

## Adult Safeguarding, 2017-18 Experimental Statistics

25 October 2018  
SFR 101/2018

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.

This is the second year of collection and this release is the second in this series of statistical outputs reporting on data derived from the [Adult Safeguarding](#) return. See the [Key quality information](#) section for more information about the data. 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 2017-18, 19,178 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 2017 to 31 March 2018

- Neglect, emotional/psychological and physical abuse were the most common types of abuse reported in completed reports, occurring in 34 per cent, 25 per cent and 24 per cent of reports respectively.
- Of the victims which alleged abuse or neglect, 43.9 per cent took place in their own home and 34.4 per cent took place in care home settings.
- Paid employee's were most likely to be alleged responsible for the abuse/neglect (46.5 per cent) followed by relatives/friends (29.0 per cent).
- Of the number of investigations that concluded during the year, 27.0 per cent were criminal investigations.

### About this release

This release summarises the key findings from the Adult Safeguarding data collected for the second time in 2017-18 following implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act on 6 April 2016.

The release provides information about the reports of abuse received by local authorities, enquiries where action was required and investigations concluded during the year.

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

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## Reports

Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, local authorities and their relevant partners are required to report to the appropriate local authority where they suspect that an adult is an adult at risk (of abuse or neglect).

**Table 1: Number of reports received by local authority, during the year, 2016-17 and 2017-18**

Local Authority	2016-17		2017-18	
	Number of reports	Per 10,000 population aged 18 and over (a)(r)	Number of reports	Per 10,000 population aged 18 and over (b)
Isle of Anglesey	190	33.8	211	37.4
Gwynedd	410	41.1	372	37.1
Conwy	349	36.6	561	58.8
Denbighshire	527	69.7	528	69.7
Flintshire	440	35.9	526	42.7
Wrexham	786	74.0	793	74.6
Powys	393	36.4	646	59.7
Ceredigion	748	122.1	837	137.8
Pembrokeshire	521	52.1	625	62.2
Carmarthenshire	760	51.1	679	45.5
Swansea	1,271	64.5	1,321	66.6
Neath Port Talbot	348	30.6	412	36.1
Bridgend	375	32.8	344	29.9
The Vale of Glamorgan	238	23.3	364	35.2
Cardiff	1,063	37.0	1,330	46.1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,551	188.6	5,060	267.4
Merthyr Tydfil	757	160.9	1,051	222.6
Caerphilly	975	68.6	906	63.6
Blaenau Gwent	479	85.7	514	91.7
Torfaen	489	67.0	561	76.7
Monmouthshire	352	46.6	625	82.2
Newport	735	63.5	912	77.9
<b>Wales</b>	<b>15,757</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>19,178</b>	<b>76.8</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding; Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

(a) 2016 Mid-year population estimates used to calculate 2016-17 rates.

(b) 2017 Mid-year population estimates used to calculate 2017-18 rates.

(r) Mid-2016 population estimates for Wales were revised on the 22 March 2018, following methodological improvements. This has had an impact on the 2016-17 rates that were published previously.

[Table 1](#) shows that in 2017-18, 19,178 reports were received and completed by local authorities during the year, where it was suspected that an adult was at risk of abuse or neglect. This represented around 76.8 per 10,000 of the total population aged 18 and over in Wales; and was an increase of 3,421 people (22 per cent) when compared to the previous year.

The local authority which received the highest number of reports was Rhondda Cynon Taf with 5,060, this equates to around 267.4 reports per 10,000 of the population aged 18 or over. The Isle of Anglesey received the lowest number of reports with 211 but did not have the lowest rate per 10,000 of the population aged 18 and over, which was Bridgend with 29.9.

**Table 2: Number of reports received by type of abuse, 2017-18 (a)(b)**

Type of abuse	Aged 18 to 64	Aged 65 and over	Total aged 18+
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,526</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>21,754</b>
Neglect	2,851	4,460	7,311
Emotional/Psychological	3,159	2,289	5,448
Physical	2,604	2,511	5,115
Financial	1,131	1,681	2,812
Sexual	781	287	1,068
Of which :			
Domestic (c)(e)	1,953	1,611	3,564
Racial (d)(e)	26	16	42

Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Reports can have multiple types of abuse.

