

Safeguarding Performance Report

Social Services

1st April 2021 to
30th September 2021

Education

Summer Term 2021

Corporate Services

1st April 2021 to
30th September 2021



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Purpose of the report

The council is committed to creating an environment which enables people to maximise their independence, develop solutions and take an active role in their communities whilst feeling safe and protected.

We believe that all children, adults and young people have the right to be safe from harm and it is a corporate objective to put effective safeguarding arrangements in place to protect people from harm.

We recognise our responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk, and this includes the contribution we make to working together with other agencies so that all children and young people reach their full potential and we continue to look after the most vulnerable people in our communities.

The purpose of this report is to provide safeguarding information that is recorded and monitored to ensure that we are indeed delivering this objective.

Monitoring and reporting systems are well-developed to ensure the department is able to track information and evidences that the safeguarding agenda remains a priority for the local authority.

Performance information is collated from Social Services, Organisational Development and Education information systems which identifies activity, demands and trends of data. This includes a number of items that are statutory requirements as part of the Welsh Government Performance Framework.

The report includes information on the following:

- Referrals received and their outcomes
- Children who are being safeguarded and analysis
- Quality assurance arrangements with education settings
- Broader issues within education that impact upon safeguarding
- Corporate progress on recommended proposals for improvement
- DBS Compliance
- Safeguarding Corporate Risk Register

This report will be shared with Senior Management Teams and presented to the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee for Social Services, Education and Active Living.

00 | Community Profile - Demographics

Community Profile



– key benefit claimants November 2016 – 20.3% in Blaenau Gwent compared to all Wales level of 14.4%.

- Total Population: **70,020** Number of 0 – 17 year olds: **13,619** (2020 Population Estimates)
- Number of Open cases to Children's Social Services as at 31st December 20: **1,108**
- Number of pupils attending primary schools: **5,911**
- Number of pupils attending secondary schools: **3,262**

- 45% of Blaenau Gwent's local areas are amongst the top 20% deprived areas in Wales. (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019)
- The proportion of benefit claimants amongst people of working age was higher in Blaenau Gwent than the proportion across the comparable authorities (working-age client group)

01 | Referrals to Social Services

Fig: 1.1 Number of referrals received by Social Services

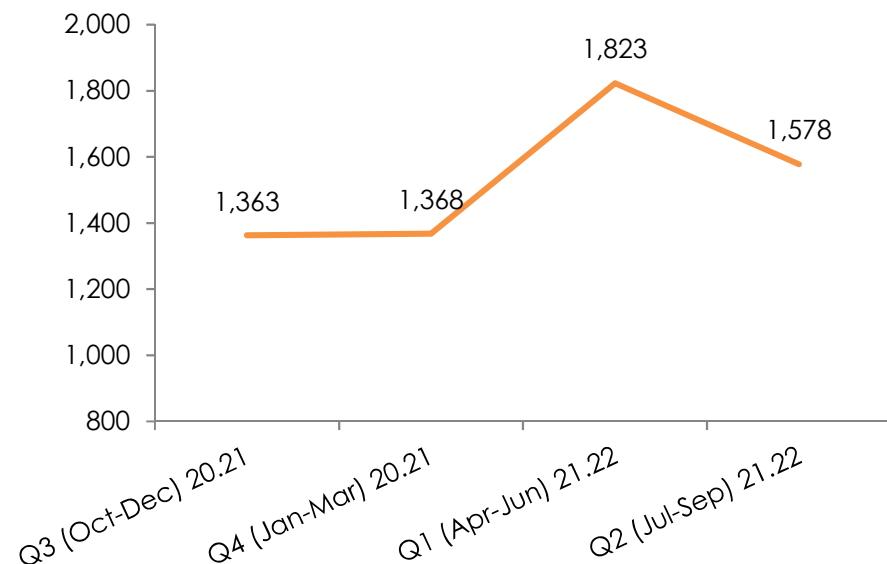


Fig: 1.2 Number and Percentage of Referrals by Source (Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4)

	Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Police	475	35%	486	36%	639	35%	702	44%
Education	158	12%	135	10%	302	17%	134	8%
Other Agency	173	13%	147	11%	165	9%	148	9%
Health	222	16%	228	17%	251	14%	241	15%
Social Services	162	12%	140	10%	170	9%	124	8%
Individuals	114	8%	162	12%	210	12%	152	10%
Education - Post 16	3	0%	2	0%	4	0%	1	0.1%
Education - OOC	15	1%	0	0%	11	1%	6	0.4%
Housing	5	0%	14	1%	9	0%	9	1%
Other LA	26	2%	45	3%	42	2%	40	3%
Youth Service	6	0%	3	0%	12	1%	11	0.7%
Other Departments	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	7	0.4%
YOS	4	0%	6	0%	7	0%	3	0.2%
Total	1,363	100%	1,368	100%	1,823	100%	1,578	100%

