

## Experimental Statistics: Adult safeguarding, 2016-17

30 November 2017  
SFR 178/2017

This release presents figures about local authorities adult safeguarding reports, enquiries and investigations.

This publication is based on the first year of data collected from the [Adult Safeguarding form](#) following the introduction of the [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act](#). The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered, introducing new duties on local authority social services in relation to assessment and provision of care and support.

Information on adult safeguarding has been published previously in the Protection of Vulnerable Adults in Wales series of statistical outputs however results are not comparable due to changes to definitions in legislation and measurement



**In 2016-17, 15,757 reports were received by Local Authorities, where it was suspected that an adult was at risk of abuse or neglect**

### Key results for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

- Neglect, emotional/psychological and physical abuse were the most common types of abuse reported in completed reports, occurring in 32 per cent, 25 per cent and 24 per cent of reports respectively.
- 53 per cent of completed reports were for people aged 65 and over.
- Of the victims which alleged abuse or neglect, 43.2 per cent took place in their own home and 37.8 per cent took place in care home settings.
- Paid employees were most likely to be alleged responsible for the abuse/neglect (52.9 per cent) followed by relatives/friends (27.3 per cent).
- Of the number of investigations that concluded during the year, 25.9 per cent were criminal investigations.

### About this release

This Statistical First Release summarises the key findings from the Adult Safeguarding data collection for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The return includes information about the reports of abuse or neglect received by local authorities, the characteristics of adults who may be at risk of harm, the types of abuse and the locations in which alleged abuse has taken place.

Further information and full details for individual local authorities are published today in [StatsWales tables](#).

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## Accuracy

The Welsh Government worked with local authorities to collect statistics on the activities of adult safeguarding through the [Adult Safeguarding form](#) return. Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities from submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. Data adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations. Local authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection form.

The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2016-17 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2017. 2016-17 is the first year of collecting and reporting on data derived from the [Adult Safeguarding form](#) following implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

During the year, some issues were raised about the quality of the data and not all local authorities provided complete returns; in most of these cases changes to systems and reporting processes had not yet been fully implemented. Extensive quality assurance was undertaken with local authorities and where issues were due to the need for more clarity around some specific data requirements greater agreement was reached in interpretation as the year progressed. One local authority was unable to provide any figures as a result of technical problems following implementation of the new Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) computer system.

These statistics are published as experimental statistics reflecting the scale of change happening in social services and system changes for the first year of data collection. Following the first year, the collection process and publication will be reviewed.

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## Reports

The tables and charts in this section refer to reports that were completed and received in the reporting year.

**Table 1: Number of reports received by local authority, 2016-17**

Local Authority	Number of reports	Per 10,000 population aged 18 and over (b)
Isle of Anglesey	190	33.8
Gwynedd	410	40.9
Conwy	349	36.7
Denbighshire	527	69.9
Flintshire	440	35.9
Wrexham	786	73.2
Powys	393	36.5
Ceredigion	748	121.2
Pembrokeshire	521	52.2
Carmarthenshire	760	51.2
Swansea	1,271	64.5
Neath Port Talbot	348	30.6
Bridgend	375	32.9
The Vale of Glamorgan	238	23.4
Cardiff	1,063	37.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,551	188.5
Merthyr Tydfil	757	160.6
Caerphilly	975	68.6
Blaenau Gwent	479	85.7
Torfaen	489	67.0
Monmouthshire	352	46.8
Newport	735	63.7
<b>Wales</b>	<b>15,757</b>	<b>64.6</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

In 2016-17, 15,757 reports were received by Local Authorities, where it was suspected that an adult was at risk of abuse or neglect, this represented around 64.6 per 10,000 of the total population aged 18 and over in Wales. The local authority which received the highest number of reports was Rhondda Cynon Taf with 3,551, this equates to around 188.5 reports per 10,000 of the population aged 18 or over. The Isle of Anglesey received the lowest number of reports with 190 but did not have the lowest rate per 10,000, which was the Vale of Glamorgan with 23.4.

