Safeguarding Performance Report

Social Services
1st January 2023 to
31st March 2023

Education
Spring Term 2023

Corporate Services
1st January 2023 to
31st March 2023

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

00 | Table of Contents

910

00 Table of Contents

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.

Community Profile

- 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

– key benefit claimants August 2014 - 23.2% in Blaenau Gwent compared to all Wales level of 16.4%)

- The total rate of Blaenau Gwent's recorded offence levels was higher than comparative areas. For the year ending December 2014 Police recorded crimes - 76.89 crimes per thousand population in Blaenau Gwent compared to its most similar group of areas average (as defined by the Home Office) of 69.03 per thousand population.

- 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: **6,125**
- Number of pupils attending secondary schools: **3,251**

Fig: 1.1 Number of referrals received by Social Services
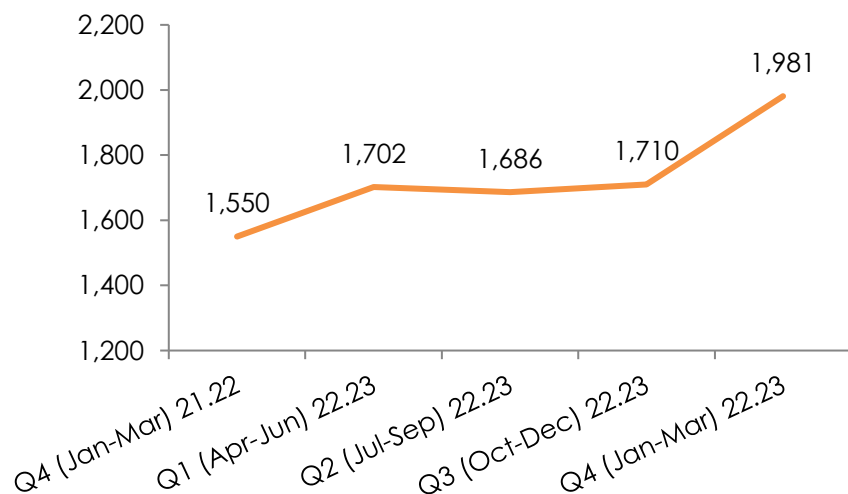
Fig 1.1a Number of individuals linked to referrals

	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Referrals	499	676	635	649	426	645	604	732
No of Individuals	414	563	510	547	374	552	531	638
2+ Referrals	63	67	90	72	48	63	52	81
Highest No. of Referrals for an individual	8	10	6	6	4	7	5	4

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

	Quarter 1		Quarter 3		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Police	698	41%	692	35%	698	35%	593	29.9%
Education	243	14%	167	8%	208	10%	295	14.9%
Other Agency	140	8%	190	10%	242	12%	313	15.8%
Health	230	14%	303	15%	220	11%	320	16.2%
Social Services	202	12%	96	5%	131	7%	178	9.0%
Individuals	149	9%	156	8%	112	6%	160	8.1%
Education - Post 16		0.00%	0	0%	1	0%	12	0.6%
Education - OOC	13	0.80%	6	0%	14	1%	18	0.9%
Housing	1	0%	10	1%	11	1%	17	0.9%
Other LA	20	1%	50	3%	51	3%	43	2.2%
Youth Service	6	0.40%	2	0%	16	1%	15	0.8%
Other Departments	0	0.00%	3	0%	5	0%	5	0.3%
YOS	0	0.00%	11	1%	1	0%	12	0.6%
Total	**1,702**	**100%**	**1,686**	**100%**	**1,710**	**100%**	**1,981**	**100%**

Graph showing the source of referrals and the percentage
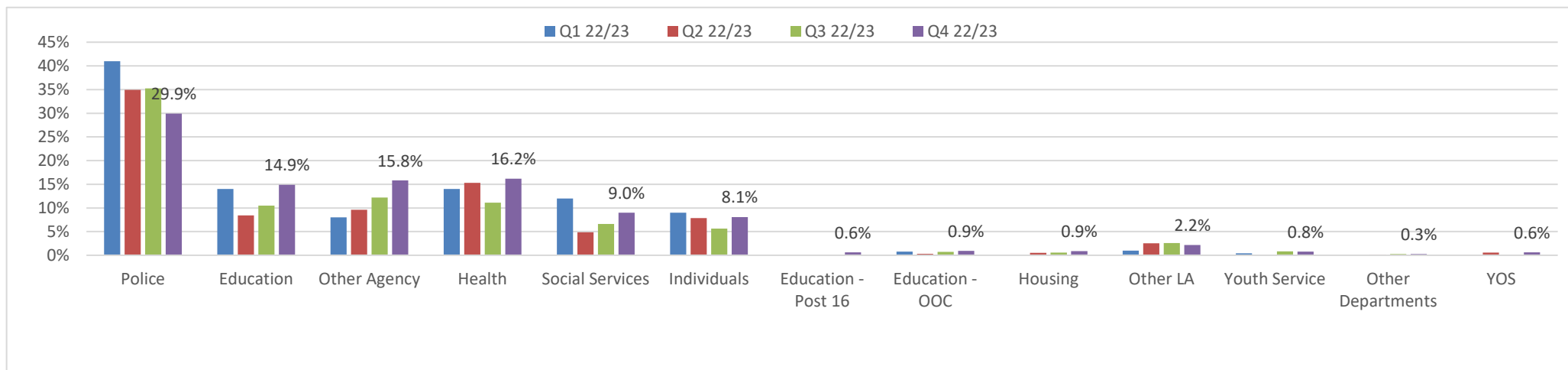
Fig: 1.3 Multi-agency referral forms (MARF's) received on open cases

Fig 2.1 Children on the Child Protection Register

Legend:
- No. of children on child protection register
- No. of families of children on child protection register
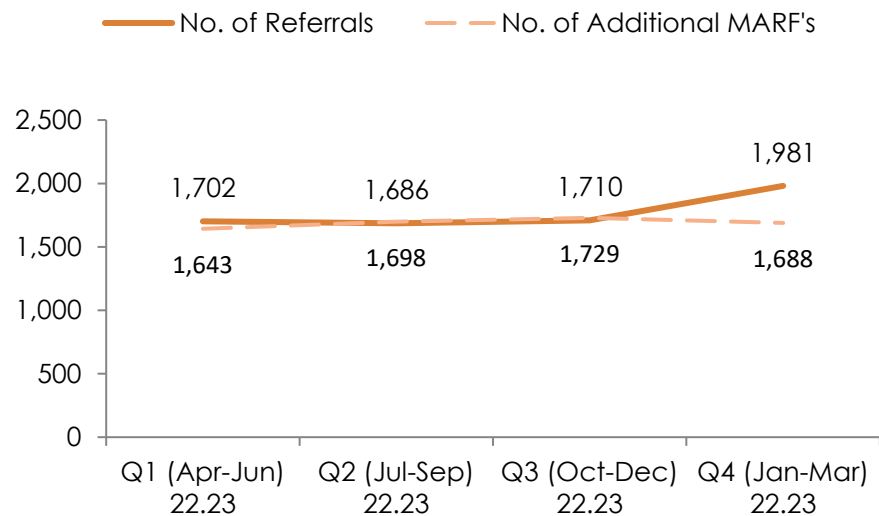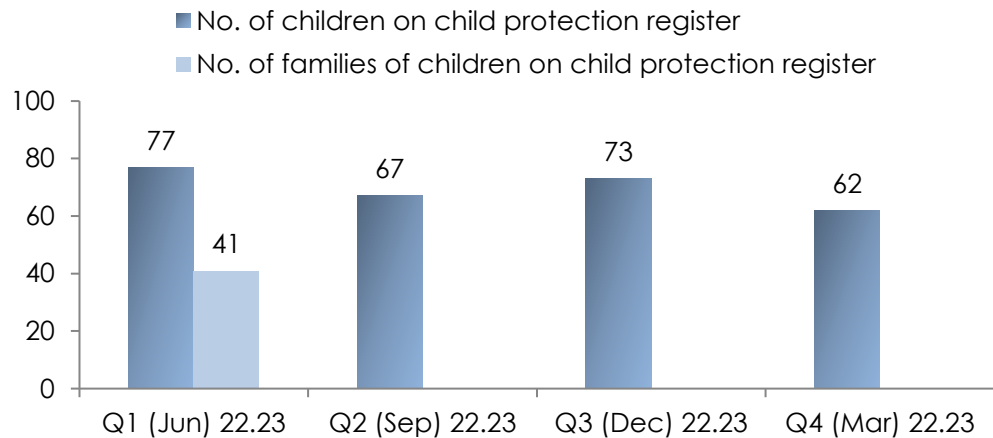
ig 2.2 Child Protection Register Summary