01 | Referrals to Social Services

Graph showing the source of referrals and the percentage

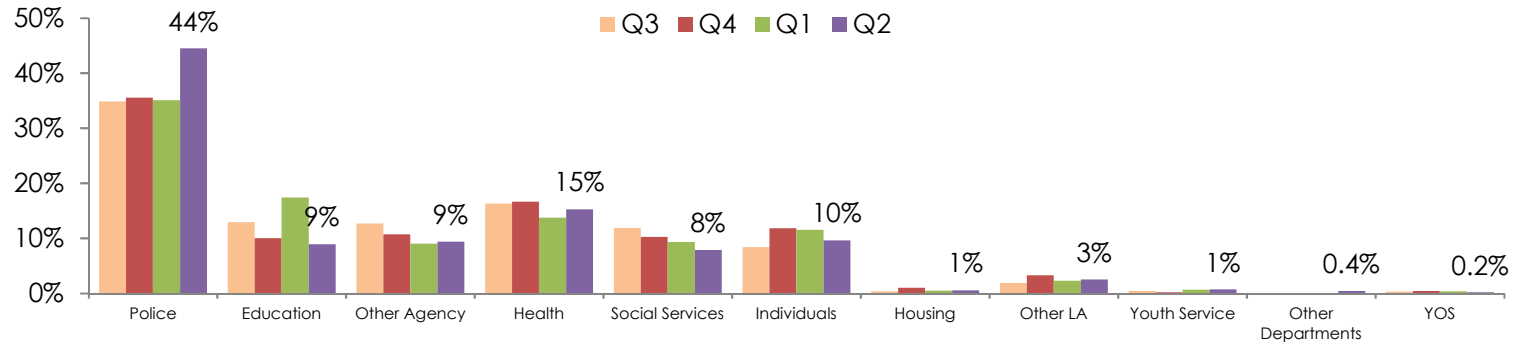


Fig: 1.3 Multi-agency referral forms (MARF's) received on open cases

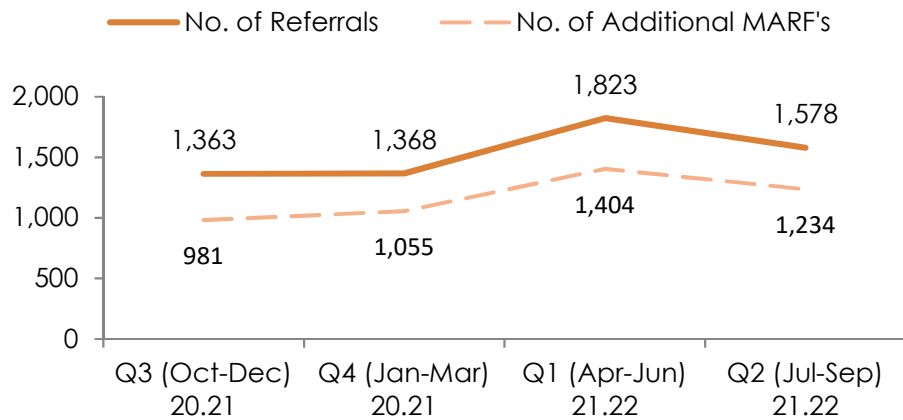
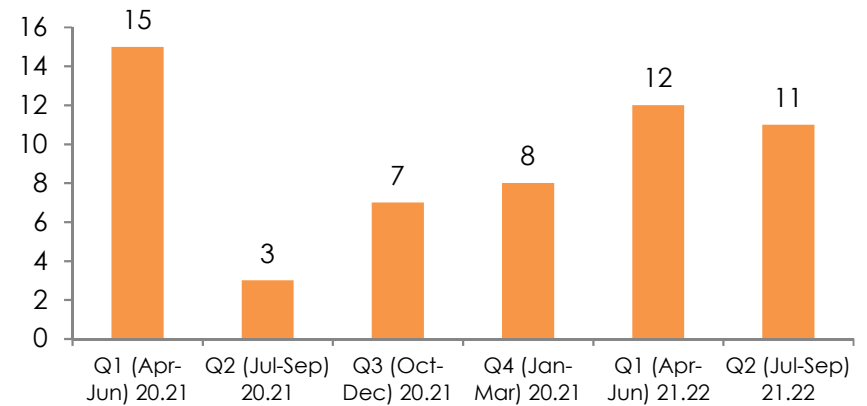


