Safeguarding Performance Report

Social Services
1st April 2023 to
30th September 2023

Education
Summer Term 2023

Corporate Services
1st April 2023 to
30th September 2023

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

00 | Table of Contents

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
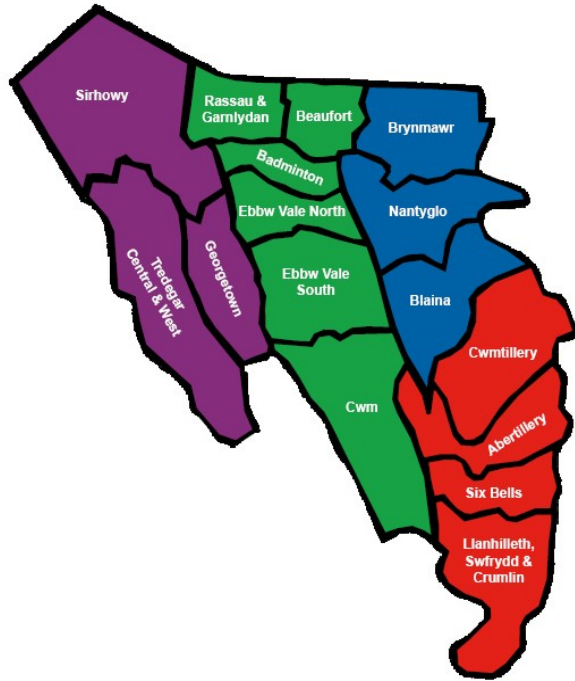
- 45% of Blaenau Gwent's local areas are amongst the top 20% deprived areas in Wales. (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019)

- 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 November 2016 – 20.3% in Blaenau Gwent compared to all Wales level of 14.4%)

- 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: **66,905** Number of 0 – 17 year olds: **13,153** (2021 Census)

- Number of Open cases to Children's Social Services as at 31st December 20: **1,108**

- Number of pupils of primary age (inc. nursery): **6,124**
- Number of pupils of secondary age: **3,250**

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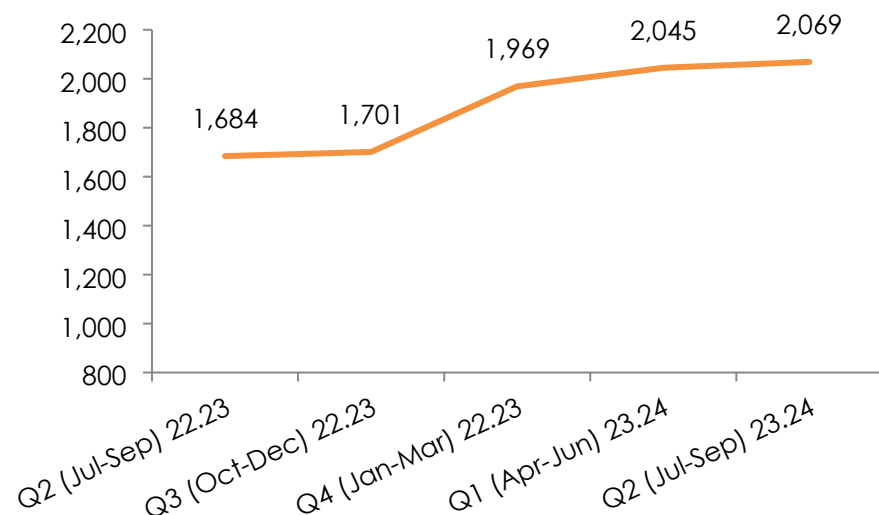
Fig 1.1a Number of individuals linked to referrals

	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Referrals	600	725	521	725	799	669	634	766
No of Individuals	526	629	451	600	681	584	535	665
2+ Referrals	53	84	55	68	87	77	69	75
Highest No. of Referrals for an individual	5	4	5	13	6	3	6	6

Fig: 1.2 Number and Percentage of Referrals by Source (Q1 & Q2*)

	Q1 23/24		Q2 23/24	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**
SC - 3rd Sector organisation	0	-	4	0.2%
SC - Advocate	0	-	0	-
SC - Ambulance Service	7	0.3%	12	0.6%
SC - Early Intervention / Prevention Service (Step-up)	23	1.1%	55	2.7%
SC - Education	379	18.5%	252	12.2%
SC - Friend or Neighbour	28	1.4%	43	2.1%
SC - Health	342	16.7%	328	15.9%
SC - Housing	12	0.6%	22	1.1%
SC - Independent Hospital	0	-	0	-
SC - Internal (Social Worker, other team)	112	5.5%	112	5.4%
SC - Local Authority	44	2.2%	52	2.5%
SC - Other	154	7.5%	138	6.7%
SC - Police	725	35.5%	713	34.5%
SC - Probation	29	1.4%	89	4.3%
SC - Provider	131	6.4%	165	8.0%
SC - Relative	15	0.7%	13	0.6%
SC - Self	44	2.2%	71	3.4%
Total	**2,045**	100%	**2,069**	100%

*The table is only showing 2 quarters as the reporting categories for this data iem have changed.

Graph showing the source of referrals and the percentage

Q1 23/24 Q2 23/24

- SC - 3rd Sector organisation: 0.2%
- SC - Advocate: 0.0%
- SC...: 0.6%
- SC...: 2.7%
- SC - Education: 12.2%
- SC - Friend or Neighbour: 2.1%
- SC - Health: 15.9%
- SC - Housing: 1.1%
- SC...: 0.0%
- SC - Internal (Social Worker, other team): 5.4%
- SC - Local Authority: 2.5%
- SC - Other: 6.7%
- SC - Police: 34.5%
- SC - Probation: 4.3%
- SC - Provider: 8.0%
- SC - Relative: 0.6%
- SC - Self: 3.4%
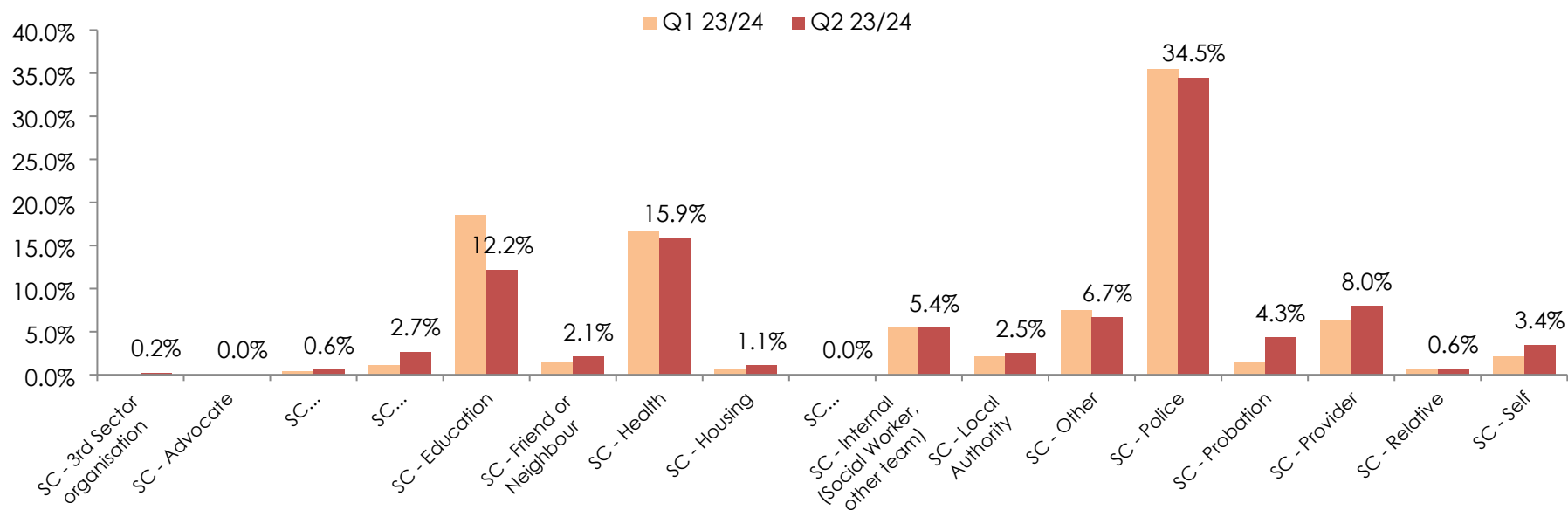
Fig: 1.3 Multi-agency referral forms (MARF's) received on open cases