Legend:
- Number of registrations
- Number of de-registrations

Fig 2.3 Categories of abuse

Legend: Q1 (Jun) 22.23, Q2 (Sep) 22.23, Q3 (Dec) 22.23, Q4 (Mar) 22.23
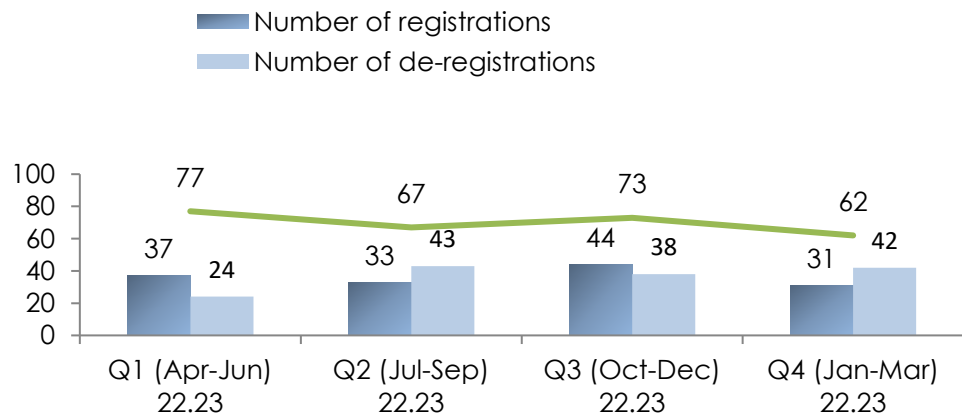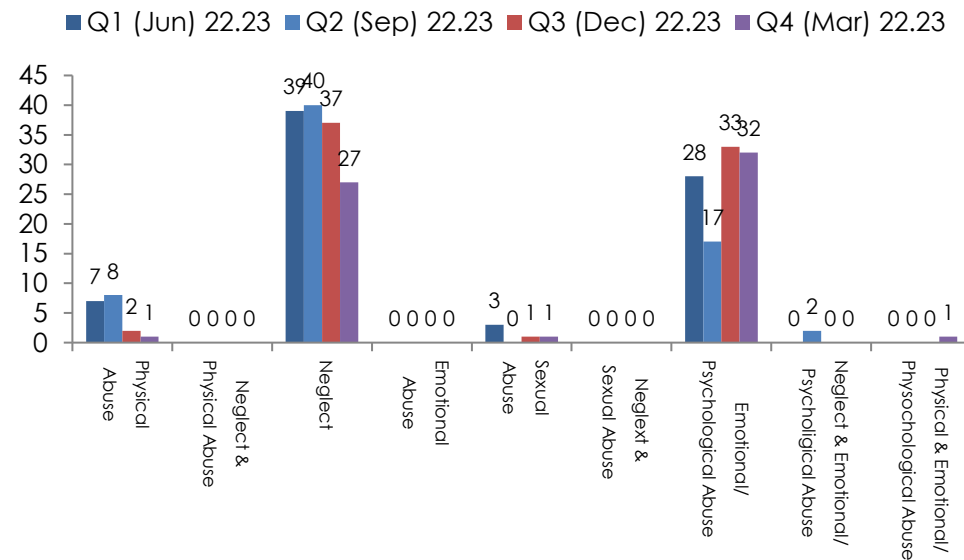
Fig 2.4 Age Breakdown of children on child protection register

Q4 (Mar) 2022-23

Legend: Female, Male
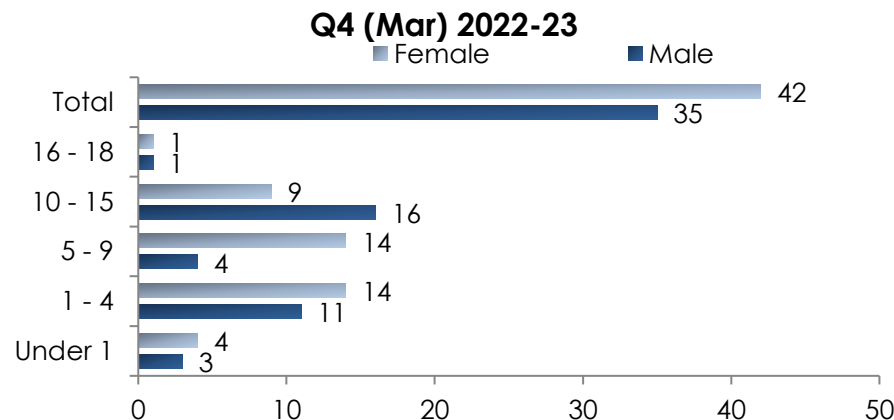
Fig 3.1 Adults suspected of being at risk

Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the quarter	1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	122	1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	205
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the year	1/4/21-31/3/22	553	1/4/22-31/3/23	639

Fig 3.2 Categories of abuse or neglect

		Age 18-64	Age – 65 and over	Age 18-64	Age – 65 and over	Age 18-64	Age – 65 and over	Age 18-64	Age – 65 and over
Category of Abuse	Gender	1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	1/4/21-31/3/22	1/4/21-31/3/22	1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	1/4/22-31/3/23	1/4/22-31/3/23
Physical	Male	6	8	19	22	8	17	21	35
	Female	6	11	37	55	10	15	37	62
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual	Male	0	1	5	1	1	1	3	1
	Female	4	3	19	7	8	2	14	6
Emotional/ Psychological	Male	5	0	24	7	10	6	22	20
	Female	15	5	53	23	15	12	32	23
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
Financial	Male	2	1	22	12	3	6	10	17
	Female	2	4	19	31	8	7	27	29
Neglect	Male	6	16	27	52	4	30	24	76
	Female	2	25	22	96	5	35	31	147
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**Male**	**19**	**26**	**97**	**94**	**26**	**60**	**80**	**149**
	Female	**29**	**48**	**150**	**212**	**46**	**71**	**141**	**267**
	Transgender	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**0**
	Total	**48**	**74**	**247**	**306**	**74**	**131**	**223**	**416**

Fig 3.3 Place alleged abuse/neglect took place

Place alleged abuse or neglect occurred	Total 1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	Total 1/4/21-31/3/22	Total 1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	Total 1/4/22-31/3/23
Own Home	47	248	88	271
Community	11	59	15	51
Care Home Setting	58	219	90	283
Health Setting	6	27	12	34
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	**122**	**553**	**205**	**639**

Fig 3.4 Person alleged responsible

Person alleged responsible	Total 1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	Total 1/4/21-31/3/22	Total 1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	Total 1/4/22-31/3/23
A spouse	8	35	8	35
A son or daughter	0	33	10	34
A family member who is not a child or spouse	9	47	5	39
A professional	24	131	15	109
A volunteer or unpaid worker	0	0	0	1
A friend	4	31	2	12
A neighbour	1	2	4	19
Another service user	11	49	11	32
Other Person	5	32	14	32
Not known	60	193	136	326
Total	**122**	**553**	**205**	**639**

Fig 3.5 Source of Referral

Source of Referral	Total 1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	Total 1/4/21-31/3/22	Total 1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	Total 1/4/22-31/3/23
Self-reported	1	19	3	11
Relative / friend	5	32	5	14
Local authority	4	13	9	30
Police	4	23	8	22
Local health board	19	89	29	84
Independent hospital	0	0	1	5
Ambulance service	3	14	0	8
Care regulator	1	9	5	6
Provider agency	65	220	93	273
Probation	0	2	0	0
Third sector	7	35	9	19
Advocate	0	0	0	1
Education	0	4	0	4
Housing	2	11	5	22
Internal (Social Worker, Other Team)	7	60	29	102
Other	4	22	9	38
Total	**122**	**553**	**205**	**639**

Fig 3.6 Domestic abuse referrals

	Age 18-64 1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	Age – 65 and over 1/1/22-31/3/22 (Q4)	Age 18-64 1/4/21-31/3/22	Age – 65 and over 1/4/21-31/3/22	Age 18-64 1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	Age – 65 and over 1/1/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	Age 18-64 1/4/22-31/3/23	Age – 65 and over 1/4/22-31/3/23
Male	0	0	2	4	2	2	3	5
Female	4	1	22	8	6	0	15	2

* Please note that information recorded for Domestic abuse referrals doesn't get recorded until case closure,