Fig: 1.4 Referrals received from Youth Services



02 | Child Protection Register

Fig 2.1 Children on the Child Protection Register

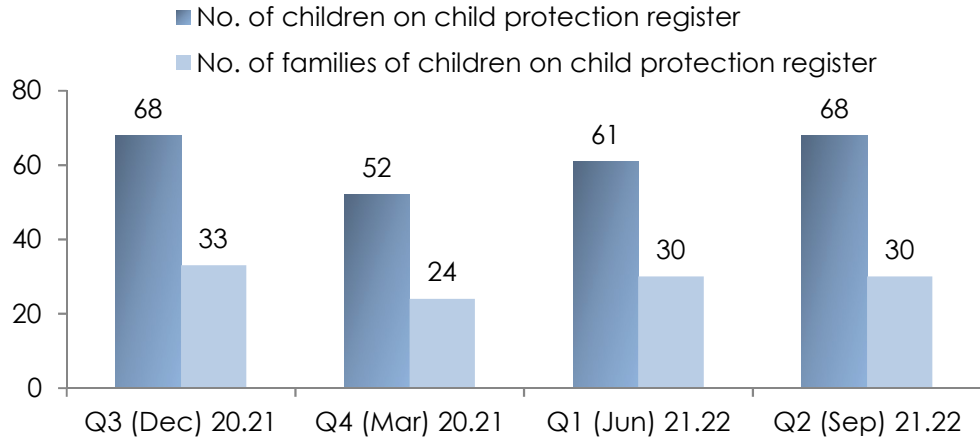


Fig 2.3 Categories of abuse

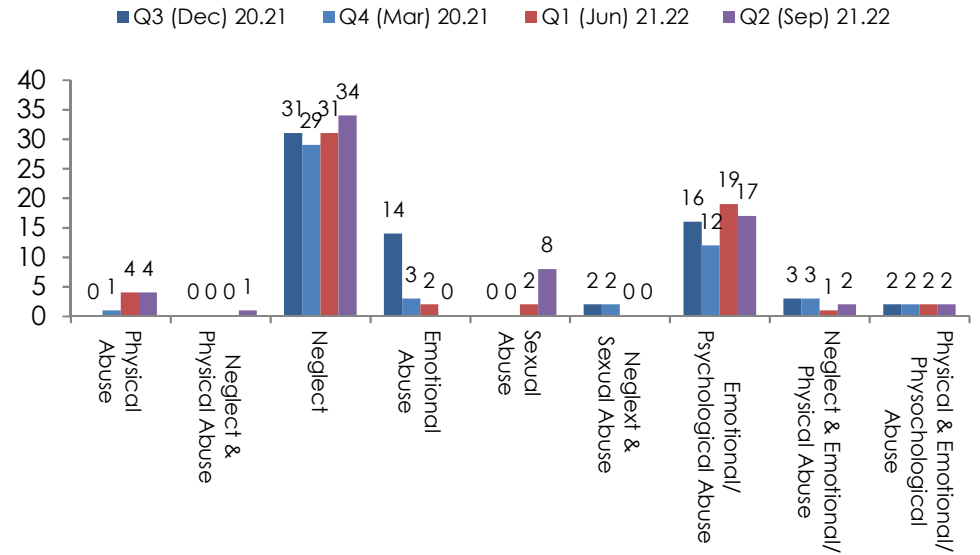


Fig 2.2 Child Protection Register Summary

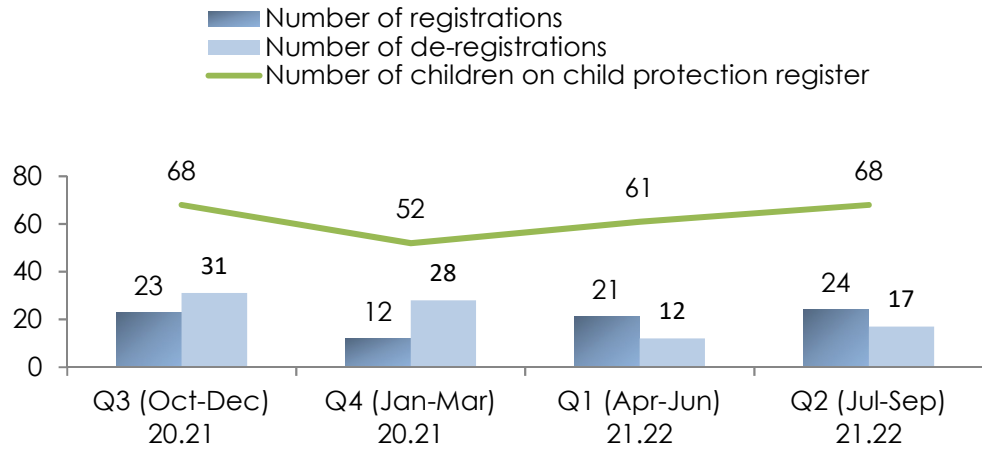
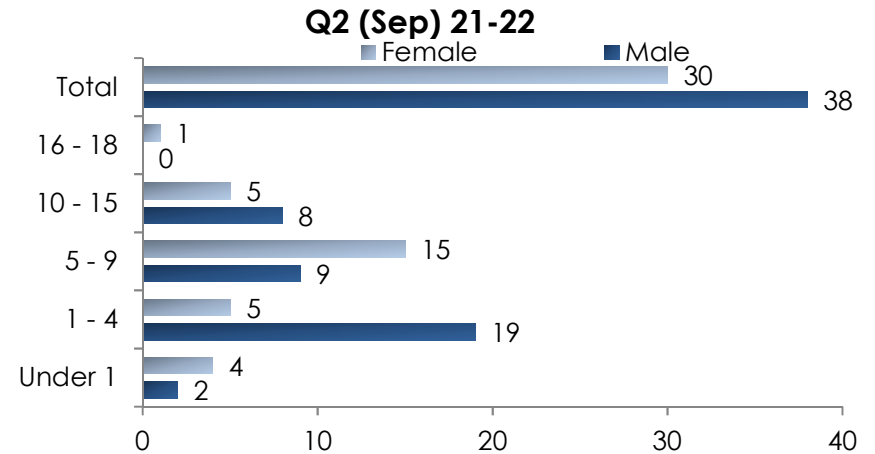


Fig 2.4 Age Breakdown of children on child protection register



02 | Child Protection Register

Fig 2.5 Average length of time on register

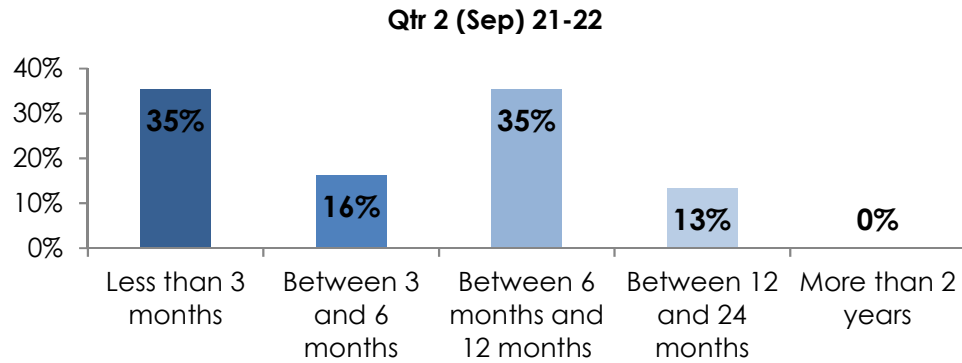


Table showing the breakdown of children on the child protection register over the last 12 months

	Q1 (Jun) 20.21	Q2 (Sep) 20.21	Q3 (Dec) 20.21	Q4 (Mar) 20.21
Less than 3 months	23	12	20	24
Between 3 and 6 months	20	22	10	11
Between 6 months and 12 months	15	13	25	24
Between 12 and 24 months	9	4	5	9
More than 2 years	1	1	1	0
	68	52	61	68

02 | Child Protection Register

Fig 2.6: Child Protection Conferences

	Q3 (Dec) 20.21		Q4 (Mar) 20.21		Q1 (Jun) 21.22		Q2 (Sep) 21.22	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conferences Held	81		68		57		67	
Initial Conferences	28	35%	13	19%	24	42%	26	39%
No. of Families	12		8		14		13	
Review Conferences	53	65%	55	81%	33	58%	41	61%
No. of Families	29		25		37		21	

Initial Child Protection Conferences	28		13		24		26	
<i>Outcome:</i>								
Registered	22	79%	8	62%	18	75%	23	88%
Registered at birth	5	18%	4	31%	2	8%	1	4%
Not registered	1	4%	1	8%	4	17%	2	8%

Review Child Protection Conferences	53		55		33		41	
<i>Outcome:</i>								
Continue with registration	26	49%	29	53%	21	64%	24	59%
Cease registration	27	51%	26	47%	12	36%	17	41%

