

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)**

SUBJECT: **REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD PROPOSAL**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek Members views on the implementation of Regional and Local arrangements for safeguarding children.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 As a result of the Children Act 2004 Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) were established. Three sub-regional LSCB were established across North Wales (Flintshire and Wrexham representing North East Wales).

2.02 The Welsh Government announced in 2011, as part of the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014), the three sub-regional LSCB take greater steps to promote integration and collaboration and move towards a regional structure (September 2014).

2.03 From 23rd September 2014 the North Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (NWSCB) will be formally constituted, and with a strong commitment towards a local presence, the LSCB will formally cease and are to be re-convened as safeguarding delivery groups (based on sub-regional locations i.e. Flintshire / Wrexham).

2.04 An evaluation commissioned by Welsh Government (ADSS) (2014) concluded that the benefits of this re-structure / re-alignment would result in:

- Reduced duplication
- Greater practice consistency
- More effective collaboration
- Standardised safeguarding systems

2.05 Within the North Wales context this revised structure will also address the following concerns noted during the development of the new model. These were:

- That Local needs, culture and language are supported via the Local Safeguarding Delivery Boards.
- Statutory Directors of Social Services can continue to report to Elected members in their respected local areas.
- Local and Regional structures will allow different representatives at different levels, reducing the pressures on senior management.
- The Regional Board will be able to make decisions and promote more effective and timely process.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 With the requirements of the Social Services and Well-Being Act (2014) the revised overview and direction of regional and localised safeguarding responsibilities and accountabilities are enshrined in the new proposed model.
- 3.02 That extensive national and regional research has concluded that the proposed new model enhances the Local Authority and allied partners in ensuring that children's safeguarding remains a central core of our commitment to protect and ensure children are kept safe.
- 3.03 That this Local Authority fulfils its obligations and requirements by committing to this collaborative and partnership building approach.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members agree the proposed structure for the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board to be known as the North Wales Safeguarding Children's Board.
- 4.02 Members agree that the temporary host authority (Conwy) be confirmed until a permanent arrangement is confirmed for April 2015.
- 4.03 The minutes of the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board to be shared with the Leader and the Cabinet Member Social Services and regular, initially twice yearly, update reports on the work of the Board to be provided to Cabinet and the Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Chief Officer, Social Services.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 As statutory partnership funding is required by its representative partners. A set of proposals made by an LSCB sponsored Finance task group proposed in 2012.
- All statutory agencies' contributions be made to a regional fund.
 - These would be based on a proportionate formula basis.
 - Regional business support structure cost.
 - Costs towards training and other expenses to be identified.

5.02 These matters have yet to be fully determined and will require full commitment from all agencies by 01.04.2015. The Council's financial contribution to the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board will not increase as a result of these proposed changes.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None noted.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None noted.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Any changes to services resulting from the NWSCB, consideration for an Equalities Impact Assessment will be made

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 These have involved:

- Welsh Government
- Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru (ADSSC)
- Welsh Local Government Association.
- CSSIW

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

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

None.

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