Fig 4.1 Contacts by Source – Primary School
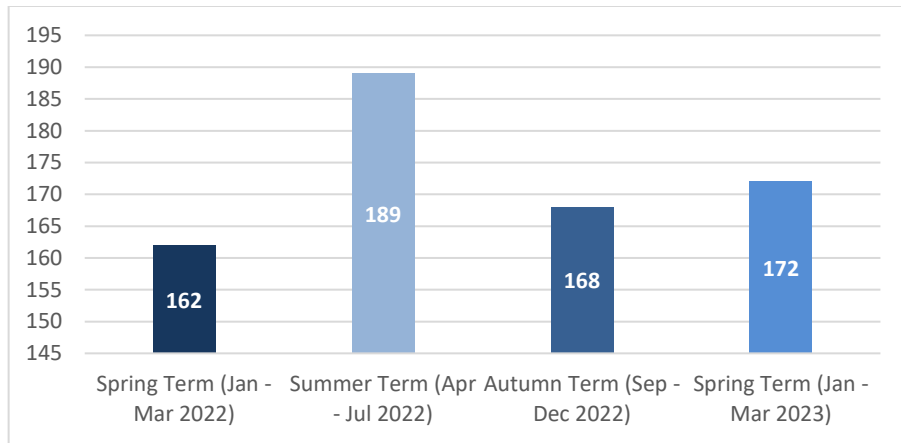
Fig 4.2 Contacts by Source – Secondary School
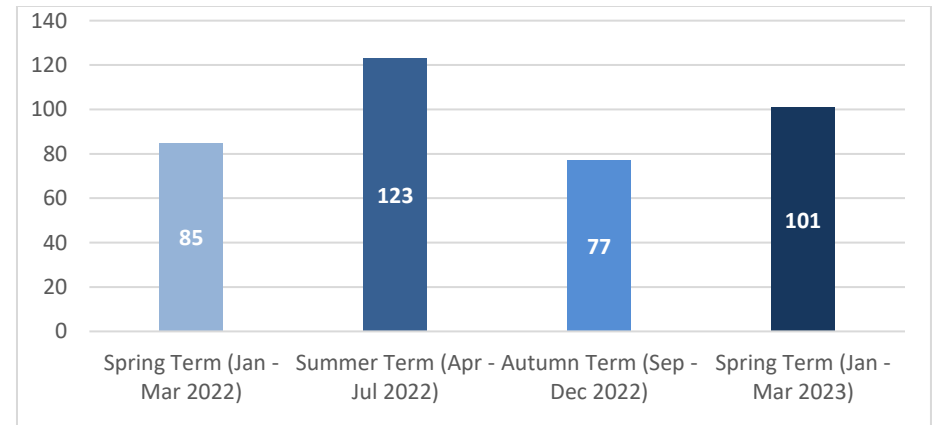
Fig 4.3 Contacts by Source - Other
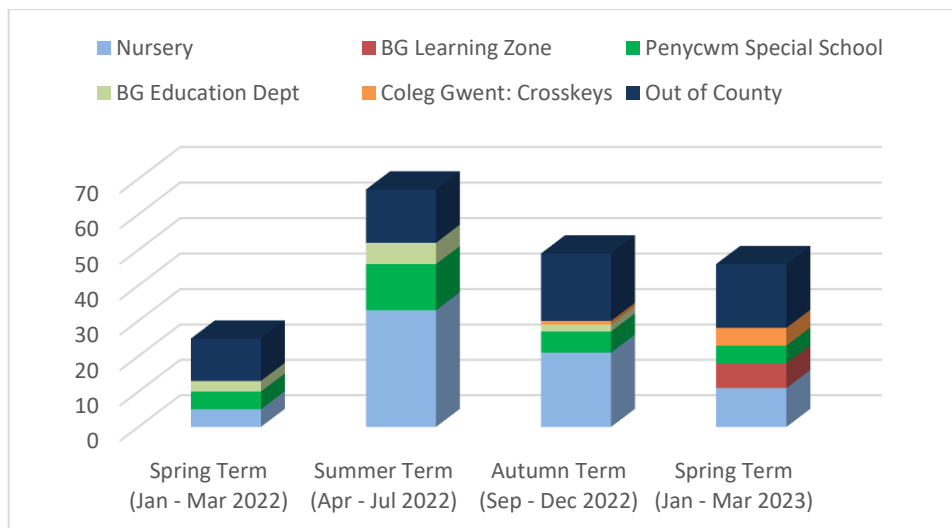
Fig: 4.4 Referrals received from Youth Services
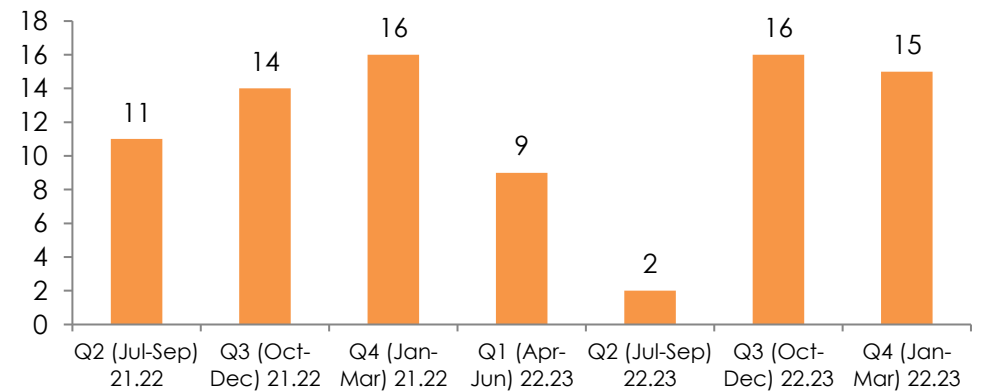
05 | Education

1. Regulatory

1.1 Education Directorate Risk - **Education Risk Register is a separate appendix.**

1.2 Estyn

1.2.1 The table below provides an overview of the number of Estyn inspections conducted and associated Health & Safety/Safeguarding concerns highlighted.

No of School Inspected	No. of Inspection VIsits	Health & Safety/Safeguarding Concern Highlighted
Summer 22	1	0
Autumn 22	2	2
Spring 23	0	0

No. of Inspections and H&S or Safeguarding Concerns
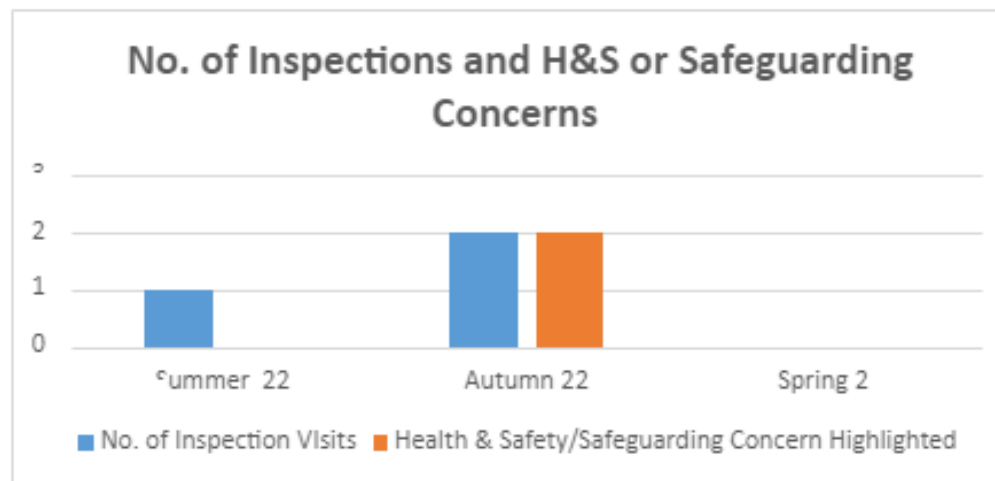
1.3 Policy

1.3.1 Compliance Statements

Partner Agency Safeguarding Policies in Place	Ac Year 21-22	Ac Year 22-23
No of Partner Agencies	4	4
Policies in Place	4	4
% Compliance	100%	100%

1.3.2 Safeguarding Policies released and Governing Body Compliance

Safeguarding Policy Compliance	21-22	22-23
No of Schools in BG	25	25
Governing Body Compliance	25	16
% Compliance	100%	64%%

All schools adopted the LGES Safegaurding policy

May 2023 - All schools have a Safegaurding policy. 64% are recorded as having adopted the 2023-23 version by the end of the Spring term 2023.

