

CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARDS

CWM TAF CHILDREN AND ADULTS SAFEGUARDING BOARDS (CTSB) PARTICIPATION STRATEGY



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Introduction

Part 7 of The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, (SSWBA), places a responsibility on all regional safeguarding boards to give children, young people and adults at risk the opportunity to participate in one or more events of the Boards work at least once a year.

Outcome 3 of the CTSBs Annual Plan states; 'The Boards are proactive in engaging with its community and children, young people and adults are given the opportunity to participate in the work of the Boards'.

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards recognises the importance of this engagement with people who use our services and the need for it to be in a structured, meaningful fashion that benefits the participants in a positive way. The Boards need to give the children, young people and adults at risk involved, a stronger voice in service provision.

Engagement will be required to take place with sufficient time to enable the Boards to report on the outcomes of that engagement and to include in their Annual Reports each year.

The work of Safeguarding Boards will be better informed through engaging directly with those affected, which in turn will assist the Boards in its forward planning and performance evaluation. The effectiveness of any participation that has taken place during the period leading up to each Board meeting will likewise be evaluated.

This Strategy builds upon the good work already being undertaken across Cwm Taf. It also incorporates the principle of 'Voice and Control' which includes:

"... having a strong voice ... real control ... [and] citizen engagement is a central theme of the Act ... it can greatly assist people with expressing their views and making informed choices" – Getting in on the Act (SSWBA, Wales 2014).

This also links with the Cwm Taf Public Service Boards' Joint Public Engagement Strategy and sets out a commitment to communicate and engage with the relevant target groups to enable them to contribute towards the decision making process.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about protecting children, young people and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers to prevent them from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect. One of the most important principles of safeguarding is that it is everyone's responsibility. Each professional and organisation must do everything they can, to ensure that children and adults at risk are protected from abuse.

Safeguarding children and young people includes:

- to protect children who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- to prevent children from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm

Safeguarding adults includes:

- protect adults who have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
- are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- prevent those adults mentioned above from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

The Boards recognise that the term ‘Safeguarding’ may not be meaningful to non-professional groups and the Boards should consider alternative terminology i.e. “Keeping People Safe” when communicating with the general public.

Our Vision

The Vision of the Cwm Taf Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards is:

“To ensure that children, young people and adults at risk in Cwm Taf, are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and are prevented from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and they live in an environment that promotes their wellbeing.

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards will work within the ethos of Voice and Control and engage with, listen to and hear the views of children, young people and adults at risk”

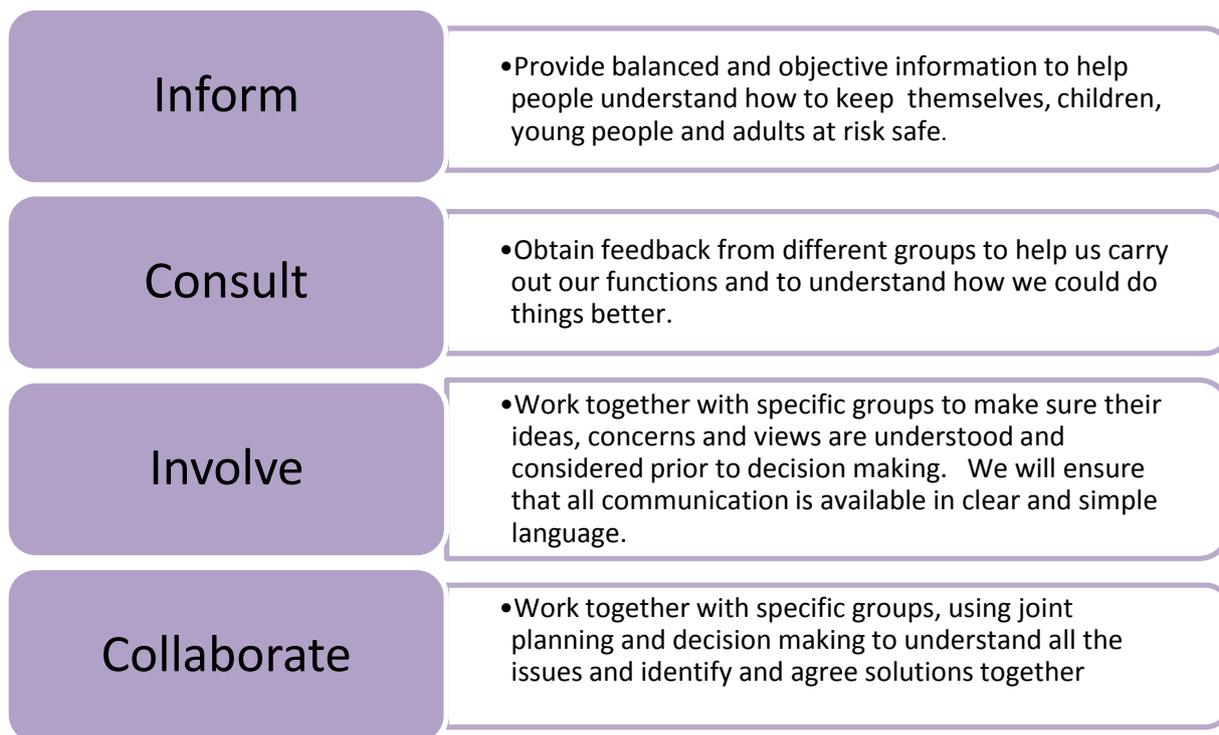
Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards 2017

