

Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report

2023/24 & 2024/25



sirgar.llyw.cymru
carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Contents

- Foreword..... 3
- Introduction 4
- Responding to Recommendations from Audit Wales 4
- 1. Roles, responsibilities, and governance arrangements 8
 - Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG) 10
 - Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Groups 10
 - Safe Workforce and Workplace Delivery Group 10
 - Safe Practice and Performance Delivery Group 11
 - Safe Partnerships Group 13
 - (Carmarthenshire Safeguarding Local Operational Group) 13
 - VAWDASV - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
Local Operational Group 13
 - Corporate Safeguarding Policy 14
 - Assurance Framework..... 14
 - Directorate Safeguarding Audits (self-assessment) 15
- 2. Safe Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers 15
 - Contractual arrangements for Commissioned Services 16
- 3. Safeguarding Training 17
- 4. Reporting on Corporate Safeguarding 17
 - Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 17
 - Performance Measures 17
- 5. Risk Management 21
- 6. Rolling Programme of Internal Audit Reviews 21
- 7. Considering Risks at Corporate and Service level 22
- Additional Areas of Safeguarding Practice..... 22
 - Safer Communities Partnership 22
 - PREVENT/CHANNEL 22

Foreword

As Cabinet Member for Safeguarding, it is my privilege to present this Corporate Safeguarding Report, which demonstrates the council's unwavering commitment to safeguarding children and adults within our communities. Safeguarding is not merely a statutory duty but a moral imperative that requires our collective vigilance, dedication, and proactive measures.

This report highlights the significant strides we have made in embedding a culture of safeguarding across all levels of our organisation. It reflects our ongoing efforts to ensure that every employee, volunteer, elected member and those who work on behalf of the council is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to protect the most vulnerable among us.

During the past year we have reviewed and refreshed our policies and procedures, strengthened our governance arrangements and placed emphasis on continuous training and development. These initiatives are crucial in creating an environment where everyone understands their individual and corporate safeguarding responsibilities and feel safe and supported in carrying out their duties.

However, safeguarding is an ever-evolving challenge that demands our constant attention and adaptation. As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing our practices, learning from our experiences, and striving for excellence in all aspects of safeguarding.

I extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to work outlined in this report and to the ongoing safeguarding efforts within our organisation. Your dedication and hard work are the cornerstones of our success.



Cllr Jane Tremlett

Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Introduction

Safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk is a priority for Carmarthenshire County Council. Corporate Safeguarding describes both the policy commitment that a Council makes and the arrangements it has in place, to ensure that its Directorates and employees play their part in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and adults who may be at risk of harm.

Everyone – employees, contractors, volunteers and councillors – has a role to play in protecting children and adults from harm, whether this is inside or outside the home. It is the Council’s responsibility to ensure that staff, volunteers and contractors are aware of safeguarding in their day-to-day work for the Council and know when and how to raise concerns.

During the latter part of 2023 and throughout 2024 the corporate safeguarding arrangements in place across the Council have been reviewed and updated. Whilst much of this work was planned activity, a review conducted by Audit Wales in August 2023 expedited several actions.

To ensure the council fulfils its Corporate Safeguarding commitments, the Corporate Safeguarding Group has agreed the following thematic areas of focus:

➡	Safe Governance	➡	Safe Workplace and Workforce
➡	Safe Practice and Performance	➡	Safe Partnerships

This annual report aims to update Cabinet on the work undertaken in relation to each of these areas over the course of 2023/24 and 2024/25 and identifies ongoing areas for action in 2025/2026.

While this report provides an update on the work ongoing efforts across all departments within Carmarthenshire Council to safeguard children and adults at risk, it does not include a comprehensive update on the statutory functions for children and adults which are reported separately.

Responding to Recommendations from Audit Wales

Audit Wales conducted a national review of Corporate Safeguarding arrangements in Wales in 2015 and a follow up review was undertaken in Carmarthenshire in August 2023. The review recognised areas of compliance and identified 5 areas of focus with several recommended actions. This review has provided the opportunity to refresh the corporate safeguarding arrangements in place across the organisation and over the course of 2023/24 progress has been made in relation to all the recommended actions (see table overleaf).

	Area of Focus	Recommended Action	Status
1	Roles, responsibilities, and governance arrangements	The Council should clarify who will be the Lead Member for corporate safeguarding and ensure the following:	Complete
		that the Council constitution sets out clearly who the Lead Member for Corporate Safeguarding is and that it is consistent with the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy	Complete
		that corporate safeguarding is reflected in the relevant Cabinet Member and related scrutiny committee portfolio responsibilities	Complete
		that information about the Lead Member role for corporate safeguarding is communicated to all staff and stakeholders, including updating the Council website.	*Ongoing
		The Council should update its Corporate Safeguarding Policy to ensure that the governance arrangements and oversight for corporate safeguarding are clearly set out, including identifying which scrutiny committee will have oversight of corporate safeguarding arrangements.	*Complete
		The Council should ensure that the name of the Corporate Safeguarding Officers Group is used consistently in its documentation on safeguarding to ensure clarity and avoid any confusion.	Complete
		The Council should assure itself that the Corporate Safeguarding Officers Group is discharging its role effectively and in accordance with its Terms of Reference.	*Complete
2	Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers	The Council needs to strengthen its current arrangements for monitoring compliance with DBS checks for staff and particularly for volunteers and put in place effective corporate oversight arrangements to ensure that safe recruitment practices are being followed to protect service users	*Ongoing completion date- Autumn 2025
		The Council should review its revised process of using risk assessments to allow staff to work prior to the required DBS checks being received (that it introduced in response to challenges presented	Complete

