

GWYNEDD SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2025/26

*Children and Young
People's Version*



What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means making sure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm. Cyngor Gwynedd has a responsibility to help keep people safe.

There are different types of abuse:

Emotional

When someone makes a person feel frightened, worthless, or unhappy over a long period of time.

Physical

When someone deliberately hurts the body of a child or vulnerable adult.

Neglect

When a person does not receive the care, food, clothing, or support they need.

Sexual

When someone behaves in a sexual way towards a child or vulnerable adult, or makes them take part in something inappropriate.

Exploitation

When someone takes advantage of or influences another person unfairly for their own benefit.

Domestic Abuse

When someone is made to feel frightened or unsafe at home because of another person's behaviour.

Abuse is not always easy to spot. It is important to tell a trusted adult if you are worried about yourself or someone else.

How does Cyngor Gwynedd safeguard people?

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone who works for Cyngor Gwynedd.

A group of Councillors and Senior Officers from across Cyngor Gwynedd meet regularly to discuss safeguarding. This group is called the **Strategic Safeguarding Panel**.



The role of the **Strategic Safeguarding Panel** is to:

- Make sure safeguarding rules and policies are appropriate
- Make sure staff receive training.
- Review safeguarding concerns and risks.
- Learn from things that have happened in the past.
- Plan how to improve things in the future.

The Chair of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel is **Councillor Dewi Jones, Cabinet Member for Education**. His role is to lead the Panel's meetings.



How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Listening and Improving

An important report called *Our Bravery Brought Justice* showed that more needs to be done to help keep children and young people safe. This includes the need to:

- Listen to the voices of children and young people.
- Improve the way we respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Make sure staff understand their responsibilities and know what to do when a safeguarding concern arises.
- Improve the way the Council works with partners such as the Police and the Health Board.

A lot of good progress has already been made, and a group of experts, known as the Response Board, helps make sure this work continues.

There's more information about the Response Board below:

[Click here to see the work of the Response Board.](#)



How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Safeguarding in Schools

SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING TEAM

The Gwynedd Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team supports schools to keep pupils safe. During the year, a new member joined the team to provide additional support to schools across the county.

[Click here for more information about the team.](#)

NEW POSTERS

The Gwynedd Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team has created simple posters and step-by-step guidance to help pupils and staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child's safety. These resources have been provided to every school.

SAFE INTERVENTION

Every school now has a policy to help keep pupils and staff safe and to support schools in dealing with difficult situations in a fair and safe way. This policy is called the Safe Intervention (Reasonable Force) Policy.



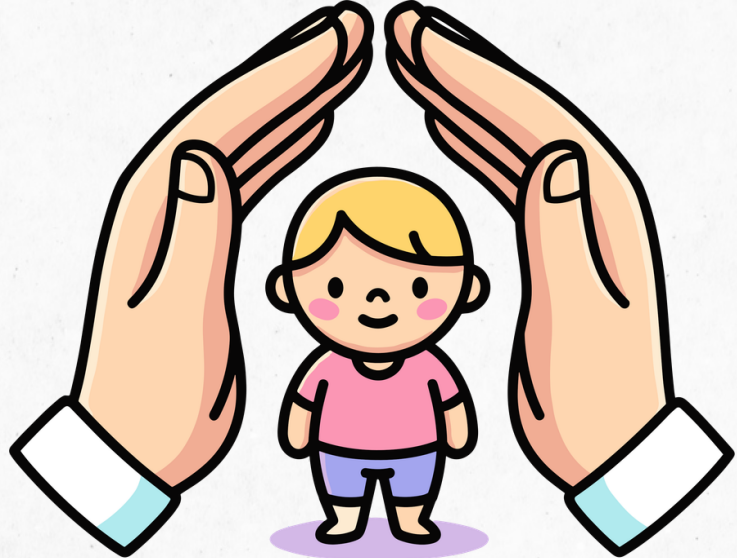
100%

Schools have provided safeguarding training to all members of staff.



Every School

Schools have received visits to check that the right arrangements are in place to keep children safe.