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards intend to do this by working towards all staff; partners and members of the public being educated about the nature of safeguarding and how to report incidents to the appropriate bodies. This will enable the Boards to take the appropriate action to keep children, young people and adults at risk in Cwm Taf safe from harm.

This strategy sets out how the CTSBs will achieve their vision and ensure that children, young people, adults at risk and service providers have their say on the shape of our safeguarding in Cwm Taf. It is not intended to replace or duplicate existing participation within individual services, but to recognise the positive work done to date and seeks to build on existing good practice.

Model of Communication and Participation

We want to establish a dialogue with our stakeholders that will enable them to understand the role they play in keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe, but also to be involved in shaping the priorities and work of the CTSBs. For this reason we have adopted the following model of communication and participation.



Based on the model used in Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Communication and Participation Strategy 2015

Key Principles

The following principles underpin this strategy:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- One of the objectives of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards is to educate everyone about their safeguarding responsibilities i.e. 'keeping people safe'
- The engagement of the community is an essential part of ensuring that diverse and hard to reach groups are included
- All communication is available bilingually; written in simple language and accessible to all regardless of disability or language barriers
- Children, young people and adults at risk should have appropriate opportunities to have their views and opinions heard
- Feedback will be actively listened to and acted upon in order to develop and continually improve service provision
- A culture of participation that respects, protects, values and supports children, young people and adults at risk is generated
- Information is kept safe in line with the Data Protection Act 2010
- The objectives of engagement activities are clear and are communicated appropriately to participants
- Participants are clear about how their information/feedback will be used

Responsibilities

Implementation of this strategy is the responsibility of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards.

CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARDS (CTSBS)

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards are the multi-agency partnerships which have responsibility to protect from, and prevent the abuse of children, young people and adults at risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil.

The CTSBs operate within the statutory guidance set out under section 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and in exercising its functions under the Act the CTSBs will have due regard to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The CTSBs monitor how well agencies and other partnerships undertake their work with regard to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk and ensure that safeguarding is embedded within all working practices.

The Annual Plans and Annual Reports will support the evaluation of the work of the Boards and will make them accountable to the public, statutory partner agencies and to the inspectorate bodies.

The CTSBs will make their Annual Plans and Annual Reports available to the public each year via the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website (www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org).

The CTSBs are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the participation strategy to ensure that it is effective.

THE SAFEGUARDING BUSINESS UNIT

The Business Unit supports both the Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards to deliver their safeguarding responsibilities. The team drives forward the day-to-day business in relation to the Boards core functions, and provides administrative and organisational support for activities associated with the Boards sub groups.

The unit is the central point of co-ordination for the work of the Boards and is responsible for the website www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org.

Audience Groups and Key Messages

The table below outlines the different audience groups for the CTSBs, the key messages to be delivered and the outcomes we hope to achieve by undertaking this engagement work to ensure that people are able to participate in the work of the Boards’.

It is the responsibility of the CTSBs to ensure that these audiences are reached and that the message is understood by all. The implementation work will be delegated to the Boards Engagement, Participation and Communication Sub Group (EPC).

