



NORTH WALES SAFEGUARDING BOARD
STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2024

INTRODUCTION

The North Wales Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board is pleased to publish and present its seventh annual joint strategic plan for 2023 – 24.

The Board's principal and overarching aims are to support agencies to collectively fulfil their statutory responsibilities as outlined in Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014, and to protect and prevent children and adults at risk in the region from experiencing abuse and neglect and other kinds of harm.

In the coming year, we remain committed to continuing to work together to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities, and to learn any lessons to aid the future delivery of high quality, resilient and effective multi-agency safeguarding services.

The areas identified for continuing improvement in the plan for 2022/23, formed the basis of a realistic plan and programme of work which seeks to continue to consolidate and strengthen the progress the NWSAB and NWSCB Boards have made in recent years, these areas of work remain the priority for the coming year.

The rising number of safeguarding reports has seen an increasing demand on services and it is anticipated that the continuing 'cost of living' crises and the impact this is having on the citizens of North Wales will mean that there will be a continued increase in requests for help and support.

In addition, national pieces of work identified in the plan for 2022/23, are still to be confirmed and commenced, such as the Action Plan to Prevent the Abuse of Older People and a further CSA action plan. Guidance and implementation dates for the Single Unified Safeguarding Review and the Liberty of Protection Safeguards has still to be published and these need to remain on the Boards work programme.

Given the on-going pressures all organisations are working under; we feel we need to be realistic regarding the Board's work, taking into account the current challenges all partner agencies are experiencing across the region. Therefore, Board members have made the decision to continue to progress the priority areas identified in the Business Plan for 2022/23 for the coming year.

Jenny Williams

Chair North Wales Safeguarding
Children Board

Neil Ayling

Chair North Wales Safeguarding
Adults Board

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.

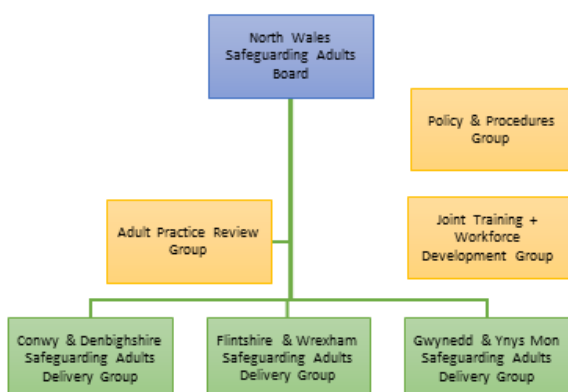
The objectives of a Safeguarding Adults Board are:

- 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.

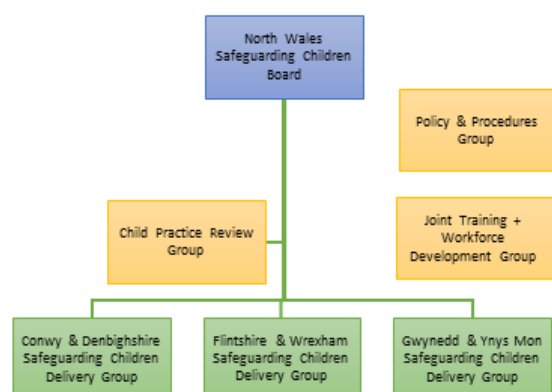
It is the role of both boards to set the strategic direction of safeguarding, including policy direction and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding within agencies across the region. Boards commission practice reviews and disseminate learning to practitioners which ensures that local learning is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

BOARD STRUCTURES

North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board



North Wales Safeguarding Children's Board



BOARD MEMBERSHIP

North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board:

Chair: Neil Ayling (Chief Officer – Social Services Flintshire County Council)

National Probation Service – Head of Probation Delivery Unit, North Wales

Vice Chair: Michelle Denwood - Director of Safeguarding & Public Protection Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

North Wales Police - Detective Superintendent / Protecting Vulnerable People Unit

Anglesey CC - Director of Social Services. Head of Adults Services

Public Health Wales – Designated Nurse National Safeguarding Team

Conwy CBC – Head of Children, Family & Safeguarding Services

North Wales Fire & Rescue Service - Business Education and Arson Reduction Team Manager

Denbighshire CC - Corporate Director Communities & Head of Community Support Services

Gwynedd Council – Corporate Director & Head of Adult Health and Wellbeing Services

Flintshire CC – Chief Officer Social Services & Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning

National Independent Safeguarding Board Representative.