How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Children's Services

MORE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NEED SUPPORT

Between April 2025 and March 2026, Children's Services received around 155 requests for support every week. **Five years ago, the service received around 6,000 referrals in a year. Today, that number has risen to more than 8,000.**

The team has been working hard to make sure the right support is available when it is needed.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Not every child is able to live at home with their family. When this happens, Cyngor Gwynedd helps to care for them. New children's homes have opened in Morfa Bychan and Deiniolen to help children stay close to the people and places that are important to them.

STRENGTHENING THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

During the year, there was an increase in concerns raised about adults who work or volunteer with children. This type of concern is known as a Part 5 investigation. To help respond to this, Cyngor Gwynedd has invested additional funding in the Safeguarding Team, enabling it to recruit more staff.



8,069

of referrals to
Children's Services
during the year



98%

of referrals to the Intake
Team were responded
to within 24 hours.



293

children in care

How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Adult Services

SAFEGUARDING REFERRALS

Cyngor Gwynedd helps to safeguard adults who need additional support because of their age, health, disability, or personal circumstances.

During the year, 792 reports were received where concerns about an adult's safety or wellbeing needed to be considered. **In all of these cases**, action was taken to manage the risk and support the individuals involved.

MONITORING SERVICES

Staff regularly visit care homes and monitor services to help ensure that people receive safe, high-quality care.

INDIVIDUALS' RIGHTS TO FREEDOM

Cyngor Gwynedd works to ensure that adults who receive care and support are kept safe, and that important decisions are made in their best interests.



792

adult safeguarding
referrals



94%

of adult safeguarding
referrals were
responded to within
7 days.



How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

LEARNING ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Staff have received training to help them have positive conversations with children and young people about topics such as healthy relationships, online safety, self-confidence, and wellbeing.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING ABUSE

Cyngor Gwynedd and its partners work to help people stay safe from abuse, violence, and bullying within relationships. Specialist organisations are available to provide support to people who need help.

Safety cameras have also been provided to help some people at risk feel safer.

WHITE RIBBON

Gwynedd supports the White Ribbon campaign, which encourages everyone to play their part in challenging abuse and promoting relationships based on respect and kindness.



How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Crime

A number of organisations, such as Cyngor Gwynedd and the Police, work together to help keep people and communities safe.

This year, funding was secured to support new projects aimed at helping children and young people, including:

- **"Don't Steal My Future"** - sessions in schools to help young people understand the importance of healthy relationships, respect, and safety.
- An awareness-raising campaign about the **dangers of illegal vapes and exploitation** on children and young people.
- More opportunities for young people to take part in **safe and positive activities** in their communities during the school holidays.



3.6%



increase in the
number of crimes in
Gwynedd compared
with the previous year



How has Cyngor Gwynedd helped to keep people safe during the year?

Cyngor Gwynedd Workforce

STAFF CHECKS (DBS)

Cyngor Gwynedd carries out DBS checks to help ensure that people who work or volunteer with children and vulnerable adults are suitable to do so.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

More staff and Councillors have completed safeguarding training during the year. New video-based training has been developed for staff working in frontline roles, for example, waste collection workers and cleaners.

APPOINTING A SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION

A new Corporate Safeguarding Champion has been appointed to help staff understand their role in keeping people safe and to raise awareness of safeguarding across Cyngor Gwynedd.

REVIEWING THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Safeguarding Policy was updated to make it easier to understand and to ensure that everyone knows how to raise safeguarding concerns.



76%

of Council staff completed Safeguarding training.



87%

of Councillors completed Safeguarding training.

What will Cyngor Gwynedd do next year?



- ✓ Continue to make improvements following the ***Our Bravery Brought Justice*** report to help keep children and young people safe.
- ✓ **Increase training and raise awareness of safeguarding** across Cyngor Gwynedd so that all staff understand what safeguarding is and their role in keeping people safe.
- ✓ **Recruit more staff to strengthen safeguarding teams** and provide additional support for children and young people who need help.
- ✓ **Continue working with the Police, schools, the Health Board, and other partners** to respond effectively to safeguarding concerns.