No. of Referrals — — No. of Additional MARF's

Quarter	No. of Referrals	No. of Additional MARF's
Q3 (Oct-Dec) 22.23	1,701	1,729
Q4 (Jan-Mar) 22.23	1,969	1,688
Q1 (Apr-Jun) 23.24	2,045	1,796
Q2 (Jul-Sep) 23.24	2,069	1,787

7
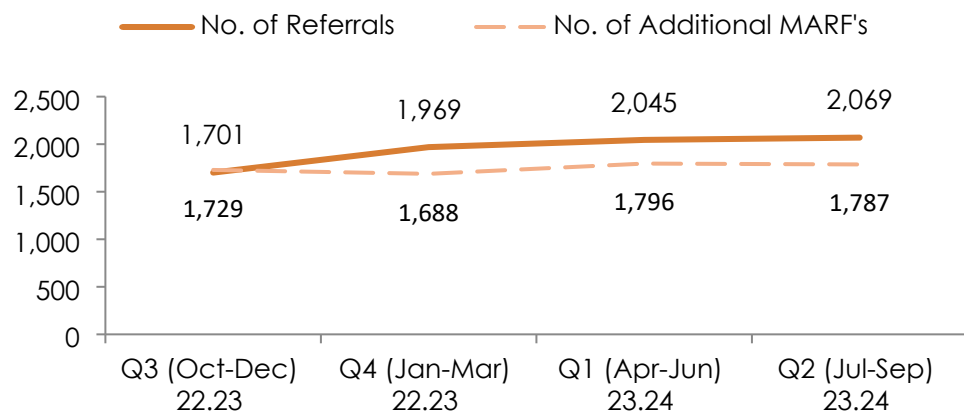
Fig 2.1 Children on the Child Protection Register

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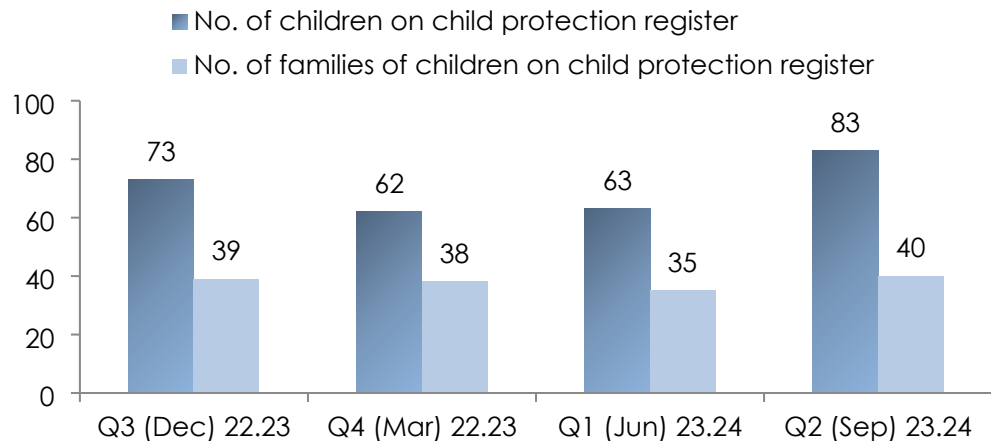
ig 2.2 Child Protection Register Summary

- Number of registrations
- Number of de-registrations
- Number of children on child protection register

Fig 2.3 Categories of abuse

- Q3 (Dec) 22.23
- Q4 (Mar) 22.23
- Q1 (Jun) 23.24
- Q2 (Sep) 23.24
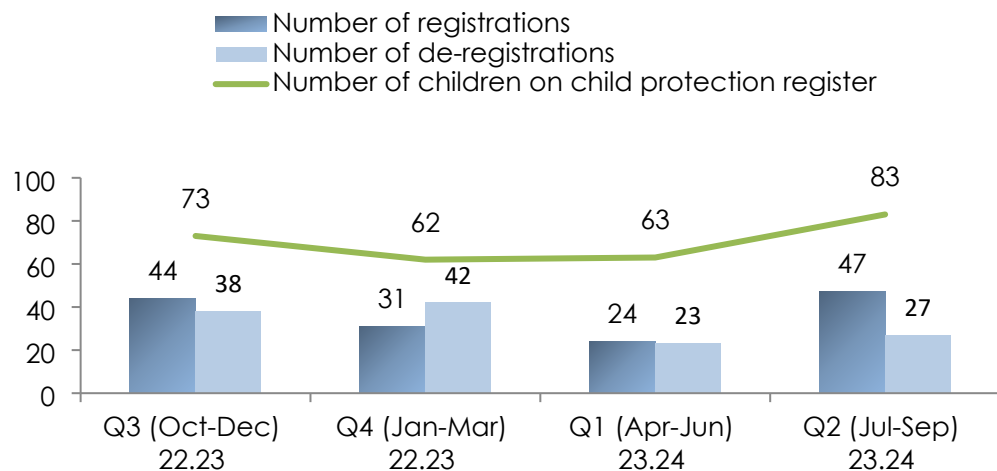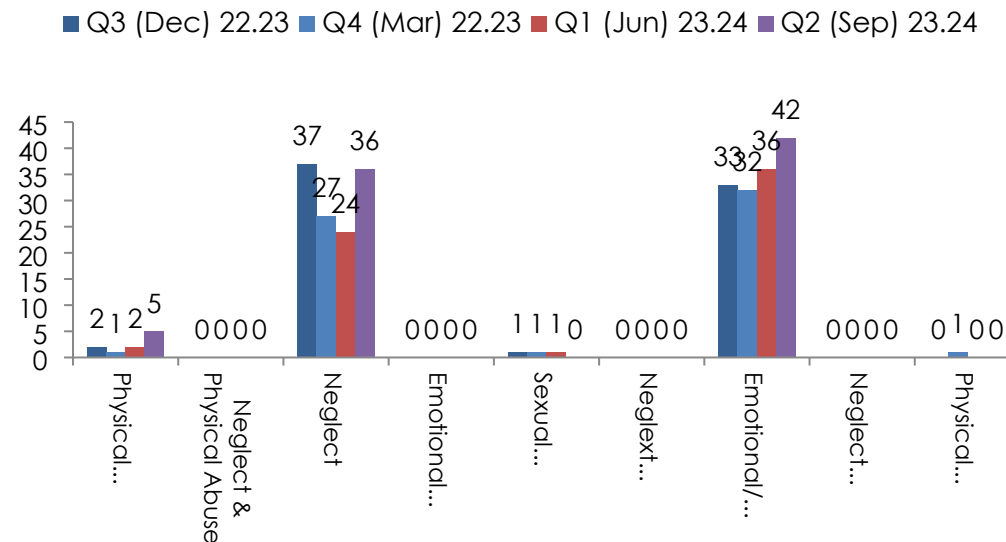
Fig 2.4 Age Breakdown of children on child protection register

Q2 (Sept) 2023-24
- Female
- Male
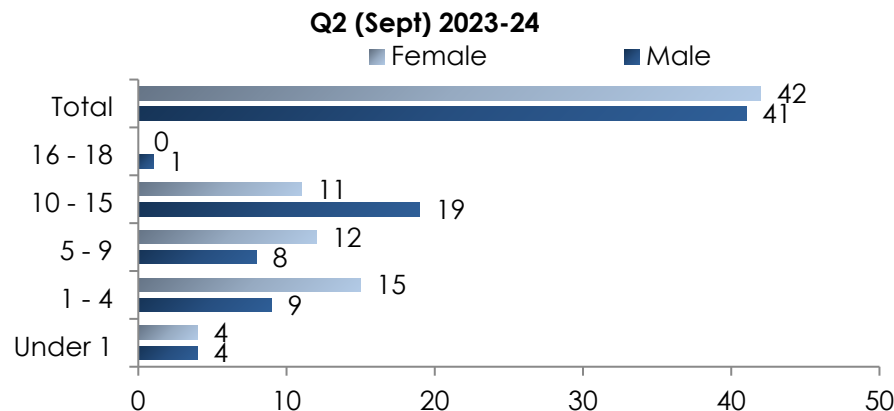
Fig 3.1 Adults suspected of being at risk

Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the quarter 2023/24	1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	194	1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	182
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during 2022/23	1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	139	1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)	157

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	1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)	1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)
Physical	Male	8	8	3	4	4	8	6	6
	Female	10	21	8	17	16	29	9	19
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual	Male	3	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
	Female	5	0	2	1	2	1	2	2
	Transgender	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emotional/Psychological	Male	4	2	1	3	4	6	7	7
	Female	12	7	6	4	9	6	3	7
	Transgender	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial	Male	2	5	1	3	2	4	2	7
	Female	1	5	3	6	5	7	7	9
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Neglect	Male	7	28	7	15	8	19	6	16
	Female	9	54	7	48	5	42	12	30
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Male	24	44	12	25	20	39	21	36
	Female	37	87	26	76	37	85	33	67
	Transgender	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Total	63	131	38	101	58	124	54	103

Fig 3.3 Place alleged abuse/neglect took place

Place alleged abuse or neglect occurred	Total 1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	Total 1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	Total 1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	Total 1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)
Own Home	76	48	70	65
Community	13	13	9	13
Care Home Setting	93	70	91	70
Health Setting	12	8	12	9
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	**194**	**139**	**182**	**157**

Fig 3.4 Person alleged responsible

Person alleged responsible	Total 1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	Total 1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	Total 1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	Total 1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)
A spouse	10	8	13	6
A son or daughter	11	6	17	9
A family member who is not a child or spouse	7	10	7	3
A professional	35	26	19	28
A volunteer or unpaid worker	0	0	0	0
A friend	2	1	4	3
A neighbour	2	2	7	8
Another service user	19	3	16	11
Other Person	8	3	7	8
Not known	100	80	92	81
Total	**194**	**139**	**182**	**157**

Fig 3.5 Source of Referral

Source of Referral	Total 1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	Total 1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	Total 1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	Total 1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)
Self-reported	7	2	8	3
Relative / friend	4	5	10	3
Local authority	10	11	15	6
Police	7	3	5	4
Local health board	37	14	27	22
Independent hospital	0	2	0	1
Ambulance service	9	3	3	3
Care regulator	6	0	3	0
Provider agency	80	57	80	66
Probation	0	0	1	0
Third sector	10	4	9	3
Advocate	0	0	0	0
Education	0	2	0	0
Housing	3	4	2	10
Internal (Social Worker, Other Team)	17	17	9	26
Other	4	15	10	10
Total	**194**	**139**	**182**	**157**

Fig 3.6 Domestic abuse referrals

	Age 18-64 1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	Age – 65 and over 1/4/23-30/6/23 (Q1)	Age 18-64 1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	Age – 65 and over 1/4/22-30/6/22 (Q1)	Age 18-64 1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	Age – 65 and over 1/7/23-30/9/23 (Q2)	Age 18-64 1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)	Age – 65 and over 1/7/22-30/9/22 (Q2)
Male	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1
Female	8	4	5	0	11	2	1	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
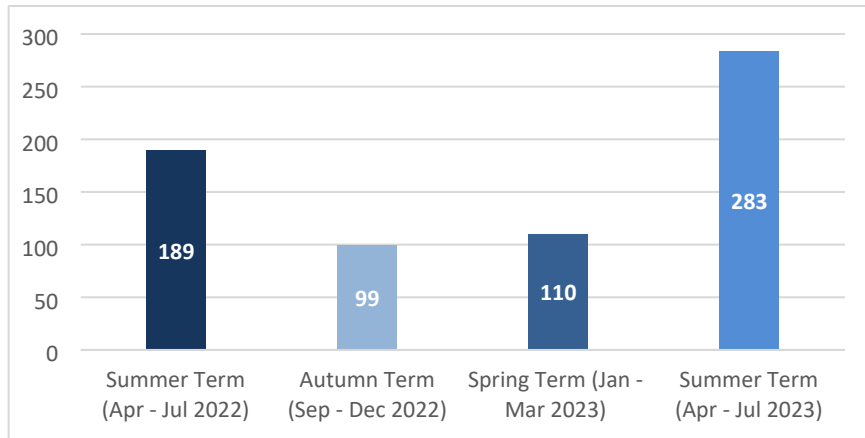
Fig 4.2 Contacts by Source – Secondary School
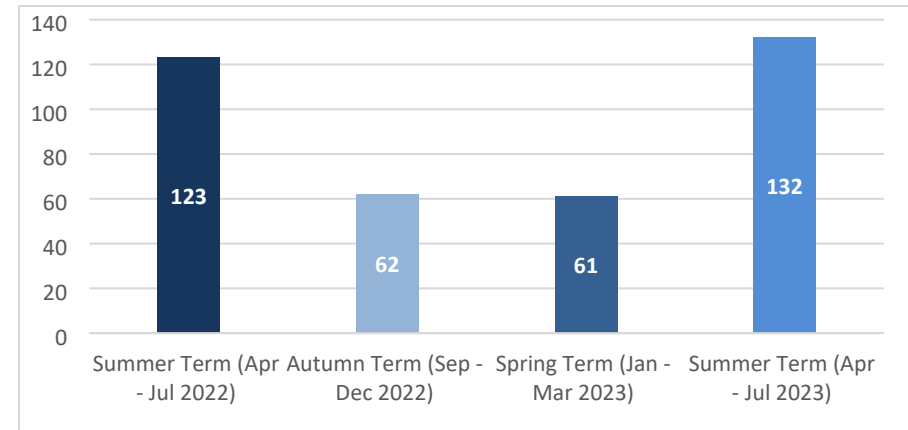
Fig 4.3 Contacts by Source - Other
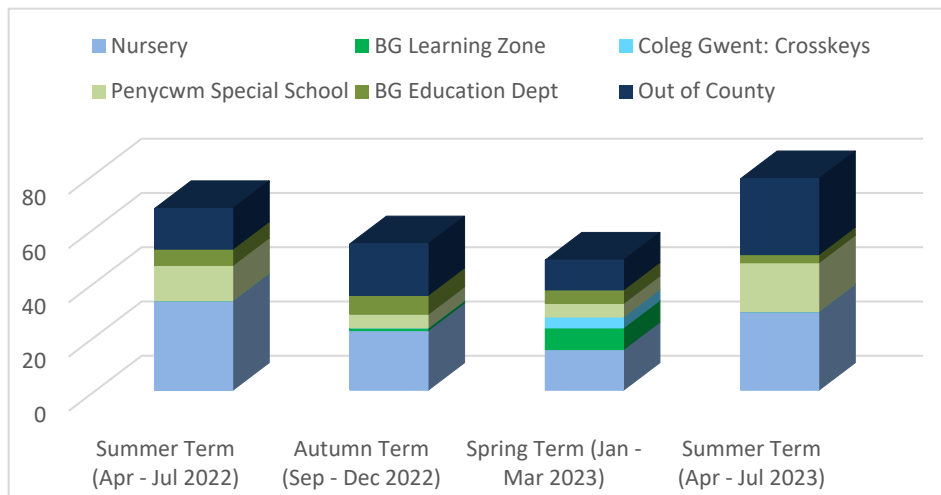
Fig: 4.4 Referrals received from Youth Services
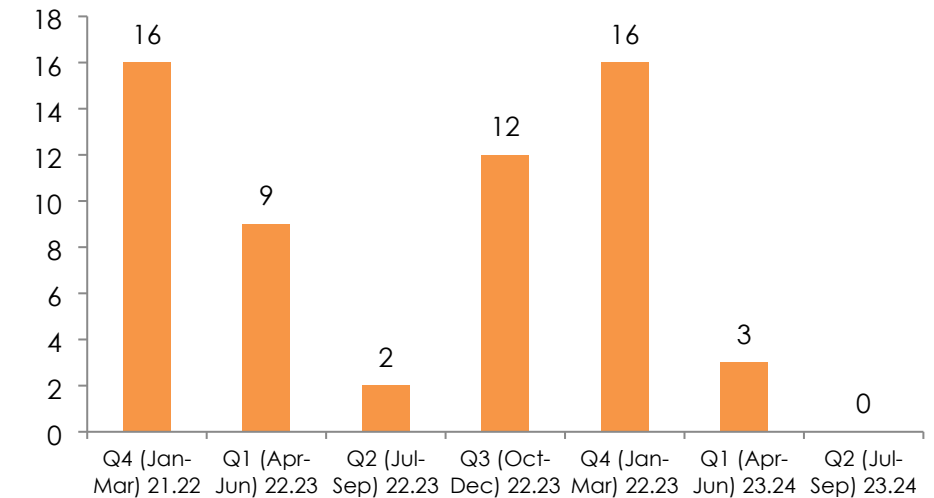
05 | Education

