

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2014**

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

SUBJECT: **NORTH WALES ADULTS SAFEGUARDING BOARD**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 This report requests that Committee considers and comments on the proposal that the statutory requirement to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board be discharged on behalf of the authority by the North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Section 134 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 requires that Safeguarding Children Boards (SCBs) and Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) be set up. This will put the safeguarding of adults on to a statutory footing similar to that for safeguarding children.

2.02 Regulations will follow the act, and will set out those areas in Wales for which there are to be Safeguarding Boards ("Safeguarding Board areas"). Welsh Government has consistently said that safeguarding board areas will follow the public service footprint set by the Health Boards and Police Authorities: the six Counties that constitute North Wales.

2.03 Work has been underway to develop regional arrangements for both Children's and Adult's Boards in advance of the legislation, and a report on the proposed structure for Safeguarding Adults Boards was circulated to the relevant partner agencies in 2013. This report proposed a two-tier arrangement similar to that in operation for the children's boards at the time.

2.04 Safeguarding Children Boards have been statutory since 2006, and joint sub-regional boards have been in place for some time. This has meant that the children's boards were able to move towards regionalisation more quickly than the adult's boards; however, this now means that the adult's boards can learn from the experiences of the children's boards.

2.05 In recognition of the size and diversity of the North Wales area, the children's boards developed a model which kept the statutory functions of the existing sub-regional Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) at the sub-regional level. In addition, a regional board was established whose function was to reduce duplication, share best practice, and provide strategic direction; this latter included directing four regional sub groups to carry out some of the functions of the

boards. This was called the 'two tier' model. This model differed from that adopted across much of Wales where fully regional arrangements were put in place. The two-tier model and the fully regional model have both been evaluated by Sheffield University and a detailed report is available on request.

- 2.06 Whilst there have been successes with the two tier model, there have also been significant drawbacks. Section 3 of the attached report provides further information.
- 2.07 In response to the lessons learned from the operation of the two-tier system the children's boards are now proposing to move away from this model towards a stronger regional board. In this revised model, the statutory functions will rest with the regional board, and the sub regional delivery groups will ensure that local practice meets local need. A report proposing this has been taken to the relevant partner agencies, and it is now proposed to adopt this revised model for the adult's board.
- 2.08 If these proposals are accepted, existing multi-agency Adult Protection Committees in place in Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham, and the joint Gwynedd & Anglesey Adult Safeguarding Board will be superseded by the North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board. In their place, alongside the North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board will be sub regional joint Safeguarding Adults Delivery Groups in Flintshire & Wrexham, Conwy & Denbighshire, and Gwynedd & Anglesey.
- 2.09 The implementation plan for the establishment of the Adult Safeguarding Board is given at Appendix 2. In addition to establishing the Board and associated sub groups, the implementation plan includes the identification of funding to support the statutory board, agreement on a host authority for the funds, staff and website.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Safeguarding Adults Boards are statutory boards that contribute to the delivery of the council's responsibilities for vulnerable adults.
- 3.02 To reduce duplication and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguarding boards across North Wales. Proposals will also meet the Welsh Government's requirements to establish safeguarding boards.
- 3.03 Regionalisation may result in increased travel for some Safeguarding Board Members, but full use will be made of electronic communications where possible. The net reduction in the number of meetings across North Wales should result in less car travel and a lower carbon footprint.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members consider the statutory requirement to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board be discharged of behalf of the authority by the North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board.

4.02 That Members consider and comment on the structure for the regional Adult Safeguarding Adults Board, to be known as the North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board (NWSAB) as shown in Section 4.2 of the attached report at Appendix 1. The NWSAB will be supported by regional function-based groups and sub-regional Delivery Groups.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The Adult Safeguarding Board is a statutory board and will need to be funded by contributions from its partners. The issue of funding will be considered ahead of 2015/16, including the option to use the common support provided for the Regional Safeguarding Children Board.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Human Rights Legislation

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 As detailed above

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 The Regional Leadership Board considered and agreed a report outlining the changes to the Children's Board arrangements, which noted that the Adults Board would be developed along the same model. All the relevant partners have also since received this report. The Joint Gwynedd and Anglesey Safeguarding Adult's Board, and the local Adult Protection Committees across the remaining four Local Authority Areas have been consulted on the suggestions for change. Their comments have contributed to the final proposals.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Background to the NWSAB and Implementation Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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