	Area of Focus	Recommended Action	Status
		during the Covid-19 pandemic), to assure itself that it has safe recruitment arrangements in place, that are fully complied with, and which do not expose the Council and its service users to risk	
		The Council should assure itself that it has arrangements in place to ensure that contractual provisions in relation to safeguarding are adhered to and those commissioned to do work on behalf of the Council are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities, thereby minimising the risk to the Council and its residents.	*Ongoing completion date- Autumn 2025
3	Safeguarding Training	The Council should ensure that there is effective corporate oversight of compliance with safeguarding training provided to all staff, Elected Members, school governors and volunteers to assure itself that safeguarding responsibilities are understood.	*Complete
4	Reporting on Corporate Safeguarding	The Council should strengthen its reporting on the effectiveness of its corporate arrangements for safeguarding to Corporate Management Team and Elected Members, including the provision of performance information. This will help to strengthen the Council's oversight and assurance arrangements for corporate safeguarding and ensure it applies its Corporate Safeguarding Policy in practice.	*Complete
		The Council should consider whether a specific corporate safeguarding risk should be reinstated on its corporate risk register to strengthen corporate oversight.	*Complete
5	Risk Management	The Council should assure itself that all departments are fully considering safeguarding risks and, if appropriate, include those risks in the departmental risk registers. Such risks can then be managed and mitigated.	*Ongoing Departmental Safeguarding audit Pilot end date- Summer 2025.Ongoing thereafter

The review also made additional recommendations for two areas of focus which were satisfactorily achieved.

	Area of Focus	Recommended Action	
6	Establish a rolling programme of internal audit reviews to undertake systems testing and compliance reviews on the council's safeguarding practices	The Council could consider how Internal Audit can further support the Council to gain assurance on its arrangements for corporate safeguarding	*Complete
7	Ensure the risks associated with safeguarding are considered at both a corporate and service level in developing and agreeing risk management	The Council should consider whether a specific corporate safeguarding risk should be reinstated on its corporate risk register to strengthen corporate oversight.	*Complete

***Significant steps have been taken to complete all the recommended actions however, it should be noted that in order to provide ongoing assurance many of the actions remain relevant and will continue to evolve.**

1. Roles, responsibilities, and governance arrangements

In response to this area of focus the following actions have been taken:

The Council Leader has allocated Corporate Safeguarding responsibility to the lead member for Health and Social Services and this role is clarified in the Corporate Safeguarding Policy. The council constitution has been amended and Corporate Safeguarding has been added to the Cabinet Member's portfolio and is overseen by the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee.

A communication plan has been agreed and numerous communication methods such as newsletters, posters and screensavers have been used to raise awareness of key safeguarding roles, corporate safeguarding policy and important events such as safeguarding training and National Safeguarding week. Briefing sessions have been delivered to Heads of Service, Directorate Management Teams and full council.

The council intranet and website has been refreshed to ensure easy navigation to essential information such as the corporate safeguarding policy and how to report concerns about a child or adult at risk. The updated webpages provide links to other areas of relevance and additional support services available.

The corporate safeguarding intranet page can be found here.



Corporate Safeguarding Intranet Page

The corporate safeguarding webpage can be found here.