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
Summer 23	1	0
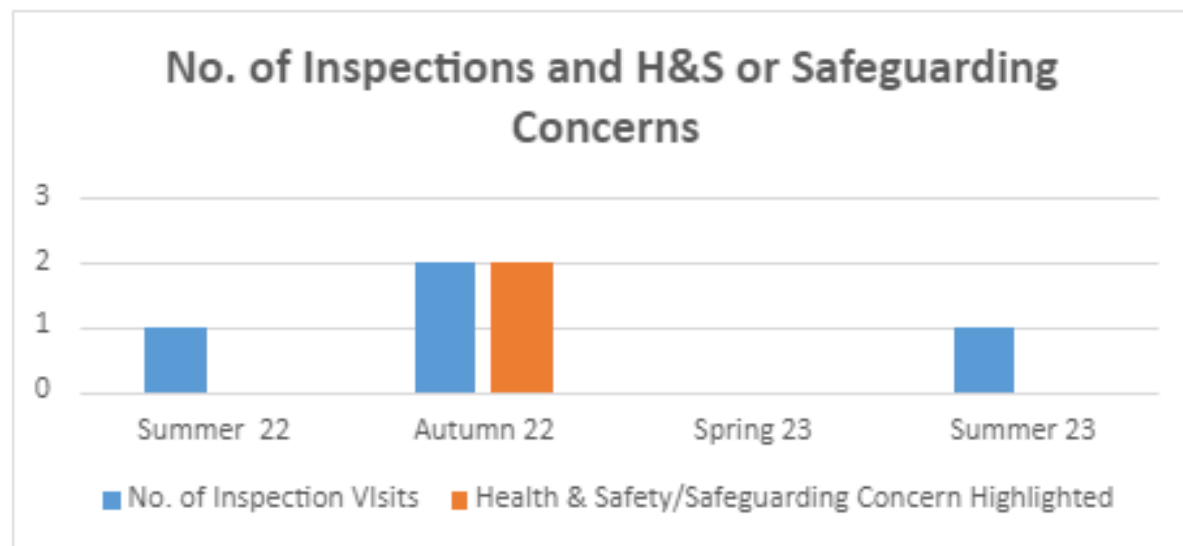
1.3 Policy

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	23
% Compliance	100%	92%

August 2023- All schools have a Safeguarding policy. 92% are recorded as having adopted the 2022-23 version by the end of the Summer 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%
	Summer 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	Summer 2023
LA	15	15	9	9	11	11
Independent	18	18	10	11	16	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.

This process is implemented for Independent Specialist Provision and there is a spreadsheet that captures all data. This is reviewed prior to the placement of any learner.

Safeguarding in Education Manager works collaboratively with counterparts in other LAs where BG are placing learners in LA schools out of area to ensure the safeguarding/quality of provision.

3.2 Education Workforce Council (EWC) Registrations

3.2.1 EWC Registrations on Appointment

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
No. of Incomplete EWC Registrations	5	0	0	1	2	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
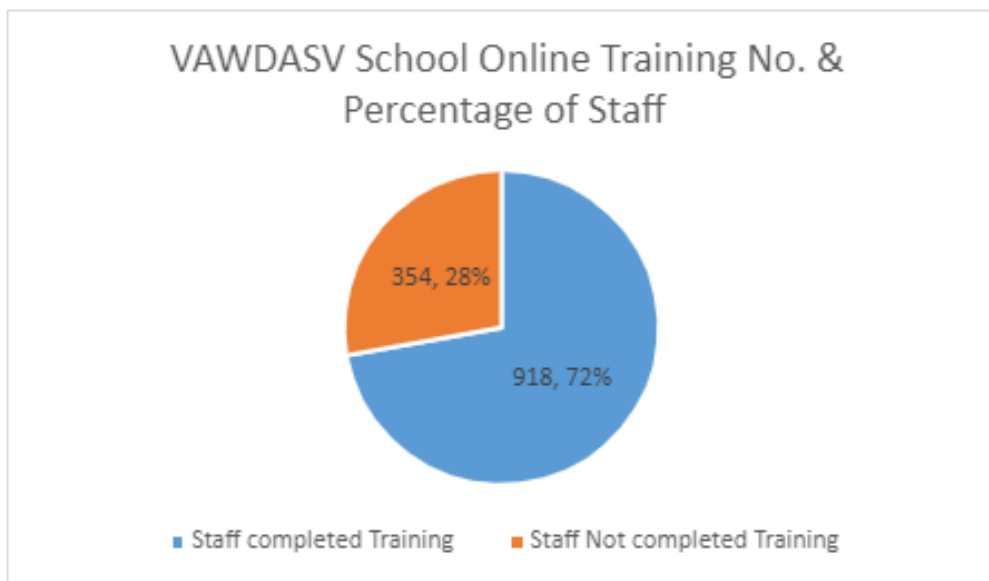
4.2.4 Online Safeguarding Training – Schools

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

Online Safeguarding Training	Q3 2022-23	Q4 2022-23	Q1 2023-24	Q2 2023-24
Staff completed Training	244	256	242	244
Staff Not completed Training	1,010	998	1030	1028
Total Staff	1,254	1,254	1,272	1,272

4.2.2 Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSP) Meetings

DSP Meetings	Aut 21	Spr 22	Sum 22	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23
No of Schools Represented	16	17	16	no mtg	16	12
% of School represented	64%	68%	64%	N/A	64%	48%

4.3 Professional Concerns

4.3.1 Professional Concerns Review

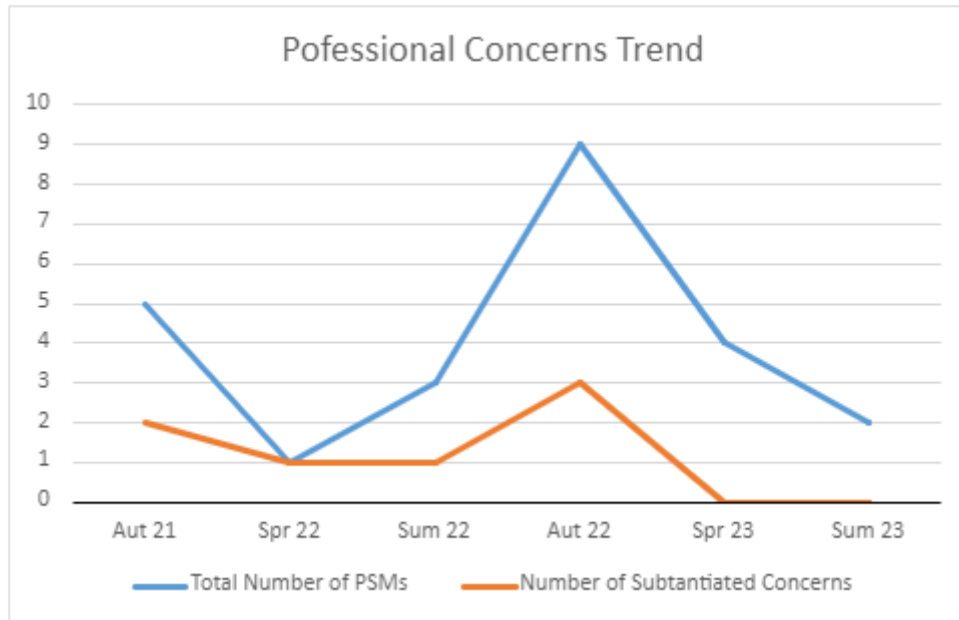| Professional Strat Meetings	Aut21	Spr 22	Sum22	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23
Total Number of PSMs	5	1	3	9	4	2
Number of Subtantiated Concerns	2	1	1	3	0	0 (1 concern ongoing)

