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### **Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Bulletin 1/2017**

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards (CTSB) Bulletin which has been developed in partnership with the agencies that are represented on the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. The role of the CTSB is to jointly ensure that children, young people and adults at risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil are safeguarded from abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm.

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### **Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2016-18**

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2016-17 has been published and is available to view [here](#).

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**National Independent  
Safeguarding Board Wales**

**Bwrdd Diogelu Gwladol  
Annibynnol Cymru**

The National Independent Safeguarding Board website has now been launched!

Please visit [www.bwrdddiogelu.cymru](http://www.bwrdddiogelu.cymru) to access the website in Welsh or [www.safeguardingboard.wales](http://www.safeguardingboard.wales) for English.



## **What is a Private Fostering arrangement?**

Victoria Climbié was brought to the UK by her Great Aunt from the Ivory Coast under a private fostering arrangement. Victoria died in 2000 and this case led to an overhaul and major changes in child protection procedures in the UK.

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close family member in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

Close family member as defined by the Children Act is a Parent/Step parent/Grandparent/Aunt/Uncle/Brother/Sister/Step-Brother/Sister. 'Step' includes by marriage as well as by blood.

**In what situation might a child be privately fostered?**

- Parental illness
- Substance Misuse
- Mental health issues
- Parent in prison
- Family crisis
- Teenagers estranged from parents
- Parents move, wanting child to remain in the same school
- Working elsewhere in UK
- Trafficked into the UK

### **What and who's Responsibility?**

- Each party (parent/private foster carer) involved in the private fostering arrangement has a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start. Not to do so is a criminal offence.
- Once the notification has been made to the authority, Children's Services have a duty to visit and speak to the child, the parent and the private foster carer; and everyone in the carer's household. Children's services will then undertake a range of suitability checks including DBS checks on everyone in the household over the age of 16.
- Other professionals, for example GPs surgeries and schools, also have a responsibility to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement.
- Local Authorities also have a duty to raise awareness of the requirements to report to themselves of any private fostering arrangements in their area.

### **Children whose private fostering arrangement began during the year RCT/MTCBC/Wales**

	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010
RCT	0	0	5	0	4	4	3
MTCBC	0	0	0	0	2	1	5
Wales	41	77	69	41	60	69	100

Data provided by Welsh Government

### **What is the Relevant Legislation for Private Fostering?**

Children Act (1989) Part 9

The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) (Wales) Regulations 2006



## **Safeguarding Week 2017**

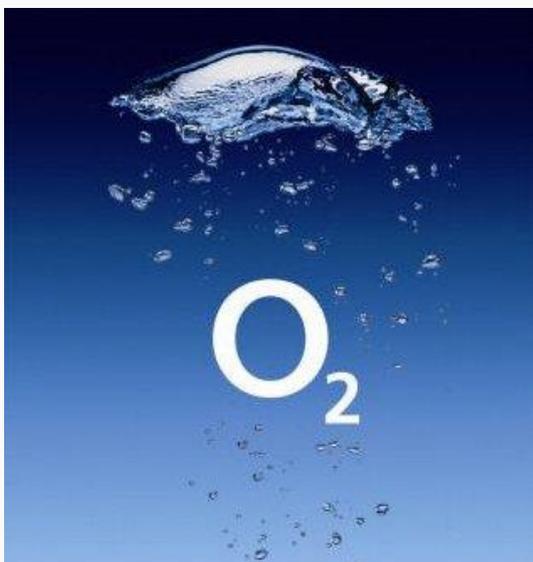
National Safeguarding week across Wales this year will take place between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Safeguarding Week aims to deliver awareness-raising events for the general public and professionals to reinforce key messages around safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk. The week will encompass a range of specialised events for the public as well as providing training for professionals.

To find out more information about events being held during safeguarding week please [click here](#).

