

Wiltshire Council

Health Select Committee

23rd September 2014

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 consideration and comment by the Select Committee. 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 attached report is in its final draft version, prior to sign off by the WSAB at its meeting on 22nd September. It will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting in November.

Proposal



That the committee:

- a) Notes and comments on the Annual Report.
- b) Identifies any specific issues it wishes to be brought to the attention of the Health and Wellbeing Board when it receives the report.

Reason for proposal

The Council has a lead responsibility in relation to safeguarding adults who are defined as “vulnerable” or “at risk”, which it discharges in partnership with other agencies. The Safeguarding Board brings together those agencies at senior level to ensure that the overall system is working in the interests of Wiltshire residents. It is therefore appropriate that the Select Committee has the opportunity to scrutinise the Board’s work and make its views known.

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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 consideration and comment by the Committee.

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 final draft version of the report for 2013-14 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Main considerations for the committee

4. The committee may particularly wish to note the following points.
 - The continuing impact of changes in public service structures and reductions in funding on the membership and work of the Board. This continues into the current year, with Healthwatch joining, and a change of representation from the Probation service in the light of their new structure.
 - The passing of the Care Act and the establishment of safeguarding adults work on a statutory footing.
 - The progress made during the year, responding both to national change and to local needs, summarised in the Foreword. The establishment of a Service User Reference Group is one of the highlights of this year's work
 - The overall developments and achievements of the Board described in section 3 and those of the partner agencies in section 6.
 - The Serious Case Review outlined in Section 4
 - The continued increase in the volume of safeguarding work identified in section 5 and the associated data in the Appendix
 - 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

5. There are no environmental impacts from this report.

Equality and diversity impact of the proposal

6. 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

7. 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 continues to use its risk register to ensure that it tracks the risks to the overall safeguarding arrangements that may arise from the local and national developments.

Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The WSAB does not currently have an identified budget, and discussions have started about how to establish this on a partnership basis.

Legal implications

9. 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.