

Ein cyf/ Our ref: CEO.14882
Gofynnwch am/ Please ask for: Sonja Wright
Rhif Ffôn / Telephone: 01267 239654
Dyddiad/ Date: 23rd August 2024

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad
Ystwyth
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol
Ffynnon Job
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's
Well Road, Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB

Buffy Williams MS
Chair: Children, Young People and Education Committee

Email: SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales

Dear Ms Williams,

Re: Inquiry into Children and Young People on the Margins

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2024, in which you request views on three specific points relating to 'children and young people on the margins'. Our response to each point, together with further comments regarding training and processes in place within Hywel Dda University Health Board to promote awareness of child exploitation and identification of risk, are presented as follows:

The scale and nature of children and young people presenting in accident and emergency departments with injuries that suggest they may be the victims of child criminal exploitation, and details of any specific strategies and/or projects that health boards are involved with in this regard.

The exact scale and nature of children and young people presenting at Accident and Emergency Departments or Minor Injuries Units in Hywel Dda University Health with injuries that suggest that they may be victims of child criminal exploitation are difficult to quantify. This is due to the system of coding attendances on the Welsh Patient Administration System.

However, a review of child safeguarding reports to Local Authority Children Services from July 2022 (when a new system was implemented) to 12 August 2024 highlights children (60) who presented to the Emergency Department, Minor Injury Department and/ or attended Specialist child and adolescent mental health service (sCAMHs), and disclosed or were identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation, missing, or criminal exploitation.

Any young person under 18 years attending Sexual Health services will have CSERQ (Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire) completed. This is further promoted for use in Emergency Departments, Minor Injury Units and Paediatrics.

The Health Board also has in place a Standard Operating Procedure for Putting an Alert Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) on Children's Medical Electronic Records.

Presentations to sexual health clinics that indicate risks of involvement in child criminal activities. Details of any specific strategies and/ or projects that health boards are involved with in this regard.

Presentation to Sexual Health services that resulted in a child safeguarding report to Local Authority Children Services between July 2022 and 2024, includes 15 reports related to child sexual exploitation risks.

The Sexual Health service, Looked After Children (LAC) Lead Nurse and a children's residential home manager worked together to agree a procedure to standardise the communication of essential information, with other health care professionals and care-providers involved with the LAC, to ensure safe, adequate and appropriate care is given.

Presentations to any other primary health care provision in respect of child criminal exploitation and missing children, alongside any recommendations you would like to see the Committee make in this regard.

The Corporate Safeguarding Team do not routinely receive copies of safeguarding reports made by Primary Care services, although the Team works closely with Primary Care colleagues in providing safeguarding training and advice; however, we note some disclosures of child sexual exploitation/exploitation risks to School Nurses – 3 in the period reviewed. Primary Care colleagues have the option of completing reports via Datix Cymru, which would be an opportunity to strengthen the ability to have oversight of what they are reporting.

By way of assurance, the following summary outlines training and processes in place within the Health Board to promote awareness of child exploitation and identification of risk:

- Training:
Mandatory Level 3 Safeguarding Children training in Hywel Dda University Health Board covers exploitation and sexual exploitation. Further to this, we regularly commission the Lucy Faithful Foundation to provide training in the UHB and actively promote #LookCloser resources and training.
- Regional Child Exploitation Strategy:
The Health Board is an active member of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board, which has in place a Child Exploitation Strategy. The strategy builds upon the current developments, which are being overseen and driven by the strategic element of the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings. We are committed to supporting children and young people in the region to lead safe, fulfilled lives and appropriate representation from the Corporate Safeguarding Team at strategic MACE meetings is in place, together with appropriate service representation at operational MACE meetings.

- Looked After Children Health Assessments:
The Looked After Children Health Assessment for children over 10 years also incorporates the CSERQ.
- Regional VAWDASV (Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Strategy:
The Health Board is an active member of the Regional VAWDASV Board. To support its strategic priority to increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to make positive personal choices, the region is continuing to support the implementation of the new Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Curriculum, Code and Guidance and deliver communication campaigns in relation to children and young people.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Phil Kloer
Interim Chief Executive