02 | Child Protection Register

Fig 2.7 Initial Child Protection Conferences

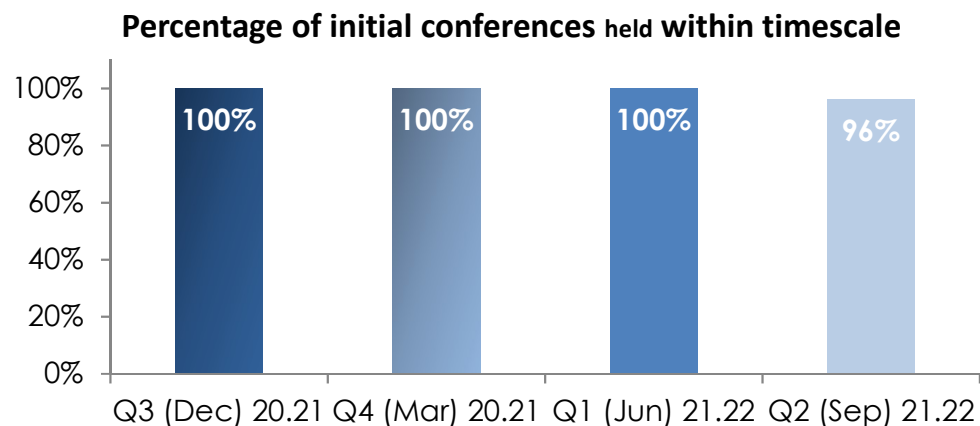
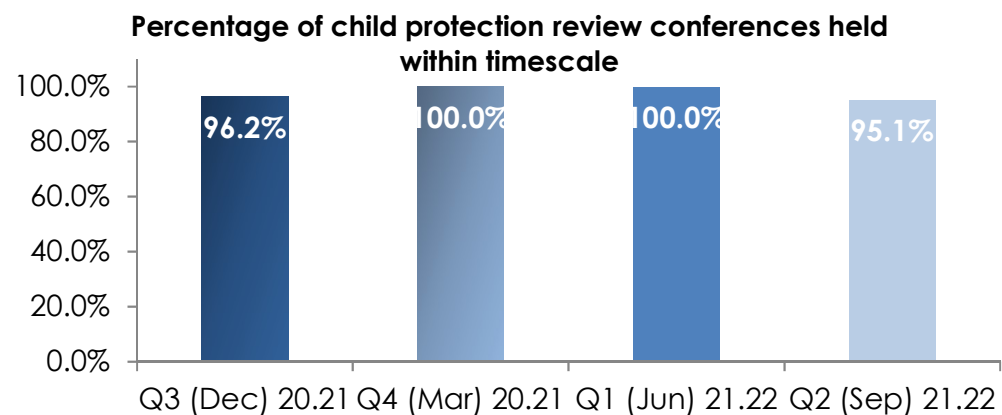


Fig: 2.8 Child Protection Review Conferences



	Q3 (Dec) 20.21	Q4 (Mar) 20.21	Q1 (Jun) 21.22	Q2 (Sep) 21.22
Number of initial conferences held	28	13	24	26
Number of initial conferences held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion	28	13	24	25
Percentage of initial conferences held within timescale	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	96.2%

	Q3 (Dec) 20.21	Q4 (Mar) 20.21	Q1 (Jun) 21.22	Q2 (Sep) 21.22
Number of Review Child Protection Conferences held	53	55	33	41
Number of Review Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	51	55	33	39
Percentage of Review Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	96.2%	100.0%	100.0%	95.1%

03 | Referrals from Education

Fig 3.1 Contacts by Source – Primary School

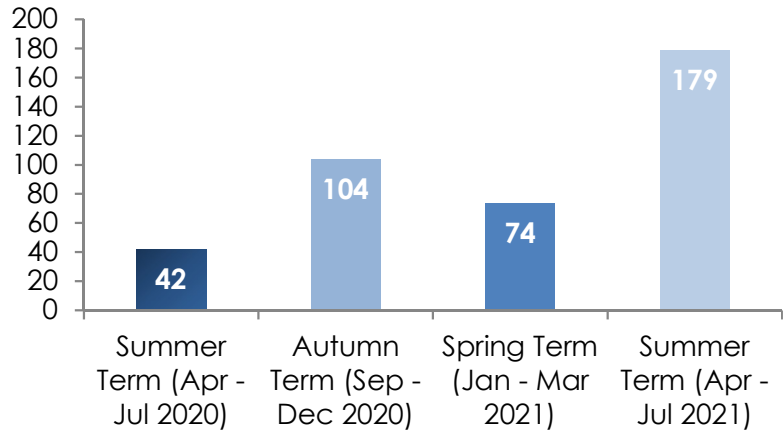


Fig 3.2 Contacts by Source – Secondary School

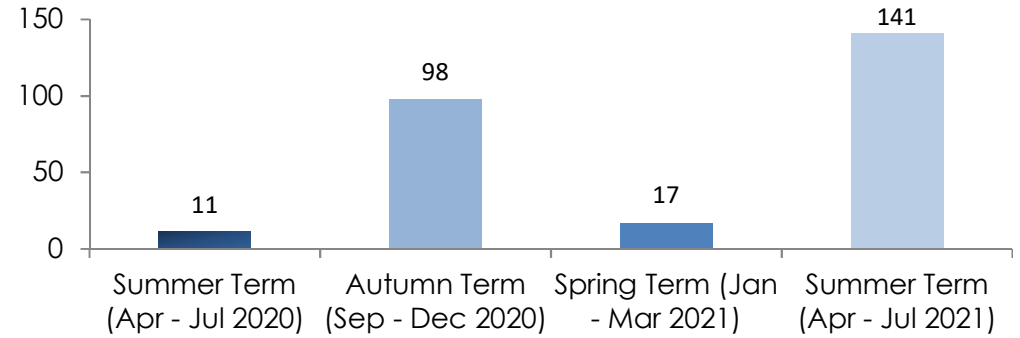
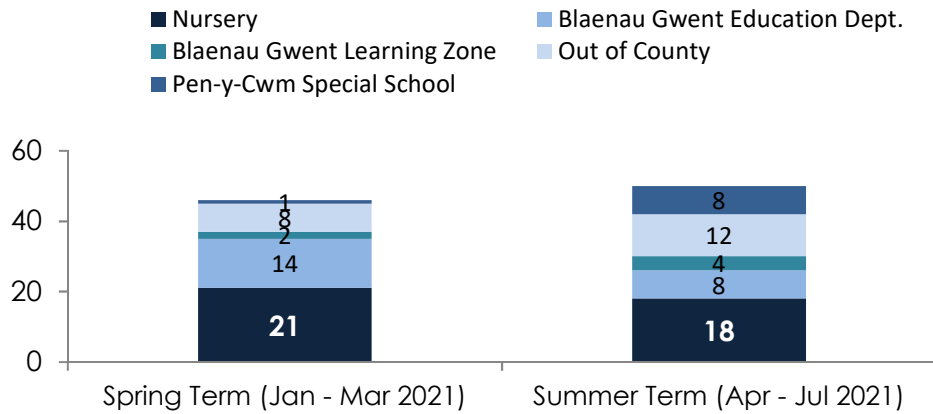