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 2023 No,	PLASC January 2022 No.	PLASC January 2021 No.	PLASC January 2020 No.
Children electively home educated in BG	214	132	89	70
Children electively home educated in Wales	242	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
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
Apr – Jul 2023	2	0	5	0	4	0	3	0
Total	**19**	**5**	**22**	**8**	**23**	**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
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
Apr – Jul 2023	9	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0
Total	**30**	**24**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**43**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**

5.2.4 EHE Breakdown per year group
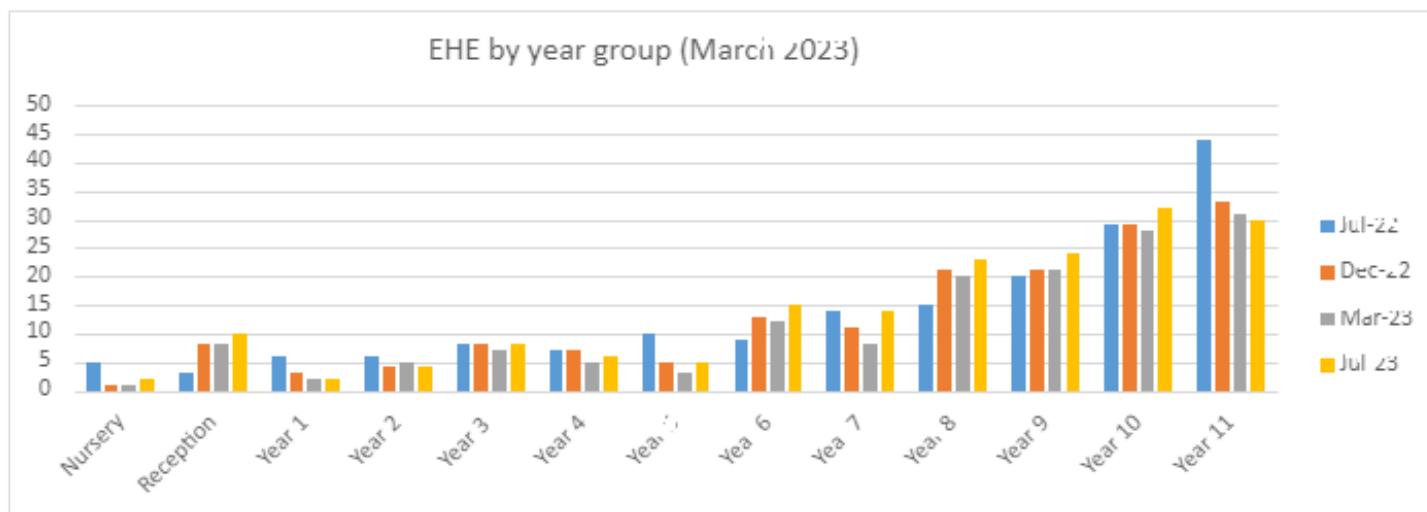
*Please note that all year 11 pupils are removed on the last Friday of June when they end compulsory school education.

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	Summer 2023
CMIE in to BG	3	3	5	11	4	8
CMIE out of BG	11	10	12	13	14	5

5.3.2 Number of Children Missing

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

5.3.3 CMIE Trends

05 | Education
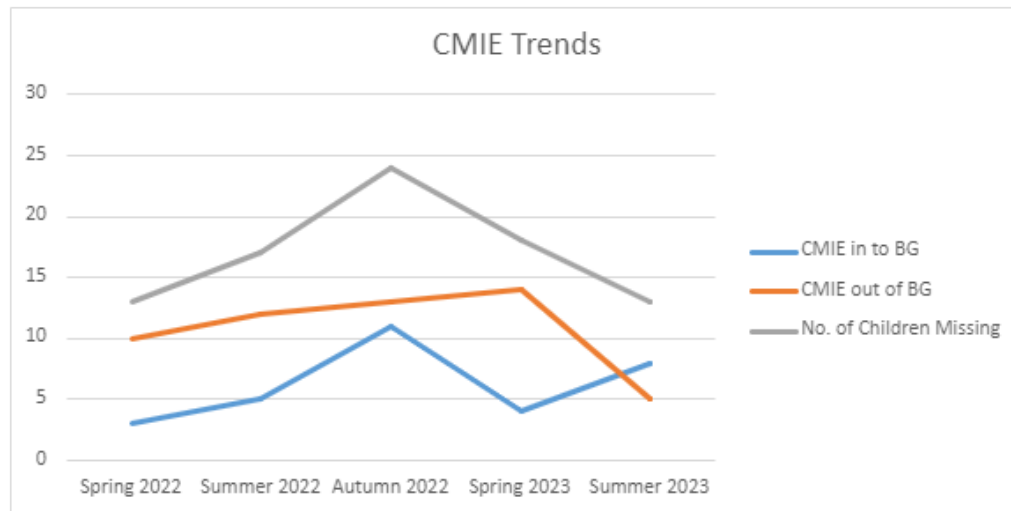
5.4 Youth Offending Referrals

5.4.1 Number of children accessing the Service

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
No of Schoolchildren accessing YOS	23	34	32	18	31	30

5.4.2 YOS pupil Placement by Setting and Access

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Access						
FT	14	34	30	6	23	24
PT	3	0	3	3	4	6
Setting						
EHE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Schools	5	9	5	0	4	5
Mainstream - Primary	1	4	4	0	3	2
Mainstream - Secondary	11	21	23	8	20	23
Secure Unit				1	0	0
Employed	3	0	0	1	2	0
College				3	0	0
NEET	3	0	0	4	1	0
Training Provider				1	1	0

5.4.4 REACH Interventions

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Prevention Programme	5	16	19	1	11	16
Community Resolution	12	13	10	10	10	3
Youth Caution	0	1	0	01	0	1
Youth Conditional Caution	1	2	1	0	0	0
Referral Order	2	2	2	1	0	2
Youth Rehabilitation Order	2	0	0	2	0	0
Remanded in Custody	1	0	0	1	0	0
Detained	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outcome 22	0	0	0	2	10	6
Turnaround	0	0	0	0	0	2

25

5.5 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

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

	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	Q1 23-24	Q1 22-23	Q1 23-24	Q2 23-24	Q2 23-24	Q2 23-24
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
No. of Schoolchildren Identified and Managed through CS Team	16	13	29	7	3	10	2	2	4	18	7	25	12	2	14

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	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	Q1 23-24	Q1 23-24	Q1 23-24	Q2 23-24	Q2 23-24	24 23-24
Primary Aged Pupils	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Secondary Pupils Aged 11-14 (KS3)	4	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Secondary Pupils Aged 14-16 (KS4)	9	9	18	6	2	8	1	2	3	12	5	17	5	0	5
Total	3	4	7	1	1	2	0	0	0	5	2	7	6	2	8

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	Q1 23-24	Q2 23-24
Nuisance behaviour – part of a group	15	28	24	4	3	1	0	0	12	5
Setting fires – part of a group	2	7	0	6	4	4	0	0	0	0
Swearing	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of alcohol	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inappropriate use of electric scooter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass in a derelict building	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Verbally abusive	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
Shouting	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Criminal damage	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0
Throwing/kicking objects at property	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	9	1
No. of Individuals	20	45	24	13	7	21	8	2	21	6

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	Q1 23-24	Q2 23-24
Advised by Police									5	0
Home Visit									16	4
Strike 1	19	43	24	13	6	19	6	2	0	2
Strike 2	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0
Strike 3 (multi-agency ASB Case Management Group)	4	3	2	2	7	8	1	1	4	8
Strike 4 (multi-agency ASB Case Management Group)	0	0	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 21-22	Q2 21-22	Q3 21-22	Q4 21-22	Q1 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q4 22-23	Q1 23-24	Q2 23-24
Youth Offending Service	1	2	1	1	4	4	1	1	2	7
Social Services	0	2	1	1	6	5	1	1	2	8
Families First	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
CAMHS	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Youth Services	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	2
Registered Social Landlord	0	3	0	2	3	4	0	0	2	5
NxtGen Project	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Intervention Service	2	0	0	0	0	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.

