

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 14 NOVEMBER 2014

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, WELLBEING & CARE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 This report summarises current local arrangements for the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the requirements and expectations set out in the Care Act for SABs

1.2 T&W's Cabinet on the 16 October have approved in principle the establishment of a T&W Safeguarding Adults Board.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Scrutiny Management Board receive this report for information

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>Neighbourhoods are safe and clean; Vulnerable adults and children; Health and Wellbeing</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	<i>All adults who may be vulnerable as a result of safeguarding issues</i>
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	1 April 2015	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Further work will be required to identify the full cost of a SAB and how this could be resourced . As some of our partner agencies already support

		<p>resourcing of other SABs, it would be appropriate to negotiate resourcing of the operation of the Safeguarding Board between agencies consistent with the lead role of the local authority; this could include Police, CCG and Health Trusts</p> <p>There is a illustrative figure of £16k identified for the implementation of a SAB within the Care Act monies in 2015/16 which fall within the Better Care Fund. Any funding beyond 2015/16 is not known.</p> <p>TAS 19.9.14</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Death of a vulnerable Adult is a significant risk to the Council's reputation, however robust Safeguarding Procedures, overseen by a Safeguarding Board, will significantly mitigate against these risks
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	<i>Borough-wide impact</i>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1 Background

4.2 Since 2001 Telford & Wrekin Council has had a joint Safeguarding Adults Board in one form or another originating from the Vulnerable Adult Protection Committee in 2001 in response to government guidance "No Secrets". This board has always been a joint board with Shropshire Council and chairing and administrative support has always been shared across the two authorities. Partner agencies such as Police, respective CCGs, Community Health and Hospital Trusts, etc have attended the Board. The Board has had a single, joint strategy and plan and has produced an Annual Report.

4.2 Legal Context

4.3 From April 2015 the Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in their area, giving these Boards a clear basis in law for the first time.

4.4 The Act says that the SAB must:

- include the local authority, the NHS and the police, who should meet regularly to discuss and act upon local safeguarding issues;
- develop shared plans for safeguarding, working with local people to decide how best to protect adults in vulnerable situations;
- publish this safeguarding plan and report to the public annually on its progress, so that different organisations can make sure they are working together in the best way.

4.5 The Act also requires local authorities to:

- **Make enquires**, or ask others to make enquiries, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect in their area and to find out what, if any, action may be needed. This applies whether or not the authority is actually providing any care and support services to that adult.
- **Safeguarding Adult Reviews**. When there is any failure in safeguarding, the results can be severe and tragic and therefore demand a strong response.
That is why the Act says that SABs must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review in some circumstances – for instance, if an adult with care and support needs dies as a result of abuse or neglect and there is concern about how one of the members of the SAB acted.
The Reviews are about learning lessons for the future. They will make sure SABs get the full picture of what went wrong, so that all organisations involved can improve as a result.
- **Independent advocacy** The local authority will arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a Safeguarding enquiry or a Safeguarding Adult Review, if they need help to understand and take part in the enquiry or review and to express their views, wishes,

4.6 Current situation

4.7 Members of the existing joint Board met in June 2014 to consider and review its function and purpose as a Board and what direction of change it needed in order to be fit for purpose in 2015. From this meeting/workshop and current information collated from annual report and key board members it can be noted:

- The current Board is currently chaired by Shropshire's Director of Adult Social Services (rotates on annual basis).
- There is no up to date Strategy and action plan

- There is no current joint resourcing of Board activity from partner members.
- Work in past two years has been driven and completed by adult safeguarding leads predominantly in Telford & Wrekin. This includes T&W's SDM for Safeguarding being co-author of West Midlands Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures, and co-ordinating and writing the local pan-Shropshire Annual Report and sub groups being chaired by T&W Council members
- Local guidance to support the Policy & Procedures has an individual local authority focus with T&W and Shropshire Councils practising differently to reflect the needs of its population and organisational style. This includes different points for referral, different recording systems and different approach to Large Scale Investigations
- Partner agencies have appointed individuals who have clear responsibility for adult safeguarding within their job activity
- Partner agencies preferred attending one board only as it is perceived as "less work", though there was an acknowledgement that it was important that the Board needed to be fit for purpose for each Council respectively
- Two out of three current subgroups (performance and communication and service user engagement) are chaired and coordinated by Telford & Wrekin.
- The pace of change or indeed different areas of priority often mean that the work of the Board and subgroups may not be in synchronisation with Telford & Wrekin's priorities.
- A Serious Case Review was completed in 13/14 at the request of Telford & Wrekin. The current process means the review was led by Shropshire Council. A review of the output of the review raises questions about the effectiveness of these arrangements and ownership of the recommendations, which should be addressed by having a T&W SAB

4.7 Proposed new Safeguarding Adults Board

4.8 The introduction of a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards in April 2015 gives real opportunity for Telford & Wrekin to develop a Board that is better fit for purpose, with a strategic plan that is relevant for its community.