2. Systems/Quality Assurance

2.1 My Concern

2.1.1 Safeguarding Systems in Use

Safeguarding System	Term	No. of Schools Using	% of Schools Using
My Concern	Autumn 22	22	81%
	Spring 23	24	96%

2.2 Keeping Learners Safe audit tool

2.2.1 School Assessment of 5 Key Areas

	21-22	22-23
No of Schools in BG	25	25
No of Schools who have used the KLS Safeguarding Toolkit to review procedures in the last 12 months?	25	25
% of Schools who have Reviewed	100%	100%

15

3. Independent Settings

3.1 Pupils in Out of County Placements - LA and Independent Settings

3.1.1 – Out of County Placements

	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2022	Spring 2022	Spring 2023
LA	15	15	9	9	11
Independent	18	18	10	11	16

3.1.2 Overview of Safeguarding arrangements**.**

May 2023 - there is a BG SG QA process for OOC settings which includes open source search, review of Estyn reports, safeguarding policy and QA visit information.

3.2 Education Workforce Council (EWC) Registrations

3.2.1 EWC Registrations on Appointment

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Incomplete EWC Registrations	5	0	0	1	2

4. Safe Workforce

4.1 DBS Position Statement: Data as at Q1 – This data is no longer available

4.1.1 New Starter/Rolling Programme DBS Checks Schools

Criteria	Total
Staff requiring a DBS	1263
Staff with a valid DBS	1262

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

				Escalation	
Appt Comments	Awaiting Certificate		Total	Chased with Employee	Escalation to Operational Team
Awaiting ID documents	0		1	0	1
	0		1	0	1

4.2 Training

4.2.1 Basic/Enhanced VAWDA SV

VAWDASV School Online Training No. & Percentage of Staff

733, 46% 864, 54%

■ Staff completed Training   ■ Staff Not completed Training
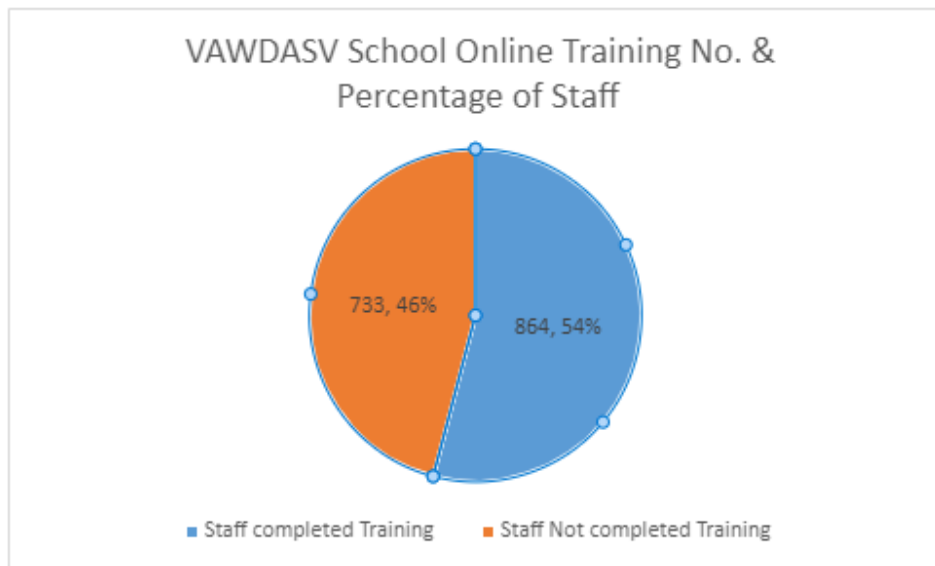
4.2.3 Online Safeguarding Training – Schools

Online Safeguarding Training	Q2 2022-23	Q3 2022-23	Q4 2022-23
Staff completed Training	173	244	256
Staff Not completed Training	1,081	1,010	998
Total Staff	1,254	1,254	1,254

All schools are compliant with their whole school safeguarding training (delivered in person).

4.2.2 Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSP) Meetings

DSP Meetings	Aut 21	Spr 22	Sum 22	Aut 22	Spr 23
No of Schools Represented	16	17	16	no mtg	16
% of School represented	64%	68%	64%	N/A	64%

4.3 Professional Concerns

4.3.1 Professional Concerns Review

Professional Strat Meetings	Aut21	Spr 22	Sum22	Aut 22	Spr 23
Total Number of PSMs	5	1	3	9	4
Number of Subtantiated Concerns	2	1	1	3	0

4.3.2 Professional Concerns Trend
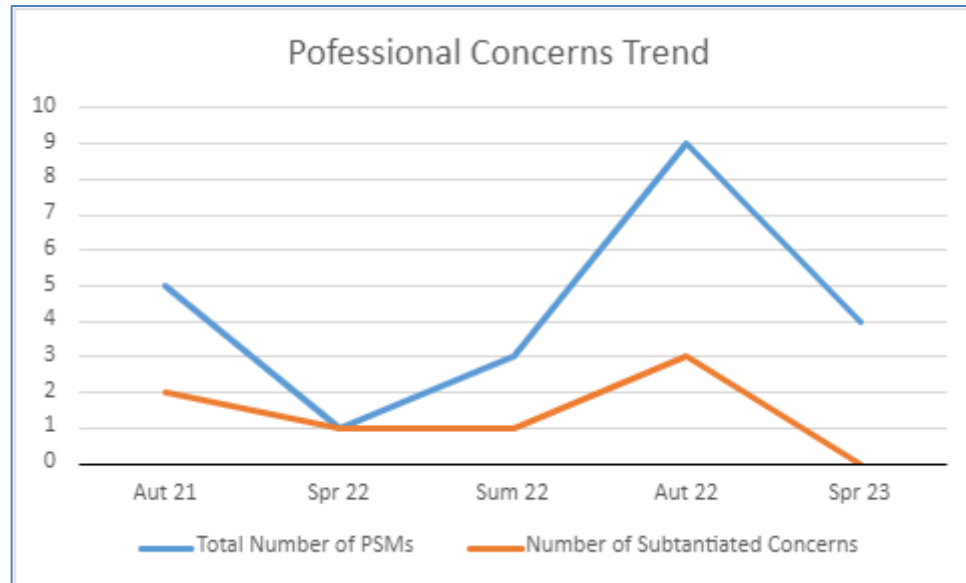
5. Vulnerable Children and Specific Incidents

5.1 Pregnant Schoolchildren

5.1.1 Numbers by Academic Year

No. by Academic Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No. of Pregnant Schoolchildren*	1	1	2	1

*As numbers are so small, there are too few to report termly.

5.2 Electively Home Educated Pupils

5.2.1 Total Number of EHE Pupils

	PLASC January 2022 No.	PLASC January 2021	PLASC January 2020 No.
Children electively home educated in BG	132	89	70
Children electively home educated in Wales	197	180	132

5.2.2 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
Apl – Jul 2021	3	0	1	0	3	2	3	0
Sept - Dec 2021	4		5	1	6		3	
Jan - Mar 2022	7	2	1		4		0	
Apr - Jul 2022	2	0	5	0	3	0	2	0
Sep – Dec 2022	3	2	6	6	3	4	5	4
Jan – Mar 2023	1	1	0	1	3	0	3	0
Total	**20**	**5**	**18**	**8**	**22**	**4**	**16**	**4**

5.2.3 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		Special School	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Apl – Jul 2021	7	1			1		6					
Sept - Dec 2021	5	9			1		11				1	
Jan - Mar 2022	2	2					7				1	
Apr - Jul 2022	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Sep – Dec 2022	4	9	0	1	2	1	11	1	0	0	0	0
Jan – Mar 2023	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	23	0	1	4	1	42	1	0	0	2	0

5.2.4 EHE Breakdown per year group

EHE by year group (March 2023)
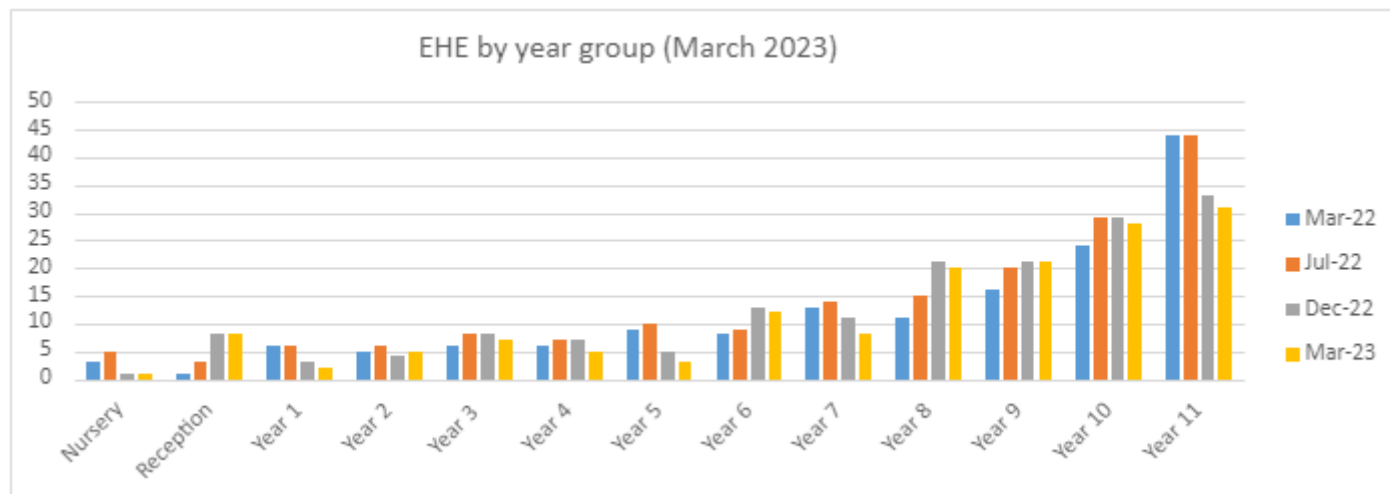
*Please note that all year 11 pupils are removed on the last Friday of June when they end compulsory school education.