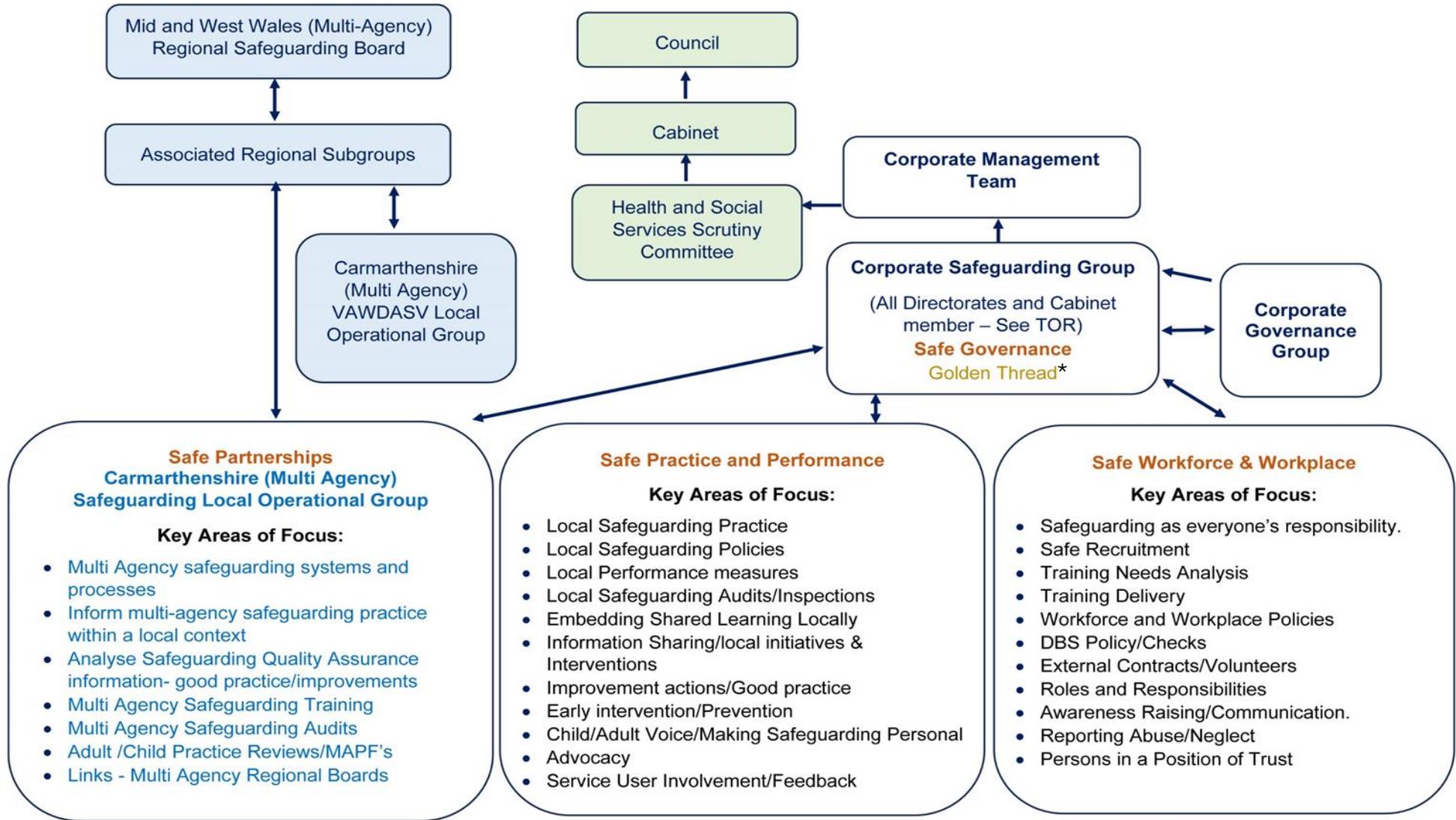
Safeguarding Webpage

The Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been refreshed and includes reference to key roles and responsibilities. It places an emphasis on safeguarding as everyone's responsibility and ensures all staff, volunteers, elected members and those working on behalf of the council know how to identify concerns and how to report them. The Corporate Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains up to date and reflects any changes in legislation and Policy.

Ensuring Safeguarding is seen as everyone's responsibility is a corporate strategic priority for Carmarthenshire County Council. In November 2023 the Corporate Safeguarding Group refreshed the governance arrangements in place and established a new governance structure which embeds safeguarding as everyone's responsibility and ensures links between internal and external partners. Corporate Safeguarding is also discussed regularly at Corporate Governance Group.

The Corporate Safeguarding Governance arrangements can be seen in Figure 1 overleaf.

Figure 1: Governance Arrangements for Corporate Safeguarding



**Links all the workstreams together and ensures safeguarding as everyone's responsibility.*

Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG)

The Corporate Safeguarding Officers group has been re-named **Corporate Safeguarding Group** (CSG) and has refreshed its terms of reference, amended its membership and strengthened its focus. The CSG has oversight of all corporate safeguarding arrangements in place across the organisation, sets annual priorities and monitors compliance. Its name is used consistently throughout all associated documentation and communication.

To ensure the council fulfils its Corporate Safeguarding commitments the CSG has agreed the following thematic areas of focus:

➡	Safe Governance	➡	Safe Workplace and Workforce
➡	Safe Practice and Performance	➡	Safe Partnerships

The Corporate Safeguarding Group is chaired by the Director for Communities (Statutory Director) and meets monthly in line with its Terms of Reference. The Lead member for corporate safeguarding also attends the meeting and plays a key role in ensuring actions are progressed. Frequency of the meetings has remained monthly throughout 2024 to ensure regular oversight of actions identified in the Wales Audit report, however, due to the progress made, meeting frequency will change to quarterly throughout 2025/2026.

Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Groups

Two new Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Groups were established in May 2024. The groups were established to ensure activity relating to the key areas of focus is progressed. Each directorate is represented at the delivery groups and those attending have a responsibility to cascade information to teams and to identify any additional areas for improvement. The responsibility for Safe Governance sits with the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

Safe Workforce and Workplace Delivery Group

The Safe Workforce and Workplace Delivery Group is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and focuses on safe recruitment, safeguarding training and safeguarding in commissioned services. The group has collectively addressed the areas identified in the WA audit.

