

Safeguarding Performance Report

Social Services

1st October 2023 to
31st March 2024

Education

Autumn 2023 & Spring
2024

Corporate Services

1st October 2023 to
31st March 2024



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.

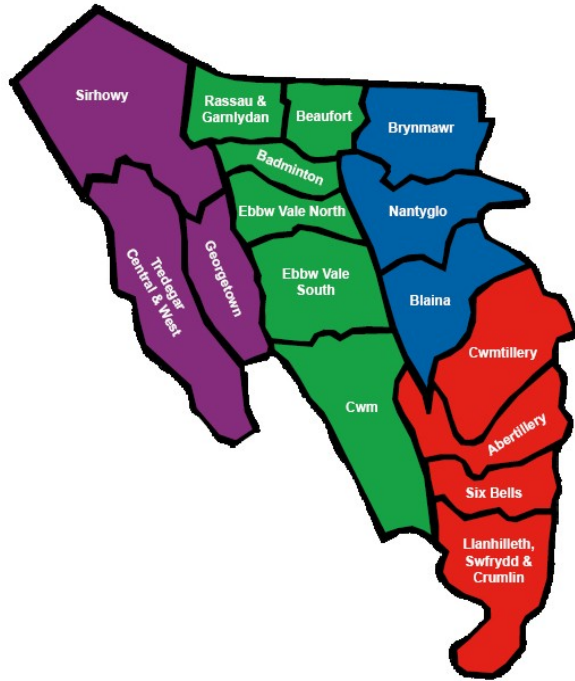
The report includes information on the following:

- 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 People Scrutiny

00 | Community Profile - Demographics

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 2024: **1,108**
- Number of pupils of primary age (inc. nursery): **6,168**
- Number of pupils of secondary age: **3,314**

Fig: 1.1 Number of referrals received by Social Services

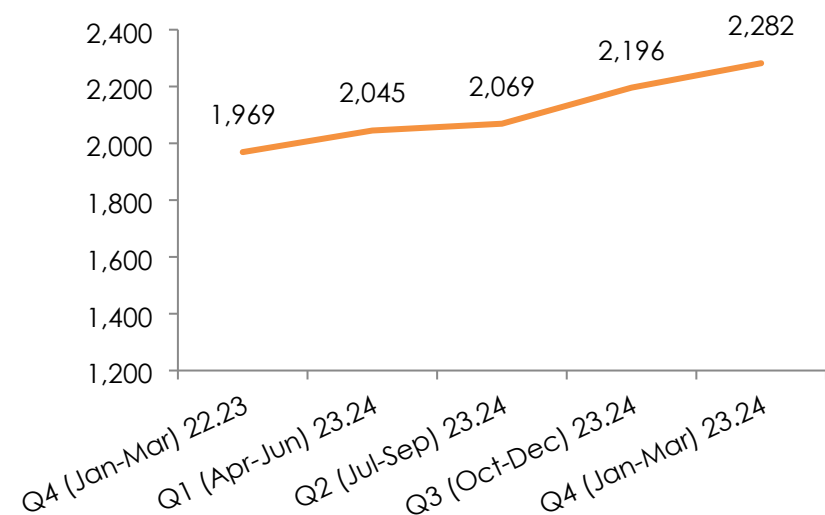


Fig 1.1a Number of individuals linked to referrals

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Referrals	634	766	864	797	535	775	717	790
No of Individuals	237	355	404	319	262	318	306	308
2+ Referrals	82	150	154	103	78	137	102	119
Highest No. of Referrals for an individual	26	21	19	34	15	12	17	28

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

	Q3 23/24		Q4 23/24	
	No.	%	No.	%
SC - 3rd Sector organisation	33	1.5%	43	1.9%
SC - Advocate	1	0.0%	0	-
SC - Ambulance Service	6	0.3%	11	0.5%
SC - Care Regulator	0	-	1	0.0%
SC - Early Intervention / Prevention Service (Step-up)	33	1.5%	25	1.1%
SC - Education	453	20.6%	418	18.3%
SC - Friend or Neighbour	19	0.9%	20	0.9%
SC - Health	288	13.1%	328	14.4%
SC - Housing	19	0.9%	8	0.4%
SC - Independent Hospital	0	-	0	-
SC - Internal (Social Worker, other team)	189	8.6%	143	6.3%
SC - Local Authority	34	1.5%	51	2.2%
SC - Other	63	2.9%	106	4.6%
SC - Police	638	29.1%	751	32.9%
SC - Probation	158	7.2%	140	6.1%
SC - Provider	187	8.5%	168	7.4%
SC - Relative	13	0.6%	12	0.5%
SC - Self	62	2.8%	57	2.5%
Total	2,196	100%	2,282	100%

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

01 Children's Social Services

Graph showing the source of referrals and the percentage

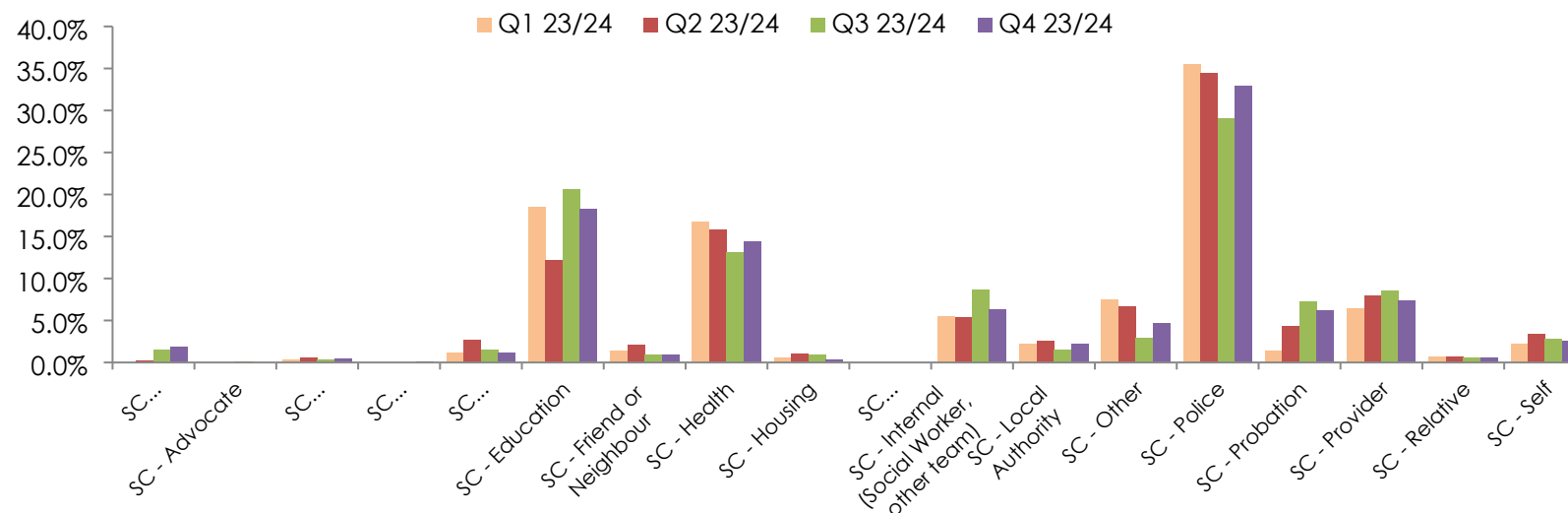
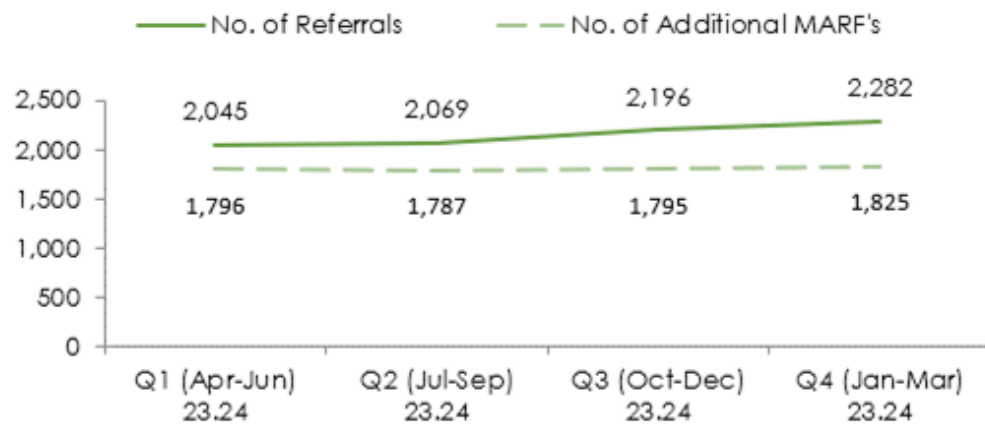


