

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL &
HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 29 MARCH 2012

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM LOCAL
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide Members with a progress report on the joint Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Children Act 2004, 31 (1), required the local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The objectives of the LSCB are:

(a) To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

(b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for that purpose.

2.02 The LSCB is a statutory partnership that brings together representatives of each of the main agencies and professionals responsible for helping to protect children and young people from abuse and neglect. The LSCB coordinates what is done by its members to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

2.03 Flintshire LSCB and Wrexham LSCB identified the potential to merge into one statutory partnership in 2010. This is consistent with statutory guidance Working Together Under the Children Act 2004 (2006) which states that "...boundaries between local authorities, the police and other member agencies are not always co-terminus.... It may be helpful in these circumstances for an LSCB to cover an area which includes more than one local authority area, or for adjoining Local Safeguarding Children Boards to collaborate as far as possible in establishing common procedures, policies and protocols, in inter-agency training and joint ways of working with neighbouring local authorities and their Board Partners".

2.04 The Director of Community Services presented a report on the proposed merger of Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Boards to the Flintshire Executive on 16th November 2011. Council Executive Members resolved:

(a) That work progresses on the merger of the two boards and an update is brought to Executive in due course to report on progress;

(b) That Flintshire acts as lead authority for this arrangement to share the load with our neighbouring authority; and

(c) Collaborative arrangements across local authority borders should lead to efficiencies of funding, capacity and time. That the new Board considers how such efficiencies are to be achieved and quantified.

2.05 The Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB came into being on the 1st April 2011 and has now become operational with an agreed structure in place. The LSCB Executive Board have met twice (May 2011 and September 2011), it has agreed its vision and developed and approved its three year strategic plan and annual business plan (Appendix A). The Board have also formally endorsed its constitution and budget contributions. The first progress report on the implementation of the Boards business plan has been received by the LSCB Development Group on 27th September 2011 (Appendix B).

2.06 A merged steering group consisting of members from both LSCB's Executive Boards met regularly to implement the plan to merge Wrexham and Flintshire's LSCB's. The steering group developed the vision of the joint LSCB and a three year strategic plan and annual business plan (appendix a) which was formally approved by the LSCB Executive Board on 28th May 2011. The plans were developed taking into account:

- The content of the previous Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB Business Plans;
- The findings of the LSCB self assessment undertaken in each county in 2010;
- The views of children and young people as collected by the Children and Young People Framework Partnerships in each county.

The steering group agreed a number of key functions for the LSCB based on those set out in the statutory guidance 'Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004'. These functions were used as a framework for action against which the LSCB set its priorities for 2011-14.

The LSCB strategy will be reviewed annually in line with the annual

business plan.

- 2.07 Following approval by the merged LSCB Executive Board of the LSCB strategic and business plan in May 2011 the subgroups of the LSCB commenced work on implementing their allocated tasks. There are many areas of progress in respect of implementing the business plan and these are outlined in appendix B to this report.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The Social and Health Overview Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the progress of the Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB as noted in Appendix B.
- 3.02 The Social and Health Overview Scrutiny Committee note that the Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB will undertake an annual self assessment using the Welsh Government LSCB Self Assessment and Improvement Tool in January 2012. This self assessment will support the LSCB in measuring its effectiveness and identifying areas of development and will inform the content of the business plan for the following year. The Board will develop an annual report of its work which will be made available and published on its web pages in early 2012/13.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Scrutiny Members note the content of this report and consider the progress made to date by the Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The member contributions for the LSCB budget have been agreed.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 The Board will strive to improve the life chances of young people and reduce the impact of poverty in their lives.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 The LSCB will look to coordinate and monitor multi- agency services around the prevention and protection for children and young people where neglect is a key factor.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 The LSCB works together to coordinate and monitor services to safeguard children across all cultural, gender and disability

boundaries and barriers to ensure appropriate interventions are in place, including the use of interpreters where necessary.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None arising directly from this report.

9.02 The Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB currently fund a part-time business manager, full time training officer and full time administration support.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None arising directly from this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None arising directly from this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB Strategic Plan 2011 - 2014

Summary of progress made by Flintshire / Wrexham LSCB (FWLSCB)

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

None

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