



# **Diogelu Gwent Gwent Safeguarding**

**Summary report of the  
Local Safeguarding Network Practitioner Forums  
2016 - 2018**



## Introduction

As part of the amendments to the substructures of the South East Wales Safeguarding Board and Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board, Local Safeguarding Networks (LSN) were created to provide a platform for joint children and adult safeguarding themes to be discussed at a local level. It was also recognised that the LSNs would be an ideal place to share the work of the work undertaken by the regional Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board. Therefore, it was agreed the LSNs, chaired by the Local Authority Safeguarding Service Managers in each locality, would provide the opportunity for the discussion and dissemination of regional information from the safeguarding boards and the VAWDASV Board. The model for this multiagency collaboration and information sharing was set out in the following way:

- Each locality within the region to hold 2 LSN meetings, 3 months apart, to involve managers with the responsibility for safeguarding, from a range of organisations within the respective locality
- A LSN Practitioner Forum in each of the localities within the region to be held 2 months following the second LSN meeting that will be targeted to a frontline practitioner level.
- The series of meetings and forums would be repeated a second time resulting in 20 LSN meetings and 10 LSN Practitioner Forums being held in one calendar year.

## Progress to date

Through the support of the five LSN Chairs and LSN members, the Gwent Safeguarding Business Unit has coordinated and facilitated the LSN model for 2 years holding a total of 40 LSN meetings involving managers and 20 LSN Practitioner Forums involving just over 1500 practitioners covering over 25 presentation topics.

LSN PF presentation topics covered in May 2017	LSN PF presentation topics covered in May 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to SEWSCB</li> <li>• Introduction to GWASB</li> <li>• Introduction to VAWDASV</li> <li>• Gwent Reflect*</li> <li>• Alcohol and Pregnancy</li> <li>• Flying Start – working with children and families*</li> <li>• Introduction to coercive control</li> <li>• Modern day slavery*</li> <li>• Adverse Childhood Experiences*</li> <li>• Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)*</li> <li>• Prevent*</li> </ul> <p><i>*indicates topics that were presented at some but not all LSN PF events</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwent Safeguarding - awareness raising media clip</li> <li>• Operation Makesafe – CSE awareness raising campaign</li> <li>• Safeguarding in YOS and Probation</li> <li>• Safeguarding from Gambling related harm</li> <li>• Stalking and harassment</li> <li>• Safeguarding the senior community</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> </ul>

LSN PF presentations covered in May 2018	LSN PF presentations covered in November 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information, Advice and Assistance, EDT, MARF</li> <li>• Local Safeguarding issues</li> <li>• Raising awareness of sexual violence</li> <li>• Youth drama on relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting victims from a VAWDASV perspective</li> <li>• ACEs agenda for practitioners</li> <li>• Modern Day Slavery</li> <li>• County lines</li> <li>• Impact of exploitation on the ground</li> </ul>

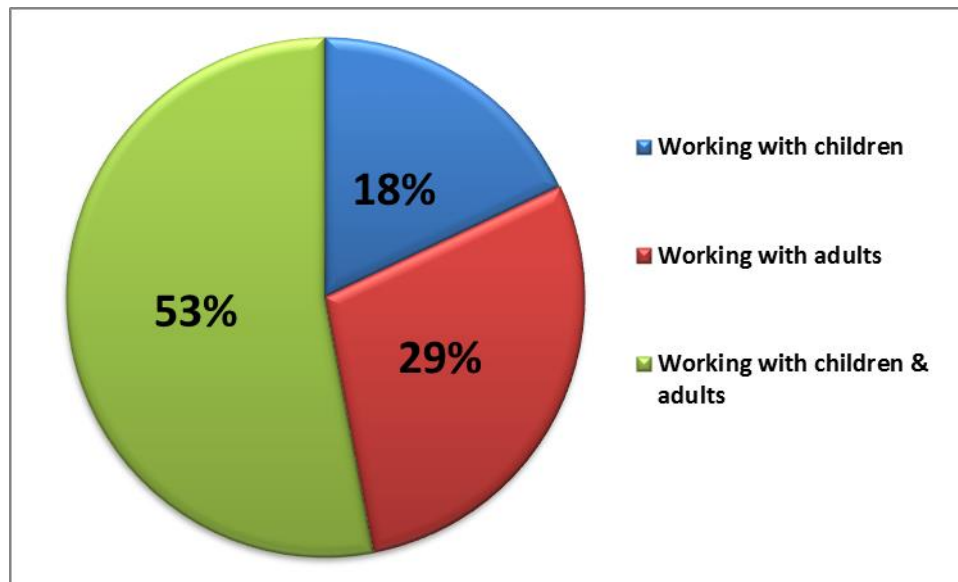
**Attendee numbers for the LSN Practitioner Forums**

	Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen	Total
May 2017	44	91	67	89	61	352
November 2017	59	91	42	75	84	351
May 2018	51	61	54	95	74	335
November 2018	89	134	113	72	96	504
	<b>243</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>1542</b>

**Evaluations**

Over the 20 events held, the number of attendees completing the evaluations provided has increased by 13% to an average of 52% which has provided the LSN and their chairs with rich feedback to inform future work.

**Proportion of attendees who work with children, adults or both** (*of those that completed the evaluations*):



**Questions asked at all 4 series of LSN Practitioner Forums:**

- How attendees have found the events beneficial
- How the events could be improved
- Themes to be covered in the future
- Suggestions for the safeguarding websites
- Suggestions for multi-agency safeguarding training

*The first 3 questions were used to improve future events and the latter 2 questions informed the work of the Engagement and Communication Group and Learning and Development Group*

**Consistent key messages drawn from the 20 LSN Practitioner Forums:**

*Practitioners found the events beneficial in the following ways:*

- Having a wide variety of topical, current safeguarding themes presented by 'experts' / or experienced professionals
- Receiving updates from the Boards and regional organisations
- Having the opportunity to network and be part of discussions on a multiagency level
- Events and presentations that cut across the work of 3 Boards
- Information stands provided by local / regional organisations
- Real life case studies to illustrate the topic being presented
- Gaining an understanding from different perspectives (children / adult / single agency /multi-agency) on a wide range of safeguarding themes and topics
- Practitioner expressed that they were made aware of issues outside of their expertise
- Being able to attend any one of the 5 locality events as they have the same agenda

*Improvements that could be made:*

- More opportunity for networking
- More case studies
- More information stands
- Improvements to refreshments and venue (*these have been addressed locally*)

*Topics for future events have been suggested:*

- More of a spotlight on elder abuse
- Mental health topics: parental mental health and the effects on children, teenage self-harming behaviours, mental health issues caused by domestic abuse, loneliness and isolation, dementia and Alzheimer's disease.
- Workshop session to gain the views of practitioners / opportunity for discussions
- Safeguarding and substance misuse
- Voice of the child / Survivor experiences / case studies
- Safeguarding themes around disabilities
- Learning from Child / Adult Practice Reviews

**Recommendations:**

- For the Business Planning Group to consider continuing the LSN Practitioner Forums and to do so with the same format as feedback has been positive
- For the Business Planning Group to consider the proposed themes provided by practitioners from previous events as topics for future LSN Practitioner Forums
- For the Business Planning Group to consider holding Practitioner Briefings, in-between LSNPFs, as an additional method of disseminating information across the region for single topics in a concentrated learning environment.