Fig: 1.3 Multi-agency referral forms (MARF's) received on open cases



02 | Child Protection

Fig 2.1 Children on the Child Protection Register

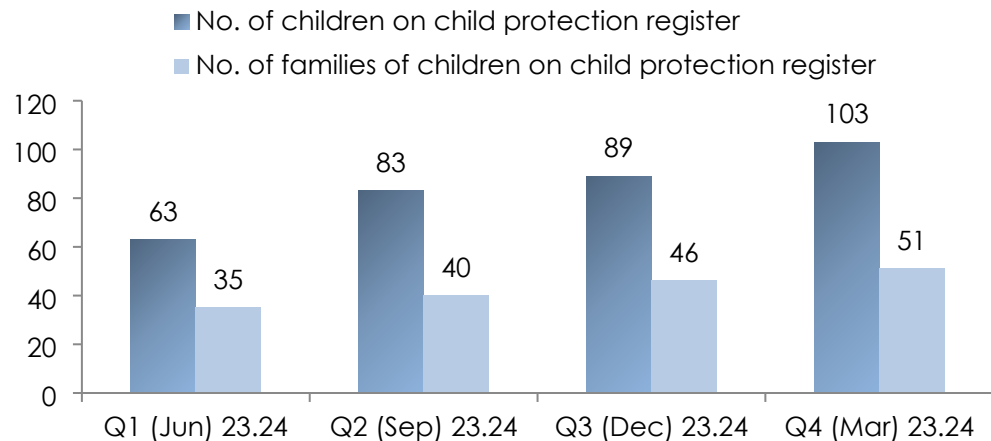


Fig 2.2 Child Protection Register Summary

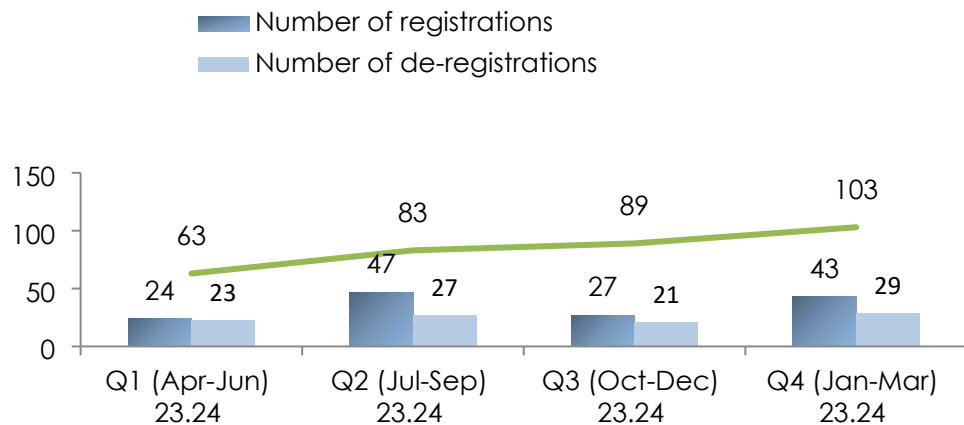


Fig 2.3 Categories of abuse

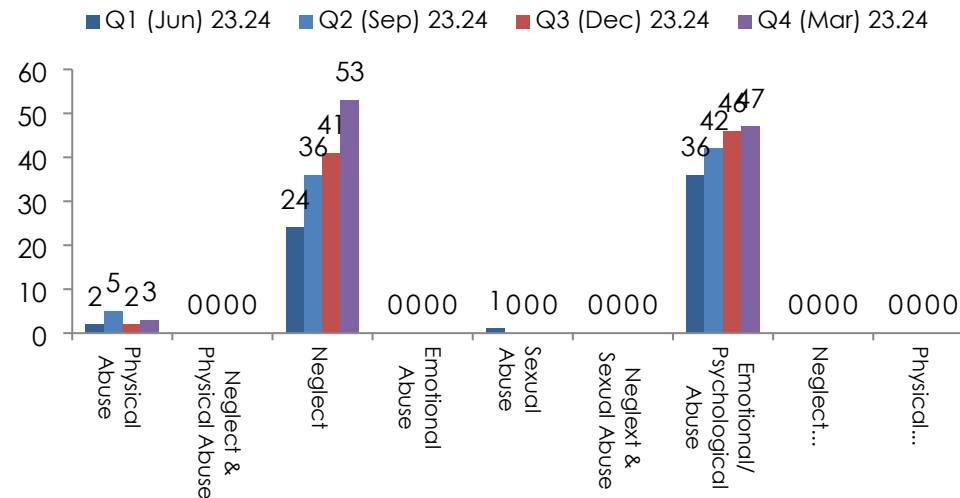
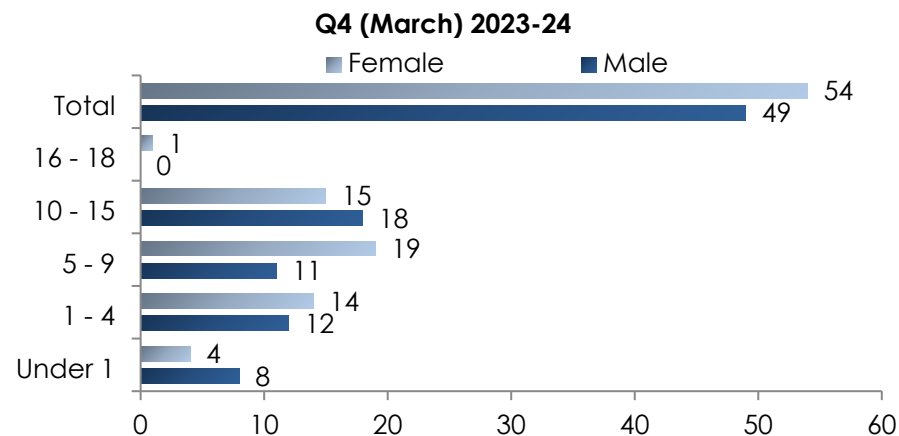


Fig 2.4 Age Breakdown of children on child protection register



02 | Child Protection

03 | Adult Services

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	1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	216	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	211
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during 2022/23	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	138	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	205

Fig 3.2 Categories of abuse or neglect

Category of Abuse	Gender	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
		1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)
Physical	Male	13	8	4	8	6	11	8	17
	Female	20	20	10	11	10	21	10	15
	Transgender	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual	Male	4	1	2	0	1	1	1	1
	Female	2	1	2	1	7	1	8	2
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emotional/Psychological	Male	12	1	4	4	9	1	10	6
	Female	19	6	8	0	19	9	15	12
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Financial	Male	3	7	4	1	4	3	3	6
	Female	7	5	9	7	4	15	8	7
	Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect	Male	9	29	7	15	11	32	4	30
	Female	7	39	7	34	8	37	5	35
	Transgender	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Male	41	46	21	28	31	48	26	60
	Female	55	71	36	53	48	83	46	71
	Transgender	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
	Total	99	117	57	81	80	131	74	131

Fig 3.3 Place alleged abuse/neglect took place

Place alleged abuse or neglect occurred	Total	Total	Total	Total
	1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)
Own Home	77	70	65	88
Community	25	10	16	15
Care Home Setting	90	53	97	90
Health Setting	24	5	33	12
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	216	138	211	205