5.6 Child Employment

5.6.1   Number of Permits Issued

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

5.6.3   Child Employment Trends
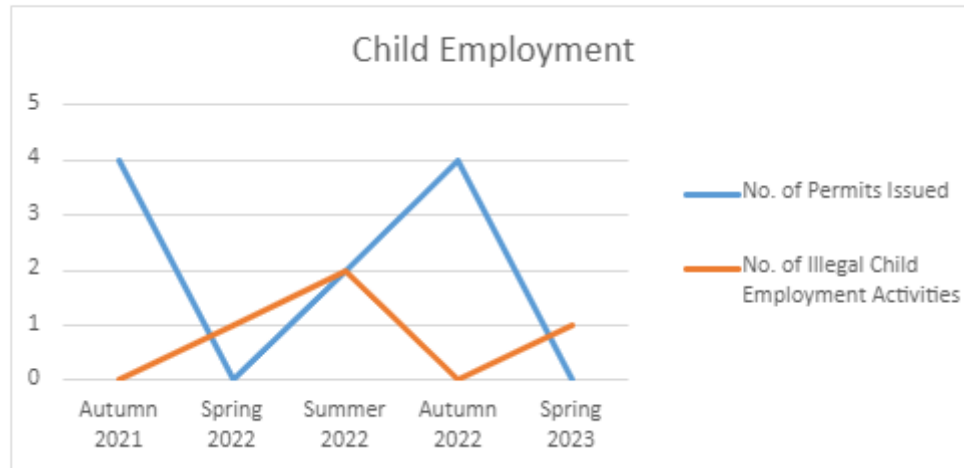
5.7 Child Performances

5.7.1 Number of Licences Issued to Children and Chaperones

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

5.7.2 Number of Chaperones attending Training

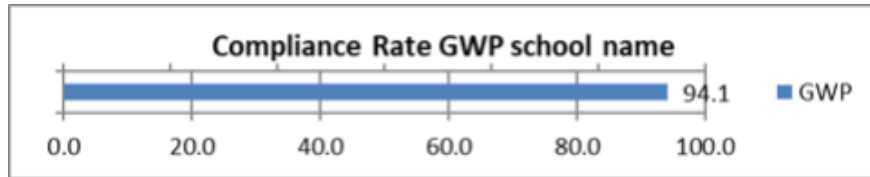|	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
No. of Chaperones	20	18	5	14	3	0
No of Chaperones attending Training	29	24	15	20	8	0

5.8 Operation Encompass -

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%
Autumn 2022	282	299	unavailable
Spring 2023	182	218	unavailable
Summer 2023	156	333	23.1%

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	Summer 2023
No. of Occurrences	265	296	141	265	211	246	282	182	156
No. of Children and Young People Involved	330	371	185	330	266	333	299	218	333
Average No. of CYP per Occurrence		1.25	1.31	1.25	1.26	1.35	unavailable	unavailable	2.1
% children present at incident							37.50%	31.60%	52.25%
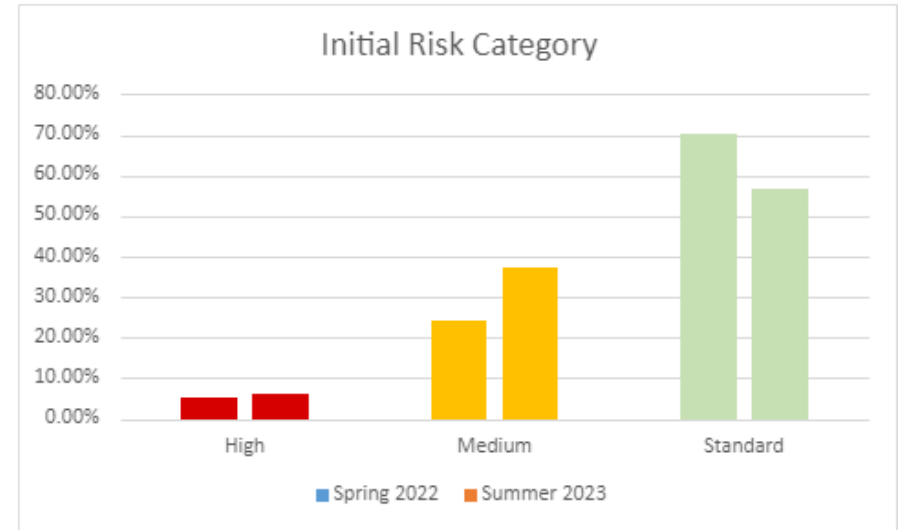
- The recording of Operation Encompass incidents is now done by the LA, which will allow for more accurate reporting. Figures used for compliance rates may be higher than expected due to them only being available from July 2023.

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	Summer 2023
Primary Attendance	88.4	89.6	89.9	89.3	89.3	89.0	89.5	90.4	90.0
Secondary Attendance	84.3	83.0	84.8	85.3	85.3	84.8	85.9	85.8	85.4

5.9.2 Low Attendance and Implementation of Neglect Policy

	Autumn 2022	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Fixed penalties	0	0	2	22	46	67
Single Justice Process	5	0	6	9	21	54
Court Notices	0	3	0	0	0	5

5.10 Exclusions

5.10.1 Exclusions by Setting and Type

	Summer 22			Autumn 22			Spring 23			Summer 23		
	Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent	No. Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent	Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent	Fixed	Average No. of Days	Permanent
Primary	25	2.4		42	2.1		39	2.1		44	2.8	
Secondary	193	1.4		404	1.4	2	402	1.4	1	369	1.2	1
Special	12	1.1		15	2.5		2	5.5		2	3	
Total	230	1.5		461	1.5		443	1.5		415	1.4	

5.10.2 Exclusions Linked to Bullying

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

5.10.3 Pupils with Multiple Exclusions

	Summer 22			Autumn 22			Spring 23			Summer 23		
No of Exclusions	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	91	91	1.3	124	124	1.5	119	119	1.6	119	119	1.7
2	13	26	2.9	41	82	1.5	39	78	1.4	37	74	1.3
3	8	24	5.5	25	75	1.5	26	78	1.4	12	36	1.1
4	6	24	4.9	8	32	1.4	7	28	1.3	14	56	1.5
5	8	40	8.1	5	25	1.1	13	65	1.6	8	40	1.2
6+	4	25	10.4	17	123	1.5	10	74	1.7	13	90	1.2
Total	130	230	1.5	220	461	1.5	215	443	1.5	203	0	1.4

05 | Education

5.11.1 RPI Incidents

School	Aut 2022	Spr 2023	Sum 2023
1	14	6	7
2	96	55	62
3	1	0	0
4			2

5.11.2 RPI Trends
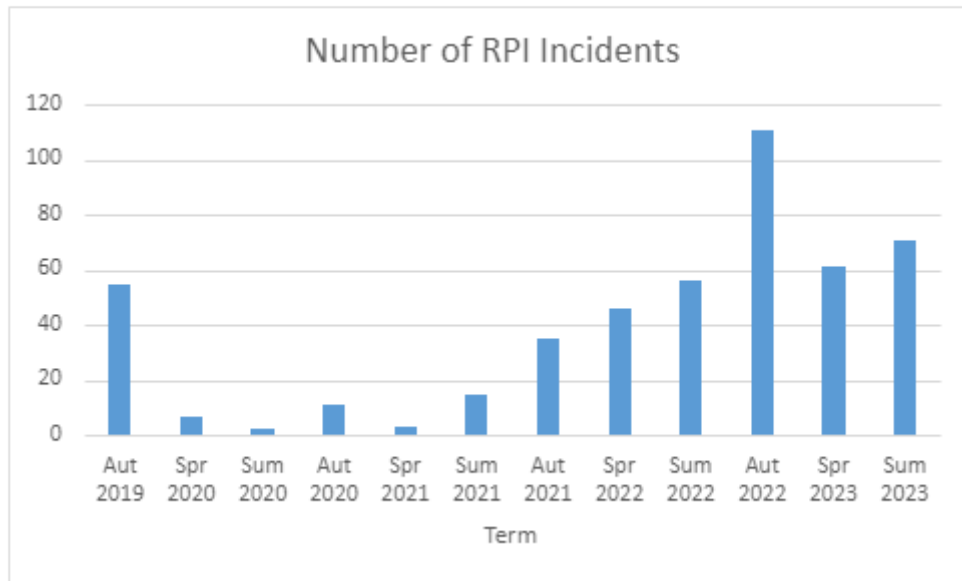
5.12 Racial Incidents

5.12.1 Racial Incidents in Period by Category and Setting

	Autum 22		Spring 23		Summer 23	
	No. Schools	No Incident.	No. Schools	No Incident.	No. Schools	No Incident.
Age						
Learners with a disability	1	1				
Homophobic/ biphobic	2	4				
Sexist or sexual bullying	1	1				
Racism Anti - Gypsium	0	0				
Racism Anti- refugee prejudice	0	0				
Racism Anti- Semitism	0	0				
Racism - appearance	7	27	2	13	5	11
Total	11	33	2	13	5	11