The priorities for this group are:

Priority 1	Safe Recruitment
Strengthen arrangements for monitoring compliance with pre-employment checks for staff and volunteers and ensure all safe recruitment practices are being followed.	
Priority 2	Safeguarding Training
Ensure appropriate safeguarding training is provided to all staff, elected members, school governors and volunteers and appropriate monitoring arrangements in place to ensure satisfactory compliance.	
Priority 3	Commissioned Services
Ensure those commissioned to do work on behalf of the Council are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities.	
Priority 4	Persons in a Position of Trust
Ensure robust arrangements are in place to manage safeguarding concerns raised about staff in a Position of Trust	

The key actions for 2025/26 are:

- Roll out a council wide system for recording volunteer information and activity
- Develop a robust and consistent approach to safeguarding training in schools
- Develop and embed a consistent approach to contract management and monitoring
- Review processes in place to manage concerns raised about Carmarthenshire County Council employees in a position of trust including the provision of advice and support.

Safe Practice and Performance Delivery Group

The Safe Practice and Performance Delivery Group is chaired by the Senior Manager for Adult and Corporate Safeguarding and focuses on embedding safeguarding procedures, overseeing safeguarding audits and shared learning from local, regional and national safeguarding practice reviews.

The priorities for this group are:

Priority

1

Risk Management

Ensure robust systems in place to identify, record, mitigate and monitor corporate risks safeguarding risks

Priority

2

Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Practice

Ensure Safeguarding policies, procedures and practice is regularly reviewed, refreshed and communicated across the organisation.

Priority

3

Audit and Evaluation

Ensure annual safeguarding audits are completed within each directorate and areas of improvement embedded into appropriate action plans

Priority

4

Safeguarding as Everyone's responsibility

Ensure the safeguarding of children and adults is embedded into all functions of the organisation and is a priority for all staff, elected members and volunteers.

The key actions for this group in 2025/26 are:

- Review and evaluate methods for identifying and capturing safeguarding risks and mitigating actions and ensure regular oversight at corporate level
- Review and evaluate existing Safeguarding Policies and Guidance documents in circulation to ensure relevance and alignment with Corporate Safeguarding Policy
- Develop a framework for evaluating departmental Safeguarding audits and make recommendations based on outcomes including areas for further audit
- Enhance the arrangements in place for raising awareness of “safeguarding as everyone's responsibility” across the organisation and with partners in the nighttime economy
- Develop a framework to regularly and consistently communicate shared learning from Single Unified Safeguarding Reviews

Safe Partnerships Group (Carmarthenshire Safeguarding Local Operational Group)

The safe Partnerships group is a well-established multi agency forum aligned with the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board and functions in accordance with its terms of reference. For regional consistency the group is known as the Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group (CLOG). The group chaired jointly by the Head of Adult Social Care and Head of Children's Services. The group meets quarterly and is well attended by internal departments and external partner agencies. The group analyses multi -agency safeguarding performance data, seeks solutions to areas of operational challenge and responds to the priorities set by the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board. Further information on the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board can be found [here](#).



Cysur | Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board Safeguarding children & adults

VAWDASV - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Local Operational Group

The VAWDASV Local Operational Group has been established to ensure a collaborative approach to addressing all forms of VAWDASV in Carmarthenshire. The group consists of representatives from internal departments within the council and multi-agency partners.

The Local Operational Group will be instrumental in responding, at a local level, to the priorities and actions set out in the Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-2027 (**Building Happier, Safer, Stronger Lives**), and for identifying and responding to areas of particular focus which may emerge locally.

The group has a particular role in ensuring that the specialist support available to survivors and their wider networks, is appropriately communicated, utilised and evaluated. It will pro-actively identify gaps in service delivery and seek collaborative solutions ensuring any operational or strategic barriers are addressed.

The Mid and West Wales Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-2027 and its associated delivery plan can be found [here](#).



Cy | Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy for Mid and West Wales

The Council supported White Ribbon campaign again this year, starting with White Ribbon Day on November 25 and continuing for 16 Days of Action.

This year's powerful theme "It Starts with Men" highlighted the crucial role men play in preventing violence towards women and girls by promoting respect and equality within

their communities. While domestic abuse affects both sexes, the largest number of violent incidents involve men against women.

To show its support, the Council flew the White Ribbon flag at County Hall, Carmarthen and Town Halls in Llanelli and Ammanford and lit up County Hall on 25 November. White Ribbon campaign screensavers were placed on all work laptops asking staff to make the promise “to never use, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women”. Posters to raise awareness of the campaign were seen in Council buildings and bus stations and video messages shown on screens in libraries, theatres, HWBs and leisure centres. Staff were encouraged to become an Ambassador or Champion to support the campaign and make a real difference in their workplace and community.

As an employer, Carmarthenshire Council has a zero tolerance for any form of violence and abuse and understands that the responsibility for abuse lies with the perpetrator. The council’s Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Policy was updated in 2022 and will be reviewed in 2025.