If you require any further information or have any suggestions for events or activities that your agency would like to host during Safeguarding week please contact the Business Unit **on 01443 484 560** or via email at [cwmtafsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:cwmtafsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk)

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### **Become an expert in your child's online world in six weeks**

O2 have joined forces with the NSPCC on a mission to help all children and their families in the UK stay safe online.

They are offering useful tools, support and guidance to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about their online lives.

To find out more please [click here](#).

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### **[Life Journey Work in Cwm Taf](#)**

This is a briefing note for foster carers and professionals who have involvements with looked after young people. It provides information about the way we think about and plan life journey work with children and young people. All children who are looked after need to have an understanding of their family history and their unique journey.

Life journey work is designed to help a child to make sense of their past and understand their current situation in order to help them to move into the future.

Life Journey work captures an account of a child's life in the way that is right for the child / young person. It can be done using a variety of tools that may include one, several or all of the following:

- Significant items /objects and records ( e.g. first teddy, outfit, toy)
- Words
- Drawings
- Photographs
- Videos
- Craft work and fabric

It provides looked after young people with:

- a chronological record of a child's life and important factual information about their birth family, other important people and places
- an opportunity to integrate the past into the future so that childhood makes sense
- provide a basis on which a continuing Life Journey can be added to
- something the child can return to when he/she needs to deal with old feelings and clarify and/or accept the past
- enhance a child's sense of self and self-worth
- a structure for talking about painful issues.
- provide the basis to achieving stability and making positive new attachment to care givers.

During 2017 we are improving the way we go about helping looked after young people understand their lives and situations.

This is because we know that doing the basic things well, and spending time with looked after young people while helping them understand their family background is central to achieving stable and successful lives.

During 2016 a Cwm Taf citizen panel of children who are looked after made a short video which they called 'Lost and Found'. Young people told us the following (amongst other things):

- Things that would make it better included:-
- Photographs of myself as a baby ( said by teenager)
- Life Story Work
- Explaining (to me) why I am looked after
- Talking to somebody else who is in the same boat ( also looked after)
- The young people told us that every young person who becomes looked after should have the following help:-
- Photographs of the place where you will live. Every foster carer should have a book so you know about them before you go there
- Meet the foster carer before moving to live there
- Have an explanation of what is happening so the young person can understand

#### Next Steps:

- During August 2017 we will conclude local practice guidance to establish best practice standards and guide the way things are done in Cwm Taf
- In August 2017 we will listen to looked after young people's views about what works in life journey work
- In August 2017 we will identify life journey practice champions
- In September 2017 we will evaluate the number of looked after young people who need new or update life journey work
- All children and looked after young people who become looked after from September 2017 will have life journey work commenced by their second review
- From September 2017 Independent Reviewing Officers will talk to young people who are looked after at their reviews about their life journey work and whether there is more that needs to be done
- Independent Reviewing Officers will be asked to see the life journey work to assist in maintaining high standards in this work

- During the Autumn and Winter of 2017 AFA Cymru will provide training, and coaching to those involved in developing life journey work. This will include increasing familiarity with the practice tools that are available for this work
- In March 2018 we will evaluate all of this work and establish a plan to ensure that we continue to assist staff with this important work

### **Merthyr Tydfil Early Intervention Team**

Following a consultation with children/young people and their families, the existing 'Enhanced Children in Need Team' has been renamed the 'Early Intervention Team' (EIT). The team has been strengthened with the recruitment of two new social workers and a support officer. The team now operates with a senior practitioner, four social workers, one support officer and a team manager.

The focus of the team will be building the resilience of parents and families and give them the skills and confidence to provide a family environment in which children and young people can

The EIT Team will achieve this by:

- Becoming involved with Families at the right time
- Carrying out pre-birth assessments
- Accepting cases where proceedings or registration is assessed as likely but capacity for positive change is identified
- Delivering intensive care and support with research based interventions, achieved due to lower caseload sizes
- Co-produced care and support with the Merthyr Tydfil Family Centre
- Co-produced care and

thrive. This includes co-produced direct support when families are struggling, as well as developing and building capacity in families to manage change and difficulty themselves once professionals withdraw.