Fig 3.4 Person alleged responsible

Person alleged responsible	Total	Total	Total	Total
	1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)
A spouse	12	5	11	8
A son or daughter	10	4	5	10
A family member who is not a child or spouse	14	11	4	5
A professional	27	20	24	15
A volunteer or unpaid worker	1	1	0	0
A friend	3	1	8	2
A neighbour	4	5	3	4
Another service user	23	4	24	11
Other Person	25	3	7	14
Not known	97	84	125	136
Total	216	138	211	205

Fig 3.5 Source of Referral

Source of Referral	Total	Total	Total	Total
	1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)
Self-reported	6	3	2	3
Relative / friend	7	1	4	5
Local authority	13	4	13	9
Police	6	7	1	8
Local health board	38	19	51	29
Independent hospital	1	1	1	1
Ambulance service	2	2	3	0
Care regulator	12	1	13	5
Provider agency	74	57	80	93
Probation	1	0	1	0
Third sector	20	3	7	9
Advocate	0	1	1	0
Education	4	2	0	0
Housing	7	3	9	5
Internal (Social Worker, Other Team)	16	30	16	29
Other	9	4	9	9
Total	216	138	211	205

Fig 3.6 Domestic abuse referrals

	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
	1/10/23-31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/23 - 31/12/23 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/10/22-31/12/22 (Q3)	1/01/24 - 31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/24-31/3/24 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)	1/01/23-31/3/23 (Q4)
Male	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2
Female	12	0	3	0	5	1	6	0

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

04 | Referrals from Education

Fig 4.1 Contacts by Source – Primary School

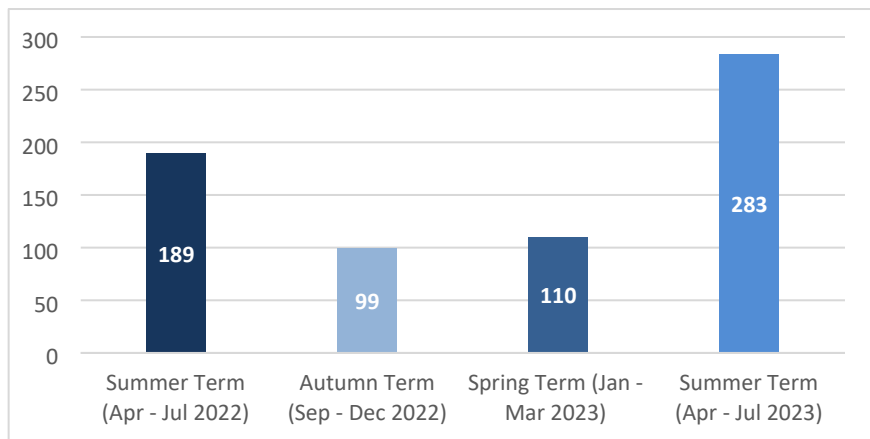


Fig 4.2 Contacts by Source – Secondary School

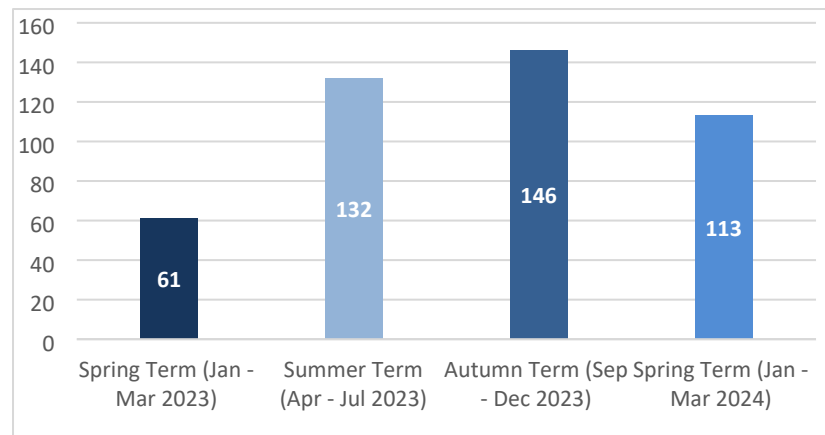


Fig 4.3 Contacts by Source - Other

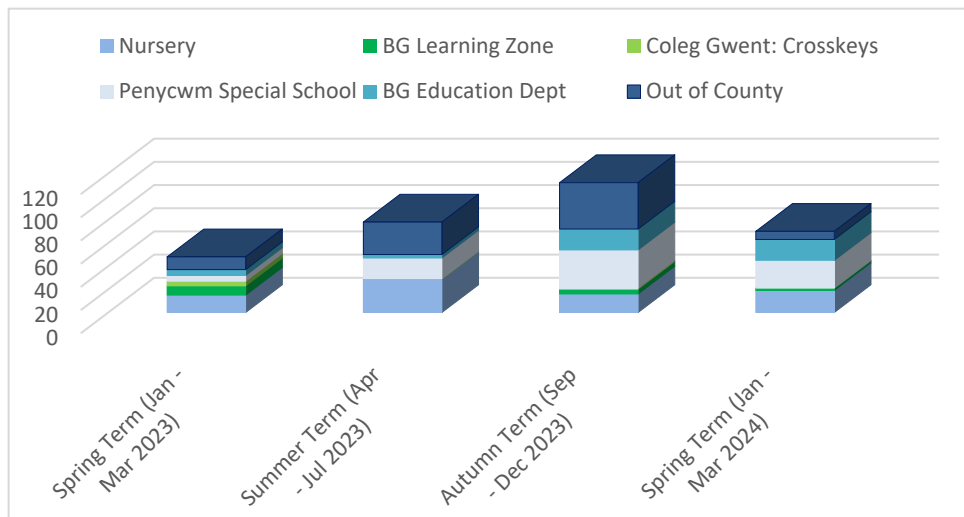
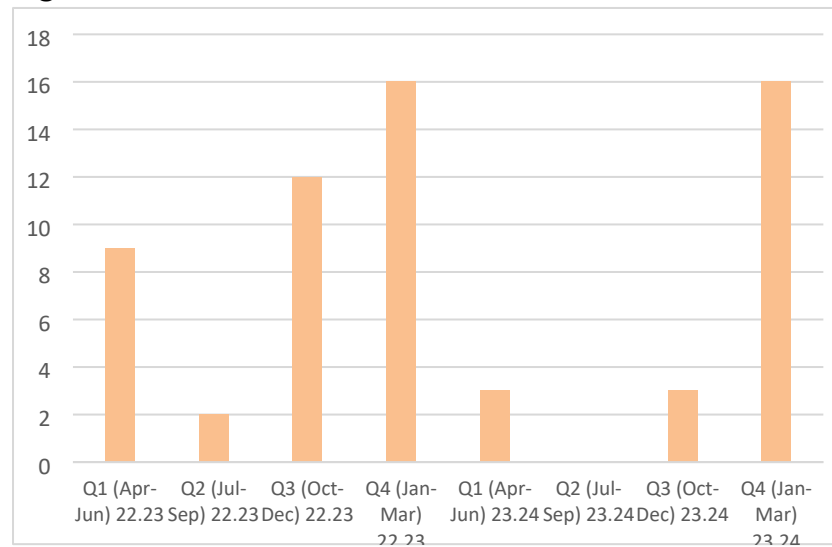


Fig 4.4 Referrals received from Youth Services



1. Regulatory

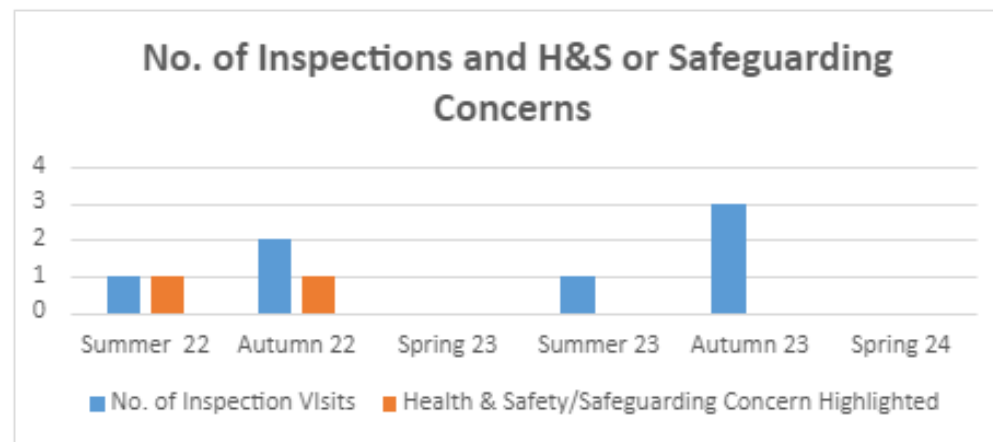
1.1 Education Directorate Risk - **Education Risk Register is a separate appendix.**

Please note some data that would normally be reported on is not included in this report due to ASOS which impacted on the information that schools provided to the LA during this reporting period.