Corporate Safeguarding Policy

In December 2023 the Council’s Cabinet agreed a refreshed Corporate Safeguarding Policy. The Policy was enhanced to ensure it aligns with the Welsh Government Corporate Safeguarding best practice guidance, placing a focus on prevention and on ensuring all staff, volunteers, councillors and partners are committed to safeguarding children and adults and understand their duty to report concerns. The policy sets out the governance arrangements and identifies key roles and responsibilities.

Heads of Service are identified as the Designated Safeguarding Lead persons (DSL) within the Local authority who in addition to being a point of contact for safeguarding matters are also the conduit for sharing information between service areas and the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

The corporate Safeguarding policy can be found here.



[Corporate Safeguarding Policy](#)

Assurance Framework

The Corporate Safeguarding Group has agreed the mechanisms by which it will assure itself and cabinet that it is discharging its role effectively.

The refreshed governance structure demonstrates the corporate wide approach to ensuring regular oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding activity. The establishment of dedicated safeguarding delivery groups reporting directly to the CSG ensures a regular focus on key corporate safeguarding functions and activity. The priorities identified and actions completed by the delivery groups enable the CSG to provide adequate assurance that it is discharging its functions effectively. The CSG will review its Terms of Reference annually to ensure they remain relevant.

A set of performance measures have been agreed and these will be regularly reported to and analysed by the Corporate Safeguarding group. The data will enable the early identification of areas of good practice and improvement opportunities. In addition to providing regular updates, an annual Corporate Safeguarding report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team and the Health and Social Services scrutiny committee.

Directorate Safeguarding Audits (self-assessment)

Corporate Safeguarding Group has agreed that each year all Directorates will be required to undertake a self-assessment of the arrangements they have in place to support corporate safeguarding. A toolkit to achieve this is currently being piloted across one directorate and feedback on its effectiveness will be reported to CSG in early 2025.

The self-assessments aim to identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement for each Directorate. The assessment results will be reported through to the Corporate Safeguarding Group via the safe practice and performance delivery group. The actions for improvement, will be included in Directorate Delivery Plans. Progress against the delivery of the actions will be monitored by the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

2. Safe Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers

The safe recruitment of staff and volunteers is recognised as an important area of corporate safeguarding and is a key focus for Corporate Safeguarding Group and the Safe Workforce and Workplace Delivery Group. The council has well established systems and processes in place to ensure the recruitment of staff and volunteers is safe and robust. Several additional actions have been taken to strengthen these arrangements:

Corporate oversight of Safe Recruitment Practices

Throughout 2023/24 several key policy and guidance documents have been refreshed and approved to further highlight safe recruitment processes. This includes:

- ❖ DBS guidance document
- ❖ Safe Recruitment Policy
- ❖ Ex Offenders Policy
- ❖ Volunteering Policy

Pre employment checks for all new starters are carried out by the recruitment team in conjunction with managers. Any non-compliance in relation to DBS checks, right to work checks or professional registration checks is escalated to the relevant Director and Head of Service and reported to the Corporate Safeguarding Group and the recruiting manager is issued with a “warning” letter and provided with additional training where necessary. This escalation process is referenced in the refreshed DBS Policy. Work is ongoing to ensure all schools use the online recruitment system which will identify any gaps in the pre-employment checks process and ensure a consistent approach across the council.

To emphasise the importance of safeguarding as everyone's responsibility, all job profiles now include the following safeguarding statement.

“Safeguarding is everyone's business. All of us have a responsibility for protecting children and adults at risk, working in a way that promotes and supports their best interests and for reporting any concerns.”

Recruiting managers are signposted to the new job profile template when following the recruitment process. Additionally, the new online recruitment system prompts recruiting managers to use the new Job Profile template and directs them to this via the council intranet. The job profile template can be found here.



Job Profile Template

Regular users of the online recruitment system are also reminded of this requirement at regular meetings, and it is included in the safe recruitment training which is being rolled out across the council.

In April 2024 all new contracts of employment were updated to also include the safeguarding statement. This is further evidence of the council's commitment to ensuring all employees understand their safeguarding responsibilities prior to commencing employment. The council has reviewed its use of risk assessments to allow staff to commence work prior to the completion of some pre-employment checks. The Risk assessments were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic and used only in areas of recruitment crisis. Risk assessments continue to be used in exceptional circumstances and the Recruiting Manager is asked to confirm that they have the appropriate safeguards in place pending the receipt of a DBS check. It is the Recruiting Managers responsibility to keep records of their risk assessments.

As previously referenced, the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers will be an ongoing key area of focus for the Safe Workplace and Workforce Delivery Group. This work will be enhanced by the recent two-year appointment to an Employment Safeguarding post.

Contractual arrangements for Commissioned Services

The council is committed to ensuring that those commissioned to do work on its behalf are equally aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. Documentation used in the procurement process has been enhanced to include specific safeguarding questions and reference is made to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy with the expectation that this will be complied with. The council contract management guidance document has been updated and a contract management checklist in use. Many service areas have dedicated contract monitoring functions in place and regular reviews of high value contracts are carried out. Further work will continue throughout 2025/26 to strengthen the existing contract monitoring arrangements in place for all contracts. The DBS policy includes the expected requirements of contracted staff.