Fig 3.3 Contacts by Source - Other



04 | Education

Attendance at schools has been severely disrupted due to the Covid pandemic. Schools have been closed for extended periods of time, repurposed, and partially opened, re-opening after February half-term. For these reasons, it is not advisable to make comparisons with performance in previous quarters, and years.

Fig: 4.1 RPI Incidents

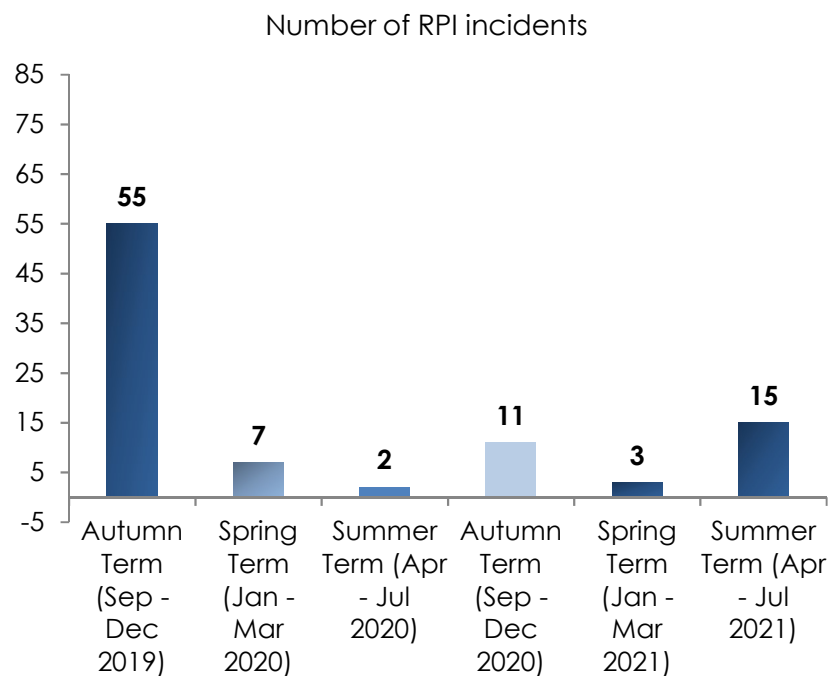


Fig: 4.2 Bullying incidents leading to exclusion

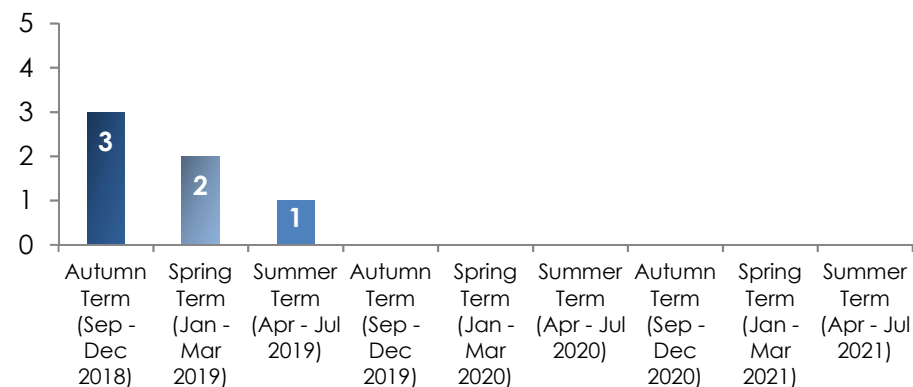
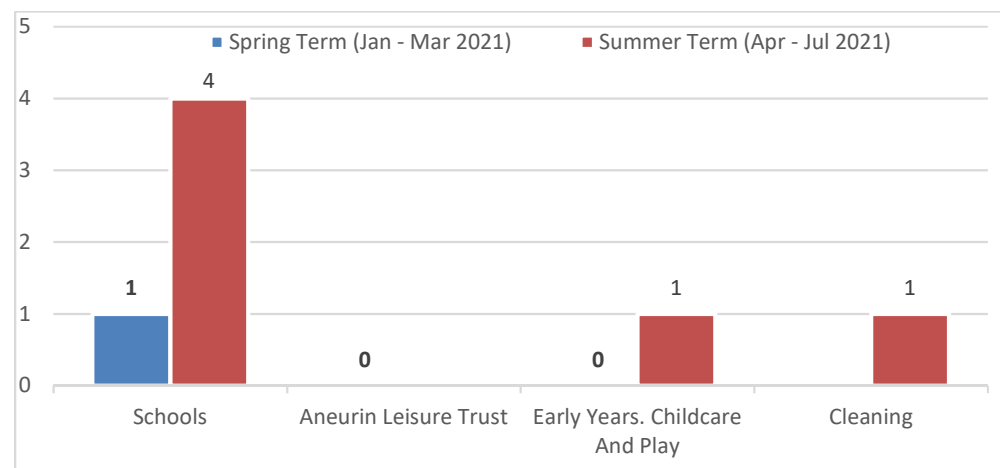