5.3 Children Missing in Education

5.3.1 Referrals from other LAs

No. of CMIE Referrals	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
CMIE in to BG	3	3	5	11	4
CMIE out of BG	11	10	12	13	14

5.3.2 Number of Children Missing

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Children Missing	14	13	17	24	18

5.3.3 CMIE Trends
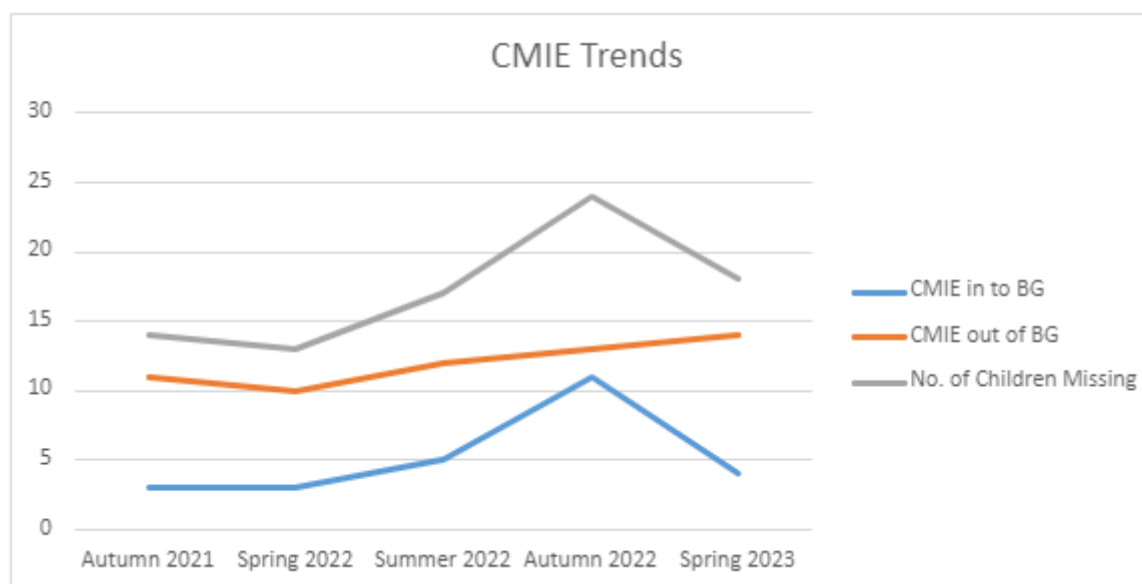
5.4 Youth Offending Referrals

5.4.1 Number of children accessing the Service

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No of Schoolchildren accessing YOS	23	34	32	18	31

5.4.2 YOS pupil Placement by Setting and Access

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
Access					
FT	**14**	**34**	**30**	**6**	**23**
PT	**3**	**0**	**3**	**3**	**4**
Setting					
EHE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Special Schools	5	9	5	0	4
Mainstream - Primary	1	4	4	0	3
Mainstream - Secondary	11	21	23	8	20
Secure Unit				1	0
Employed	3	0	0	1	2
College				3	0
NEET	3	0	0	4	1
Training Provider				1	1

5.4.4 REACH Interventions

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
Prevention Programme	5	16	19	1	11
Community Resolution	12	13	10	10	10
Youth Caution	0	1	0	01	0
Youth Conditional Caution	1	2	1	0	0
Referral Order	2	2	2	1	0
Youth Rehabilitation Order	2	0	0	2	0
Remanded in Custody	1	0	0	1	0
Detained	0	0	0	0	0
Outcome 22	0	0	0	2	10

5.5 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Data recorded in Quarters due to the team working through the summer.

	Q4 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q1 22-23	Q1 22-23	Q1 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q4 22-23	Q4 22-23	Q4 22-23
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
No. of Schoolchildren Identified and Managed through CS Team	9	6	15	10	4	14	16	13	29	7	3	10	2	2	4

5.5.1 Number, Age and Gender of Children Identified and Managed through Community Safety Team

Age of Schoolchildren Identified and Managed through the CS Team	Q4 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q1 22-23	Q1 22-23	Q1 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q4 22-23	Q4 22-23	Q4 22-23
Primary Aged Pupils	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Secondary Pupils Aged 11-14 (KS3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1
Secondary Pupils Aged 14-16 (KS4)	4	2	6	3	4	7	9	9	18	6	2	8	1	2	3
Total	5	4	9	7	0	7	3	4	7	1	1	2	0	0	0

5.5.2 Types of ASB Incidents

Incident	Q1 21-22	Q2 21-22	Q3 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q1 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q4 22-23
Nuisance behaviour – part of a group	15	28	24	4	3	1	0	0
Setting fires – part of a group	2	7	0	6	4	4	0	0
Swearing	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of alcohol	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inappropriate use of electric scooter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass in a derelict building	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0
Verbally abusive	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	0
Shouting	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Criminal damage	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2

5.5.3 Warning Letters Issued

	Q1 21-22	Q2 21-22	Q3 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q1 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q4 22-23
No of Warning Letters Issued								
1st Strike	19	43	24	13	6	19	6	2
2nd Strike	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0
Strike 3 (multi-agency ASB Case Management Group)	4	3	2	2	7	8	1	1
Strike 4 (multi-agency ASB Case Management Group)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.5.4 Cases by Agency to demonstrate Co-ordinated Intervention

Cases by Agency (involved in cases discussed at Strike 3 (multi-agency meeting)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Youth Offending Service	21-22	21-22	21-22	21-22	22-23	22-23	22-23	22-23
Social Services	1	2	1	1	4	4	1	1
Families First	0	2	1	1	6	5	1	1
CAMHS	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Youth Services	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Registered Social Landlord	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0
NxtGen Project	0	3	0	2	3	4	0	0
Fire Intervention Service	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

5.5.5 EWO Involvement with schools of known to be involved in anti-social behaviour

Senior Education Welfare Officer is invited to Strike 3 and Strike 4 meetings for all school-aged pupils known to be involved in anti-social behaviour.
Senior Education Welfare Officer participates and provides updates at each meeting and sends a copy of the notes and agreed actions to the relevant schools.
In addition to the above Agencies, Education provide intervention and support on a case by case basis.

05 | Education

5.6 Child Employment

5.6.1   Number of Permits Issued

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Permits Issued	4	0	2	4	0

5.6.2   Number of Investigations relating to Illegal Child Employment Activities

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Illegal Child Employment Activities	0	1	2	0	1

5.6.3   Child Employment Trends
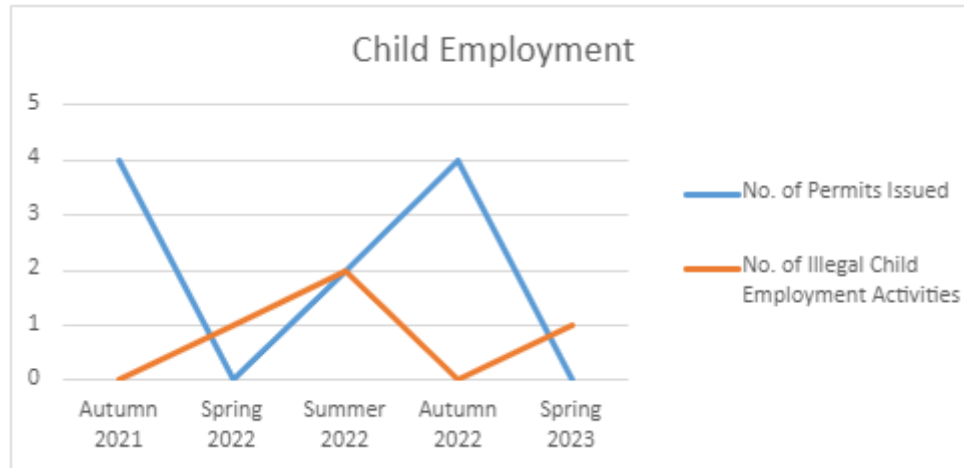
5.7 Child Performances

5.7.1 Number of Licences Issued to Children and Chaperones

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Licences Issues to Children and Chaperones	4	20	56	52	2
No of licences for chaperones	20	18	5	14	3
Body of persons approvals - group licences	10	6	7	2	6

