

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:** **ADULTS SAFEGUARDING REGIONAL PROPOSAL**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide scrutiny with information regarding future proposed Regional Safeguarding structures

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Bill and Sustainable Social Services: A Framework for Action collectively bring a different context to adult safeguarding.

2.01 The current arrangements in place across North Wales are network arrangements for sharing information and peer support. The emerging view is that there is a need to move the adult safeguarding agenda into a robust regional framework

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Bill and Sustainable Social Services: A Framework for Action places a requirement upon partners to develop the current adult protection arrangements into an adult safeguarding agenda both locally, regionally and nationally.

3.02 Part 7 of the Bill relating to safeguarding clearly states the requirements for Safeguarding Adult Boards to be developed.

3.03 Part 7 of the Bill clearly sets out the objective of the Safeguarding Adults Board as to protect adults within its area who:

- Have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
- Are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- To prevent those adults within its area from becoming at risk of abuse and neglect.

3.04 Statutory regulation on Adult Safeguarding Boards will set out the areas in Wales for safeguarding boards (to be referred to as safeguarding board areas). Discussions during consultation has led

to the understanding that North Wales will remain one region.

### 3.05 Preferred Future Option

Four options have been considered for North Wales. Following initial consideration partners preferred option is Option 4 a Two tier – North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board. ( See Appendix 1 )

The other options considered were

- 1 Maintain the status quo – 4 North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board and 1 Sub-regional Adult Safeguarding Board (Gwynedd and Anglesey)
- 2 Three North Wales Adult Safeguarding Boards
- 3 Single North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board
- 4 Two-tier North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board

### 3.06 Description of Preferred Option

Within this model there will be a North Wales Regional Adult Safeguarding Board which will consider functions that can be carried out on a regional basis including training, performance and audit, policy and serious case reviews.

In addition this option recommends 3 sub regional partnerships of neighbouring Local Authorities working together to develop Adult Safeguarding Boards. This builds on the learning from the current Gwynedd and Ynys Mon model. These sub regional boards will focus on local issues and practice and will be based on already well established local links.

3.07 This structure provides a balance between regional working and being able to work effectively across boundaries, whilst continuing to maintain local links within sub-regional boards.

3.08 This two-tiered option is favoured as:

- This model allows for structures to be developed in ways which strike an acceptable and well-managed balance between local and regional agendas
- Maintains the ability to be responsive to local issues and practice
- Positive Regional adult safeguarding working can contribute to a higher profile and increased regional and national influence.
- This model would be more manageable for the pan-North Wales organisations
- Its strengthens the collaborative agenda in North Wales
- Having the same model for adults and children safeguarding boards will bring about equity for both adult and children

safeguarding

- Over time, this model will allow for the opportunity to merge some common areas of safeguarding practice across children and adult services
- This model can also bring an opportunity for integrated business support to underpin children and adult safeguarding across North Wales.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That scrutiny supports this proposed regional model to change the current arrangements for adult safeguarding across North Wales implementing the preferred option a Two-tiered North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 This model will initially be developed using existing regional capacity.

5.02 A bid has been made to the Regional Collaboration Fund which includes a project management post to support this development. If successful, this funding will be available for 3 years. However, the preferred model does provide the opportunity to merge some common areas of safeguarding practice across children and adult which has the potential to lead to an integrated business support function to underpin adult and children safeguarding across North Wales and may potentially lead to efficiencies.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 Not Applicable

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 Not Applicable

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 An Equalities Impact Assessment of this proposal has been completed by Denbighshire County Council on behalf of partners

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None at present

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 This proposal has been presented to appropriate scrutiny committees across all North Wales authorities as part of the consultation and

approval process

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Senior Social Care officers have been fully involved in agreeing the preferred option

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 - North Wales Adult Safeguarding Integration and/or Collaboration: The way forward

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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