5.13 Bullying Incidents

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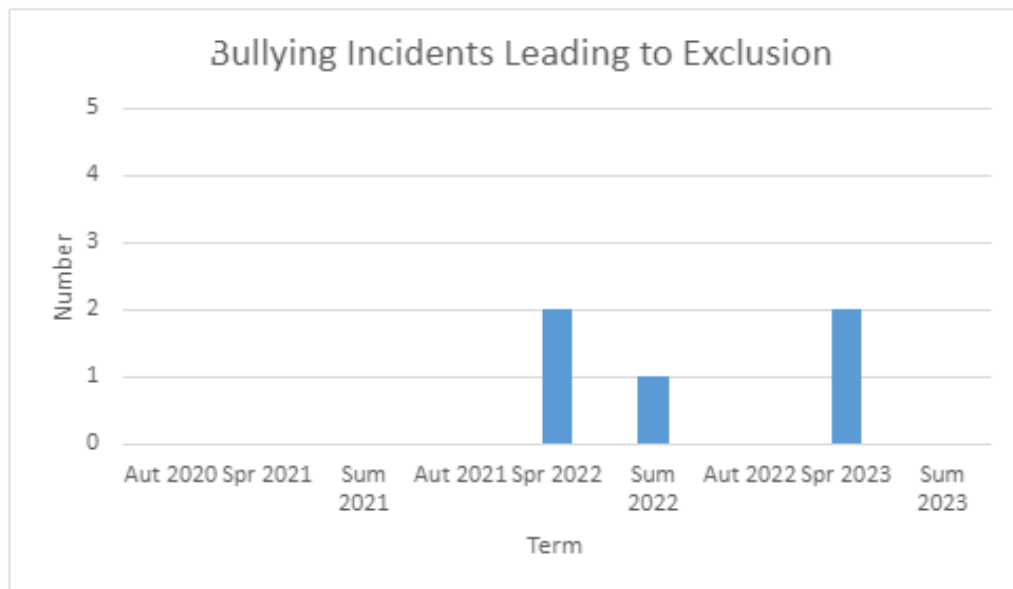
5.13.2 Rights Respect Equalities Return bullying incidents

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	Sum 23
No. of Safer Schools Strategic Partnership Board Meetings	1	0	0	0
No. of Safer Schools Partnership Meetings	1	0	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	Sum 23
Damage	0	0	0	0
Threat to Staff	0	0	0	0
Knife Crime	0	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
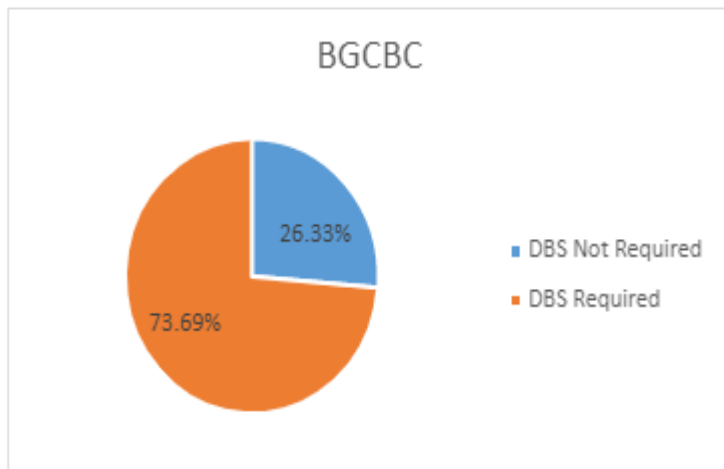
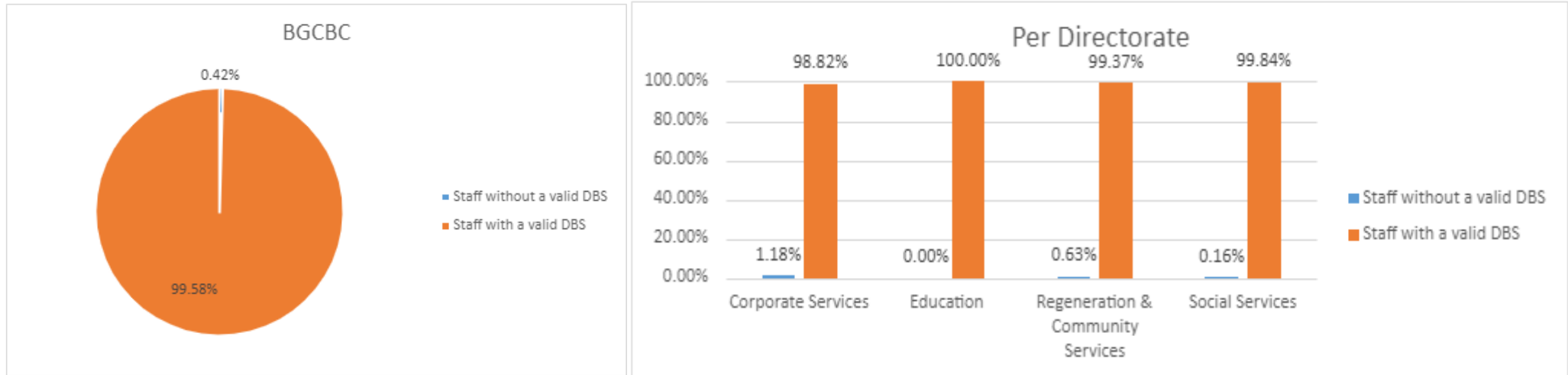| Issue	Sum 22	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23
Arson				
Criminal Exploitation	0	0	0	
Violence	1	0	0	
Threat of Serious Harm	0	0	0	
Threat to Kill	0	0	0	
Use of Weapons	0	0	0	

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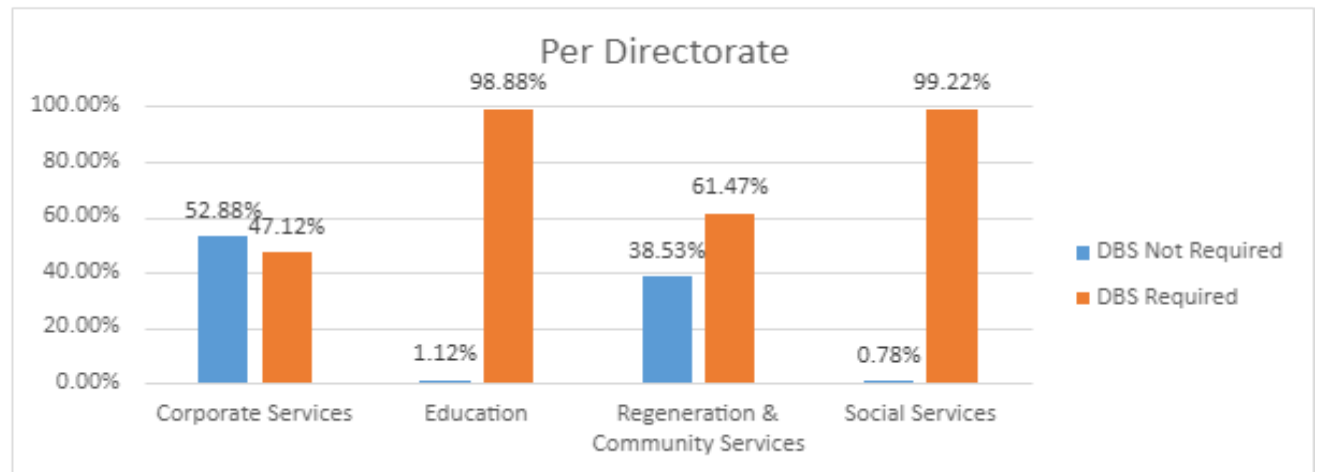
6.1.2 Breakdown of those employees in compliance with DBS requirements as at 31st March 2023