Fig 4.3 Quality Assurance Meetings

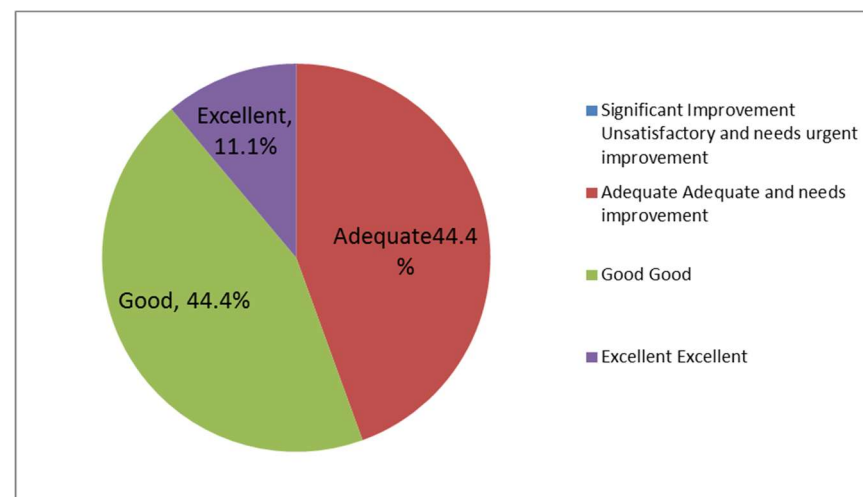


4 Estyn Judgements

The table below provides an overview of the Estyn judgements for schools inspected under the new arrangements from September 2017 up until December 2020.

Estyn Inspection Framework September 2017							Inspection Areas					
LA	Phase	School #	School	Date report Published	Follow-up Activity	Monitoring Visit 1	Standards	Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, Support and guidance	Leadership and management	Out of Follow-up activity
BG	Secondary	6775401	Brynmawr Foundation School	Dec-19	SM		Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	
BG	Primary	6773309	St Marys CIW Primary School	Mar-19	-		Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
BG	Primary	6772310	Rhos y Fedwen Primary **	Feb-17	Estyn Review		Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Jul-18
BG	Primary	6772310	Blaenycwm Primary	May-18	-		Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	
BG	Secondary	6772306	Abertillery Learning Community	01/02/2018 (revist June 19)	SI	SI	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	
BG	Primary	6774074	St. Joseph's R.C. Primary	Jan-18	-		Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
BG	Primary	6773316	St. Illtyd's Primary	01/10/2017 (revisit Mar 19)	Estyn Review	-	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Mar-19
BG	Primary	6772312	Glyncoed Primary*	Nov-17	-		Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
BG	Primary	6772309	Glanhowy Primary*	Feb-18	-		Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	

Care and Support Guidance Inspection Ratings

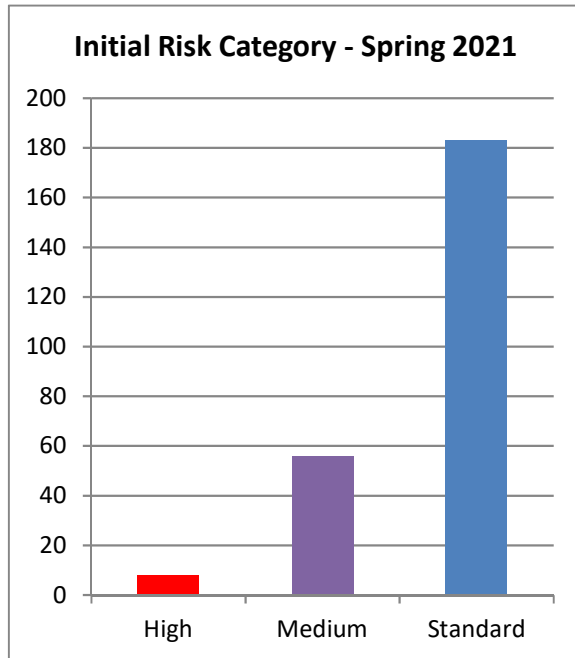
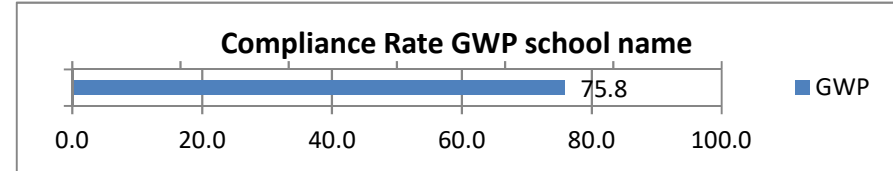


04 | Education

4.5 Operation Encompass

For the period summer term– April - July

Term	Occurrences	CYP
Summer Term 2021	296	371
Spring Term 2021	141	185



* No risk breakdown available for Summer Term 2021

04 | Education

4.6 Elected Home Education (EHE)

	July 2021	July 2020
Total number of children electively home educated	102	55

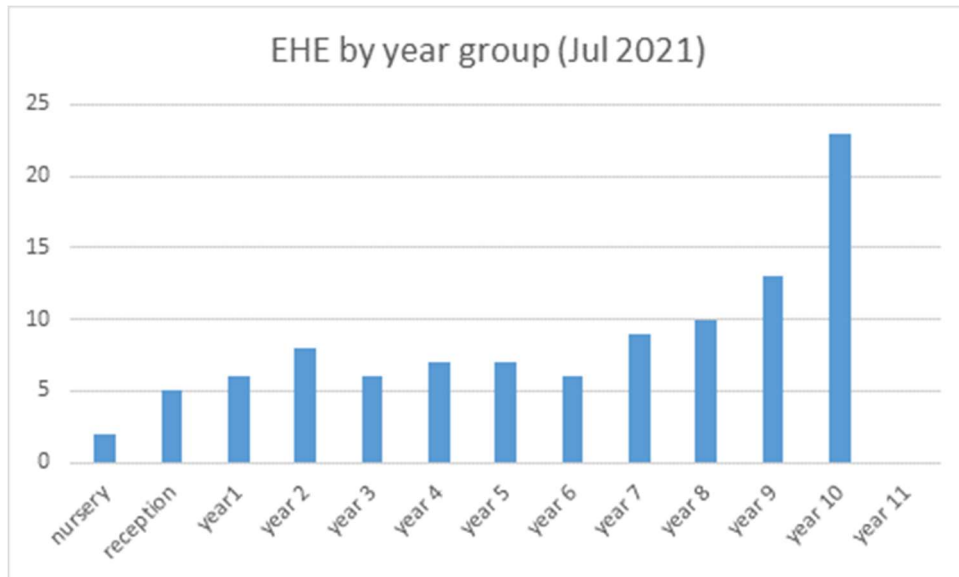
4.7 The table below sets out the number of secondary age pupils who have become EHE or who have returned to school from being EHE during the summer, autumn, spring and summer terms.