**Table 2: Number of reports received by type of abuse, 2016-17 (a)**

Source of reports	Aged 18 to 64	Aged 65 and over	Total aged 18+
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,302</b>	<b>9,215</b>	<b>17,517</b>
Neglect	1,982	3,684	5,666
Emotional/Psychological	2,581	1,812	4,393
Physical	2,108	2,010	4,118
Financial	1,019	1,430	2,449
Sexual	612	279	891
Of which :			
Domestic (b)	1,548	1,342	2,890
Racial (c)	13	4	17

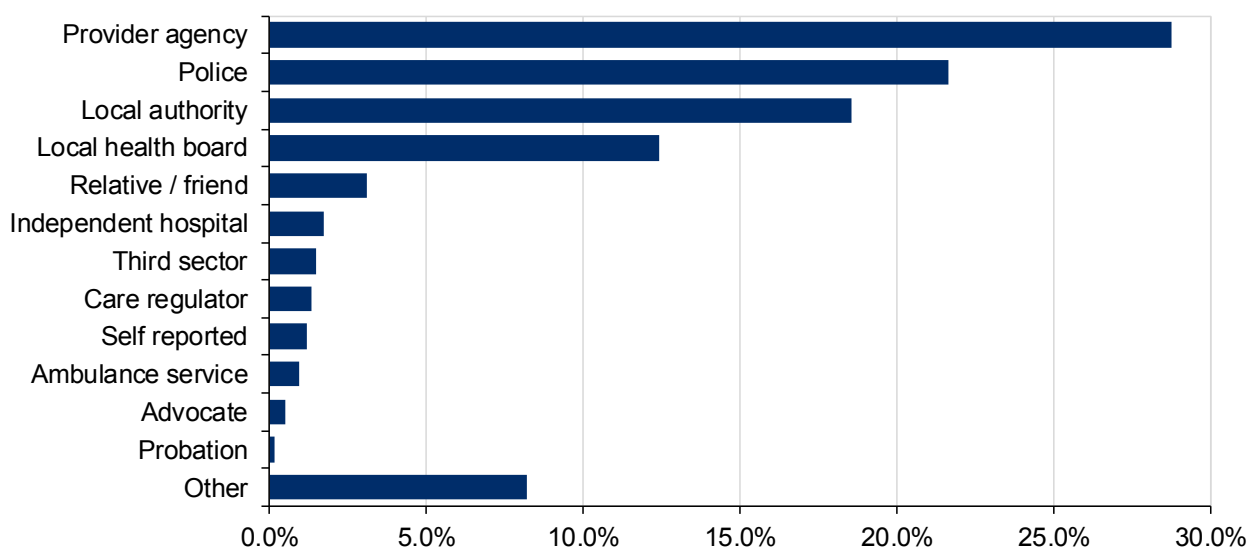
Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Reports can have multiple types of abuse.

(b) Domestic abuse means abuse where the victim of it is or has been associated with the abuser.

(c) Racial abuse means abuse motivated by hostility or hatred towards the victim's race or religious beliefs (actual or perceived).

Over half (9,215 or 53 per cent) of the total reports received were regarding adults aged 65 and over. The most common reason for the reports in general was due to neglect and this was still true when looking at just the population aged 65 or over. However, for adults aged 18-64 the most common reason for a report being produced was down to emotional/psychological abuse; with 31 per cent of the reports received for 18-64 year olds relating to emotional/psychological abuse.

