

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are some of the frequently asked questions which may answer your questions.

Why have a Wales Safer Communities Network?

The Network came into existence following a Safer Communities Programme which finished in November 2020. A presentation at the Programme's conference by the Scottish Community Safety Network provided the background and model for a different way of working in community safety. The Wales Safer Communities Network was built on the information and evidence provided from Scotland. The Network continues to work closely with our sister organisation in Scotland.

How is the Network funded?

Currently the Network is funded through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Policing in Wales (four Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners) and the Welsh Government. The aim is for the Network to be independent and sustainable through a membership model and developing other income streams by end of March 2023.

What is the difference between community safety and safeguarding?

There are many commonalities between community safety and safeguarding, as demonstrated with safeguarding being one of the [topics](#) focused on within the website. But there are different elements, for example the legislation. Whilst everyone can be involved in community safety or be a victim of when it goes wrong, safeguarding is about protecting children and adults at risk from a range of abuse. Safeguarding must always be taken into consideration and the duty to report applies across community safety as it does in other services.

An adult survivor of domestic abuse may not be an adult at risk in regard to safeguarding, however if they disclose something about their child which suggests a child is at risk, then a report should be made in regard to the child.

There are many instances where a situation falls under both safeguarding and community safety. For example, cuckooing ([criminal exploitation](#)) which often involves an adult at risk coupled with criminal activity.

The close working relationship between the two is demonstrated in the [directory](#) by the links to the community safety page(s) on local authority webpages and to the safeguarding webpages as well.



Why isn't community safety just about stopping crime?

Wales has a strong focus on prevention, it runs through the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. What makes people feel safe in communities encompasses a number of different elements: it is about safe travelling and pursuits ([public safety](#)); preventing fires and home safety; and can and should involve everyone. There are certain elements that are about crime and crime prevention, but for others it is about improving the environments that people live in and enabling people to undertake daily activities safely and without coming to harm.

I am worried about myself/ someone else, what can I do?

Under each of the [topics](#) and their sub-topics we have included help and support information which is appropriate for each specific topic.

If you or someone else is in imminent danger, please call the police on 999.

I have an idea for a Podcast, how can I get involved?

If you would like to get involved in a future [podcast](#), please send an email to safercommunities@wlga.gov.uk clearly labelled Podcast for the attention of the Communications and Events Manager.

I want to make a complaint, how do I do it?

If you wish to make a complaint about the Wales Safer Communities Network, please email safercommunities@wlga.gov.uk for the attention of the Head of the Network. If the complaint is in regard to the Head of the Network, please put it to the attention of the Director of Social Services and Housing.

If you have a complaint about a partner such as the Police or Local Authority, please visit their website and follow their complaint procedure.