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. Historical data prior to the reporting period are included for comparative purposes.

No of School Inspected	No. of Inspection Visits	Health & Safety/Safeguarding Concern Highlighted
Summer 22	1	1
Autumn 22	2	1
Spring 23	0	0
Summer 23	1	0
Autumn 23	3	0
Spring 24	0	0



1.3 Policy

1.3.1 Compliance Statements

Partner Agency Safeguarding Policies in Place	Ac Year 21-22	Ac Year 22-23	Ac Year 23-24
No of Partner Agencies	4	4	4
Policies in Place	4	4	4
% Compliance	100%	100%	100%

1.3.2 Safeguarding Policies released and Governing Body Compliance

Safeguarding Policy Compliance	21-22	22-23	23-24
No of Schools in BG	25	25	25
Governing Body Compliance	25	23	21
% Compliance	100%	92%	84%

The adoption of the current policy follows individual schools' annual review cycle.

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%
	Autumn 23	25	100%
	Spring 24	25	100%

2.2 Keeping Learners Safe audit tool

2.2.1 School Assessment of 5 Key Areas

	21-22	22-23	23-24
No of Schools in BG	25	25	25
No of Schools who have used the KLS Safeguarding Toolkit to review procedures in the last 12 months?	25	25	25
% of Schools who have Reviewed	100%	100%	100%

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	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
LA	15	15	9	9	10	10	11	11	23	23
Independent	18	18	10	11	15	15	16	16	12	14

3.1.2 Overview of Safeguarding arrangements.

May 2023 - there is a BG SG QA process for OOC settings which includes opensource 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.

The process includes collaborative working with Local Authorities where Blaenau Gwent are placing learning in schools out of the area to ensure safeguarding quality of the 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	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
No. of Incomplete EWC Registrations	5	0	0	1	2	2	1	0

4. Safe Workforce

4.2 Training

4.2.2 Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSP) Meetings

DSP Meetings	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23	Aut 23	Spr 24	Sum 24
No of Schools Represented	no mtg	16	12	9	14	16
% of School represented	N/A	64%	48%	36%	56%	64%

4.2.4 Online Safeguarding Training – Schools

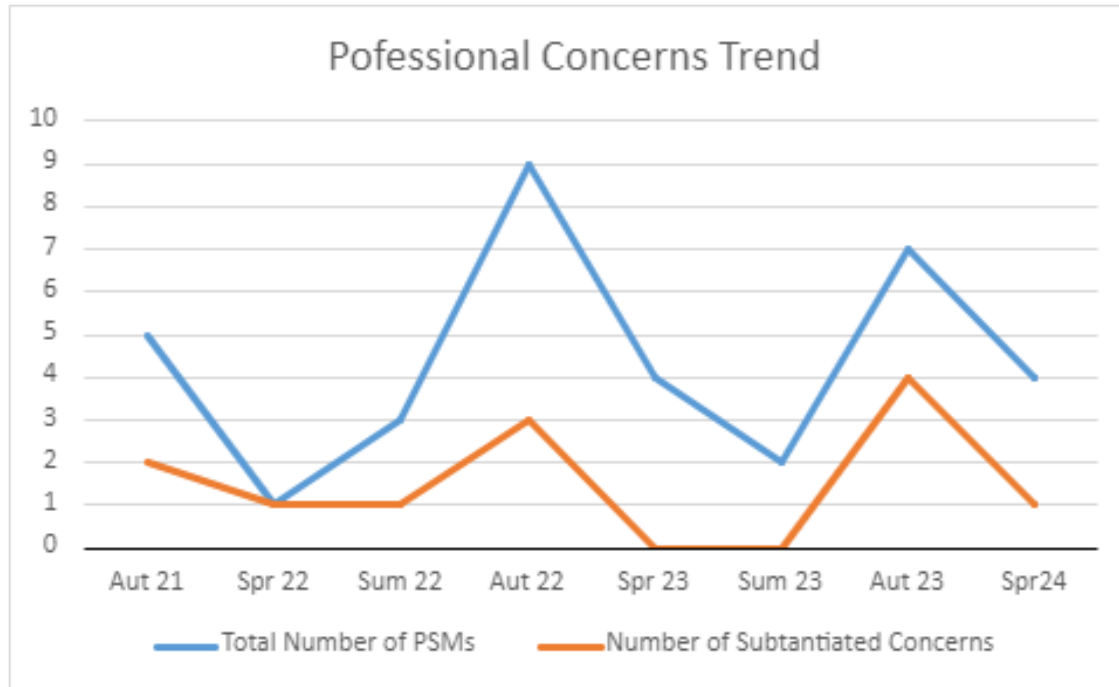
All schools are compliant with their whole school safeguarding training (delivered in person).

4.3 Professional Concerns

4.3.1 Professional Concerns Review

Professional Strat Meetings	Aut21	Spr 22	Sum22	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23	Aut 23	Spr 24
Total Number of PSMs	5	1	3	9	4	2	7	4
Number of Substantiated Concerns	2	1	1	3	0	0	4	1

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	2023-2024
No. of Pregnant Schoolchildren*	1	1	2	1	0

*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 2020 No.	PLASC January 2021	PLASC January 2022 No.	PLASC January 2023 No.
Children electively home educated in BG	70	89	132	214
Children electively home educated in Wales (mean average)	132	180	197	242

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.

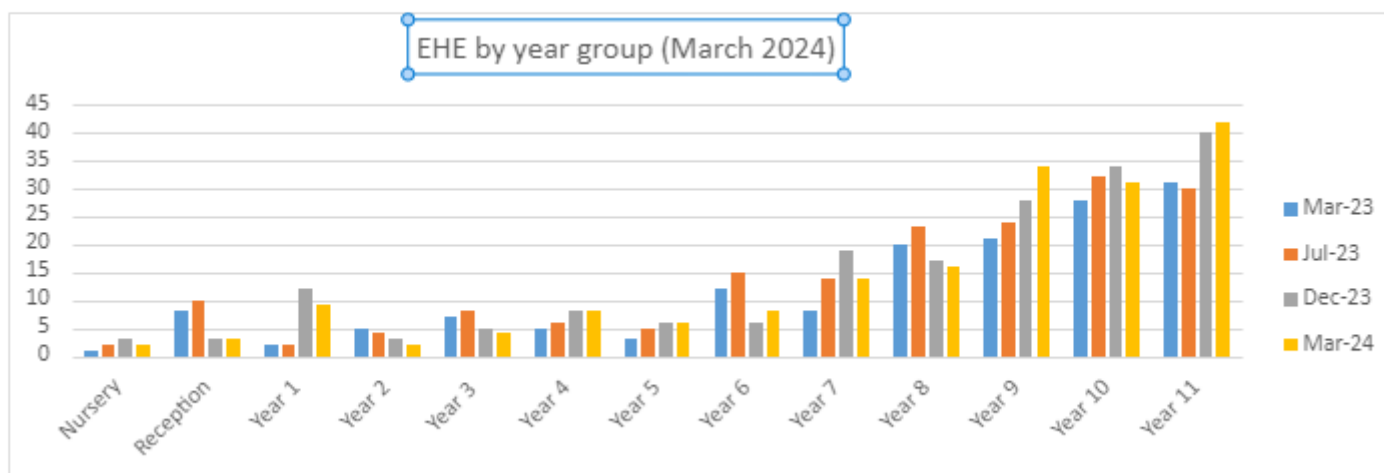
Month	School 1		School 2		School 3		School 4	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Sept - Dec 2021	4		5	1	6		3	
Jan - Mar 2022	7	2	1		4		0	
Apr - Jul 2022	2	0	5	0	3	0	2	0
Sep - Dec 2022	3	2	6	6	3	4	5	4
Jan - Mar 2023	1	1	0	1	3	0	3	0
Apr - Jul 2023	2	0	5	0	4	0	3	0
Sep-Dec 2023	6	6	10	2	3	2	5	2
Jan-Mar 2024	8	0	5	5	3	2	1	1
Total	33	11	37	15	29	8	22	7

