



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23RD OCTOBER 2012

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the achievements of Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board and future changes to the structure of Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales, specifically the changes taking place in South East Wales.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members will recall that Children Act 2004 established Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) that have been in place in Wales since 2006. Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board held its inaugural meeting in March 2007.
- 2.2 The Board has made a number of significant achievements during this time and these are now brought to the attention of members.
- 2.3 Recent proposals from the Welsh Government and an increase in the collaborative work between the Boards in South East Wales, has led to a discussion about merging LSCB's across the region. This was agreed in February 2012.
- 2.4 It was also agreed that a Regional Business unit be established to support the new Regional SCB and that a Project Board be established to oversee the transition.
- 2.5 Caerphilly has contributed to the transitional work and it has recently been agreed that we will host the SCB Business Unit. Chairing arrangements are currently being formalised.
- 2.6 The proposed changes will impact on the Local Authority will retain its statutory duties to establish and maintain an LSCB and safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their area, but these will be discharged in the future via the South East Wales Board.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Children Act 2004
- 3.2 Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004 (2006)
- 3.3 Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2012-2013
- 3.4 Children's Services Improvement Plan 2012-2013

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The statutory role of the Board is to co-ordinate multi agency safeguarding children work and ensure that it is effective. It has a number of functions: Training, development of protocols and procedures, audit, serious case reviews, awareness raising with children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and volunteers and the public; reviewing the performance of agencies in relation to safeguarding children. These functions are undertaken by multi agency sub groups of the Board.
- 4.2 Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) has always had high level representation and sign up from member agencies. Between June 2011 and June 2012 the former lead member for Social Services was a member of the Board. The new lead member has now become a member.
- 4.3 This is to ensure that they are fully aware of the work of the Board and strengthen accountability.
- 4.4 Since it began, the Board always been chaired by the Corporate Director, Social Services and this has served to enhance the profile of the Board and ensured that it is directly linked to the Local Authority's accountability structures, leadership and management and has been fully supported by the Chief Executive. The Board Co-ordinator is line managed by Children's Services.
- 4.5 The Board has made significant achievements since 2007 and some are listed below:
- Held 5 annual consultation events with children and young people which has led to the development of advice and guidance leaflets for parents, informed the personal and social education curriculum and enhanced organisational understanding of how to listen well to children and young people
 - Developed a range of advice leaflets for parents and carers, children and young people, professionals and members of the public e.g. the safeguarding card for professionals and one for children and young people which has all the contact numbers they would need if they were concerned about abuse or neglect; the safety with dogs leaflet
 - Developed a model of working with complex cases that has been cited by Welsh Government and others as a model of good practice
 - Developed a website that provides online access to all safeguarding children procedures and protocols, advice for parents and carers, advice for children and young people and advice for professionals
 - Developed neglect guidance and a toolkit to help practitioners improve their work with families where neglect is a concern
 - Trained over two thousand professionals and volunteers on a variety of safeguarding issues
 - Held over 40 events for practitioners to come together and discuss safeguarding issues they are working with. In 2011-2012 385 professionals and volunteers attended these events.
 - Developed Safe Recruitment Guidance
 - Developed safeguarding children guidance for voluntary, community and faith organisations and supported a number of groups to develop their own child protection policies and procedures.
 - Contributed to the development of a number of national protocols and practice guidance
 - Contributed to the development of resources for schools and youth services to raise awareness of sexual exploitation with young people
 - Provided awareness raising sessions for groups of parents and carers
 - Implemented a comprehensive programme of audit and review that has led to the development of guidance for professionals attending child protection meetings, improved systems for ensuring the attendance of key agencies at multi agency meetings, principles of supervision, briefings on messages for practice on a variety of issues such as sexual exploitation and other resources
 - Developed and implemented specialist training for professionals and volunteers on

working with chronic neglect

- Chaired the Regional Interagency Safeguarding Children Forum for the past year and led on the transition to a Regional Safeguarding Children Board

4.6 Joint Inspection

4.7 Members will be aware that a joint inspection of the Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board was undertaken by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate, HMI Probation, HMI Police and Estyn, in March 2011.

4.8 The report of the inspection was received in September 2011 and an action plan was drawn up in response to the identified areas for improvement.

4.9 A report was subsequently presented to Scrutiny in February 2012 detailing what progress had been made.

4.10 This report is now being presented to scrutiny as all actions have been completed. A copy of the inspection action plan is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

4.11 The Future

4.12 The proposal that the LSCB's in the region merge has now been approved by the five LSCB's and a Transition Project Board has been formed. The Regional Safeguarding Children Board will be in place by April 2013 and a timeline for this transition is attached to this paper as Appendix 1.

4.13 A development event will take place for the Caerphilly Board in November with the aim of capturing the Board's good practice and the issues we believe will be important in taking forward a regional Board.

4.14 A joint development session with members of the other LSCB's will take place in early December and this will be used as the basis to develop a strategic plan for the Regional Safeguarding Children Board.

4.15 There will be four standing regional sub groups to undertake the work of the Board and a local sub group (e.g. in each Local Authority area) to monitor and ensure that multi agency safeguarding practice is effective.

4.16 A progress report will be presented to Scrutiny in January 2013.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An equalities assessment has been completed and is available to scrutiny members. As the Board does not deliver a direct service-to-service users we do not anticipate any negative outcomes for this group of implementing these changes.

5.2 There will be some impact on staff members who are currently employed by the LSCB's in the region.

5.3 Further assessment of the equalities implications from these changes will need to be considered throughout the project. Particularly in respect of the Engagement and Communication strategy the Board will need to produce.

5.4 A period of 12 weeks consultation will take place on the Board's business plan between January and March 2013.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Securing multi agency funding for the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board is one of the key actions for the Transition Project Board and discussions regarding this are already underway with Senior Officers in the member agencies.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Dependent on the model chosen for the Business Unit and the timing for its establishment there will be personnel implications for those currently employed as LSCB Co-ordinators/ Managers in the region. This is another key task for the Transition Project Board and discussions are already underway.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 This report is a reflection of the Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board Annual Reviews 2008-2012 and the discussions/agreements that have been taken by the Transition Project Board.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes the report and provides feedback on the content.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is advised of the forthcoming changes to LSCB's in the region and of the key achievements of the Caerphilly LSCB over the past 5 years.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Children Act 2004.

Author: Zarah Newman, LSCB Co-ordinator

Consultees: Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board membership:

CCBC Social Services Directorate

Gwent Police

Aneurin Bevan Health Board

All Wales Probation Trust

Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)

Barnardos Cymru

Public Health Wales

Youth Offending Service

CCBC Education and Leisure Directorate

CCBC Housing

CCBC Legal Services

South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board Transition Project Board membership:

Caerphilly Local Authority

Blaenau Gwent Local Authority

Torfaen Local Authority

Monmouthshire Local Authority

Newport Local Authority

Chairs and Vice Chairs of Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire

and Newport Safeguarding Children Boards
Gwent Police
Aneurin Bevan Health Board
All Wales Probation Trust
Public Health Wales