Wrexham CBC – Director Social Services / Head of Adult Social Care

Care Forum Wales – Chief Executive

BCUHB Director of Nursing Mental Health & Learning Disabilities

HMP Berwyn - Head of Public Protection

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust – Safeguarding Specialist Quality, Safety & Patient Experience Directorate

North Wales Safeguarding Children Board:

Chair: Jenny Williams (Director of Social Care and Education - Conwy County Borough Council)

National Probation Service – Head of Probation Delivery Unit, North Wales

Vice Chair: North Wales Police - Detective Superintendent / Protecting Vulnerable People Unit

Barnardo's – Assistant Director Children's Services

Anglesey CC –Director of Social Services, Head of Children and Family Services

Public Health Wales – Designated Nurse National Safeguarding Team

Denbighshire CC – Corporate Director Communities & Head of Education & Children's Services

Wrexham Youth Justice Service – Head of Service

Flintshire CC – Head of Children's Services & Director of Social Services

Youth Justice Service – Service Manager Prevention & Support

Gwynedd Council – Head of Children & Support Families and Corporate Director

National Independent Safeguarding Board Representative.

Wrexham CBC – Head of Children's Services

NSPCC

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Director of Safeguarding & Public Protection & Named Doctor Children's safeguarding

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust – Safeguarding Specialist Quality, Safety & Patient Experience Directorate

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES / OBJECTIVES OF THE NWSB IN 2022/23

Given the NWSB has seen an increase in the number of child practice reviews starting in 2022 / 23, a number of actions will be identified in this year from the reviews. We have also seen the publication of two Serious Case Reviews in England and two in Wales which will have implications for all board partners. The National Independent Safeguarding Board publication in 2021 in relation to thematic findings from Adult Practice Reviews has highlighted significant areas of practice which the board continue to address.

The NWSB will also need to manage the transformation to the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process during this financial year. We will continue with the priority around the issues that have followed the Covid19 pandemic during this year. One of the areas identified in using the self-assessment toolkit is the need to improve engagement.

- 1. To respond effectively to the learning identified from Regional Adult / Child Practice reviews, Regional Multi-agency professional's forum and the National and UK reviews. (NWSB)**
- 2. Effective engagement and communication: To improve engagement and consultation with children and adults at risk, vulnerable groups, professionals and partnerships (NWSB)**
- 3. To support the implementation of both new and recent legalisation including End Physical Punishment, Liberty of Protection Safeguards, Serious Violence Duty alongside responding to national pieces of work around the Rapid Review of Safeguarding Practice in Wales and the national action plans such as Child Sexual Abuse, Preventing Abuse of Older People and the thematic reviews of Adult and Child Practice Reviews.**
- 4. To continue to ensure a robust, resilient and consistent approach to safeguarding practice post Covid-19 pandemic.**

North Wales Safeguarding Boards (NWSB) Priorities

Strategic Priority 1 - To respond effectively to the learning identified from Regional Adult / Child Practice reviews, Regional Multi-agency professional's forum and the National and UK safeguarding reviews. (NWSB)

Outline of Need: Due to the increase in the number of child practice review referrals and increased national and UK activity the Board will need to prioritise its work in this area. Also respond to the Single Unified Safeguarding Review work undertaken by Welsh Government

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
1.1	Child/Adult at Risk	Reduce delays in starting Adult and Child Practice reviews due to limited number of reviewers and chairs available	<p>Reduced reliance of commissioning external reviewers</p> <p>Multi-agency Attendance at Practice Review training offered by the NWSB</p> <p>Multi –agency Attendance at the National SUSR Welsh Government training</p> <p>Shared responsibility across all board partners to providing reviewers and Chairs</p> <p>A review of NWSB chairs and reviewers for CPR and APR</p>	CPR/APR Group
1.2.	Child/Adult at Risk	Members of the RSB and its sub groups will continue to support the Single Unified Safeguarding Review national project.	The NWSB continue to contribute to the development of and influence national safeguarding, policy, guidance and legislation.	CPR/APR Group

