

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 March 2014

**Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Annual Report 2012-2013 -
A review of the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of
children in Wiltshire**

Executive Summary

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 states that Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a statutory duty to:

- Co-ordinate, monitor and support what is done by each person or body represented on the LSCB for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

In April 2012, Ofsted reported their findings of the inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services in Wiltshire. The inspectors found significant weaknesses in relation to leadership and management of Wiltshire's Local Safeguarding Children Board*, in particular noting that the Board had failed to identify key areas of risk and failure to comply with statutory guidance.

Following the Ofsted ruling a Governance Report was commissioned which reviewed the role and responsibilities of the WSCB and made recommendations for improvement. The WSCB took account of these recommendations and are reflected in developments and improvements that have been, and will continue to be made, in the functioning and work of the Board and its sub-groups.

This WSCB Annual Report provides detail on core activities undertaken by the Board in achieving its objectives from April 2012 until March 2013, namely:

- Overseeing and driving practice improvements and service development as defined and required within the Ofsted Improvement Notice.
- Safeguarding inspections and audits – including findings, identified actions and recommendations.
- Key learning from Peer Reviews, Child Death and Serious Case Reviews and their dissemination.
- Assessment of changes in safeguarding practice.
- Assessment and development of the WSCB safeguarding training offer.

A financial assessment is included detailing multi-agency contributions which allowed the WSCB to carry out its duties.

The accompanying WSCB Business Plan is comprised of those actions required following reflection on the achievements, issues and outcomes as identified within the Annual Report.

* In February 2013 the Wiltshire LSCB changed its name to Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board to promote local ownership. In this report the acronyms LSCB and WSCB are interchangeable.

Proposal(s)

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to review the WSCB Annual Report and communicate any observations, concerns, queries or other comments to Clifford Turner, Independent Chair of the WSCB.
2. The Health & Wellbeing Board is invited to review the existing WSCB Business Plan and communicate any observations, concerns, queries or other comments for consideration in the revised 2014/15 Plan to Clifford Turner, Independent Chair of the WSCB.

Reason for Proposal

To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an opportunity to review and assess the operations of the WSCB.

Clifford Turner
Independent Chair of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board

Documents:

Wiltshire Safeguarding Childrens Board (WSCB) Annual Report 2012/13
and
Wiltshire Safeguarding Childrens Board (WSCB) Business Plan 2013/14

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1163&MId=7702&Ver=4>