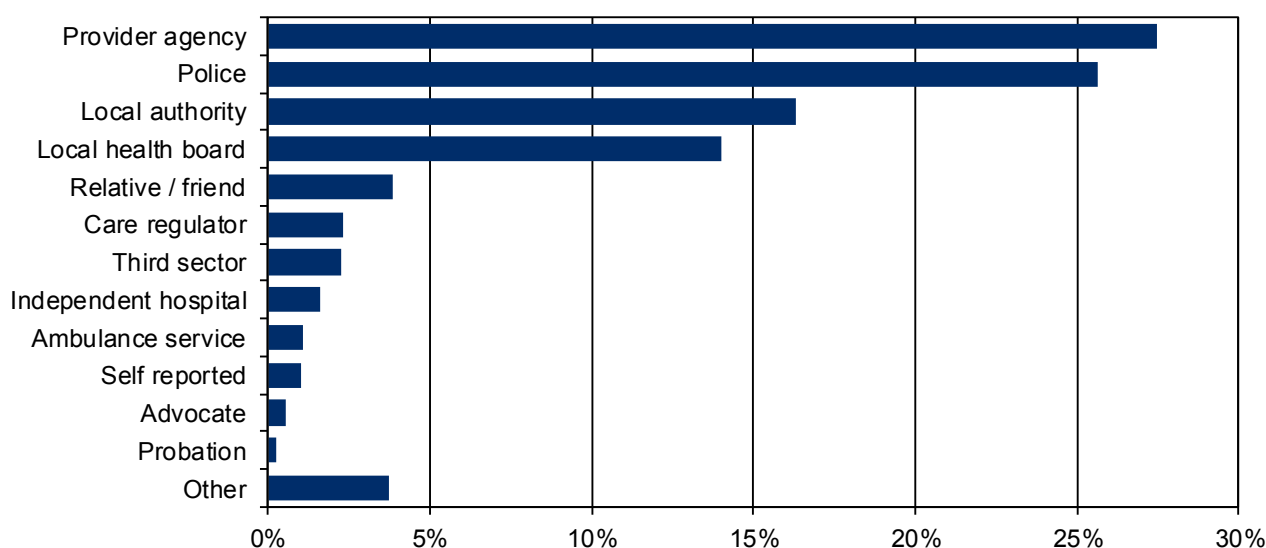
(b) Flintshire and Pembrokeshire received some reports during the year where the category of abuse was not recorded; the screening element of the enquiry revealed that reports were inappropriate for safeguarding. Wrexham changed their recording practices throughout the year that meant only information on appropriate reports were collected.

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

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

(e) Data based on 21 local authorities; Flintshire was unable to provide data due to a change in their data collection process throughout the year.

[Table 2](#) shows that neglect was the most common type of abuse reported for all adults, as well as for adults aged 65 and over (40 per cent). However, for adults aged 18-64 the most common type of abuse reported was emotional/psychological abuse (31 per cent).

**Chart 1: Percentage of reports received by source, 2017-18**

Source: Adult Safeguarding

[Chart 1](#) shows that, of the reports where the source was recorded, provider agencies with 5,210 (27 per cent) were the largest source for reports received by local authorities, followed by the Police with 4,868 (27 per cent) and the local authorities with 2,885 (19 per cent).

9,019 (47 per cent) reports received during the year proceeded to an enquiry.

## Enquiries

If a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) is an adult at risk, it must make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether the adult is at risk and what action should be taken and by whom.

In 2017-18, 5,509 (61 per cent) enquiries concluded that an adult was at risk and action was required.

**Table 3: Enquiries that concluded action was required by place of alleged abuse, during the year, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (a)**

Place of alleged abuse	2016-17		2017-18	
	Total	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
Own Home	2,422	43.2	2,514	43.9
Care Home Setting	2,118	37.8	1,968	34.4
Health Setting	496	8.9	650	11.4
Community	567	10.1	560	9.8
Other (b)	0	0.0	32	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,724</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

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

(b) 'Other' includes supported tenancies, financial settings and unknowns.