05 | Education

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
Sep-Dec 2023	9	7	1	1	2	0	1	4	0	0	1	0
Jan-Mar 2024	7	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Total	46	34	1	2	5	1	45	6	1	0	4	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

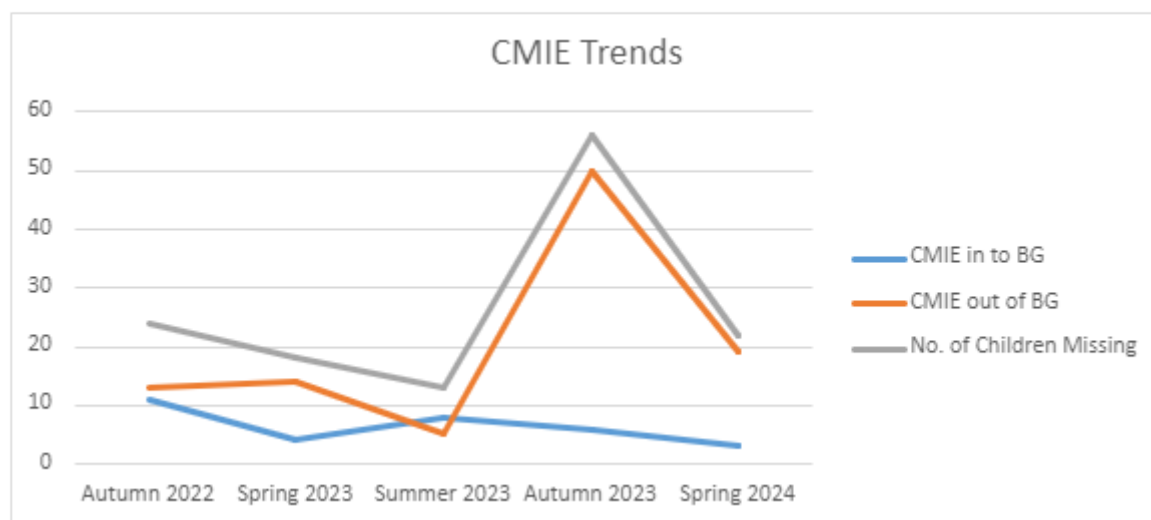
5.3.1 Referrals from other LAs

No. of CMIE Referrals	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
CMIE in to BG	3	3	5	11	4	8	6	3
CMIE out of BG	11	10	12	13	14	5	50	19

5.3.2 Number of Children Missing

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
No. of Children Missing	14	13	17	24	18	13	56	22

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	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
No of Schoolchildren accessing YOS	23	34	32	18	31	30	49	35

5.4.2 YOS pupil Placement by Setting and Access

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
Access								
FT	14	34	30	6	23	24	32	23
PT	3	0	3	3	4	6	17	12
Setting								
EHE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Special Schools	5	9	5	0	4	5	8	2
Mainstream - Primary	1	4	4	0	3	2	3	5
Mainstream - Secondary	11	21	23	8	20	23	32	21
Secure Unit				1	0	0	0	1
Employed	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	3
College				3	0	0	1	0
NEET	3	0	0	4	1	0	2	1
Training Provider				1	1	0	1	2

05 | Education

5.4.4 REACH Interventions

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
Prevention Programme	5	16	19	1	11	16	26	21
Community Resolution	12	13	10	10	10	3	14	8
Youth Caution	0	1	0	01	0	1	2	0
Youth Conditional Caution	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Referral Order	2	2	2	1	0	2	0	0
Youth Rehabilitation Order	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Remanded in Custody	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Detained	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Outcome 22	0	0	0	2	10	6	5	3
Turnaround	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2

5.5 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

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

	Q4	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q2	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q4
	22-23	22-23	22-23	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	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	2	2	4	18	7	25	12	2	14	7	2	9	0	0	0

* Q4 police data unavailable

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	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q2	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q4
	22-23	22-23	22-23	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	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)	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary Pupils Aged 14-16 (KS4)	1	2	3	12	5	17	5	0	5	3	0	3	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	5	2	7	6	2	8	4	2	6	0	0	0

* Q4 police data unavailable

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5.5.2 Types of ASB Incidents

Incident	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	21-22	21-22	21-22	21-22	22-23	22-23	22-23	22-23	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24
Nuisance behaviour – part of a group	15	28	24	4	3	1	0	0	12	5	0	0
Setting fires – part of a group	2	7	0	6	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swearing	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of alcohol	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inappropriate use of electric scooter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass in a derelict building	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Verbally abusive	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shouting	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal damage	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Throwing/kicking objects at property	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	9	1	2	0
No. of Individuals	20	45	24	13	7	21	8	2	21	6	2	0

* Q4 Police data unavailable

5.5.3 Warning Letters Issued

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	21-22	21-22	21-22	21-22	22-23	22-23	22-23	22-23	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24
Advised by Police									5	0	0	0
Home Visit									16	4	0	0
Strike 1	19	43	24	13	6	19	6	2	0	2	0	0
Strike 2	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Strike 3 (multi-agency ASB Case Management Group)	4	3	2	2	7	8	1	1	4	8	0	0
Strike 4 (multi-agency ASB Case Management Group)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Q4 Strike 1 and Strike 2 Police data unavailable

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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	21-22	21-22	21-22	21-22	22-23	22-23	22-23	22-23	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24
Youth Offending Service	1	2	1	1	4	4	1	1	2	7	7	0
Social Services	0	2	1	1	6	5	1	1	2	8	7	0
Families First	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAMHS	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0
Youth Services	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Registered Social Landlord	0	3	0	2	3	4	0	0	2	5	3	0
NxtGen Project	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Intervention Service	2	0	0	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	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
No. of Permits Issued	4	0	2	4	0	18	2	2

5.6.2 Number of Investigations relating to Illegal Child Employment Activities

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
No. of Illegal Child Employment Activities	0	1	2	0	1	3	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	Autumn 2023	Summer 2024
No. of Licences Issues to Children and Chaperones	4	20	56	52	2	2	6	0
No of licences for chaperones	20	18	5	14	3	3	5	2
Body of persons approvals - group licences	10	6	7	2	6	4	5	1

5.7.2 Number of Chaperones attending Training

	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
No. of new Chaperones	20	18	5	14	3	0	5	2
No of Chaperones attending Training	29	24	15	20	8	0	10	12