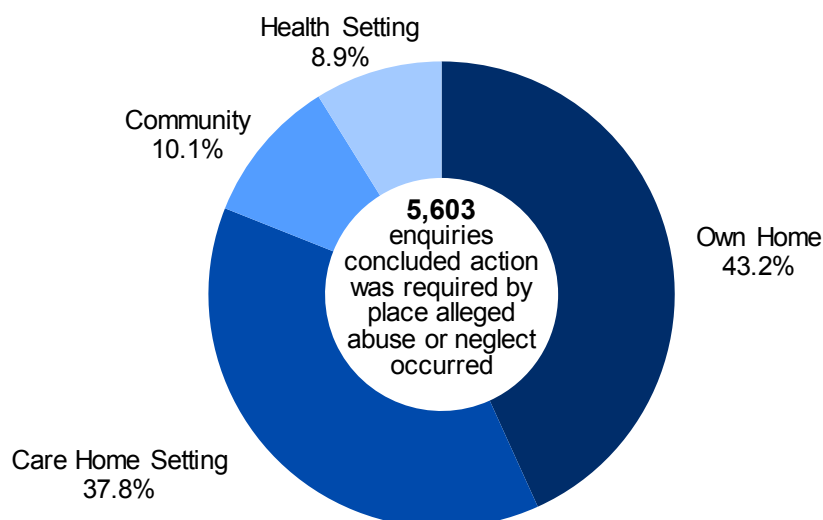
**Chart 1: Percentage of reports received by source of first contact, 2016-17**

Source: Adult Safeguarding

With 4,471 (29 per cent), the provider agencies were the largest source of first contact for reports received, followed by the police with 3,367 (22 per cent) and the local authorities with 2,885 (19 per cent).

## Enquiries

**Chart 2: Percentage of enquiries that concluded action was required where alleged abuse or neglect occurred by place of alleged abuse or neglect, 2016-17 (a)**



Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Enquiries can have multiple places of alleged abuse.

5,603 enquiries concluded action was required where alleged abuse or neglect occurred. Of these, 2,422 (43.2 per cent) took place in the victims own home and 2,118 (37.8 per cent) at care home settings.

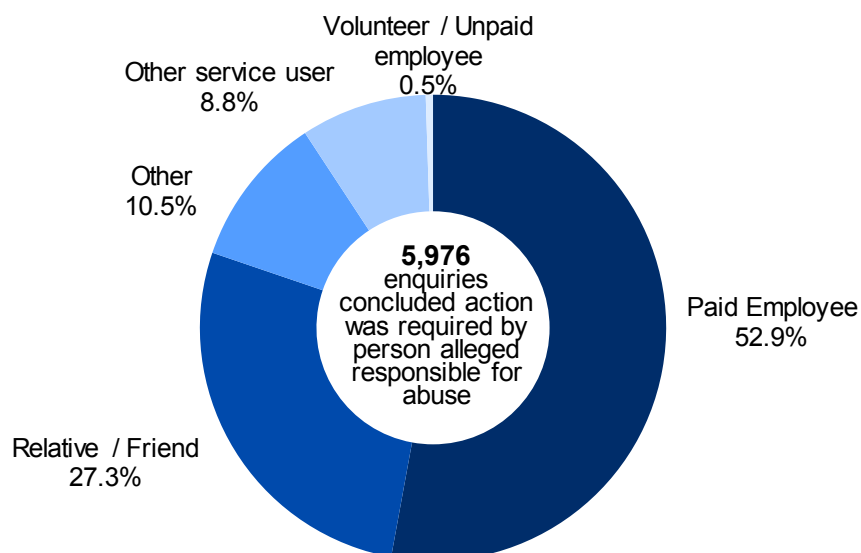
**Table 3: Percentage of enquiries that concluded action was required by place of alleged abuse, 2016-17 (a)**

Place of alleged abuse	Total	Percentage (%)
Own Home	2,422	43.2
Care Home Setting	2,118	37.8
Community	567	10.1
Health Setting	496	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Enquiries can have multiple places of alleged abuse.

**Chart 3: Percentage of enquiries that concluded action was required by person alleged responsible for the abuse, 2016-17 (a)**



Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Enquiries can have multiple alleged perpetrators.

There were 5,976 enquiries which concluded that action was required, this number is higher than the figure presented in table 3 due to, in some cases, more than one person being alleged to be responsible for the abuse. The largest two categories of persons alleged to be responsible for the abuse were paid employees 3,160 (52.9 per cent) and relatives/friends 1,634 (27.3 per cent).

