



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

To: Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards  
Chairs of Safeguarding Children Boards

20 July 2016

Dear Chair,

## **REVIEW OF ALL-WALES PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ADULTS AND CHILDREN AT RISK**

### **Summary**

To invite you to nominate one of the safeguarding board partners in Wales to facilitate the review of the all-Wales adult and child procedures on behalf of all safeguarding board partners in Wales. The single nominated partner is required to act as recipient of resources.

### **Context**

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 has further strengthened the statutory framework that protects adults and children from abuse, neglect and harm.

A key component of the Act is the introduction of a duty on relevant partners to report any child or adult to the local authority, when the relevant partner has reasonable cause to suspect they are experiencing or at risk of abuse, neglect or harm.

The relevant partners are defined as the local authority, the police, local health board, NHS trusts, probation services and for children the youth offending team. Whilst there are currently no plans to extend this duty, all individuals, organisations, bodies and institutions working with adults and children are expected to similarly report their suspicions to the local authority in the same way.

As commissioners of significant services across Wales, I am conscious that requirements to report suspicions are an intrinsic component of your contractual relationships. These mechanisms continue to have significant importance as a core component of your safeguarding responsibilities.

Historically in Wales, and in line with statutory guidance, concerns or suspicions have been referred to the local authority using the all-Wales procedures. These procedures have been maintained by dedicated review groups mandated by the collective membership of the safeguarding boards.

The production and maintenance of a coherent multi-agency approach to protect adults and children across Wales has delivered significant benefits at both individual and institutional level.

The introduction of the Act provides a timely opportunity for a review and refresh of both the *All Wales Child Protection Procedures* and the *Wales Interim Policy on Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse*.

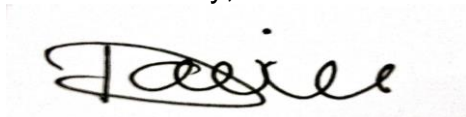
In recognition of the benefits to practitioners of the procedures, the Welsh Government wishes to support their continuation and is inviting you to nominate one of the safeguarding board partners in Wales to facilitate the review and re-production of the all-Wales adult and child procedures on behalf of all safeguarding board partners in Wales.

Should you continue to share our view of the benefits of the all-Wales procedures and wish to proceed with their review and re-refresh, I would be grateful if you would submit a short outline business case and costings by 1 September 2016.

The duty to report under the Act is common across both adults and children. The decision of whether a single procedure encompassing both adults and children or separate common procedures for adults and for children is something you will wish to consider.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**D J Clayton**  
Head of Safeguarding and Advocacy  
Social Services and Integration

cc National Independent Safeguarding Board  
Chief Police Officers in Wales  
Chief Executives of Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales  
Director of Wales Community Rehabilitation Company  
Director, National Offender Management Service in Wales  
Alun Thomas, Police Liaison Office  
Chair of All Wales Child Protection Procedures Group  
Chair of Adult Protection Procedures Group  
Directors of Education  
Directors of Social Services  
Heads of Adults Services  
Heads of Children's Services  
Nurse Directors  
Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales  
President, ADSS  
Public Health Wales  
Chair, ADSS Safeguarding Policy Group  
Children in Wales (as umbrella body)  
Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (as umbrella body)  
Children's Commissioner for Wales  
Older People's Commissioner for Wales  
Youth Justice Board Wales