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
1.3.	Adult / Child at Risk	Respond to the National Thematic Reviews of Adult and Child Practice Reviews	<p>Current regional discrepancies in performance data are addressed.</p> <p>Further awareness training undertaken in self-neglect and any other recurring themes identified</p> <p>Findings from Thematic Review of cases that do not meet threshold for review but have similar themes.</p>	CPR/APR Group
1.4	Child at Risk	Respond to the key findings from recent CPR's and MAPF both local and national.	<p>Regional Neglect strategy to include roll –out of regional training program in 2023-26</p> <p>Action plan response to the Regional MAPF on Children/ Young People who had been displaying mental health issues and had been receiving a service from Tier 3 and Tier 4 CAMHS.</p>	CPR/APR Group
1.5	Adult at Risk	Ensure that all agencies are aware of their responsibility to refer cases, in line with the criteria, to the Adult Practice Review Group.	<p>Additional learning is identified and actioned as a result of increased activity in relation to Adult Practice Reviews.</p> <p>Key learning is drawn from those cases that do not meet the criteria for review where reoccurrence of similar issues and themes are identified.</p>	CPR/APR Group

North Wales Safeguarding Boards (NWSB) Priorities

Strategic Priority 2 - Effective engagement and communication: To improve engagement and consultation with children and adults at risk, vulnerable groups, professionals and partnerships (NWSB)

Outline of Need: The NWSB need to improve engagement and consultation during 2023 – 24 and to support consultation work taking place across the region

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
2.1	Child/Adult at Risk	<p>Effective communication and engagement with adults at risk which enables their voice to directly influence our strategic priorities and work plans.</p> <p>Specifically target the voice of older people and hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Identify key forums already in existence and develop strong links to facilitate regular consultation with vulnerable groups.</p>	The Board's work will be directly influenced by the voice of adults and children at risk.	NW Safeguarding Board Business Unit
2.2		Communication with Other Regional Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships	<p>Shared priorities and opportunities for any joint working will be established.</p> <p>Assurance will be provided to the Board that contextual safeguarding issues are adequately managed within local partnerships and public protection forums.</p>	NW Safeguarding Board Business Unit

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
2.3		<p>Raise awareness of the Regional Safeguarding Board and its work. This will be communicated through:</p> <p>Routinely disseminate 7 Minute Briefings in relation to key areas of practice, policy and research</p>	<p>Monitoring of the level of activity on the NWSB website</p> <p>Practitioners will be aware of current priorities and pieces of work within the Board</p> <p>Practitioners will feel more informed in relation to key practice and policy developments and its relevance to their role</p>	NW Safeguarding Board Business Unit
2.4		<p>Greater Communication /engagement with the General Public</p> <p>Utilise social media to share greater insights into the work and experiences of practitioners, to celebrate good practice and encourage recruitment into the social care workforce.</p> <p>Coordinate targeted, relevant and effective communications campaigns on key regional themes and national campaigns.</p>	<p>Videos and other communications will be produced which can be used for safeguarding campaigns.</p> <p>Themes of communications will derive from regional priorities and national campaigns</p>	NW Safeguarding Board Business Unit
2.5		<p>Effective communication with Partner Agencies, 3rd Sector and other organisation in relation to Safer Recruitment, DBS and Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust</p>	<p>A consistent approach and response across the region to Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures</p>	Delivery Groups

North Wales Safeguarding Boards (NWSB) Priorities

Strategic Priority 3 - To support the implementation of both new and recent legislation including End Physical Punishment, Liberty of Protection Safeguards, and Serious Violence Duty alongside responding to national action plans such as Child Sexual Abuse, Preventing Abuse of Older People and the thematic reviews of Adult and Child Practice Reviews.

Outline of Need: The NWSB will need to support the implementation of recent and new safeguarding legislation across the region and review work in relation to the national work packages and action plans.