5.7.2 Number of Chaperones attending Training

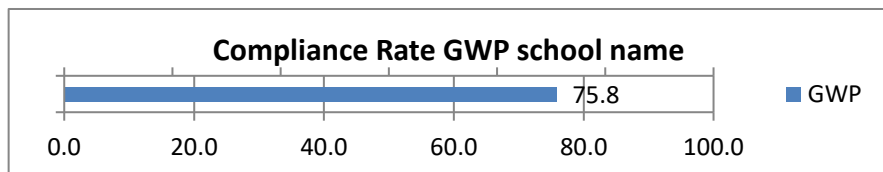|	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Chaperones	20	18	5	14	3
No of Chaperones attending Training	29	24	15	20	8

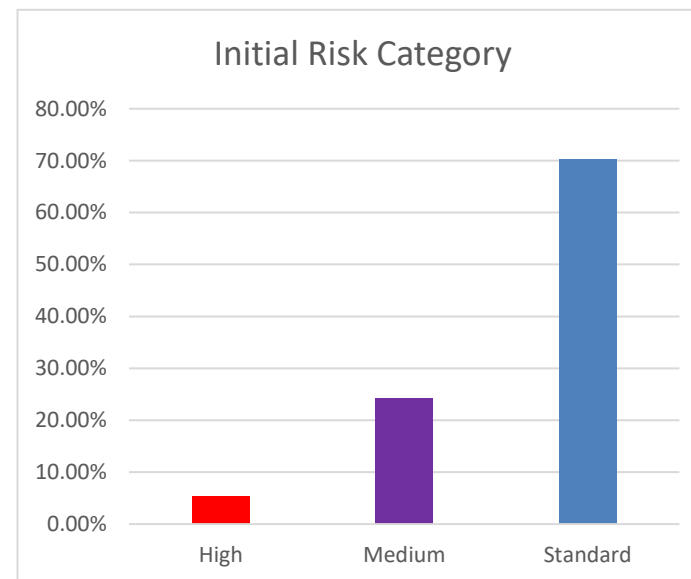**5.8** Operation Encompass - **Not Updated – Reviewing Collection of Data Process**

5.8.1 Number of Incidents in Period and Repeat Incidents

Term	Occurrences	CYP	Repeat Incidents
Autumn 2021	265	330	22.40%
Spring 2022	211	266	24.10%
Summer 2022	246	333	21%

5.8.2 Risk Level

5.8.3 % Compliance by Police

5.8.4 Comparative Data

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
No. of Occurrences	265	296	141	265	211	246	282	182
No. of Children and Young People Involved	330	371	185	330	266	333	299	218
Average No. of CYP per Occurrence		1.25	1.31	1.25	1.26	1.35	unavailable	unavailable
% children present at incident							37.50%	31.60%

5.9 Attendance

5.9.1 Primary and Secondary Attendance

	Autumn 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
Primary Attendance	88.4	89.6	89.9	89.3	89.3	89.0	89.5	90.4
Secondary Attendance	84.3	83.0	84.8	85.3	85.3	84.8	85.9	85.8

5.9.2 Low Attendance and Implementation of Neglect Policy

	Autumn 2022	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023
Fixed penalties	0	0	2	22	46
Single Justice Process	5	0	6	9	21
Court Notices	0	3	0	0	0

05 | Education

5.10 Exclusions

5.10.1 Exclusions by Setting and Type

	Spring 22			Summer 22			Autumn 22			Spring 23		
	Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent	Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent	No. Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent	Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent
Primary	30	2.1		25	2.4		42	2.1		39	2.1	
Secondary	323	1.8	3	193	1.4		404	1.4	2	402	1.4	1
Special	5	1		12	1.1		15	2.5		2	5.5	
Total	358	1.8		230	1.5		461	1.5		443	1.5	

5.10.2 Exclusions Linked to Bullying

	Spring 22		Summer 22		Autumn 22		Spring 23	
	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent
Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.10.3 Pupils with Multiple Exclusions

No of Exclusions	Spring 22			Summer 22			Autumn 22			Spring 23		
	No. Pupils	No of Exclusions	Average No. of Days	No. Pupils	No of Exclusions	Average No. of Days	No. Pupils	No of Exclusions	Average No. of Days	No. Pupils	No of Exclusions	Average No. of Days
1	137	137	1.8	91	91	1.3	124	124	1.5	119	119	1.6
2	42	84	1.4	13	26	2.9	41	82	1.5	39	78	1.4
3	15	45	18	8	24	5.5	25	75	1.5	26	78	1.4
4	11	44	2.7	6	24	4.9	8	32	1.4	7	28	1.3
5	7	35	1.2	8	40	8.1	5	25	1.1	13	65	1.6
6+	2	13	2.5	4	25	10.4	17	123	1.5	10	74	1.7
Total	214	358	1.8	130	230	1.5	220	461	690	215	443	1.5

5.11.1 RPI Incidents

School	Aut 2022	Spr 2023
1	14	6
2	96	55
3	1	0

5.11.2 RPI Trends
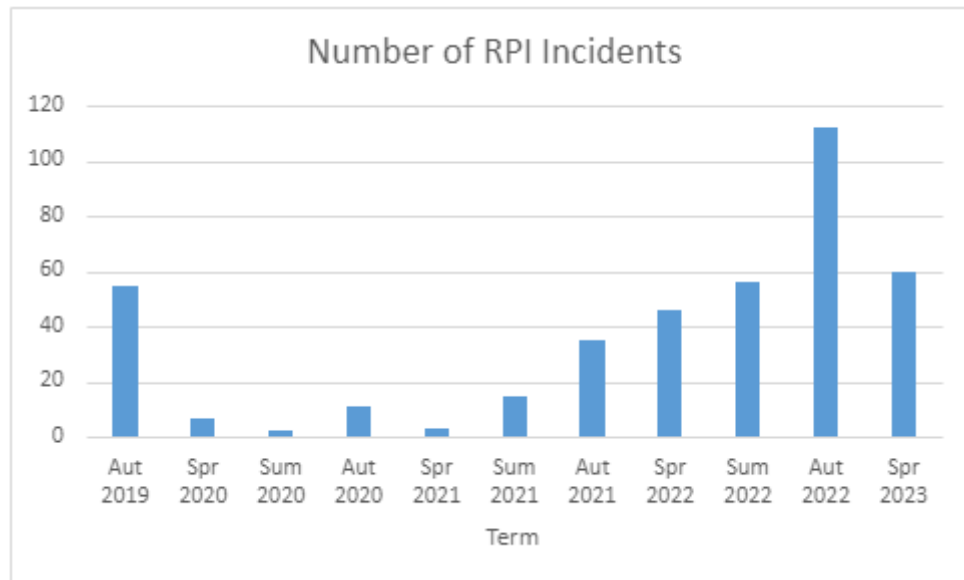
5.12 Racial Incidents

5.12.1 Racial Incidents in Period by Category and Setting

	Autum 22		Spring 23
	No. Schools	No Incident.	No. Schools
Age			
Learners with a disbaility	1	1	N/A
Homophobic/ biphobic	2	4	N/A
Sexist or sexual bullying	1	1	N/A
Racism Anti - Gypsium	0	0	N/A
Racism Anti- refugee prejudice	0	0	N/A
Racism Anti- Semitism	0	0	N/A
Racism - appearance	7	27	N/A
Total	11	33	