[Table 3](#) shows the largest categories of place where alleged abuse occurred were at the adult at risk's own home (43.9 per cent) and at care home settings (34.4 per cent). These proportions were similar to those found in 2016-17.

**Table 4: Enquiries that concluded action was required by person alleged responsible for abuse, during the year, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (a)**

Person alleged responsible for abuse	2016-17		2017-18	
	Total	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
Paid Employee	3,160	52.9	2,809	46.5
Relative / Friend	1,634	27.3	1,751	29.0
Other	629	10.5	828	13.7
Other service user	523	8.8	606	10.0
Volunteer / Unpaid employee	30	0.5	50	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,976</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,044</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

(a) Enquiries can have multiple alleged perpetrators.

[Table 4](#) shows that the largest categories of persons alleged responsible for abuse were paid employees (46.5 per cent) and relatives/friends (29.0 per cent). These proportions were broadly similar to those found in 2016-17.

## Investigations

**Table 5: Number of investigations that concluded during the year, 2016-17 and 2017-18**

Type of investigation	2016-17		2017-18	
	Total	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
Non-Criminal investigation	2,050	74.1	1,967	73.0
Criminal investigation	717	25.9	728	27.0
<b>Total investigations</b>	<b>2,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adult Safeguarding

[Table 5](#) shows there were 2,695 investigations which concluded during 2017-18. Of these 1,967 (73.0 per cent) were non-criminal investigations and 728 (27.0 per cent) were criminal investigations.

## Notes

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into effect on 6 April 2016. It is the new legal framework that brings together and modernises social services law in Wales. The Act changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered.

From 6 April 2016, local authorities are expected to collect and return data on the activities of children's social services based on new reporting requirements developed in line with the implementation of Act. The release examines key findings for 2017-18, considering 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 or neglect and provide information which can assist stakeholders in recognising and preventing future harm.

These statistics are published as experimental statistics reflecting the scale of change continuing to happen in social services and ongoing system changes. More information on the designation of these statistics can be found in the [correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Office for Statistical Regulation](#).

## Future developments

Data requirements in relation to measuring the impact that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is having on people who need care and support and carers who need support are currently being reviewed. It is intended that new data will be developed for the 2020-21 reporting year.

## Key quality information

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

### Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult protection trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales
- the Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government
- other areas of the Welsh Government
- local authorities
- the third sector (e.g. charities)
- 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 of Health in England.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of the uses include:

- advice to Ministers
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales
- local authority analysis
- to inform the Care Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
- to assist in research on adult protection.

### Accuracy

The Welsh Government worked with local authorities to collect statistics on the activities of adult social services through the [Adult safeguarding](#) return. 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. 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 2017-18 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2018. This data collection is supported by detailed guidance and extensive quality assurance was undertaken to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent.

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.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected the data for the year 2017-18 i.e. from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, between April and May 2018. Data in this release refers to final 2017-18 data. Once submitted data has been validated, this release is drafted and published as soon as possible. This release was published in October 2018, meeting the planned date of publication.

### **Accessibility and clarity**

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics and Research 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.

### **Comparability and coherence**

2017-18 is the second year of collecting and reporting on data derived from the [Adult Safeguarding](#) return Well-being (Wales) Act. This statistical release mainly provides figures at the Wales level. Further information for local authorities is available on [StatsWales](#). To ensure that the national data are comparable and consistent, local authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection form. When comparing figures for different local authorities, relevant factors such as the size of the local authority population should be taken into account. [Local authority population estimates](#) by age can be found on StatsWales.

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

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.

England's [adult safeguarding publications](#) (NHS Digital).

## 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 the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

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

The document is available at:

<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/adult-safeguarding/?lang=en>

Data at local authority level is available on [StatsWales](#).

Codes of practice and statutory guidance issued under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act are available at: [Codes of practice and statutory guidance](#)

Further information is available in other Social Services statistical releases on the Welsh Government web site at the [social services](#) theme page.

### Next update

October 2019 (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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