

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

12 September 2013

Subject: Funding for Serious Case Reviews

Executive Summary

This report proposes a partnership approach to the funding of Serious Case Reviews in Adults Services.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board adopts the approach to funding set out in paragraph 6.

Reason for Proposal

A wide range of agencies are required to participate in Serious Case Reviews, including Wiltshire Council. However, currently Wiltshire Council shoulders the whole cost for Adult Serious Case Reviews. This paper sets out a full-partnership approach to these reviews in future, including financial contributions from each of the participating bodies.

**James Cawley
Service Director**

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

12 September 2013

Subject: Funding for Serious Case Reviews

Purpose of Report

1. To agree a partnership approach to funding Serious Case Reviews.

Background

2. Serious Case Reviews are part of the approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children and are the responsibilities of the Wiltshire Local Safeguarding Adults Board (WLSAB) and Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Boards (WSCB) respectively. Their purpose is to ensure that where serious incidents occur, lessons are learnt and incorporated into the safeguarding arrangements of the various organisations.
3. The functions of the WSCB are funded through contributions by all partners. The Board has a standing sub-group dedicated to Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and convening SCR Panels when necessary. The membership of the sub-group is set out in Appendix 1. If the money set aside for Child SCRs is exhausted, further contributions are sought from partners on the same basis.
4. The membership of the WLSAB is included at Appendix 2, together with the process for convening an SCR Panel when required. Key partners in any SCR are Wiltshire Council, the Police and the CCG together with other partners where necessary.
5. The WSCB for 13/14 have allocated £21,000 for Serious Case Reviews.

Main Considerations for Partners

6. Local Safeguarding Adult Boards in other parts of the country have committed to fund SCRs either as: funded on equal basis between involved partners; negotiated on an ad-hoc basis for each SCR; or funded in line with the formula used for determining contributions to the LASB itself.
7. It is proposed that in Wiltshire, involved partners contribute on an equal basis. In most cases this is likely to lead to contributions of around £15k from each commissioning partner for each Safeguarding board on an annual basis.
8. The LSCB partners will need to consider how existing funding for SCRs will be managed as a consequence of this reports' recommendations.

Public Health Implications

9. None

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

10. None

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

11. The purpose of the proposed approach is to ensure all partners are fully committed to protecting the most vulnerable people in the county.

Risk Assessment

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

- 12.1. Partners may not feel full ownership of Serious Case Reviews and implementation of their outcomes
- 12.2. Resource may be constrained within Wiltshire Council for work which all partners and members of the public benefit from

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

- | | Risk | Action to mitigate the risk |
|-------|--|--|
| 12.3. | Funding Partners may be reluctant to undertake SCRs for borderline cases | Ensure all partners are aware of legal duties and opportunity to learn from the findings of SCRs |

Legal Implications

13. The Care Bill currently in Parliament seeks to reinforce existing laws and is likely to legislate that “Each member of the Safeguarding Adults Board must co-operate in and *contribute* to the carrying out of a review with a view to (a) identifying the lessons to be learnt from the adult’s case, and (b) applying those lessons to future cases” (s44 (5), emphasis added).

Options Considered

14. Other options to funding on an equal basis between the involved partners were considered. These include negotiating contributions on an ad-hoc basis for each SCR, which was discounted due to the possible delays this may lead to; or funding SCRs through a formula used for determining contributions to the LASB itself, which was discounted given the unpredictable nature of the numbers of SCRs and the fact Adult SCRs are not likely to involve all Board contributors each time.

Conclusions

15. Funding Adult SCRs through equal contributions from the involved partners appears to be the fairest and most efficient option.

James Cawley
Service Director

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30 August 2013

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review sub-group.

Appendix 2: Wiltshire Local Safeguarding Adults Board and process for convening Serious Case Review.

**Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board
Serious Case Review sub-group**

Purpose:

- To ensure cases where children or young people are involved in serious incidents are reviewed and any lessons learned are incorporated into organisations safeguarding arrangements to improve the safety and wellbeing of children.
- To undertake reviews of individual cases where the panel believe there are valuable lessons for multi-agency safeguarding practice.
- On behalf of the WSCB lead on any actions and/or learning arising from completed reviews; and to ensure that all contributing agency action plans are implemented and monitored effectively.
- To recommend to the WSCB Board any practice, policy or procedural changes.
- To convene a SCR Panel following the decision to undertake a serious case review.

Membership

Karen Littlewood (Chair)

Role and Organisation

Associate Director Quality
(Safeguarding Children & Adults)
NHS Wiltshire Cluster Clinical
Commissioning Group

Fiona Finlay

Designated Doctor, NHS Wiltshire
(From March 2013 NHS Wiltshire CCG)

Terence Herbert

Head of Service, Community
Safeguarding, Children's Services,
Wiltshire Council

Nicola Bennett

Head of Safeguarding Quality
Assurance, Wiltshire Council

Stephanie Denovan

Schools and Learning

Mike Selby

Wiltshire Police

WILTSHIRE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

- Independent Chair
- Wiltshire Council Service Director Adult Care Commissioning
- Councillor holding portfolio for Adult Social Care & Housing
- Head of Commissioning for Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Safeguarding
- Residential and Nursing Care Provider Representative
- Wiltshire Police
- Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Mental Health NHS Trust
- Clinical Commissioning Group Wiltshire
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal United Hospital, Bath
- Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Wiltshire Probation Trust
- Domiciliary Care Providers Representative
- Community Safety Partnership

Serious Case Review

Serious cases of abuse need to be reported to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board and a " Serious Case Review Panel" may need to be convened if the case meets the following criteria:

- The adult at risk dies (including death by suicide) *and* abuse or neglect by another is known or suspected to be a factor in the death;
- When the Coroner has expressed concerns around the death of an adult at risk;
- Where it is suspected that a serious act of omission by an agency contributed to abuse or suspected abuse or neglect;
- Where an adult at risk has sustained a potentially life-threatening injury or sustained serious and permanent impairment of health;
- Where sexual abuse has occurred resulting in a potentially life-threatening injury; and
- Where during a case there has been a serious breach of the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy.

Initiation of review

- The LSAB, via the Chair, will appoint an Independent Chair for the Serious Case Review.
- Consideration will also be given to appointing an independent author of the Serious Case Review.
- The LSAB Chair will be responsible for requesting relevant agencies identify panel members, who must be very senior managers of the respective organisation.
- The LSAB Chair will be responsible for drafting the terms of reference for the Serious Case Review and for drafting timescales for the process, to be completed within a six month period.
- The LSAB Chair and SCR Chair will formally write to panel agencies setting out the process, reports required and draft terms of reference.

Agencies will also be informed of the timescale for completion of the SCR chronology and the IMR reports which will normally be one month and six weeks respectively of notification.

- Consideration will be given to informing the victim(s) and those alleged to have caused harm and their families about the Serious Case Review.
- The Care Quality Commission, and any other bodies required to be, will be informed of a Serious Case Review taking place by the LSAB Chair.