

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

20th November 2013

Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013-14

Executive summary

The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) for comment and acceptance by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Annual Report reviews the work of the Board during 2013-14 and sets out the priorities for the current year; it includes contributions from all partner agencies. The WSAB is accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, which is why the report is being presented.

Proposal



That the committee:

- a) Comments on the Annual Report.
- b) Accepts it as the partnership to which the Safeguarding Adults Board is accountable.

Reason for proposal

The Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board brings together key agencies from across the county at senior level to ensure that their shared responsibilities for safeguarding adults who are defined as “at risk” are effectively fulfilled. It has been agreed that it should be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board as the senior partnership body that has responsibility for the issues with which the Safeguarding Board deals. It is therefore appropriate to present the Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013-14

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) for 2013-14 for comment and acceptance by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Background

2. The purpose of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) is to ensure that all agencies work together to minimise the risk of abuse to adults at risk of harm and to protect and empower vulnerable adults effectively when abuse has occurred or may have occurred. The WSAB aims to fulfil its purpose by:
 - Maintaining and developing inter-agency frameworks for safeguarding adults in Wiltshire, including determining policy, facilitating joint training and raising public awareness.
 - Co-ordinating the safeguarding adults work undertaken by those organisations represented on the WSAB and monitoring and reviewing the quality of services relating to safeguarding adults in Wiltshire.
3. Part of its responsibilities is to produce an Annual Report which reviews the past year's work and sets out priorities for the coming year. The report for 2013-14 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. The Annual Report was also presented to the Wiltshire Council Health Select Committee on 23rd September for their consideration and comment. Following that discussion a further priority action was added to the report in relation to examining more fully the reasons for the increased number of alerts being received.

Main considerations for the committee

5. There are several points to bring particularly to the Board's attention.
6. Changes in public service structures and reductions in funding continue to have a significant impact on the membership and work of the Board. In the current year Healthwatch has joined the Board, there is a change of representation from the Probation service in the light of their new structure, and a further change of police representation as new appointments are made there. Increased workloads for partner representatives affect the degree to which they are able to contribute to the activities of a partnership body such as the WSAB.
7. The Care Act 2014 has now passed and so the adults safeguarding work will be on a statutory footing with effect from April 2015. Extensive statutory guidance has now been issued to support the implementation of the Act and the WSAB will be working on ensuring that its arrangements reflect those requirements.
8. Progress has been made during the year, responding both to national change and to local needs, summarised in the Foreword and set out in more detail in the body of the report. The successful establishment of a Service User Reference Group is one of the highlights of this year's work.

9. A Serious Case Review has been carried out this year, independently chaired, and a summary of its conclusions can be found in Section 4 of the report. An Action Plan in response to the review is just being finalised and will be incorporated into the Business Plan.
10. The remainder of the report includes:
 - The overall developments and achievements of the Board described in section 3 and those of the partner agencies in section 6.
 - The continued increase in the volume of safeguarding work identified in section 5 and the associated data in Appendix 3.
 - The priorities for the current year and beyond, that are set out in section 8.
 - The full Business Plan at Appendix 5.

Environmental impact of the proposal

11. There are no environmental impacts from this report.

Equality and diversity impact of the proposal

12. The work of the WSAB has a significant role to play in promoting equality. It contributes to ensuring that all Wiltshire residents, whatever their circumstances or needs for support, can live free from the fear of harm or abuse, that they are treated with dignity and their choices respected.

Risk assessment

13. There are no specific risks associated to the proposed actions in this report. However, the assessment and management of risk generally is central to effective safeguarding work, both with individuals who are at risk and in the management of safeguarding in individual organisations and by the WSAB. The Board has established a risk register to ensure that it tracks any risks to the overall safeguarding arrangements that may arise. This has been particularly important during the intense period of change that has affected partner organisations.

Financial implications

14. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The WSAB has not yet established a specific identified budget, but work continues to agree how funding of the board's main activities can be appropriately shared among key partners. The Health and Wellbeing Board received a report at its September 2013 meeting on this topic and agreed at that time that the funding for Serious Case Reviews should be split between the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Wiltshire Council. It also decided to receive a report at a future meeting about the overall funding both for the children's and adults safeguarding boards, and this report is now being prepared.

Legal implications

15. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Background papers

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013-14