**All Wales Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR)**

Illuminating the Past to make the Future Safe

**Glad Tidings from the SUSR Team**



2021 what a year, with the challenges we have all faced, not just to deliver the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR), but to also keep everyday services going. It is a year however, that we can be proud of, as we have achieved so much. Those achievements, which could not have been possible without your involvement, are highlighted below and will hopefully bring good cheer to you all as another New Year approaches.

**Home Office / Welsh Government work to agree an approach to using Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR’s) in Wales**

**Update from Sarah Cooper, Head of Safeguarding and Advocacy:**

*“In the last three months a great deal of engagement has taken place between Welsh Government and Home Office to ensure that Home Office colleagues have a full understanding of the concept and benefits of the SUSR for Wales. The SUSR Team has reviewed the DHR Statutory Guidance to illustrate to the Home Office how this has been taken into account in development of the SUSR. This has clarified any slight differences identified from it, how this will be managed and demonstrates that the SUSR process strengthens many of the points within the existing DHR Statutory Guidance.*

*This work has culminated in a very positive meeting with Home Office officials, held on 7th December, where a pathway to using the SUSR in Wales for Domestic Homicide Reviews achieved a significant step forward. This is great news and will now enable us to work towards the Spring 2022 implementation date for the SUSR.”*

**Legal Advice**

Geldards LLP has been appointed to provide the key legal advice required

to place the SUSR on sound footing, particularly in relation to Intellectual Property Rights and data protection. This advice has provided us with the due diligence required and will result in the following being in place early in the New Year:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)/Wales Safer Communities Network (WSCN) to provide the Co-ordination Hub
2. Memorandum of Understanding between Welsh Government and key partners in relation to the Wales Safeguarding Repository
3. Terms of Use Agreement for those wishing to use the Wales Safeguarding Repository (WSR)
4. Data protection clause within the SUSR process enabling the final public reports to be kept within the Wales Safeguarding Repository

**Ministerial Board**

The date for the inaugural meeting of the SUSR Ministerial Board is 20th January 2022, with the First Minister taking on the initial Chair role. This is great news and will enable us to address a number of key issues, including:

* Domestic Homicide Reviews and Home Office considerations
* Updates on Wales Safeguarding Review and Co-ordination Hub
* Funding requirements
* Policy implications

The Ministerial Boards will be held every six months which will ensure that any future hurdles can be addressed at a Ministerial level if required. An additional extraordinary meeting of the Board is intended to take place in early spring to support implementation of the SUSR from Spring 2022.

**Co-ordination Hub**

Work has been ongoing between the Welsh Government SUSR Team and the Wales Safer Communities Network and Welsh Local Government Association, to prepare for the establishment of the Co-ordination Hub in Spring 2022. This has included:

* Drafting an initial Memorandum of Understanding with Geldards which will be finalised early in January 2022
* Producing a Draft Terms of Reference for the Co-ordination Hub
* Producing a Draft SUSR governance structure
* Producing a Draft SUSR Terms of Reference for the Operational /Management Board
* Producing a Draft Terms of Reference for the SUSR Strategy Group
* Producing a proposed staffing structure for the Hub

All the drafts identified above will be presented to the various SUSR Task and Finish Groups before being finalised.

**Task and Finish Groups**

The various Task and Finish Groups have all been working hard to ensure that the aspects that they are responsible for will be in place for the Spring 2022 implementation date. Below is a summary of the key activities undertaken by each group.

**Steering Group**

* The proposed Governance Structure for SUSR in Wales has been presented to the Steering Group for initial support and guidance – please see annex A for overview
* The inaugural Ministerial Board of the SUSR date and potential agenda agreed (20th January 2022)
* An additional £120,000 funding has been identified through WG to support SUSR project delivery to March 2022.
* It has been agreed that the first Offensive Weapon Homicide Review (OWHR) pilot in Wales will use the SUSR approach and that all future OWHRs in Wales will be integrated into the SUSR model.

**Wales Safeguarding Repository (WSR**)

**Dafydd Llywelyn PCC Dyfed Powys – Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the Repository:**

*“The repository has been developed from a ‘proof of concept’ pilot to an operational repository and I’m pleased to be able to share the significant progress made with Cardiff University. It is hoped in the New Year the working group will be in a position to start sharing the fruit of their labour with key stakeholders. As you know, this development is a key cornerstone in ensuring that best practice and learning is gleaned from the tragic circumstances of every review in order to make the way in which our public bodies work in Wales and ultimately our communities as safe as possible.”*

* Over 105 Domestic Homicide Reviews, Adult Protection Reviews, Child Protection Reviews and Mental Health Homicide Reviews now coded and entered into the WSR.
* WSR Policy Officer now in place and supporting development of WSR and SUSR templates.
* Geldards LLC, working with WSR team, WLGA and Welsh Government, have now identified key legal areas to address around data protection, Intellectual Property Rights and licencing with an approach currently being agreed to complete the work.
* Home Office Repository Team linking in with WSR to use one coding system and other areas for collaboration
* Three learning themes to be identified to produce the first analysis papers using the repository

**Legal and Governance**

* Working to the identified governance structure for the SUSR, Geldards has provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Co-ordination Hub and recommended an additional MoU for key project stakeholders.
* A ‘User Agreement’ addressing GDPR and Intellectual Property Rights for all WSR users has been recommended and will be developed in early in the New Year
* Data protection aspects associated with new reviews are to be addressed early in the New Year
* Work will start in the New Year to amend existing guidance to take account of the SUSR

**Policy and Process**

* Sub-group now developing SUSR templates in line with SUSR Process Map, using best practice approaches from across the regions and taking into account the existing DHR guidance
* A separate sub group also continues work to develop a suite of language and coding requirements to enable reviews to be entered into WSR
* Pilot ongoing regarding an incident in Cardiff which meets the Mental Health Homicide Review and Domestic Homicide Review criteria. Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales Police, Alun Michael is leading discussions with the Home Office as the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership.

**Training and Learning**

* Questionnaire distributed to all Community Safety Partnerships and Regional Safeguarding Boards reviewed and SUSR Learning and Training Programme now in development. Further information is available on request.
* Sub-group now developing Key Competency Framework and guidance for Accredited Chairs list.
* Work in progress to enable the Standardised action plan template to be fully compatible with the repository.
* Learning themes to be identified and forwarded to the WSR to produce analysis reports

**Mental Health Homicide**

* Mental Health Homicide Reviews Task and Finish group convened and Terms of Reference developed.
* Mental health homicide review definition drafted and shared with relevant practitioners for comment, and shortly to be shared for broader consultation.

As can be seen from the above work continues at a pace and hopefully will all come to fruition for a Spring 2022 commencement date. Should you wish to find out any more about the above update, or discuss any aspects of the SUSR, please feel free to contact us:

[SUSR Project Lead](mailto:Liane.James001@gov.wales): [**Liane.James001@gov.wales**](mailto:Liane.James001@gov.wales)

SUSR Performance and Project Manager: [**Sarah.Lamberton@gov.wales**](mailto:Sarah.Lamberton@gov.wales)

[SUSR Shared Mailbox](mailto:susrwales@gov.wales): [**susrwales@gov.wales**](mailto:susrwales@gov.wales)

Head of Safeguarding and Advocacy**:** [**Sarah.cooper@gov.wales**](mailto:Sarah.cooper@gov.wales)

Finally, many thanks to all of you who have supported the SUSR project during 2021 – your expertise, encouragement, commitment and enthusiasm has been and continues to be invaluable and fundamental to the ongoing success of this work.

We hope you have a Happy New Year and look forward to continuing to work with you in 2022!

SUSR Team