3. Safeguarding Training

In 2023, Social Care Wales launched the National Safeguarding Training learning and Development Standards. The purpose of these standards is to make sure everyone in Wales receives consistent good quality training, learning and development that is relevant to their role and responsibilities, and supports employees to safeguard people to the best of their ability. Existing training data has been checked and mapped in accordance with the new Social Care Wales Framework and a baseline of safeguarding training requirements identified for all staff.

Corporate Safeguarding Group made an early decision that Group A safeguarding and Level 1 Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) training is mandatory for all staff, volunteers and elected members. This training is delivered both online and face to face to ensure accessibility for all.

A new learning and development management system has been introduced which enables staff to easily access training and view training history. The system regularly reminds staff and managers of uncompleted mandatory training. All training data is tracked and reported to Corporate Safeguarding Group.

An agreed pathway for school governor safeguarding training has been developed and plans in place to ensure this training is delivered regularly and consistently. Oversight of actions in relation to safeguarding training sits with the Safe Workforce and Workplace delivery group.

4. Reporting on Corporate Safeguarding

Reporting on the effectiveness of the council's corporate safeguarding arrangements provides assurance to the Corporate Management Team, elected members and citizens of Carmarthenshire. In line with good practice several methods for providing this assurance have been strengthened.

Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report

Activity and performance relating to Corporate Safeguarding has historically been reported via the Statutory Directors Annual Report. Building on this arrangement, Corporate Safeguarding Group agreed that an exclusive report on Corporate Safeguarding will be produced annually. This report is the inaugural edition of the Carmarthenshire Council Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report.

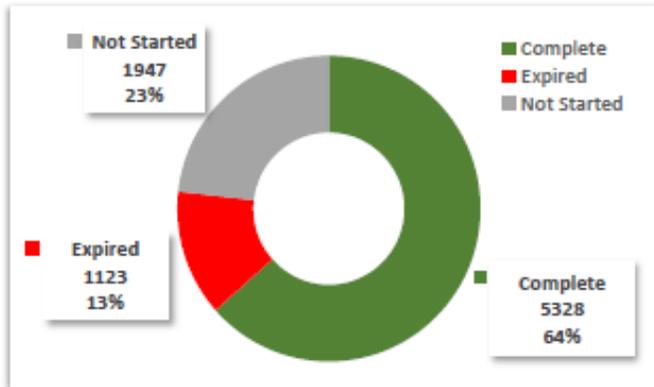
Performance Measures

Key Performance Indicators have been agreed by the Corporate Safeguarding Group. Monitoring progress against the identified measures will ensure ongoing compliance and early identification of improvement opportunities. Collection of the data will be introduced in two phases. Phase 1 measures are reportable from April 2024 and Phase 2 measures will be collected and reported from April 2025. The measures will sit alongside audit recommendation tracking.

Phase 1 data is detailed below:

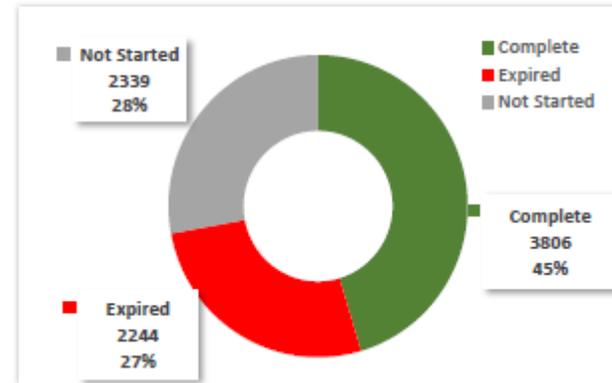
Safeguarding A

All Completions
Total Staff: 8,398



VAWDASV

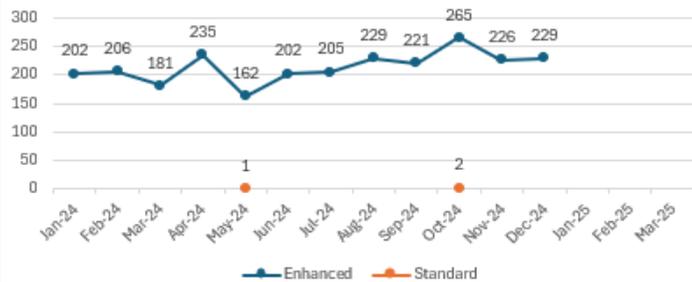
All Completions
Total Staff: 8,389



DBS

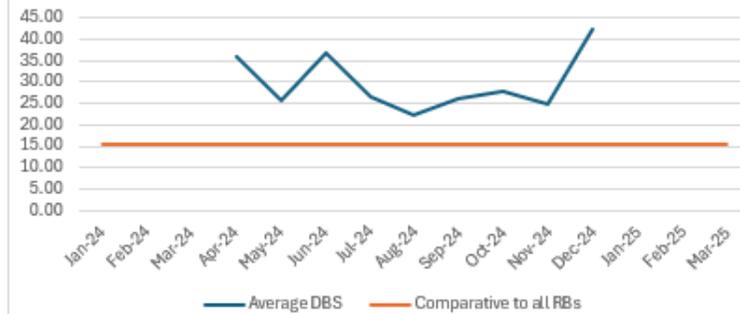
Total Checks Processed in the Year

Volume of checks processed by the DBS / Disclosure Scotland by month



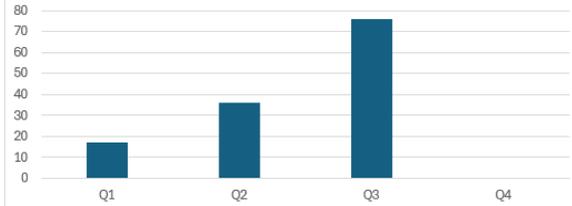
Enhanced, Disclosure Turnaround Time (Calendar Days)

Average DBS

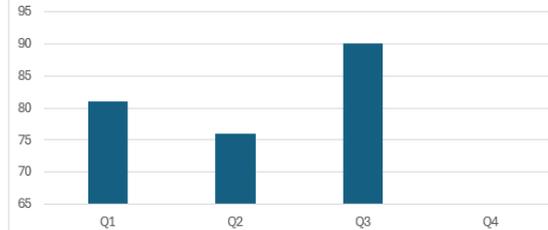


Safer Partnership – Children

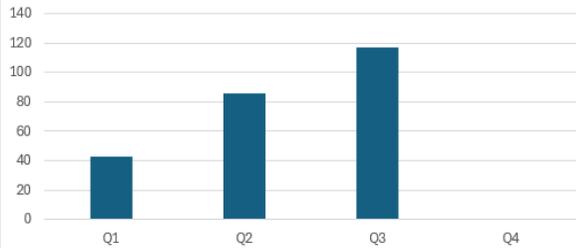
The total number of Section 47 Enquiries completed year to date that progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference



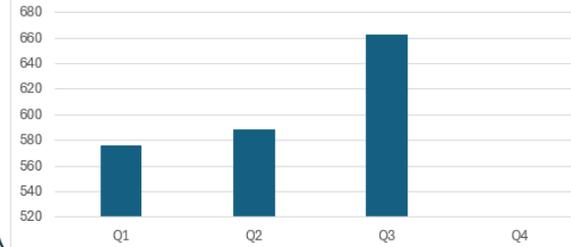
Total number of children on the CP register as at the end of the quarter



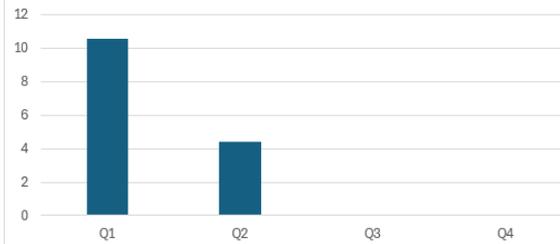
The total number of reports of child exploitation received during the year to date



Number of children that the Local Authority are aware of that are Electively Home Educated (EHE)

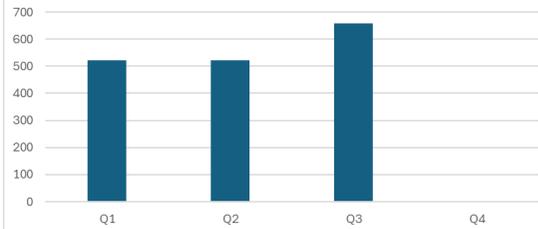


% of the above that have NOT received an annual visit in the last 12 months

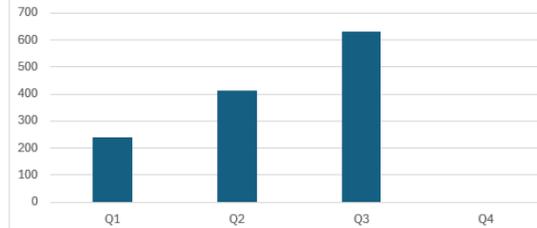


Safer Partnership – Adults

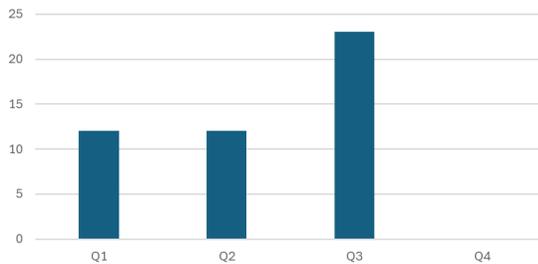
The total number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the year to date



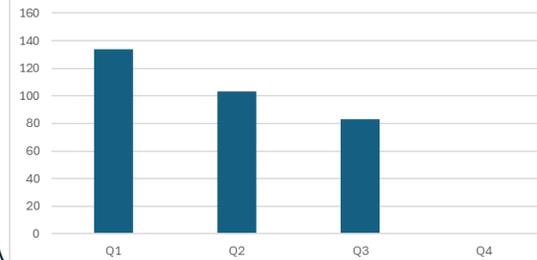
The total number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk that progress to a 126 enquiry