- support with the IFST
- Effective use of tracking, monitoring and group supervision.
- Working closely with families and wherever possible ensuring they are partners in the planning and delivering of their services



## Dementia Champion

Jackie Neale, Service Manager for RCT Adult Safeguarding Team, has recently been appointed as the Dementia champion for the Safeguarding Board. She would like to draw your attention to a number of resources that are available on the Internet for anyone to find out more about living with dementia.

The first is the [Alzheimer's Society website](#) which has lots of information and some powerful videos of people who have the condition. People can also search [Dewis Cymru's database](#) for services by putting in their postcode to see what's available in

their local community and council area.

For professionals, the [Social Care Institute for Excellence](#) and the [NHS Wales website](#) also have excellent resources.

People with dementia are especially vulnerable to all types of abuse and neglect because it becomes progressively harder for them to protect themselves. Often, the people who abuse or neglect people living with dementia are trusted individuals - family members, friends, health or social care professionals, but, sometimes, abuse is perpetrated by strangers. Sometimes, the abuse or neglect is intentional and positive action needs to be taken by agencies whose business it is to protect vulnerable people to call those individuals to account but sometimes, it is unintentional and needs to be addressed by education, support, skills training and, for family carers, with services to relieve some of the burden of their caring role.

We can all take steps whilst we're in good health or at an early stage once the condition has been diagnosed by planning ahead. The Alzheimer's Society has produce a useful booklet for planning ahead, which can be found [here](#).

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## What is WCCIS?

**The Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS)** is a single information solution supporting the integrated delivery of innovative, person-centred community health and social care. WCCIS will allow local authorities and community health services to share care records and optimise services for citizens across Wales, as required by the Integrated Health and Social Care, Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

**WCCIS has many benefits, including:**

- Person-centred care
- 24/7 access to records and information
- Integrated across health and social care
- Reduction in duplication of data capture
- Supports mobile working

**WCCIS went live in June 2017** for Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Cwm Taf UHB North SWIFT users

**The Go-Live date is April 2018** for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Cwm Taf UHB South SWIFT users

If you have any queries, concerns or suggestions, please contact the following:

**Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Email:** [WCCIS@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:WCCIS@merthyr.gov.uk) **Tel:** (01685) 725191

**Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC: Email:** [WCCIS@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:WCCIS@rctcbc.gov.uk) **Tel:** (01443) 444611

**Cwm Taf University Health Board Email:**

[CTUHB\\_WCCIS\\_Implementation@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:CTUHB_WCCIS_Implementation@wales.nhs.uk)

All questions and suggestions will be responded to directly. FAQ's will be discussed in the Cwm Taf WCCIS Regional Group and published in the next edition of the Cwm Taf WCCIS Newsletter.

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### **Get involved in the development of the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan**

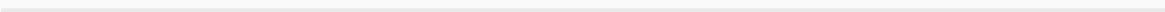
Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Cwm Taf Public Services Board is developing its Local Well-being Plan (by May 2018). The Well-being Plan will set out how public services in Cwm Taf will work with each other

and with communities to improve well-being.

The Public Services Board has produced a set of draft Well-being Objectives as a starting point and needs your help to make sure that the right things are being focused on. We want to look at what everyone has to contribute to improving well-being and what needs to change for this to happen.

It is not an easy conversation to have but an exciting one and we need your help to make sure that a wide variety of people get involved, if they so choose.

You can find out more about the draft Well-being Objectives and the opportunities to get involved in the conversation [here](#).





Women's Aid  
RCT Breaking the cycle of  
violence and abuse

### **Women's Aid RCT – RISE Project**

We'd like to share a new project within the Children and Young People's team at WOMENS AID RCT. As of April 2017 we are now able (with Thanks to Children In Need funding) to provide support to children and young people within RCT who have witnessed or experienced Domestic abuse.