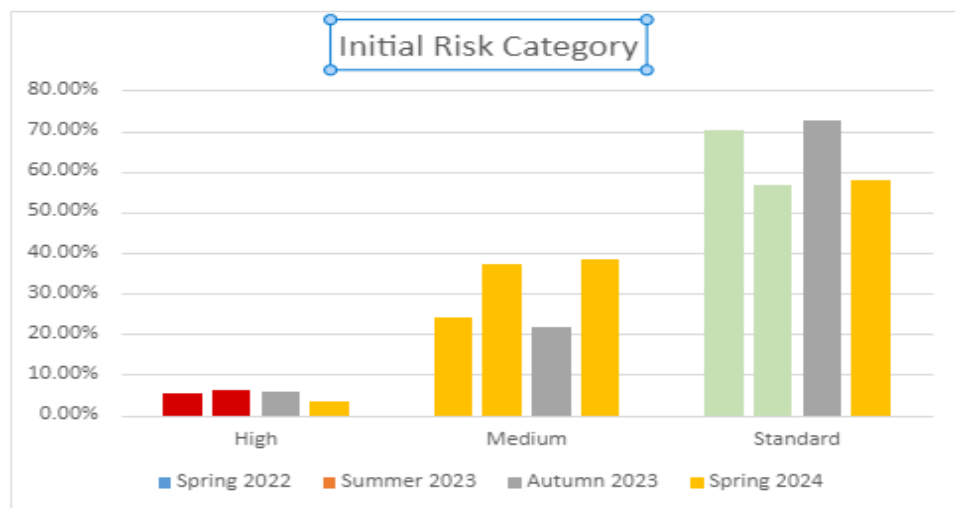
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5.8 Operation Encompass -

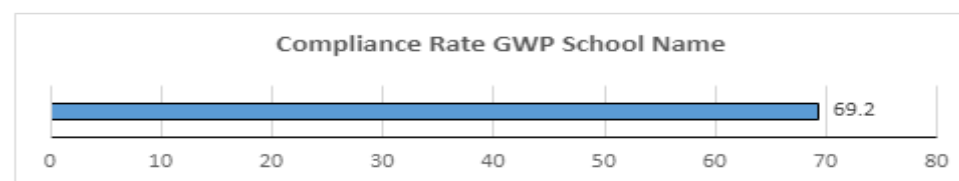
5.8.1 Number of Incidents during reporting Period and Repeat Incidents

Term	Occurrences	CYP	Repeat Incidents	Average No. of CYP per occurrence	% Children present at incidents
Autumn 2021	265	330	22.40%	1.25	
Spring 2022	211	266	24.10%	1.26	
Summer 2022	246	333	21%	1.35	
Autumn 2022	282	299	unavailable	u/a	37.50%
Spring 2023	182	218	unavailable	u/a	31.60%
Summer 2023	156	333	23.1%	2.1	52.25%
Autumn 2023	187	270	14.9%	1.44	59.00%
Spring 2024	142	207	19.0%	1.45	46.80%

5.8.2 Risk Level



5.8.3 % Compliance by Police *



- 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	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
Primary Attendance	88.4	89.6	89.9	89.3	89.3	89.0	89.5	90.4	90.0	91.6	91.4
Secondary Attendance	84.3	83.0	84.8	85.3	85.3	84.8	85.9	85.8	85.4	86.9	86.8

5.9.2 Low Attendance and Implementation of Neglect Policy

	Autumn 2022	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024
Fixed penalties	0	0	2	22	46	67	45	64
Single Justice Process	5	0	6	9	21	54	35	34
Court Notices	0	3	0	0	0	5	4	0

5.10 Exclusions

5.10.1 Exclusions by Setting and Type

	Spring 23			Summer 23			Autumn 23			Spring 24		
	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	39	2.1		44	2.8		69	1.4	0	37	1.1	1
Secondary	402	1.4	1	369	1.2	1	437	1.2	6	186	1.3	1
Special	2	5.5		2	3		11	2.9	0	9	0.9	0
Total	443	1.5		415	1.4		517	1.8	6	232	1.1	2

5.10.2 Exclusions Linked to Bullying

	Autumn 22		Spring 23		Summer 23		Autumn 23		Spring 24	
	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent	Fixed	Permanent
Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

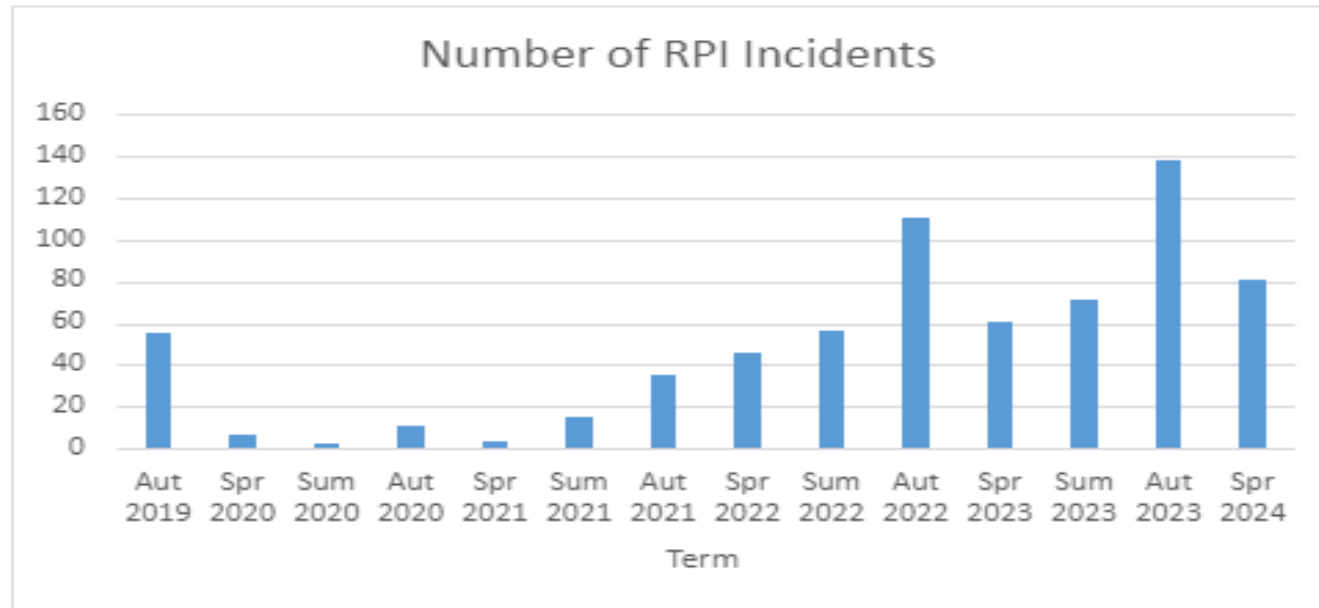
5.10.3 Pupils with Multiple Exclusions

No of Exclusions	Spring 23			Summer 23			Autumn 23			Spring 24		
	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	119	119	1.6	119	119	1.7	106	124.5	1.5	98	139	1.7
2	39	78	1.4	37	74	1.3	46	146.5	0.8	25	52.5	1.3
3	26	78	1.4	12	36	1.1	19	74.5	1.4	8	17	1.1
4	7	28	1.3	14	56	1.5	10	56.5	0.6	4	44	1.5
5	13	65	1.6	8	40	1.2	3	12	8.7	5	20	1.2
6+	10	74	1.7	13	90	1.2	26	229	0.5	3	17.5	1.2
Total	215	443	1.5	203	0	1.4	210	643	1.0	143	290	1.4

5.11.1 RPI Incidents

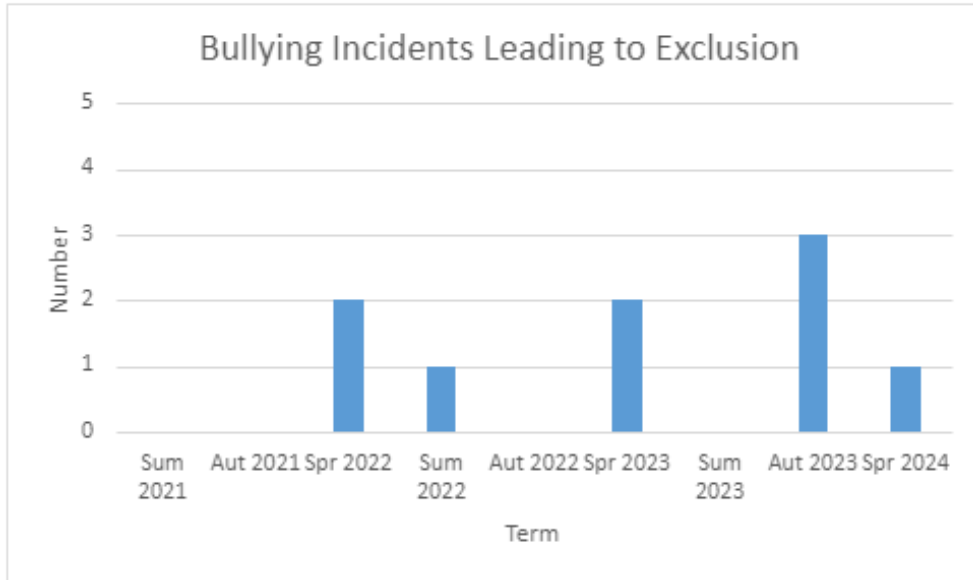
School	Aut 2022	Spr 2023	Sum 2023	Aut 2023	Spr 2024
1	14	6	7	11	6
2	96	55	62	124	74
3	1	0	0	0	1
4			2	1	0
5				2	0

