulnerable adults to sell drugs. They are often made to travel across counties. **It needs to stop.**

We have:

- promoted opportunities for people to have a say in how we work
- talked with children and young people
- set up the Regional Consultation, Communication and Participation Group
- engaged with The Citizens Panel to find out what matters to people
- developed skills from carrying out reviews of our work
- checked the quality of our work



Working together – keeping people safe

Working on our priorities

The Adults Board priority areas.

Priority 1:

Improving outcomes – identifying adults at risk and improve their life outcomes.

Progress:

- We developed a risk register to highlight risk areas in services.
- We developed new raising awareness materials on safeguarding for adults.
- We held learning events to make sure everyone knows they need to step in early.

Priority 2:

Increasing knowledge and continuous learning – knowing about adults at risk and improving how we work.

Progress:

- We held a learning event with over 100 professionals.
- We have used ‘7 minute briefings’ to highlight themes from Adult Practice Reviews.
- We delivered training on sexual safety on hospital wards.
- We delivered training on improving the quality of safeguarding reports.
- We developed practice guidance on completing Adult Safeguarding Reports.
- We have increased the information and materials for adult protection on our website.

Priority 3

Providing strong leadership – showing we follow laws, policies and good practice.

Progress:

- We have established a Quality Assurance Framework.
- We have seen an increase in safeguarding reports.
- We identified how to support and train staff to improve the quality of Safeguarding Reports.

Welsh Government Facilitators observed our work and reported:

“A strengthening culture of holding to account”

“Well-attended board meetings with appropriate reports, recorded actions, approved minutes, engaged participation with respect and challenge.”



Working on our priorities

The Children's Board priority areas.

Priority 1:

Working with partners to keep children safe from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Progress:

- We funded a CSE Adviser who has updated and reviewed our plans.
- Five of the six local authorities have monthly CSE Panels.
- All six local authorities have a CSE Strategy.
- Each agency has a named CSE lead.
- We have been holding community of practice events to bring services together and share good practice.

Priority 2:

Improving the way services respond to children displaying harmful sexual behaviours (HSB).

Progress:

- We held a harmful sexual behaviour conference that over 80 staff attended
- We developed our Regional Action Plan to run alongside the All Wales Child Sexual Abuse action plan.
- We have made sure we're following the All Wales Practice Guidance.
- We held training about harmful sexual behaviour.

Priority 3:

Improving outcomes for children who live with or have lived with domestic abuse.

Progress:

- We have made sure we're following the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence Guidance (VAWDASV).
- We have changed the way we report so we can get more information about VAWDASV.
- Our board members are part of the VAWDASV training sub group.
- We have promoted our publicity information so people know who we are, what we do and how we can help.



Working together – keeping people safe

Working with others

We attend the **All Wales Business Managers meetings with Welsh Government**. We are supporting the development of the National Safeguarding Procedures.

We work with **Social Care Wales**. We are developing a training framework and national standards for safeguarding trainers.

We meet with the **Police Crime Commissioner**. Exploitation is a priority for the police too, so we're aligning our work.

We meet with **Community Safety Partnership Managers**. We discuss practice and review how we can work together better.

We meet with the two **Lead Coroners** in North Wales. We identify themes in their reports and spot gaps where people need support.

We work with **Care Inspectorate Wales**. They've helped with Adult Practice Reviews. They share information and highlight areas for improvement.

We work with **Cheshire West Safeguarding Board**. We are geographically close and some cases transfer between the areas.

Working with the community

Involving children and young people

Children and young people said it's important to raise awareness of the board and safeguarding issues. They think we can do this through schools and youth groups. So, we're working on connecting with schools in the region.

Children and young people said we needed more information on the website for them. So, our business coordinator went to the sessions to talk about how we can improve our website.

Involving adults

We talked to community networks about what matters to them. The Citizens Panel also sent out a questionnaire. It showed that people didn't know where to go to report abuse. They didn't know enough about who we are and how we can help. So, we will be developing raising awareness materials for communities in 2019/20.



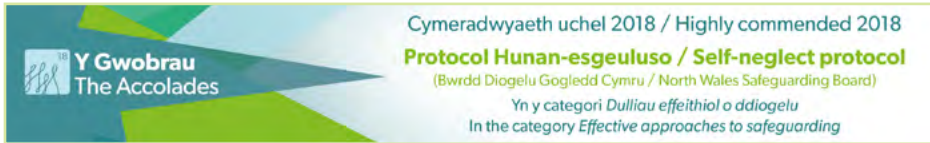
Working together – keeping people safe

Other achievements during the year

Social Care Wales Accolade

We were nominated for our work on self-neglect and our self-neglect protocol.