**Table 4: Percentage of enquiries that concluded action was required by person alleged responsible for the abuse, 2016-17 (a)**

Person of alleged abuse	Total	Percentage (%)
Paid Employee	3,160	52.9
Relative / Friend	1,634	27.3
Other	629	10.5
Other service user	523	8.8
Volunteer / Unpaid employee	30	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,976</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Enquiries can have multiple alleged perpetrators.

## Investigations

There were 2,767 investigations which concluded during 2016-17. Of these 2,050 (74.1 per cent) were non-criminal investigations and 717 (25.9 per cent) were criminal investigations.

**Table 5: Number of investigations that concluded during the year, 2016-17**

Type of investigation	Total	Percentage (%)
Non-Criminal investigation	2,050	74.1
Criminal investigation	717	25.9
<b>Total investigations</b>	<b>2,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

# Notes

## Context

The release examines key findings for 2016-17, providing an analysis of the information and description of trends. It considers what the data has to tell us about the pattern of adult protection allegations in Wales and how these are responded to by the agencies responsible. It is intended to contribute to an improvement in outcomes for those people who are in need of protection from abuse. The purpose of the data collection is to provide information which can assist stakeholders in recognising and preventing future harm.

## Data collection

Prior to 2013-14, most local authorities used a database system to record the details of individual referrals, and these were then shared with the Welsh Government at the end of each year. The remaining authorities supplied data on a pre-defined form. In each year, this form asked for counts of referrals for each of a series of aspects (e.g. category of vulnerability, abuse type, status of allegation and so on), often broken down by age and gender. The individual records were extracted from the databases and aggregated up for each year and local authority so that they corresponded to the counts requested by the pre-defined form.

This resulted in a complete set of such counts for all local authorities in Wales for each year, which formed the basis of the analysis in previous reports produced by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (see the [2013 report](#)).

From 2012-13 to 2015-16, a single form for the collection of data from all 22 local authorities in Wales was used. This data collection was supported by improved guidance and was developed in conjunction with local authority adult protection co-ordinators with the intention of getting a more consistent and comparable dataset. Over the years changes were made to the form which meant that comparisons with previous years could not be made for all tables and charts, but where possible comparisons were shown in previous reports.

2016-17 is the first year of collecting and reporting on data derived from the [Adult Safeguarding form](#) following implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2016-17 data year.

The form applies an extensive series of validation checks to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent. [Guidance notes for the completion of the form](#).

## Symbols and rounding conventions

All the figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for confidentiality. Where figures have been rounded there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

The following symbols are used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- \* the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.



## **Key quality information**

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy and Reliability, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Coherence and Comparability.

### **Relevance**

The statistics are likely to be used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult protection trends. Some of the key users will be:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Local authorities;
- The third sector (e.g. charities);
- The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments:

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- The Department for Education in England.

These statistics can be used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales;
- to assist in research on adults protection.

### **Accuracy and reliability**

These statistics are published as experimental statistics reflecting the scale of change happening in social services and system changes for the first year of data collection. Following the first year, the collection process and publication will be reviewed.

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2016-17 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2017.

## **Timeliness and punctuality**

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected the [Adult Safeguarding form](#) for the financial year 2016-17 between April and May 2017. Data in this release refers to final 2016-17 data. This release was published in November 2017, meeting the planned date of publication.

## **Accessibility and clarity**

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

## **Coherence and comparability**

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act sets out significant changes in policy, which in turn have had an effect on the current national social services data collections. In order to understand and develop requirements in relation to these changes, the Welsh Government set up the Social Services Technical Information Network in November 2014. The Network includes representation from the Welsh Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government.

The Network has reviewed all of the national social services data returns submitted by local authorities and requirements for data have been developed in line with the implementation of the Act.

[New forms – Local authority social services data collections](#)

## **Related links**

A similar statistical release for England can be accessed on the [NHS Digital website](#).

## **Revisions**

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to the next release.

## Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

### Further details

This release is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/adult-safeguarding/?lang=en>

### Next update

November 2018 (provisional)

### We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.pss@gov.wales](mailto:stats.pss@gov.wales).

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