5.11.2 RPI Trends



5.13 Bullying Incidents

5.13.1 Bullying incidents leading to exclusion

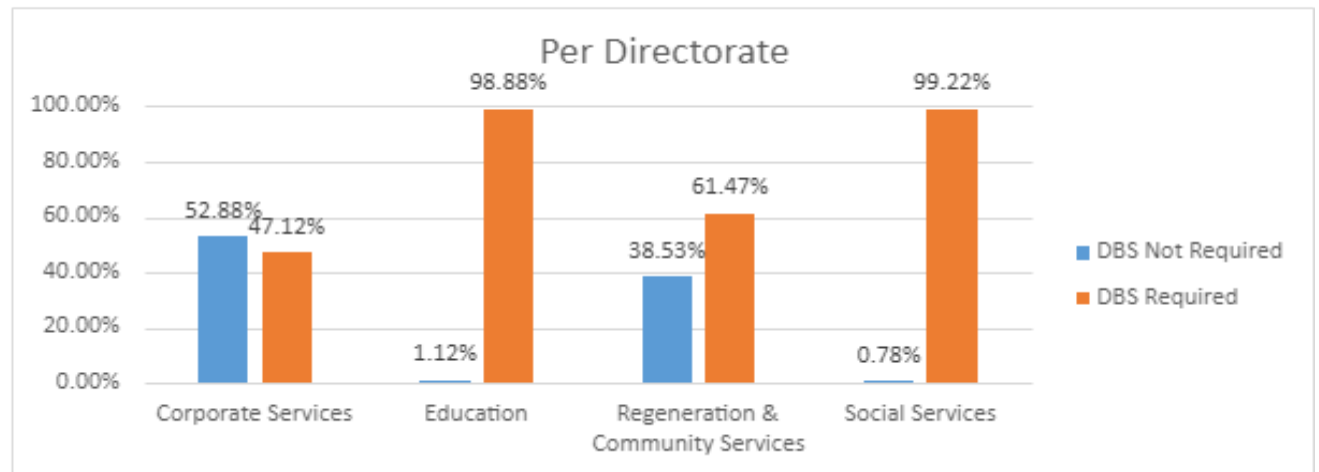
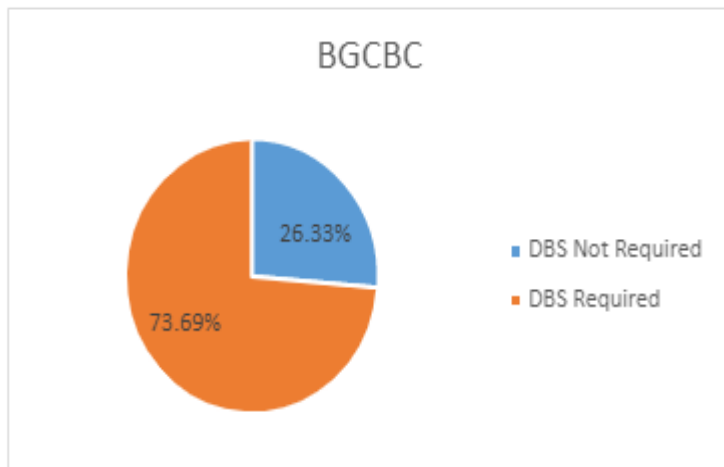


6.1 DBS Compliance

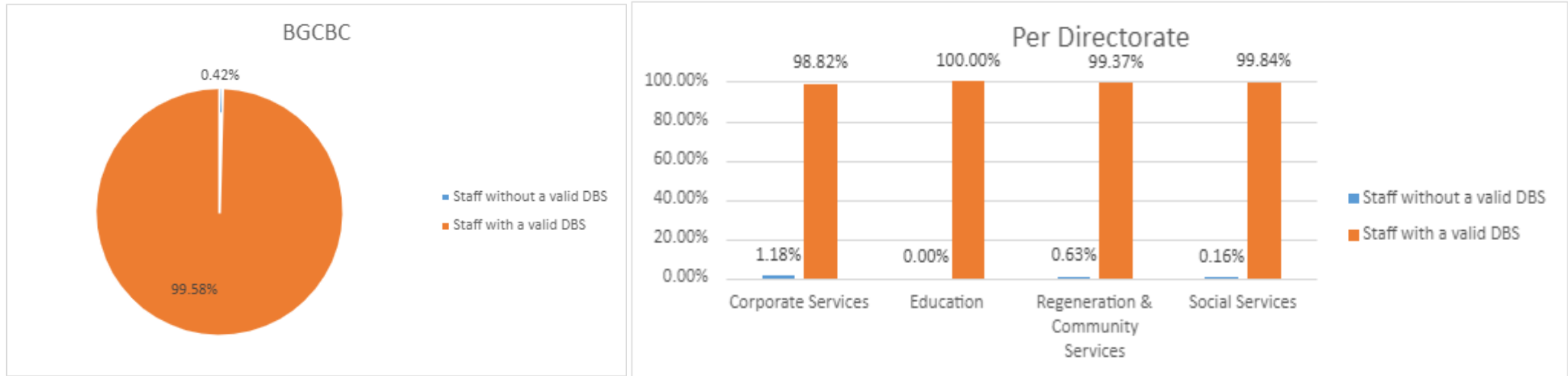
Managers are required to identify the requirement of a DBS check utilising the eligibility criteria, all DBS checks are renewed on a 3 yearly basis. Organisational Development co-ordinates this DBS process for new starters and 3 yearly rolling programme along with monitoring the compliance of these checks 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



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

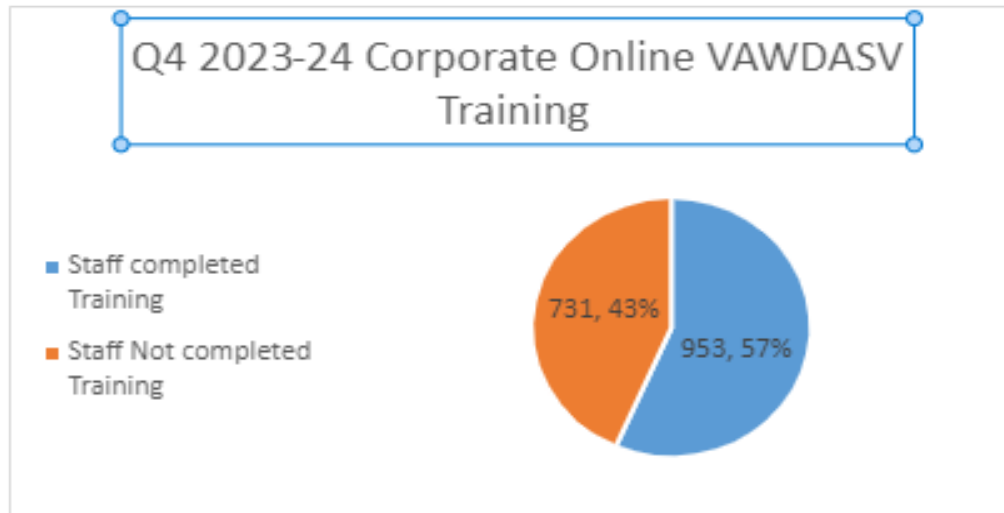
Corporate training has been provided to staff in respect of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with **57%** of staff having **completed** the **VAWDAS online training**.