5.13 Bullying Incidents

5.13.1 Bullying incidents leading to exclusion
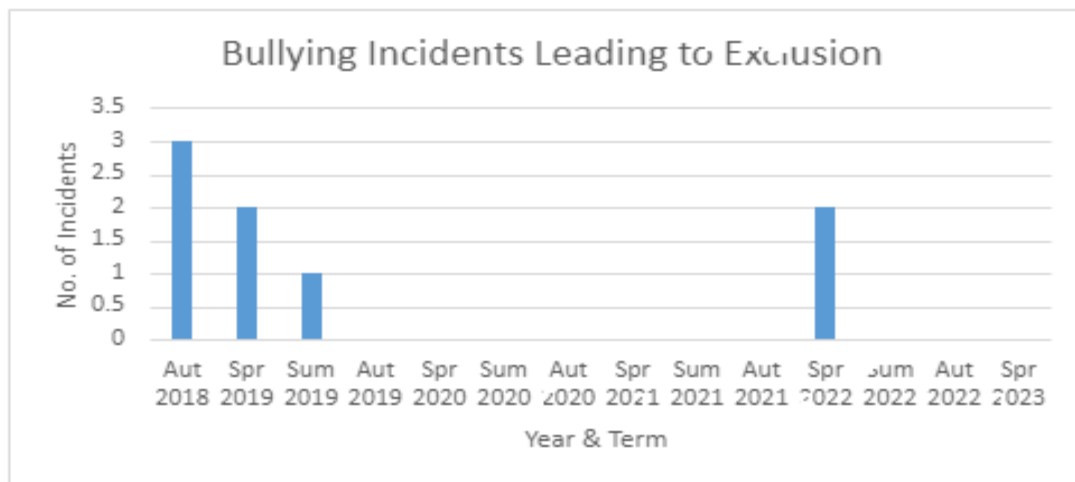
5.13.2 Rights Respect Equalities Return bullying incidents

Rights Respect Equalities Return	
No of Schools submitting	16
No of incidents	19
No of Pupils involved	19

Data for the spring term is incomplete due to ASOS with only 7 schools returning

5.14 Safer Schools

5.14.1 Number of Safer Schools Tactical Meetings called under the Crime & Disorder Act

	Sum 22	Aut 22	Spr 23
No. of Safer Schools Strategic Partnership Board Meetings	1	0	0
No. of Safer Schools Partnership Meetings	1	0	0

5.14.2 Number of Incidents in the Community

Types of Community Safety Issues requiring a SSPM	Sum 22	Aut 22	Spr 23
Damage	0	0	0
Threat to Staff	0	0	0
Knife Crime	0	0	0

5.14.3 Issues that hit the trigger for Safer Schools e.g. Criminal Exploitation, Violence, Threat to kill/of serious harm, Use of weapons
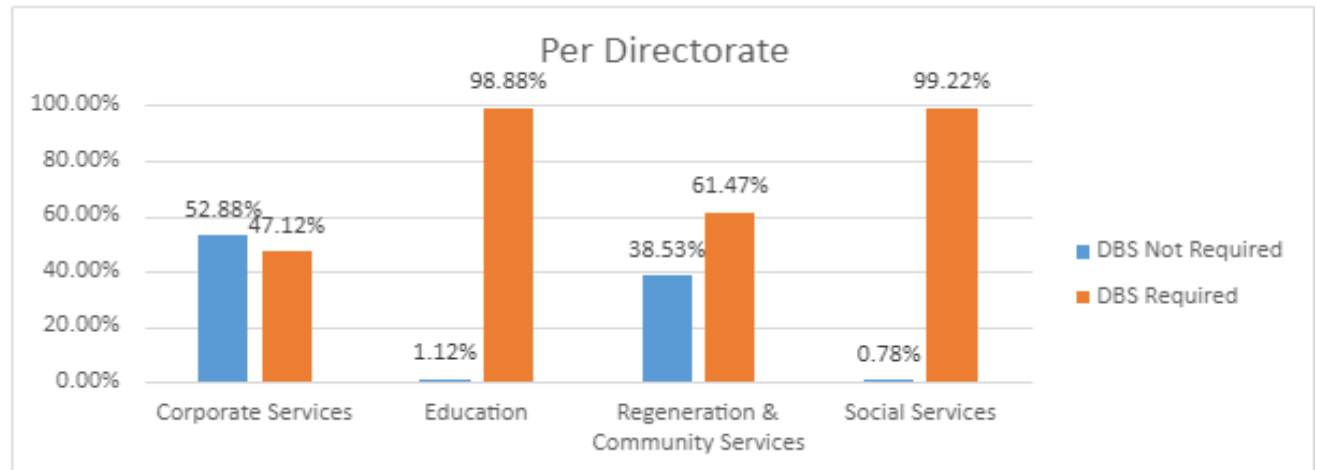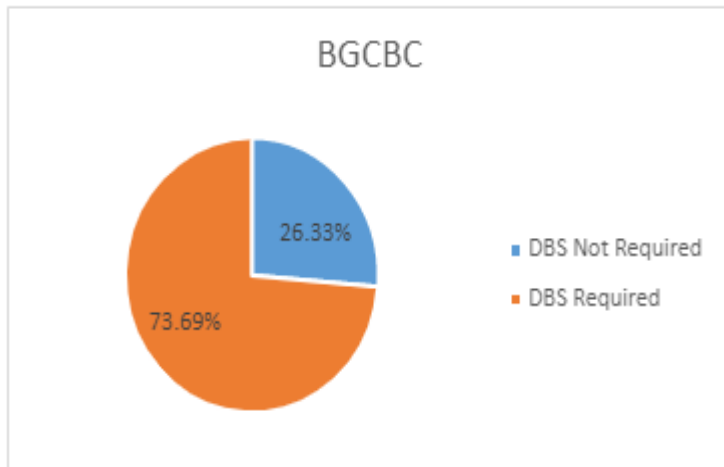
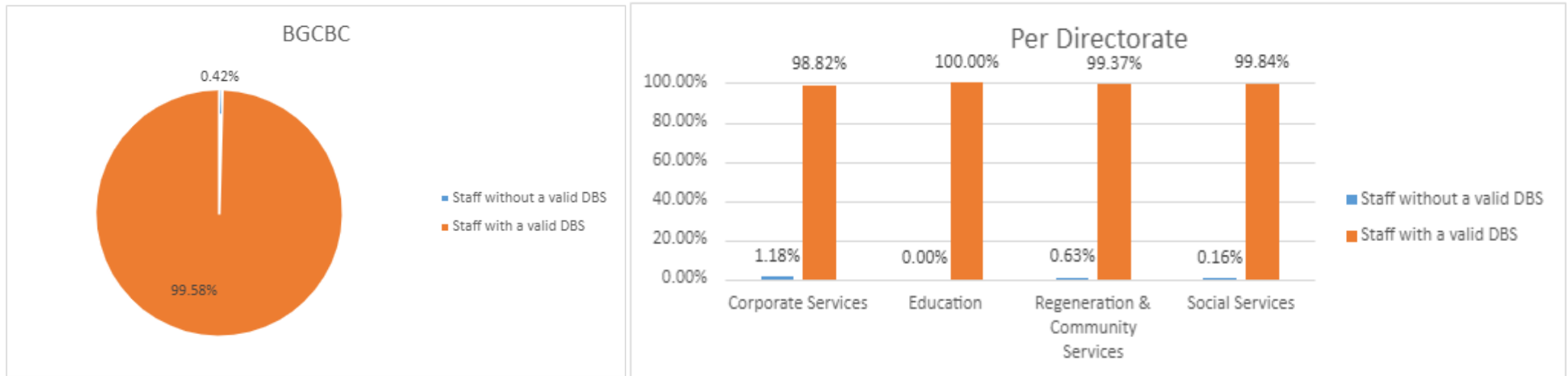| Issue	Sum 22	Aut 22	Spr 23
Arson			
Criminal Exploitation	0	0	0
Violence	1	0	0
Threat of Serious Harm	0	0	0
Threat to Kill	0	0	0
Use of Weapons	0	0	0

06 | Corporate

6.1 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 annually to Corporate Leadership Team but monitoring and escalation continues on a regular basis.