4.9 It is proposed that in 2015 a new safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) be set up for Telford & Wrekin Council.

4.10 The benefits of this are more likely to meet the needs of our local population by the SAB:

- directly linking strategy and planning to Council priorities
- being able to make direct links to our local Community Safety Partnership
- being able to explore options of joint working with our local Children's Safeguarding Board
- addressing and responding to local need and local services. For example focusing on incidents of financial abuse in areas of deprivation, large scale investigations of care providers, etc
- subgroups can focus on areas of practice relevant to the work being undertaken by our own safeguarding and other lead personnel. For example development of local practice guidance, development of local advocacy services, learning & development
- members from partner agencies will focus on safeguarding needs in the local area
- undertaking joint working with the regional adult safeguarding group when needed. As well as Shropshire this may well mean undertaking joint working with authorities with similar needs and demographics. This enables a smarter safeguarding approach of pooling resources, knowledge and skills.
- can use local experiences of adults and their carers and families to drive improvements to local safeguarding arrangement
- developing local robust arrangements to ensure good, dignified care and safeguarding standards in commissioned and regulated services
- developing a local SAB with independent leadership that can be effective in leading and holding individual agencies to account and ensuring effective multi-agency working. This can include the development of an effective Safeguarding Adults Review process.

4.11 Membership and Board structures

4.12 The membership and Board structure including sub groups needs to ensure that there are strategic arrangements in place to directly influence and improve frontline practice and ensure safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect the most vulnerable in Telford & Wrekin. In line with national best practice a Memorandum of Understanding will need to be developed and signed by partner agencies to agree purpose, roles, responsibilities, resources and structures.

4.13 Key membership proposals are:

An Independent Chair - the Independent Chair can impartially support and challenge all agencies involved in the Board (including the Council and its Director of Adult Social Services and Lead Member). The Chair and Board would then be accountable and subject to the Council's arrangements for proper scrutiny of their performance.

Director of Adult Social Services - The Director can ensure that there is a clear organisational focus on safeguarding adults and there are procedures in place to respond to safeguarding adults enquiries.

Elected Member - Lead Member has a focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults and promoting a high standard of services for adults with support needs across all agencies

Other membership of the Board - to include all statutory agencies who provide health and social care services to adults or who have significant roles within the Safeguarding Adults process, including private and voluntary sector agencies/organisations with responsibilities for representing adults at risk or providing services to vulnerable adults.

4.14 It would be expected that Board members would:

- share responsibility for ensuring Board effectiveness,
- lead and remain accountable for safeguarding activity within their agency and/or providing feedback from/to constituent agencies,
- possess sufficient seniority and authority to speak on behalf of their agencies, sustain strategic direction, and are able to commit resources or directly feed into agency decision making that can commit resources as appropriate

4.15 In addition to full Board membership, the SAB could have associate members who provide support to the Board either generally or on specific areas of practice. Associate members would not be voting or resourcing members of the SAB.

4.15 Resources

4.16 T&W Council has provisionally been allocated £16k towards "Implementing Safeguarding Adults Boards" as part of the total provisional funding allocation for Care Act implementation and related additional responsibilities in 2015/16 of £1.479m

4.17 Some of our partner agencies already support resourcing of other SABS. Therefore it would be appropriate to negotiate resourcing of the operation of the Safeguarding Board between agencies such as the Police and our Health partners, consistent with the lead role of the local authority.

4.18 Clearly subject to SMT and Member approval to move forward, more detailed proposals for a T&W SAB would need to be developed to demonstrate viability within available resources.

- **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

6.1 None

- **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Safeguarding chapter of Draft Care Act Guidance, published June 2014 - https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/media.dh.gov.uk/network/497/files/2014/05/14_Guidance_safeguarding.pdf

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