Month	School 1		School 2		School 3		School 4	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Sept – Dec 2020	2	0	3	0	4	2	1	0
Jan – Mar 2021	1						2	
Apl – Jul 2021	3		1		3		3	
Total	6	0	4	0	7	2	6	0

4.8 The table below sets out the number of additional pupils who have become EHE or who have returned to school from being EHE during the summer, autumn, spring and summer terms.

Month	Primary		College		Did not transition		Moved into/out of Borough (including BG pupils that were in OOC schools)		School place unavailable	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Sept – Dec 2020	18	2	0	2	8	0	4	5	2	0
Jan – Mar 2021	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1		
Apl – Jul 2021	7	1			1		6			
Total	27	4	0	2	10	0	11	6	2	0

4.9 Breakdown per year group EHE



- Please note that all year 11 pupils are removed on the last Friday of June when they end compulsory school education.

5.1 DBS Compliance

Managers are required to identify the requirement of a DBS check utilising the eligibility criteria, all DBS checks are renewed on a 3 yearly basis. Organisational Development co-ordinates this DBS process for new starters and 3 yearly rolling programme along with monitoring the compliance of these checks and we have formal escalation processes in place. The updates on the compliance with DBS are provided bi-annually to Corporate Leadership Team.

This reporting has been relaxed during the pandemic, however the monitoring and escalation processes have continued.

The latest submission to CLT was October 2021 and is shown below:

5.1.1 Position Statement: New Starter / Rolling Programme DBS Checks Schools

Effective Date: 13th October 2021

Criteria	Total
Staff requiring a DBS	1284
Staff with a valid DBS	1281

Out of Compliance	Less than 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	More than 3 months	Total
New Starters currently out of compliance	0	0	0	0
Rolling Programme currently out of compliance	0	2	1	3
Totals	0	2	1	3

5.1.2 Position Statement: New Starter / Rolling Programme DBS Checks Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (Excluding Schools).

Effective Date:

13th October 2021

Criteria	Total
Staff requiring a DBS	1066
Staff with a valid DBS	1063

Out of Compliance	Less than 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	More than 3 months	Total
New Starters currently out of compliance		1	2	3
Rolling Programme currently out of compliance				0
Totals	0	1	2	3

1st DBS Check					
Department / School	Awaiting Appointment	Appt Comments	Awaiting Certificate	Cert Comments	Total
Corporate Services			2	Currently with the DBS	2
Regeneration and Community Services			1	Awaiting sight of Cert from employee	1
Corporate Education					0
Social Services					0
Totals	0		3		3

Escalation Process

Employees and Managers receive automated e-mails from the DBS system reminding that the process has not been completed

Operational Teams receive fortnightly reports of all DBS applications currently in progress to enable Safeguarding escalation where required

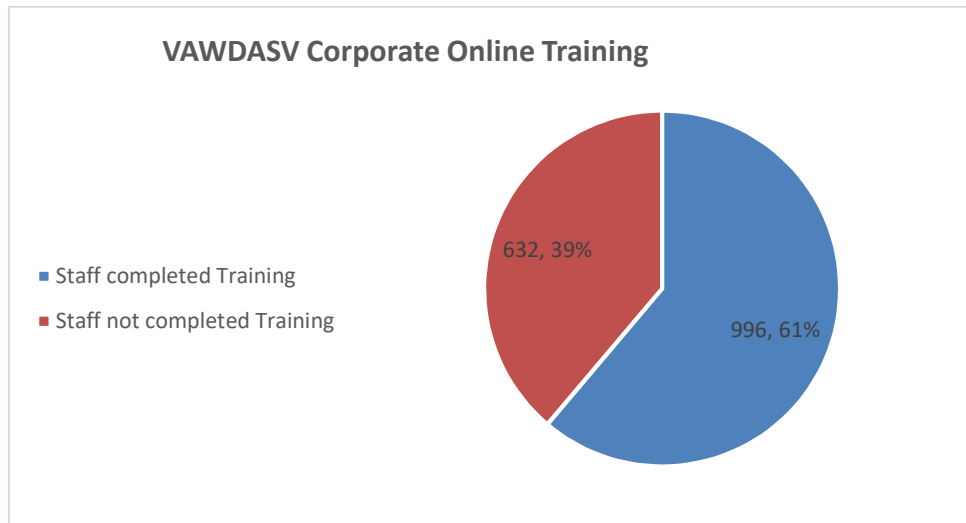
5.3 VAWDASV Corporate Training Online

Corporate Training

Domestic abuse Training

Corporate training has been provided to staff in respect of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with **61%** of staff having **completed** the **VAWDAS online training**.

5.3.1 VAWDASV Corporate

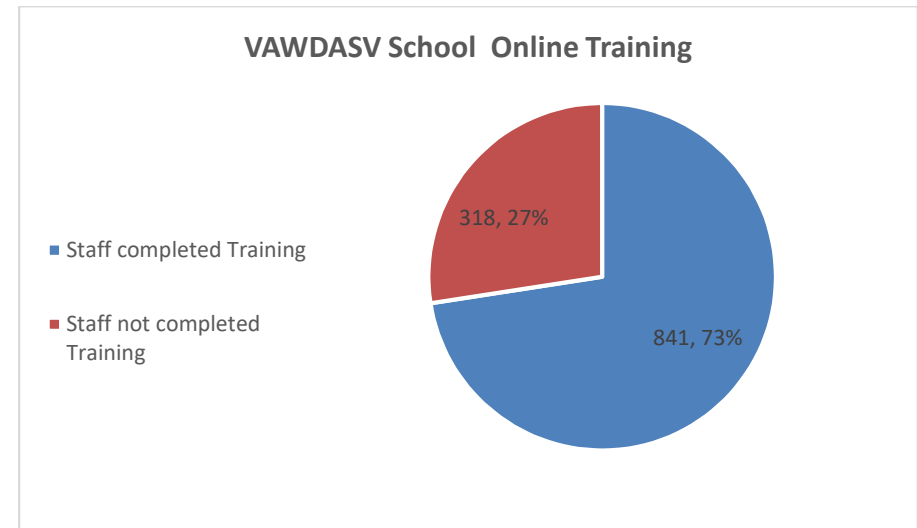


All Wales Safeguarding Training on line for staff

Online Safeguarding training was included in the online corporate induction module in 2019.