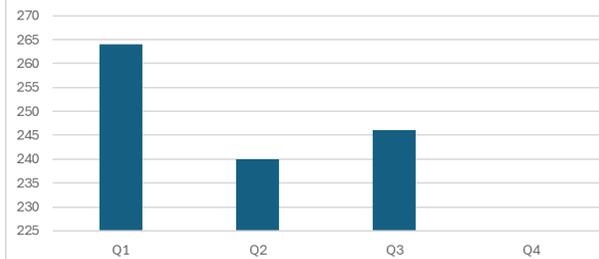
Number of urgent DoLS applications received



Number of Standard DoLS applications received



TOTAL accrued number of applications that remain unallocated as at end of this period (backlog)



Proposed Phase 2 Measures are listed below:

- ❖ Safeguarding training completed (Group B)
- ❖ Elected Member safeguarding training completed
- ❖ School Governor safeguarding training completed
- ❖ PREVENT reports received
- ❖ Modern Day Slavery reports
- ❖ Number of Directorate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audits completed.
- ❖ Number of Safeguarding reports relating to Persons in a Position of Trust-Carmarthenshire employees
- ❖ Number of Contract Monitoring Safeguarding Checks Completed
- ❖ Average number of cases held by social workers in Children's services

Reporting, analysing and understanding corporate safeguarding data has been identified by the Corporate Safeguarding Group as a development priority. Key performance indicators will be reviewed annually to ensure the information reported remains relevant and provides the appropriate assurances.

5. Risk Management

Identifying and mitigating safeguarding risks is a fundamental part of corporate safeguarding. Whilst Corporate Safeguarding Group has oversight of identified Corporate Safeguarding risks, these are also included in the Corporate Risk Register. The Corporate Risk register is regularly reviewed by the Corporate Management Team which seeks reassurance on mitigating measures.

Directorate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audits have commenced and will continue throughout 2025/26 and repeated annually. The audits will identify areas of potential risk which will be considered by the Corporate Safeguarding Group and identified actions included in appropriate action plans. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery groups will also play an important role in identifying and mitigating safeguarding risks.

6. Rolling Programme of Internal Audit Reviews

The Corporate Safeguarding Group and Internal Audit has reviewed and refreshed its rolling programme of safeguarding audits. The focus for the period 2023-2026 includes:

- ❖ School and College Transport Drivers and Passenger Assistants – compliance with Safeguarding requirements
- ❖ HR Processes – Pre-Employment Checks
- ❖ Follow-up of the Audit Wales Report recommendations
- ❖ Procurement/Contracting
- ❖ Service Audit Reviews (Safeguarding)

The outcome of the audits will be shared at Corporate Safeguarding Group and mitigating actions included in delivery plans and risk registers where appropriate.

7. Considering Risks at Corporate and Service level

An enhanced approach to identifying and mitigating safeguarding risks is in place. In addition to the scheduled programme of audits agreed, the annual Directorate Safeguarding Audits will be monitored and identified risks escalated and included in departmental, directorate, safeguarding risk registers and the Corporate Risk Register where appropriate.

Additional Areas of Safeguarding Practice

Safer Communities Partnership

Carmarthenshire Council has a robust and proactive Safer Communities Partnership which includes representatives from: the Council, Health Board, Police, Probation and Fire and Rescue Service. Working collaboratively with other organisations the purpose of the partnership is to tackle crime and disorder in the county. Key areas of collaborative work include oversight of corporate response to statutory duties relating to counter-terrorism and serious violence, strategic overview of partnership working including VAWDASV, Domestic Homicide Reviews, now known as Single Unified Safeguarding Reviews (SUSR) in Wales, offender management and organised crime groups, prevention work relating to crime and disorder and protecting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

PREVENT/CHANNEL

The Carmarthenshire Prevent network supports the council and statutory partners to ensure that Carmarthenshire residents are safeguarded from the ideologies associated with terrorism and violent extremist narratives. Regular work is undertaken with the third sector, community, and faith-based organisations to promote awareness of Prevent, including how to spot the signs of radicalisation and report concerns. Supporting the PREVENT workstream is Carmarthenshire's multi-agency **Channel Panel** led by Carmarthenshire County Council. The focus of the Channel Panel is to provide support at an early stage to people who are susceptible to radicalisation. Channel uses a multi-agency approach to:

- ❖ identify people at risk
- ❖ assess the nature and extent of that risk
- ❖ develop the most appropriate support plan for the person concerned

The Carmarthenshire Channel Panel benefits from excellent multi agency involvement which is evident in the outcomes achieved for people at risk. The work of the Channel Panel is monitored by the Home Office. An annual Channel Panel assurance audit is completed and submitted for evaluation and feedback. The Home Office is satisfied that Carmarthenshire Channel Panel is fulfilling its statutory functions.

Considering recent tragic events in Southport, a PREVENT learning review was commissioned jointly by Home Office Prevent and Counter-Terrorism Policing and a decision made to publish its findings. The local authority and its partner agencies will consider the report findings and implement recommended changes where necessary.