

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

21 November 2013

Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2012-13

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 2012-13 and sets out the priorities for the current year; it includes contributions from all partner agencies. The WSAB is now accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, which is why the report is being presented.

Proposal

That the Board:

- 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.

Margaret Sheather
Independent Chair
Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board

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Purpose of report

1. The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) for 2012-13 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 2012-13 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. The Annual Report was also presented to the Wiltshire Council Health Select Committee on 10th September for their consideration and comment. A number of their comments are reflected in this final version of the report.

Main considerations for the committee

5. The board may particularly wish to note the following points.
 - The Board's progress across the range of its responsibilities, as set out in the Chair's Foreword, and that this has taken place in a context of continued change and financial pressure in all public services.
 - The initiation of greater involvement of service users in the work of the Board itself and across the wider safeguarding system.
 - The developments and achievements of the Board described in section 3 and those of the partner agencies in section 5.
 - The significant increase in safeguarding work identified in section 4 and the associated data.

- The priorities for the current year and beyond, that are set out in section 7.
- That the Care Bill, which will put Safeguarding Adults Board on a statutory footing, is currently progressing through parliament. Its passing into law will require a review of the Board's work to comply with any new regulations and guidance issued.

Environmental impact of the proposal

6. There are no environmental impacts from this report.

Equality and diversity impact of the proposal

7. 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

8. 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

9. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The WSAB has not previously had a specific identified budget, but work has begun to establish 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 meeting about the issue of funding for Serious Case Reviews. It agreed that these 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.

Legal implications

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

Margaret Sheather
Independent Chair
Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Appendices

Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2012-13.

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1163&MId=7683&Ver=4>