BGCBC
- Staff without a valid DBS — 0.42%
- Staff with a valid DBS — 99.58%

Per Directorate

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
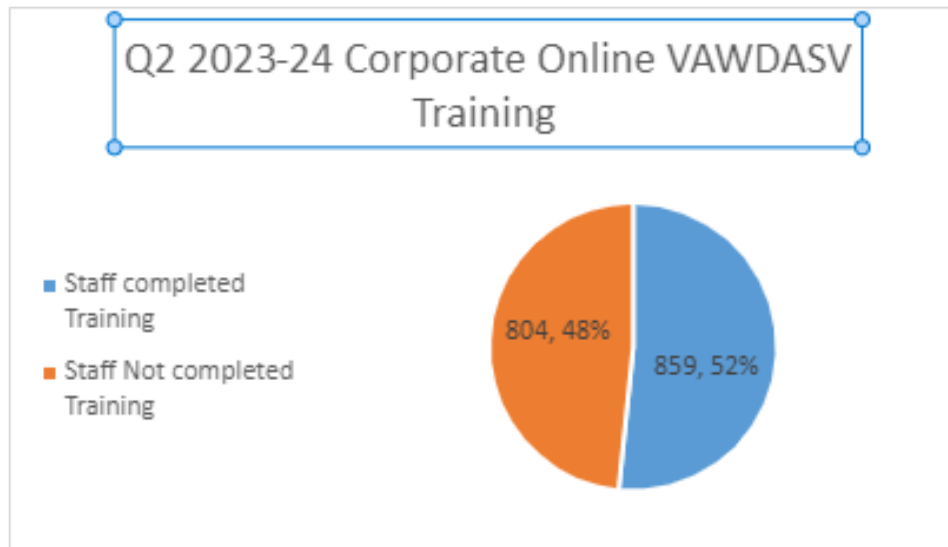
Domestic abuse Training

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

Q2 2023-24 Corporate Online VAWDASV Training

- Staff completed Training
- Staff Not completed Training

804, 48%   859, 52%

6.2.2 Safeguarding Training

Q2 2023-24 Corporate Online Safeguarding Training

- Staff completed Training
- Staff Not completed Training

806, 48%   857, 52%

6.3 **Risk Register**

6.3.1 Corporate Risk Register CRR4 – Q2 Update

| 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 | | | | | | | | **Direction of Travel**

No change | | | |

Triggers	Consequences	Inherent Risk			Current Controls	Residual Risk			Proposed further controls to mitigate / reduce risk	Target Score L x I = Score		
		Likelihood	Impact	Status		Likelihood	Impact	Status				
•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 • Failure to progress the corporate safeguarding action plan via the corporate safeguarding leads group	• 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	• Joint Social Services and Education Scrutiny established (PEOPLE scrutiny committee) • Education Designated Lead and Deputy Officer nominated • Education Safeguarding Officer established and in post • Gwent Adult Safeguarding Board • SE Wales Safeguarding Children's Board • Safeguarding is a standing item on CMT agenda • Lead Executive Member has been identified for having responsibility for safeguarding • Senior leadership have received Level 1 safeguarding training. •Programme of training for schools underway. • Corporate safeguarding leads established for each directorate who have been requested to identify staff for Level 1 training (3 dates have already been set) • Safeguarding in Education matrix regularly updated • Use of MyConcern software in schools will be used to gather data, monitor positive cases and create consistency across the school estate. The roll-out project team is fully established. • A corporate safeguarding leads group has been established to drive forward the safeguarding agenda and action the recommendations made by the BG Wales Audit Office report	2	4	High	• All directorate business Plans to include safeguarding and include actions required to ensure safeguarding arrangements are in place •Safeguarding Reports into PEOPLE Scrutiny contain corporate safeguarding information from all directorates. Plus and update from the corporate safeguarding leads group • Safeguarding training data to be reviewed by each Directorate to ensure all staff are undertaking this •Regularly review the councils volunteering register to ensure DBS checks are up to date • Ensure the audit Wales BG safeguarding report recommendations continue to be reviewed and met • Each Directorate to undertake a safeguarding self-assessment	1	4	Medium

Quarter 2 Progress Update (July – September 2023)

Update provided in the progress against further controls. In addition, due to recommendations form Wales Audit report not fully implemented and Directorate self-assessments still outstanding the risk need to remain high.

Progress Against Further Controls	Responsible Officer	Due Date	Comments / Update on Progress	BRAG Status of further controls
All directorate risk registers to include safeguarding and include actions required to ensure safeguarding arrangements are in place.	CLT	Ongoing	Safeguarding is included in all Directorate Risk Registers.	On track
Safeguarding Reports into PEOPLE Scrutiny contain corporate safeguarding information from all directorates.	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Ongoing	The Corporate Safeguarding Performance Report which contains corporate safeguarding activity as well as specific information in relation to Social Services and Education was reported to People Scrutiny Committee in July. The half yearly safeguarding report is in the process of being drafted to present to scrutiny in November.	On track
Safeguarding training data to be reviewed by each Directorate to ensure all staff are undertaking this	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Ongoing	The Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group are looking at the collation and accuracy of training data and reviewing the control measures to ensure its accuracy due to ongoing reporting concerns. Raising awareness for managers via DLT's to ensure staff are completing training in line with the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework – e.g., Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3. The corporate safeguarding leads group continue to take this forward to ensure accurate capture information to ensure all staff have undertaken this training	Ongoing but encountering some issues (that can be addressed)
Regularly review the councils volunteering register to ensure DBS checks are up to date	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Ongoing	The volunteering register has been updated across the council and all DBS checks are up to date. Periodic checks of the register will need to continue	On track
Ensure the audit Wales BG safeguarding report recommendations continue to be reviewed and met	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Ongoing	The corporate safeguarding leads group continue to lead this work and reporting on progress will be contained in the next scrutiny report.	On track
Each Directorate to undertake a safeguarding self-assessment	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Ongoing	This is in the process of being undertaken by each Directorate with a deadline of 30th September being set. The safeguarding leads meeting are overseeing this and will be analysing data collection to present at the next CSGL meeting.	On track

Direction of Travel from previous quarter	Forecasted direction of travel	
⬌	⬇	There is no change in the risk score from the last quarter. Due to recommendations form Wales Audit report not fully implemented and Directorate self-assessments still outstanding the risk need to remain High.

42

Regulatory Proposals

06 | Corporate

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 safeguarding self-assessments for 2023 were submitted from each of the directorates at end of September 2023. The findings and analysis of the self-assessments will be reviewed by the Children's Safeguarding Team (Team Manager, Service Manager and Safeguarding Education Manager) and will be presented in the next Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group in January 2024. This will seek to consider a comparison to the previous year's findings. A Corporate Safeguarding action plan will be updated to reflect the themes and needs highlighted within the self-assessment returns in order to focus the work of the group over the next year. Corporate Safeguarding is reported on within the bi-annual Joint Safeguarding Report however consideration is being given to the development of a standalone corporate safeguarding report to be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee.	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. Internal Audit are completing three audits that impact on safeguarding in this financial year: 1. Safeguarding in contracts 2. Safeguarding with volunteers (schools) 3. Social Services safeguarding The Safeguarding in Contracts audit will consider corporate procurement specifically looking at how safeguarding requirements are built in to contracts for third parties. The Safeguarding with Volunteers audit will seek to test the safeguarding arrangements implemented by schools in respect of volunteers. The parameters of Social Services Safeguarding audit will be outlined following consultation with the respective departments (adults and children's services) in November 2023. The CRSA was amended to add additional safeguarding questions as per previous update. It was issued to schools in April 2023 and the draft audit report is currently being reviewed. The audit reports will be issued to the Strategic Safeguarding Leads group for any weaknesses identified through the audit to be rectified.	Audit Quarter 2/3 2023/24	Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group