



# **Joint Protocol between the North Wales Safeguarding Board and the North Wales Area Planning Board**

January 2024 Version 3

## **1.0. Introduction**

1.1. The North Wales Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards and the North Wales Area Planning Board are committed to effective joint working. The aim of this document is to:

- Support collaborative and joint working, where sensible and practical to do so
- Establish robust and clear communication between the Area Planning Board and the Regional Safeguarding Board
- Help avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure any lessons learned are shared widely across multi-agency partnerships and respective review processes.

## **2.0. Legal Framework**

### **2.1. North Wales Area Planning Board**

2.2. The Welsh Governments Revised Guidance for Substance Misuse Area Planning Boards 2017 sets out the role and responsibilities of Area planning Boards in Wales:

- Improve and strengthen the arrangements for planning, commissioning, and performance management of substance misuse services.
- Assist responsible authorities and other relevant partners to discharge their statutory responsibility by providing a mechanism to pool resources where appropriate and share expertise to deliver the Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Strategy by:
  - Developing an outcome-based commissioning strategy across the APB area producing a fully costed implementation plan to support the commissioning and estates strategy.
  - Ensuring there is an appropriate, accounting and audit management system in place to effectively administer the Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) revenue and capital funds.
  - Ensuring National Core Standards for Substance Misuse and other relevant standards are embedded in all service planning, delivery systems with appropriate arrangements for performance management and review.
- Ensure all funded services form part of an integrated care pathway.
- Ensure arrangements are in place to receive, consider and act on performance management data.
- Identifying opportunities where planning, commissioning, and delivering services on a regional basis will be cost effective and provide a better platform for engagement with service providers or users.

- Work with the Regional Partnership Boards to assess the substance misuse care and support needs of the population of North Wales.
- Work closely with Regional Partnership Boards to ensure that substance misuse services are considered in the context of other care and support services.

### 2.3. **North Wales Safeguarding Board**

2.4. The Safeguarding Board Regulations 2015 (Wales) sets out the role and responsibilities of the Regional Safeguarding Boards:

- Contributing to the review and development of policies and procedures.
- Raising awareness of abuse, neglect, and harm in a Board's area.
- Reviewing effectiveness of local safeguarding measures.
- Undertaking child and adult practice reviews and other audits, reviews, and investigations, and monitoring their recommendations.
- Disseminating information about best practice and learning.
- Reviewing training needs and ensuring provision of training.
- Co-operating with other Boards – Area Planning Board.
- Participation in the work of Safeguarding Boards.
- Safeguarding Board annual plans and annual reports.

### 3.0. **North Wales Local Arrangements**

3.1. On an annual basis, the North Wales Safeguarding Board Chair /Business Unit and the North Wales Area Planning Board Chair/ Business Manager will meet to discuss key themes from their respective priorities/ Business Plans. The meeting will also review any key themes from recent Child/ Adult Practice reviews where issues around substance misuse was identified.

### 4.0. **Commissioning and Safeguarding**

4.1. In relation to services that the Area Planning Board commission, where safeguarding issues are identified relating to the delivery of the service, the relevant member/ officer of the Area Planning Board will complete a North Wales Safeguarding Adults or Childrens Report (referral) to the relevant Local Authority in the area that the potential abuse occurred. In an emergency situation, the relevant member/ officer should contact the Police.

4.2. If the allegation is in relation to a professional, the relevant member/ officer of the Area Planning Board should report the concern to the relevant local authority and should adhere to the Allegations against Professionals section

of the All Wales Adults/ Childrens Safeguarding Procedures 2019.

4.3.

All contracts for services commissioned by the APB will include requirements for service provider to:

- comply with All Wales Adults/ Childrens Safeguarding Procedures 2019.
- Have clear policies/procedures around safeguarding practice including safe recruitment checks.
- Report safeguarding issues relating to the delivery of the service to the APB Commissioning & Development Manager.

Safeguarding concerns not relating directly to the delivery of the service will be managed by service providers in accordance with the All-Wales Adults/ Childrens Safeguarding Procedures 2019.

4.4. The Area Planning Board commissioning strategy will have a clear commitment to safeguarding.

4.5. In relation to lessons learnt report around serious incidents that may have occurred within a service commissioned by the Area Planning Board, discussions will take place between the respective boards/ organisations around responsibilities for completing the report and regarding the type of report required.