We can provide one to one support to children (parents do not need to be accessing WA-RCT scheme's) who are between the age 6-18.

#### Eligible criteria

- Young people who are victims themselves,
- Young people in unhealthy relationships
- Children/ Young People have witnessed domestic abuse at home.

Children will be individually assessed and will work towards a tailored support plan, reviewed 6 weekly.

Referral form is available via [info@wa-rct.org.uk](mailto:info@wa-rct.org.uk) or for more information you can discuss with the CYP team on 01443 400791

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## **Barnardo's Cymru Gwella Project Update**

The 3 year Gwella Project is now moving into its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Over the past year, CTSCB's Gwella Project Practitioner has had ongoing responsibility for the local Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Action Plan, has completed a CSE Needs Assessment for the area and has assisted in setting up different processes to address the problem of CSE. Lots of training events have taken place for professionals working with children, both on the topic of CSE and regarding children who display Sexually Harmful Behaviour (SHB). Our Gwella practitioner has also been raising awareness in the community by creating leaflets for parents and licensed establishments and speaking to school children about the subject of CSE.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the project the primary role of the Gwella Practitioner will be to coordinate pilot case studies in the Cwm Taf area, utilising a prevention model, which has been in development over the past year. Cardiff University have completed a piece of research, which has informed this process. The aim of the model is to reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Sexually Harmful Behaviour (SHB), at an early stage. The focus of the pilots will be children aged 5-11 who meet certain criteria, which has been guided by both this research and practice experience within Barnardo's. The pilots will be evaluated by Cardiff University following their completion, and findings will be disseminated amongst practitioners during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the project.

For more information about the Gwella project please contact the CTSCB Gwella Practitioner: [Rhiannon.wright@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Rhiannon.wright@barnardos.org.uk)

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**Challenging Cases**

The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Website has recently launched its Challenging Cases page. This page aims to provide practitioners with guidance on the process to be followed in cases where a Child Protection Care and Support Plan is not reducing the risk to a child or young person, living in the Cwm Taf area (Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil) who is on the Child Protection register.

This may include children and young people who are at risk of child sexual exploitation or those who are putting themselves at risk through their own behaviour.

This protocol and assessment tools can be applied at any stage during the Child Protection process, at any point of involvement and regardless of the length of time the child has been on the register.

The protocol does not replace the current All Wales Child Protection Procedures but should be used to provide guidance in identifying and assessing possible risks to children and young people and to reduce the risk of harm to the lowest reasonably foreseeable level.

The page can be accessed [here](#).

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## **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

A21 have released a series of powerful video resources to raise awareness of Modern Slavery;

[Can You See Me Now? \(TAXI\)](#)

[Can You See Me Now? \(NAIL BAR\)](#)

[Can You See Me Now? \(CAR WASH\)](#)

To find out more information visit their website [here](#).



### **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub**

The MASH Operational Committee carried out a comprehensive accommodation review with recommendations for all agencies within MASH. Accommodation alteration works are subsequently in place to expand and improve MASH accommodation by autumn 2017.

A multi-agency evaluation of MASH process maps was completed with an agreed joint approach for amendments and improvements.

A thresholding review / screening pilot of children's referrals into MASH was undertaken, which led to the proposal for a Cwm Taf single thresholding approach to be developed in 2017/18.