In terms of the wider workforce a suitable module is currently being evaluated by the corporate Safeguarding group which has been delayed due to the impact of the pandemic.

5.3.2 VAWDASV Schools



5.4 Risk Register

Ref No.	Description of Risk	Triggers	Consequences	Current Controls			Proposed further controls to mitigate / reduce risk	Risk Owner				
				Likelihood	Impact	Status						
CRR4	Safeguarding - Failure to ensure adequate safeguarding arrangements are in place for vulnerable people in Blaenau Gwent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is inadequate assessments and monitoring • If there is a lack of documentation • If there are increasing referrals for services • If there is a lack of appropriate guidance and training • If there is poor communication between all parties (internal / external) • If there is a high turnover of staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential significant harm / loss of life • Long term reputational damage and confidence in the Council undermined • Increase in complaints / Potential litigation / prosecution • External intervention • Increased pressure on budgets • Low staff morale 	3	4	Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwent Adult Safeguarding Board • SE Wales Safeguarding Children's Board • Standing item on CLT agenda • Safeguarding Network • Director of Social Services has a corporate responsibility for safeguarding • Lead Executive Member identified for safeguarding • Adult protection co-ordinator and process in place in line with All Wales process. • Manager's report consistently on safeguarding to elected Members and the Corporate Leadership Team • Joint Education and Social Services Safeguarding Team • Joint Social Services and Education Safeguarding scrutiny meeting held 3 times a year • Joint Business unit and subgroups for adults and children 	2	4	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Plans will further embed risk assessment tools • Embedding of quality assurance processes in adult safeguarding • Training for all staff on Domestic Abuse Corporately 	<p>Director of Social Services</p> <p>Councillor John Mason</p>

Quarter 1 and 2 Progress (April to September 2021)

Throughout this period COVID 19 has impacted significantly on the Social Services department however despite this, the department has been able to continue to provide a consistent approach and timely response when discharging our statutory safeguarding responsibilities across both Children and Adult Services. Both teams have continued to prioritise safeguarding both within our proactive and reactive responses to support vulnerable families and communities. Both areas experienced an initial reduction in safeguarding referrals during the first few weeks of April 20 but following this period there has been a continued increase in referrals with referral levels/ data indicating that we have quickly returned to 'normal' levels when compared to similar time periods in previous years. Both Adults and Children's services have monitored and reported safeguarding performance measures to Welsh Government during quarter 1. This information has also been reported to the Gwent Safeguarding Board during this period. Both the head of Adults and Children's have been core members of the Gwent Safeguarding Board during this period meeting with key partners including Police, Health, Education, Probation and specialist services on a fortnightly basis. These actions have continued for quarter 2.

Adult Services during quarter 1:

- Safeguarding and Commissioning Teams have led on the safeguarding support relating to COVID including supporting internal and commissioned providers in relation to PHW guidance, PPE compliance, testing and infection control;
- Work has continued in relation to the implementation of the new All Wales Safeguarding procedures including the implementation of the training including alternative IT solutions and the implementation of the new duty to report tools on WCCIS;
- Care Management Teams have continued to support vulnerable people throughout proactive case contact via telephone or where required face to face contact;
- Our safeguarding support providers – including domestic abuse support within IAA have remodelled their provision to enable them to support both via telephone and / or face to face support.

Adult Services during quarter 2:

- Actions are per Quarter 1 have continued for Quarter 2;
- All Wales Safeguarding training has been developed on line for all BG staff to include the implementation of the new Gwent wide duty to report form and guidance;
- Commenced development of Gwent multi agency safeguarding hub across both Adult and Children Services – due for implementation January 2021.

Children Services during quarter 1:

- All safeguarding referrals have been dealt with and children and families have been seen face to face when required throughout the COVID lockdown. All visits have been undertaken following a risk assessment and using the appropriate PPE;
- All child protection conferences have continued to be held on a virtual basis using a combination of TEAMS can conference calls;
- All children on the child protection register have continued to be seen since lockdown began following risk assessments and use of PPE where required.

Children Services during quarter 2:

- The same situation applies to Quarter 2 for Children's Services as outlined in Quarter 1;
- The CIW inspection in the further controls column relates to the inspection of 2018 and all the recommendations have been completed;
- An audit of Section 47 investigations was agreed for Quarter 2 but will be undertaken in Quarter 3.

Regulatory Proposals

88	WAO	Follow-up review of Corporate Arrangements for the Safeguarding of Children Document Reference: 1521A2019-20	01/10/2019	<p>1. Corporate Safeguarding Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Policy • Update the structure • Include updated information from the All Wales Policy • When adopted in April 2020, include information from the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures <p>Completion Date April 2020</p>	Alison Ramshaw (Corporate Safeguarding Group) T1 Families First, IAA 14+ and Safeguarding	Social Services	<p>The Corporate Safeguarding Leads mtg were on hold during the first stage of the pandemic but reconvened during the latter part of the year. The chair of the CSL group wrote a report to CLT and the Audit Committee seeking approval to extend the completion dates of the WAO Safeguarding Review recommendations as the pandemic meant that no progress could be made. Extended dates were agreed and a further 12 months was approved. Work was completed on the updating of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and a Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework has been developed. Both pieces of work are currently awaiting CLT approval prior to implementation. The Wales Safeguarding App is available to all those staff who have a works mobile and communications have gone out to alert those staff without a works mobile of the App which is available to all via Google search engine. Lead officers with responsibility for safeguarding are still to be identified</p>
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