The latest submission to CLT was in May 2023 and is shown below:

6.1.1 **Position Statement: Breakdown of Positions that require a DBS Check** as at 31st March 2023

6.1.2 Breakdown of those employees in compliance with DBS requirements as at 31st March 2023

BGCBC

- Staff without a valid DBS
- Staff with a valid DBS

0.42%

99.58%

Per Directorate

- Staff without a valid DBS
- Staff with a valid DBS

Directorate	Staff without a valid DBS	Staff with a valid DBS
Corporate Services	1.18%	98.82%
Education	0.00%	100.00%
Regeneration & Community Services	0.63%	99.37%
Social Services	0.16%	99.84%

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

6.2 VAWDASV Corporate Training Online

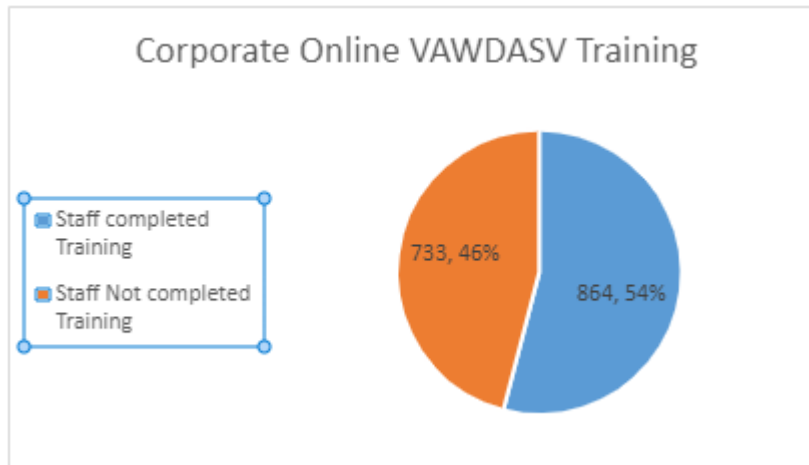**Corporate Training**

Domestic abuse Training

Corporate training has been provided to staff in respect of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with **58%** of staff having **completed** the **VAWDAS online training.**

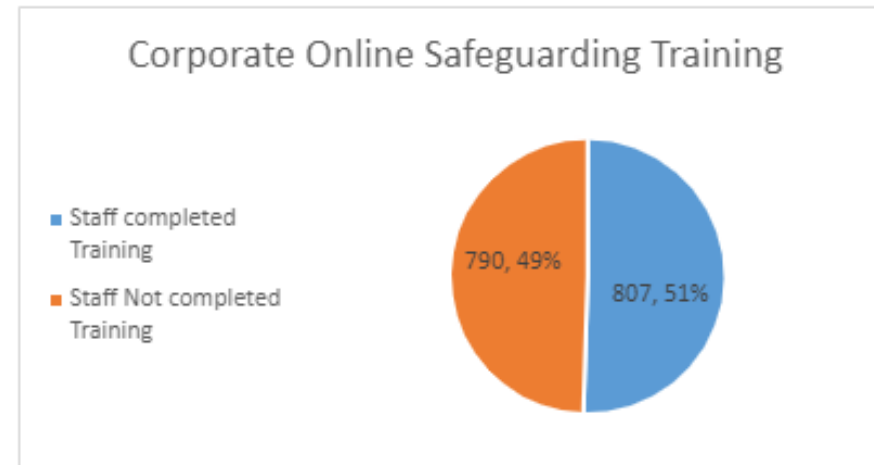**All Wales Safeguarding Training on line for staff**

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.

6.2.1 VAWDASV Corporate

Corporate Online VAWDASV Training

- Staff completed Training
- Staff Not completed Training

733, 46% 864, 54%

6.2.2 Safeguarding Training

Corporate Online Safeguarding Training

- Staff completed Training
- Staff Not completed Training

790, 49% 807, 51%

6.3 **Risk Register**

6.3.1 Corporate Risk Register CRR4

Risk Reference   CRR4
Risk Description: Safeguarding - Failure to ensure adequate safeguarding arrangements are in place for vulnerable people in Blaenau Gwent

Risk Owner - Corporate Leadership Team / Interim Director of Social Services
Portfolio holder: Councillor Hayden Trollope
Risk Updater: Interim Director of Social Services / Director of Education / Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group

Triggers	Consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Status	Current Controls	Likelihood	Impact	Status	Proposed further controls to mitigate / reduce risk	Target Score L x I = Score		
•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 and difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff. *If there are increased levels of sickness in key areas. • Failure to recognise that all staff have a duty to report abuse, harm or neglect. • Lack of appropriate guidance and training on safeguarding	• 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	• Strategic lead for Safeguarding • Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group, made up of the designated safeguarding representative for each directorate. • Safeguarding Training Framework in place • Corporate Safeguarding Policy reviewed in May 2022 • Lead Executive Member identified for safeguarding •Gwent Adult Safeguarding Board • SE Wales Safeguarding Children's Board • Standing item on CLT agenda • Safeguarding Network • Adult protection co-ordinator and process in place in line with All Wales process. • Joint Education and Social Services Safeguarding Team • Joint Business unit and subgroups for adults and children • Safeguarding as a standing item on the CLT agenda • Safeguarding information to be scrutinised as part of the scrutiny process • Safeguarding app can be downloaded for all staff with a work phone	2	4	High	• Business Plans will further embed risk assessment tools • Embedding of quality assurance processes in adult services safeguarding *Safeguarding Training programme to be implemented in Quarter 2 •Safeguarding Reports into Scrutiny will be on a corporate basis / will include all directorates. •Safeguarding to be included in self-aessment.	1	4	Medium

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATES

The Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group is well established and has maintained a regular core group of senior representatives from across the Council. The Group meets four times per year. The group has been responsible for driving forward the recommendations made following an inspection by Audit Wales in 2019. Audit Wales returned to Blaenau Gwent Council in May 2022 to review this work and published their report, 'Corporate Safeguarding Follow-up' in November 2022. This report looked at what progress the Council had made to address the outstanding recommendations and proposals for improvement in their previous report in October 2019. Although the report recognised that the Council has taken action to strengthen its corporate safeguarding arrangements, it concluded that the Council had not yet fully addressed previous recommendations. The Council needs to take further action to fully comply with the recommendations in the October 2019 report and additionally needed to strengthen its monitoring arrangements of third parties to assure itself that they comply with the council's safeguarding policies. The report was presented to Governance and Audit Committee in Quarter 4 and the Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group will undertake implementation of the recommendations identified.

The Council received the final report from the Estyn Local Government Education Services Inspection. The inspection was positive in terms of the work undertaken by the Council and recognised the improvements made to the collation of safeguarding information by introducing the "My Concern" system to record and report incidents and related pupil demographics. There was a recognition that officers and elected members are committed to safeguarding young people and received suitable safeguarding training. There was recognition that the education and children's services work together to improve multi agency working ensure that schools received support to manage the needs of pupils and their families more effectively. It was also noted that elected members are beginning to develop their understanding of safeguarding in education and challenge appropriately the content of reports they receive.

In Children's Services, vacancies in the locality teams have been filled by a combination of staff seconded onto the Social Work degree course and newly qualified workers. There is still 1 vacancy which is being advertised. The challenge will now be to retain these staff. The locality teams are starting a new way of operating from January 2023 which should allow better management of workload. All safeguarding referrals continue to be managed in line with the Wales Safeguarding procedures. An internal audit has taken place in relation to safeguarding processes across the directorate. Reasonable assurance was given. Despite good progress being made low vacancy rates will now need be sustained in addition there are savings targets attributed to the workforce which could impact of the departments safeguarding ability.

Regulatory Proposals

Ref	Recommendation	Organisational response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer / group
R1	The Council needs to take further action to fully comply with the recommendations in the October 2019 follow-up report on corporate arrangements for safeguarding of children.	The Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group has identified the actions where further improvement is needed. A self-assessment process has been implemented across the council. The first of which took place in November 2022. The findings of the self-assessment are reported back to the strategic leadership group and actions are set against these findings. It has been further agreed that a corporate safeguarding report is produced annually, and this report will be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee and will include self assessment findings. The corporate self-assessment will take place annually with the second due to commence late summer 2023.	Self assessment – late summer 2023 Implementing actions from self assessment - ongoing	Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group
R2	The Council needs to strengthen its monitoring arrangements of third parties so it can assure itself that they comply with the Council's safeguarding policies. It should consider whether a self-assessment tool like that recently used by Council directorates can be used with third parties to better understand compliance.	Monitoring of safeguarding arrangements for third parties will be tested by Internal Audit in line with the risk assessed Audit Plan. This will evidence how well the monitoring arrangements work and provide an opportunity for the CSL Group to further strengthen these arrangements. The plan will contain the following audit areas, split between Corporate Procurement and Schools and each of these areas will be considered for audit as part of the annual risk review. Corporate Procurement - A systems audit will be conducted in Qtr. 2/3 of 2023/4, testing the arrangements in place that require third parties to meet minimum safeguarding standards as part of the procurement process. Further, more targeted testing, will be undertaken for services where enhanced safeguarding measures are required. The audit report will be issued to the CSL group for any weaknesses identified through the audit to be rectified. Schools - Schools are required to complete an annual Control Risk Self-Assessment (CRSA) explaining the measures they have in place to mitigate risks. The CRSA questionnaire will be updated to include specific questions on safeguarding in relation to third parties, either through procurement or volunteering. The answers provided will be assessed and if required a systems audit of third party safeguarding in schools will be conducted. The CRSA questionnaire will be issued to schools in April.	Audit Quarter 2/3 2023/24	Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group