Target Group	Key Messages	Desired outcome	Methodology
Partner Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility • What is Safeguarding? • How to report a concern • How to recognise risk and harm • How to contact the CTSBs Business Unit • Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the CTSBs • What support, help and assistance the Boards can provide • How to access CTSBs multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures • How to deal with allegations against staff and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in all relevant Safeguarding training and events • To ensure that members of the Engagement, Participation and Communication Group commit to and fulfil their roles and responsibilities in attending group meetings and planning events • Support and safeguarding practice is improved • There is a shared understanding of safeguarding priorities and how they are addressed • Partnership working is strengthened and supported • Allegations against staff and volunteers are reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully engage in the co-ordination and participation of all events e.g. Safeguarding Week by means of workforce groups • Relevant safeguarding information (including policies and procedures) relating to children, young people and adults to be available electronically via the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards' website http://cwmtafsafeguarding.org/ • Work with partner agencies to develop methods of engagement within the communities e.g. DVD by South Wales Police • Link in with national Safeguarding campaigns
Children, Young People & Adults at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility • What is Safeguarding? • How to report a concern • How to recognise whether they/someone else is at risk • A basic understanding of the Child Protection and Adults at Risk procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have appropriate access to information that meets their needs • Are encouraged to get involved in the work of the CTSBs • Have easy access to relevant, up-to-date information on safeguarding issues and how to get help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop innovative ways to collate evaluations from children, young people and adults that will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilising up-to-date I.T. resources • Use existing platforms e.g. the recently re-launched Wicid website to develop new ways

Target Group	Key Messages	Desired outcome	Methodology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basic understanding of the role of CTSBs and opportunities to get involved its work • Types of abuse e.g. neglect, sexual, financial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options to engage the most vulnerable groups in Cwm Taf are explored 	<p>to engage with young people www.wicid.tv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop an inclusive prevention strategy and to provide training • Publication of a newsletter for the target audiences/general public identified • Review previously successful events and training e.g. interactive theatre group • Participate in appropriate events e.g. mental health awareness week • Create Safeguarding 'Champions' roles to promote participation
Parents, Carers and Advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility • What is Safeguarding? • How to report a concern • How to recognise a risk to those who they are responsible for • A basic understanding of the Child Protection and Adults at Risk procedures • A basic understanding of the role of CTSBs and opportunities to get involved its work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to information that meets their needs • Are encouraged to participate in the work of the CTSBs • Easy access to relevant, up-to-date information on safeguarding issues,how to get help and preventative measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant safeguarding information (including policies and procedures) relating to children, young people and adults to be available via the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards' website http://cwmtafsafeguarding.org/ • Publication of a newsletter for target audience/general public • Deliver ongoing appropriate training/events e.g. safeguarding awareness raising event – Safeguarding

Target Group	Key Messages	Desired outcome	Methodology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of abuse e.g. neglect, CSE, financial 		<p>Bingo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop innovative ways to collate feedback from parents and carers that will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilising up-to-date I.T. resources ○ Create Safeguarding 'Champions' roles to promote participation

Target Group	Key Messages	Desired outcome	Methodology
Local Communities - Groups?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility • What is Safeguarding? • How to report a concern • How to recognise risk and take appropriate action • How to access information about safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target groups have easy access to relevant safeguarding information • Are encouraged to participate in the work of the CTSBs, where appropriate • Easy access to relevant, up-to-date information on safeguarding issues, how to get help preventative measures • Report safeguarding concerns where necessary • To engage with a wider range of groups who have contact with children, young people and adults at risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant safeguarding information (including policies and procedures) relating to children, young people and adults to be available via the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards' website http://cwmtafsafeguarding.org/ • Deliver ongoing appropriate training/events e.g. safeguarding awareness raising event – Safeguarding Bingo • Develop links with local businesses and organisations who come into contact with children, young people and adults at risk e.g. taxi drivers, financial institutions, local churches • Utilise local media to promote the safeguarding agenda • Create Safeguarding 'Champions' roles to promote participation

Evaluation

The CTSBs are committed to evaluating all of their events and training that take place relating to safeguarding.

It will seek to provide the most appropriate method of evaluation from all participants.

The CTSBs will review how evaluation is obtained from all participants and ensure that it is as inclusive as possible.. It will look to use the most relevant and effective information gathering techniques.

The CTSBs will ensure that all evaluations are assessed/analysed and that feed back is provided where possible. Any recommendations will be fully considered and, where appropriate, adopted.

The CTSBs will work with other Safeguarding Boards to identify good practice and to incorporate this into its own provision

Future Demands

The CTSBs recognise the diversity of safeguarding issues, as well as their responsibility within Cwm Taf to meet new demands as they arise. It is the Boards' responsibility to take a proactive approach to respond to any changes that impact on safeguarding.

The CTSBs are committed to working with partner agencies, as well as those affected, to deliver appropriate training, events and information to tackle the challenges that lay ahead.

Other Related Documents/Information

- Cwm Taf Communication and Engagement Strategy
- RCT and Merthyr Tydfil Joint Public Engagement Strategy
- Cwm Taf Children and Adults (CTSB) Induction Pack
- RCT Corporate Safeguarding Policy
- CTSCB Annual Plan 2016/17
- CTSAB Annual Plan 2016/17
- www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org.uk