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## Recently Reviewed Policies

- Managing Adult Large Scale Safeguarding Investigations - enhances multi-agency communication, co-ordination and ensures availability of appropriate resources when large scale abuse is suspected. Monitoring data will be made available in the 2017/18 Annual Report
- Protocol for the Management of Self Harm in the Community - supports the implementation of the Strategy for the Reduction of Suicide and Self Harm by Young People in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil by providing information for professionals about how to manage disclosures or suspicions of self harm in children and young people
- Schools Child Safeguarding Policy - further amendments incorporated to support safeguarding in schools
- Guidance and Information for Foster Carers and Kinship Carers when an Allegation has been made against you - to support foster carers and kinship carers
- Protocol for Responding to Challenging Cases who are on the Child Protection Register - provides practitioners with guidance on the process to be followed in cases where a Child Protection Care and Support Plan is not reducing the risk to a child or young person

These policies are available to view or download online [here](#).

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**'Trust me' – new classroom resource package to help tackle extremism**

A new bilingual resource - 'Trust me' is available for teachers in Wales. The resource has been designed and adapted by Childnet to support teachers in exploring critical thinking in an online context. Working with the Welsh Government, the 'Trust Me' resource has been created for teachers after hearing from schools that they wanted a resource which would start the conversations around extremism and extreme online content. The package contains lesson plans and guidance for both primary and secondary schools.

The resource is available [here](#).

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## NSPCC - How Safe are our Children?

The NSPCC has published a report providing an overview of Child Protection in the UK. The report sets out 20 different indicators. Each indicator looks at the question of 'how safe are our children?' from a different perspective. They also include historic data, to help track progress over time.

### This among other reports highlights some important key messages:

- **Mental health concerns** featured in one in three contacts to ChildLine last year across the UK.
- There has been a **26 per cent increase in the number of recorded sexual offences** against children under 16 in Wales in the past year. These figures have more than doubled in the past decade.
- In 2015, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) identified and **worked with partners to remove 68,092 URLs confirmed as hosting child sexual abuse images** worldwide – a 118 per cent increase from the previous year.
- There has been an **increase of 114 per cent in the number of police-**

**recorded offences for “obscene publications”** in Wales since the previous year.

- **Neglect remains the most common reason for a child to be placed on the child protection register (CPR)** in Wales: that’s 40 per cent of registrations at 31 March 2015.
- **Numbers of recorded cruelty and neglect offences are at their highest in Wales for a decade.**

All partner agencies are encouraged to raise awareness of these issues and ensure that there are preventative measures in place to tackle abuse and neglect.

To read the full report click [here](#).

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## Deprivation Of Liberty Safeguards

In March 2017 the Law Commission published its report and recommendations for a statutory framework to replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) implemented in April 2009. Local authorities and local health boards in Wales are legally responsible for authorising the accommodation of people who have been assessed as lacking mental capacity to make a decision about their residence. This may be in a care home or hospital where it is believed that their care arrangements amount to a deprivation of their liberty.

As a result of a landmark ruling by the Supreme Court in 2014, the numbers of DoLS applications has significantly increased. The court also established the need for applications to the court of protection for all people living in similar circumstances, but outside of registered care homes or hospitals, in supported living or shared lives placements or in their own homes.

In many cases local authorities and health boards in Wales are failing to process all of the applications made or to make applications to the court. Community Care has recently

reported that there may be a back log of 100,000 cases in England and Wales that have accumulated since the Supreme Court's ruling. This does not include cases that should have been referred directly to the courts.

Community Care has also reported that the government is considering emergency measures to reduce pressure on responsible agencies. This may include relaxing statutory timescales for applications to be acted upon or the criteria for the role of the Best Interests and Mental Health Assessors. Another option is whether the government should issue official practice guidance on prioritising cases and the use of desktop assessments to help clear DoLS backlogs.

Consideration is also been given to piloting elements of the Law Commission reforms that are focused on practice which would not require legislative reform.

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The statutory agencies represented on the Board are:

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council  
Cwm Taf University Health Board  
South Wales Police  
National Probation Service  
Wales Community Rehabilitation Company  
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil  
Interlink Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Welsh Ambulance Service Trust

If you would like specific topics included in future editions of this Bulletin please e-mail: [cwmtafsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:cwmtafsafeguarding@rctcbc.gov.uk)