In the category of “Effective Approaches to Safeguarding Practice”, we were highly commended.



Good practice

Our Herbert Protocol was also acknowledged as good practice.

This encourages carers and care staff to put together useful information that can be used if someone goes missing.

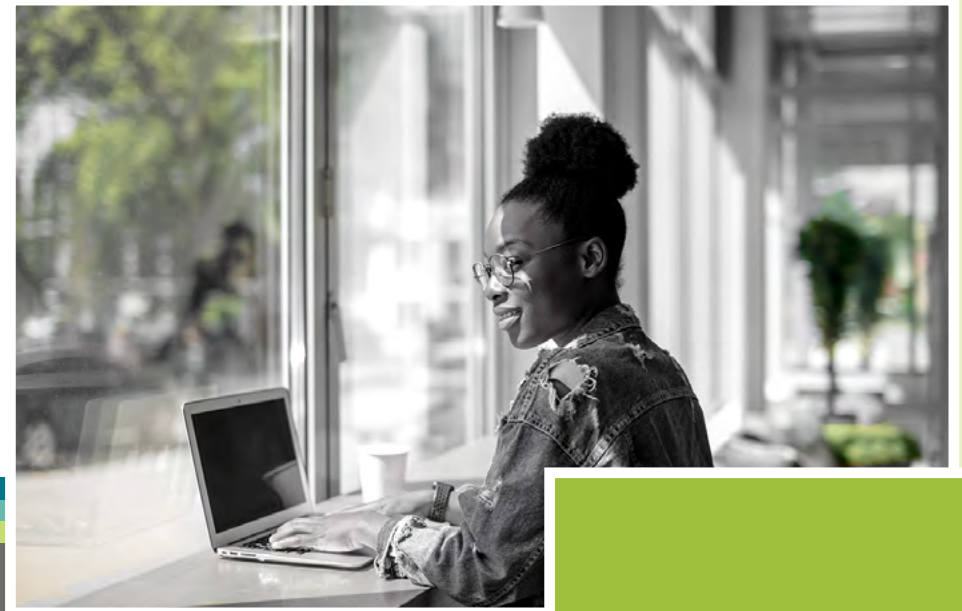
National Safeguarding Week

The theme was Exploitation. We developed factsheets and presentations on:

- County Lines
- Modern Slavery
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Forced Marriage

We also launched a safeguarding video ‘See Something / Say Something’:

northwalessafeguardingboard.wales/information-for-adults



Working together – keeping people safe

Good practice

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board training event

We held a training event for:

- sexual health staff
- school nurses
- midwives and health visitors
- CAMHS staff
- paediatric services
- GP's and other professionals

104 people went to the training day at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

48 people linked in by video from community hospitals.

The sessions including information on:

- Looked After Children
- County Lines
- Exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- VAWDASV
- The Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales)

The evaluations of the day were excellent. We want to repeat this event annually.

Going forward – 2019/20

We held a North Wales Safeguarding Board Business Development Day.

It was a great opportunity for both boards to:

- get together
- assess our work
- identify where we need to improve
- decided our priorities for 2019/20

Our priorities for both boards:

- Exploitation
- Domestic Abuse

The other priority for the Adults Safeguarding Board will be:

- Improved awareness and compliance in the Adult at risk process

The other priority for the Children's Safeguarding Board will be:

- Safeguarding in education



Working together – keeping people safe

Thanks for reading this

You can read the full report here: northwalessafeguardingboard.wales

Contact information

If you are worried that a child or adult is being abused or neglected, you must report your concerns to your local Social Services.

Concerned about a **child**:

Anglesey	01248 725 888 (Out of hours) 01248 353 551
Conwy	01492 575 111 (Out of hours) 0300 123 3079
Denbighshire	01824 712 200 (Out of hours) 0345 053 3116
Flintshire	01352 70 1000 (Out of hours) 0345 053 3116
Gwynedd	01766 772 577 (Out of hours) 01248 353 551
Wrexham	01978 292 039 (Out of hours) 0345 053 3116

Concerned about an **adult**:

Anglesey	01248 752 752 (Out of hours) 01248 353 551
Conwy	0300 456 1111 (Out of hours) 0300 123 3079
Denbighshire	0300 456 1000 (Out of hours) 0345 053 3116
Flintshire	01352 803 444 (Out of hours) 0345 053 3116
Gwynedd	01766 772 577 (Out of hours) 0124 835 3551
Wrexham	01978 292 066 (Out of hours) 0345 053 3116



Working together – keeping people safe