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
3.1	Child/Adult at Risk	Working with the Welsh Government to ensure the following pieces of legislation are implemented effectively: End Physical Punishments Liberty of Protection Safeguards. Serious Violence Duty	All Board partners are aware of the changes in legislation and have appropriate systems in place to manage the changes / impact Workforce aware of the key changes, training reflects how cases are dealt with and emerging patterns identified Plans are put into place in to prepare for implementation once the National Guidance is published. To collaborate and communicate regularly, using existing partnerships to share information and take effective coordinated action in their local areas	Local Delivery Group. NWSB / V & E Board
3.2	Child/ Adult at Risk	Via the Local Delivery Groups, the actions identified from national pieces of work and action plans are completed	% of action completed within the timescales. Key messages shared across the workforce	Local delivery group

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
		<p>National Child Sexual Abuse action plan</p> <p>National Action Plan to Prevent the Abuse of Older People</p> <p>Rapid Review of Safeguarding Practice in Wales - Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements</p>	<p>Identification of improvements required and how those are to be achieved and dissemination of good practice</p>	

Strategic Priority 4: To continue to ensure a robust, resilient and consistent approach to safeguarding practice post the Covid-19 pandemic

Outline of Need: The impact of Covid-19 continues to place significant pressures on the Safeguarding Board partners and the workforce in the region.

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
4.1	Child/ Adults at Risk	<p>To develop a clear picture of the impact Covid-19 is continuing to have across the Region, i.e. for individuals, communities, the work force and partner agencies.</p> <p>Identify key themes and learning as a result of Child and Adult Practice Reviews where cases relate to incidents that occurred during the pandemic period.</p> <p>To oversee and review the efficacy of measures taken by the Boards and their sub groups as they realign governance, processes and practice post pandemic.</p> <p>Oversee and review recommendations identified from the Rapid Review of Safeguarding Practice in Wales and the Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements</p> <p>Contribute to the NISB work around the National Multi-Agency Safeguarding Performance Framework (NMSPF)</p>	<p>NWSB will continue to identify common multi-agency themes in relation to identified themes and issues as a result of the pandemic, and support a collaborative response to key safeguarding issues, and promote and share good practice.</p> <p>A review of the structure and Chairing arrangements of Boards/Sub groups</p>	<p>NWSCB/NWSAB</p> <p>Local Delivery Groups</p> <p>APR/CPR Groups.</p> <p>NWSAB/NWSCB</p>

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	What are the outcome indicators	Sub Group Lead
4.2.	Child/ Adults at Risk	A clear message to the public, communities, professionals and partner agencies that safeguarding remains a priority.	The Safeguarding Board will ensure factual information from Public Health Wales, Welsh Government and others is distributed to keep the regional population – citizens and workforce - well informed, whilst seeking to reduce the risk of abuse	NWSCB/NWSAB
4.3	Child/ Adults at Risk	Ensure robust measures and processes are in place to safeguard Ukrainian / and other refugees across the region.	Monitoring of any increasing risks of exploitation in relation to these vulnerable people.	Delivery Groups

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, 2 x Business Co-ordinators and 1 x Administrative Support staff who provide support for both Children and Adult Boards.

The specific costs are set out below.

Expenditure:	£
Business Unit Staffing Costs: (1 Business Manager, 2 x Business Coordinators, 1 x Admin part costs)	173,829.46
Hosting, Website, Finance, Communications & IT costs	4,000.00
Training:	10,000.00
National Safeguarding Week:	2,000.00
Practice Reviews / SUSR:	38,000.00
Translation Costs	6,000.00
Legal Costs:	5,000.00
Sundry Costs (Room Hire etc.):	3,000.00
Total:	241,829.46

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

Across North Wales 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 closer working relationships with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Communities Board, the Coroner and nationally recognised bodies such as Older Peoples commissioner / Children's Commissioner and the NSPCC / Barnardo's Cymru.

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.

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.

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:

If you have concerns about a child:

Anglesey

01248 725 888

01248 353 551 (out of hours)

Conwy

Social Services: 01492 575111

Out of Hours: 0300 1233079

Denbighshire

01824 712200: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

0345 053 3116: Evenings and weekends

Flintshire

01352 701 000

0345 053 3116 (out of hours)

Gwynedd

01758 704 455

01248 353 551 (out of hours)

Wrexham

01978 292 039

0345 053 3116 (out of hours)

If you have concerns about an adult:

Anglesey

01248 750057

01248 353551 (Out of hours)

Conwy

0300 4561111 (Office hours)

0300 1233079 (Out of hours)

Denbighshire

0300 4561000

0345 053 3116 (Out of hours)

Flintshire

03000 858858

0345 053 3116 (Out of hours)

Gwynedd

Adults Department, Health and

Wellbeing 01766 772577

01248 353551 (Out of hours)

Wrexham

01978 292066

0345 053 3116 (Out of hours)