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



6.2.2 Safeguarding Training



6.3 Risk Register

6.3.1 Corporate Risk Register CRR4 – Q3 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								
Triggers	Consequences	Inherent Risk			Current Controls	Residual Risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Status		Likelihood	Impact	Status
<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 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 	<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"> • 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. • Annual safeguarding training is in place which all schools are up to date with. Training is updated on an annual basis to ensure it reflects any emerging safeguarding concerns. • Corporate safeguarding leads established • Safeguarding in Education matrix regularly updated • MyConcern safeguarding software is being used by schools. An annual health check of how the software is being used is in place and the findings of the audit are used to provide bespoke training for each school. A MyConcern working group meets termly to look at how the software can be used more effectively to record safeguarding concerns. An annual audit of school’s usage of MyConcern has identified that more schools are using MyConcern appropriately to record safeguarding incidents, but there is inconsistency across schools. • 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



Quarter 3 Progress Update (October - December 2023)

Update from Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group

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		All Directorate Risk Registers now include a risk on Safeguarding	Complete
Safeguarding Reports into PEOPLE Scrutiny contain corporate safeguarding information from all directorates.	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Review of content of Corporate Safeguarding report to be undertaken in Quarter 4.	The Corporate Safeguarding Performance Report which contains corporate safeguarding activity as well as specific information in relation to Social Services and Education is due to be presented at January's People's Scrutiny meeting. A review of Corporate Safeguarding is due to be undertaken within Quarter 4 which will seek to review the data and narrative content of the report provided to People's Scrutiny.	On track
Safeguarding training data to be reviewed by each Directorate to ensure all staff are undertaking this	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	Recommendations for improvements in collation of accurate safeguarding training data to be developed by the end of Quarter 4.	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 planned review of corporate safeguarding within Quarter 4 will seek to consider more effective measures to track training compliance and instigate actions for non-compliance. The review of Corporate Safeguarding will also seek to update the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework to align with National Safeguarding Training Standards and Framework which were launched in November 2023. It is noted that the absence of an electronic Learning Management System is a particular barrier to having an accessible and effective system to monitor training compliance across the council.	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	Awaiting outcome of internal audit related to safeguarding volunteers to consider any good practice and learning recommendations	The volunteering register has been updated across the council and all DBS checks are up to date. The volunteer register will be disseminated to all directorates on a bi-annual basis to be updated and the register will be reviewed by the Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group. The Internal Audit Team are undertaking an audit related to Safeguarding Volunteers which seeks to determine the effectiveness of the internal control procedures for safeguarding arrangements of appointment of volunteers at schools, to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and departmental (internal) policies and procedures. The outcome of this audit will be considered by the Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group to consider any learning which may be relevant to the management of all volunteers across the council.	On track

06 Corporate

Ensure the audit Wales BG safeguarding report recommendations continue to be reviewed and met	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	The Corporate Safeguarding review scheduled to take place during Quarter 4 will be further considering the progress made against the Audit Wales recommendations	The corporate safeguarding leads group continue to lead this work and reporting on progress will be contained in the bi-annual scrutiny report. The Corporate Safeguarding review scheduled to take place during Quarter 4 will be further considering the progress made against the Audit Wales recommendations and will consider additional actions to ensure recommendations are met fully. It is identified that a Corporate Safeguarding forward work plan will be beneficial to support in focusing the work of the CSLG and providing a clear overview of progress against agreed recommendations/actions not only from Audit Wales but the learning captured from safeguarding related internal audits and self assessments.	On track
Each Directorate to undertake a safeguarding self-assessment	Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group	2023 self-assessments completed. To be repeated in 2024.	Safeguarding self-assessments were completed in line with the agreed return date of 30 th September 2023. The Children’s Safeguarding Team have analysed the returns and will be presenting the key themes and trends from the self-assessments at January’s Corporate Safeguarding Leads meeting. The learning from the self assessments will be central to the corporate safeguarding review and the development of a forward work plan for 24/25.	On track

Direction of Travel from previous quarter	Forecasted direction of travel	
		There is no change in the risk score from the last quarter

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.	<p>The safeguarding self-assessments for 2023 were submitted from each of the directorates at end of September 2023. Key themes and learning observed were considered in January 2024's Corporate Safeguarding Leads Group.</p> <p>The current safeguarding children's service manager in partnership with safeguarding education manager has sought to undertake a review of the current corporate safeguarding arrangements across the council based on learning from 2022 and 2023 self-assessments, as well as continuing to review the progress against the Audit Wales recommendations. The review has identified recommendations to strengthen the corporate safeguarding arrangements in the Council and the report will be presented to SLT and CLT for their consideration at end of Q1 24/25. The report will include a clear forward work plan as well as recommending a new reporting format for scrutiny to include regionally agreed data sets for corporate safeguarding to support with internal date review and regional comparison.</p> <p>Annual self-assessment will be repeated in September 2024.</p> <p>Internal audit reports related to safeguarding will continue to be reported to the Corporate Safeguarding Group for oversight of findings and agreed action plans to improve assurances (see below for details of those which have been completed this financial year).</p>	<p>Annual self-assessment – to be repeated September 2024</p> <p>Corporate Safeguarding Review report – end of Q1 24/25</p> <p>Implementing actions from completed self-assessments - ongoing</p>	Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group

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																
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.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="407 539 622 651">Audit Area</th> <th data-bbox="622 539 810 651">Current Status</th> <th data-bbox="810 539 981 651">Audit Grading</th> <th data-bbox="981 539 1659 651">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 651 622 820">Safeguarding with Volunteers (Schools)</td> <td data-bbox="622 651 810 820">Final – Completed</td> <td data-bbox="810 651 981 820">Limited Assurance</td> <td data-bbox="981 651 1659 820">The report has been finalised and will be presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Group for further comment in April 2024. The process for recording and monitoring volunteers is in need of improvement. The Safeguarding in Education Manager is working with colleagues in OD to clarify arrangements in the 'Volunteers in the Workplace' document.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 820 622 1070">Safeguarding in Contracts</td> <td data-bbox="622 820 810 1070">Draft – Provisional</td> <td data-bbox="810 820 981 1070">Limited Assurance</td> <td data-bbox="981 820 1659 1070">The report has been issued in draft and will be presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Group in April 2024 for information at this stage. The audit looked at the requirements placed on contractors as part of the tendering process and throughout contract implementation. It is anticipated that the report will need to return to the Corporate Safeguarding Group again after initial presentation once responses from corporate procurement have been received / included and an action plan is available.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 1070 622 1214">Social Services Safeguarding</td> <td data-bbox="622 1070 810 1214">Draft – Provisional</td> <td data-bbox="810 1070 981 1214">Reasonable Assurance</td> <td data-bbox="981 1070 1659 1214">The audit examined the process for incorporating safeguarding requirements into the Authority's interactions with third party providers. The report and action plan will be presented to a future Corporate Safeguarding Group for consideration.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Audit Area	Current Status	Audit Grading	Comments	Safeguarding with Volunteers (Schools)	Final – Completed	Limited Assurance	The report has been finalised and will be presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Group for further comment in April 2024. The process for recording and monitoring volunteers is in need of improvement. The Safeguarding in Education Manager is working with colleagues in OD to clarify arrangements in the 'Volunteers in the Workplace' document.	Safeguarding in Contracts	Draft – Provisional	Limited Assurance	The report has been issued in draft and will be presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Group in April 2024 for information at this stage. The audit looked at the requirements placed on contractors as part of the tendering process and throughout contract implementation. It is anticipated that the report will need to return to the Corporate Safeguarding Group again after initial presentation once responses from corporate procurement have been received / included and an action plan is available.	Social Services Safeguarding	Draft – Provisional	Reasonable Assurance	The audit examined the process for incorporating safeguarding requirements into the Authority's interactions with third party providers. The report and action plan will be presented to a future Corporate Safeguarding Group for consideration.	CSG Quarter 1 2024/25 CSG Quarter 1 2024/25 CSG Quarter 1 2024/25	Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group
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