



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25TH OCTOBER 2016

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD REPORT – CHILDREN’S AND
ADULTS**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is intended to update Scrutiny Committee on developments in relation to the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB) and the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB). Both Boards are statutory multi-agency partnerships which have responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding practice across the five Local Authorities constituting the Gwent region.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report will outline the function of the Boards, the statutory changes required by the Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014 and describe the function of the Regional Safeguarding Business Unit.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Parts 7 and 9 of the Social Services & Well Being Act (Wales) 2014 relate directly to safeguarding and partnership working.
- 3.2 In addition, the work of both Boards is closely allied with the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

4. THE REPORT

Context:

Children’s Boards

- 4.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB’s) were introduced on a statutory footing by Welsh Government in October 2006 through the 2004 Children Act. This legislation responded to the recommendation of the Lord Laming Child Protection Enquiry into the Death of Victoria Climbié. As a result, all agencies were expected to work together to ensure that children were better protected.
- 4.2 The Local Boards were set up with a number of statutory partners including Police, Health, Probation and a range of Local Authority services including Children’s Services, Youth Offending Service, Education and Housing. For a number of years they operated on a local authority boundary basis. In July 2013 the Caerphilly Local Safeguarding Children Board joined with the four other Boards across the South East Wales Region to form the regional

South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB). Welsh Government grant funding was obtained for a three year period to enable the collaboration between the five Local Authority areas to be properly supported. The Children's Safeguarding Business Unit was established utilising this grant funding and worked closely with the Board and sub group chairs to ensure co-ordination of this work and develop and deliver a multi agency training programme for practitioners across South East Wales.

4.3 The Social Services and Well Being Act 2014 specifies the objectives of Safeguarding Children's Boards as being:

- To protect children within its area who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- To prevent children within its area from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

4.4 The SEWSCB is chaired by Duncan Forbes, Chief Executive of Bron Afon Housing Association and the Vice Chair is Liz Baker, Barnardo's Cymru.

Adult's Boards

4.5 The regional Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB) was established in January 2011, merging the existing tri Council Area Adult Protection Committee arrangements in Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire, with those of Caerphilly and Newport. The business support functions for the Adult's Board were not funded and relied on the good will and commitment of partner agencies. However, this Board was not a statutory partnership until the introduction of the 2014 Social Services and Well Being Act, which ensured that GWASB was on an equal statutory footing with the Children's Board.

4.6 The Social Services and Well Being Act 2014 specifies the objectives of Safeguarding Adult's Boards as being:

- To protect adults within its area who;
 - Have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
 - Are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect and,
- To prevent those adults within its area mentioned above from becoming at risk of abuse and neglect.

4.7 The GWASB is chaired by Dave Street, Corporate Director – Social Services, Caerphilly County Borough Council and the Vice Chair is Lin Slater, Assistant Director of Nursing, ABUHB.

Regional Safeguarding Boards Business Unit

4.8 In response to the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014, both the Children's Board and Adult Board worked together on proposals to establish a joint regional Business Unit to support the strategic and operational functions of both Boards.

4.9 Welsh Government grant funding for the Children's Board ended in March 2016, so statutory partners were faced with the challenge of identifying new funding to support both Safeguarding Boards. Potential options were considered at length and the final structure for the Regional Safeguarding Business Unit was agreed. This is attached for information at Appendix 1. Welsh Government issued guidance on the percentage of funding contribution that each partner agency was required to provide in order to support regional arrangements. The funding percentages and actual contributions are also attached for information at Appendix 1.

4.10 As a result of the new legislation, the support for both Boards is now managed by the Regional Business Unit, hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council, with partnership

funding provided by all statutory partners.

Work of the Boards

- 4.11 Both Boards consist of the main strategic Board and a number of sub groups which carry out the work at a number of different levels. These include:
- Training and Development,
 - Communication and Engagement,
 - Protocols and Procedures, Quality Assurance and
 - Priority Themes (taken from Strategic Plans).
- It is prescribed in legislation and guidance that each Board must produce an Annual Plan and an Annual Report detailing work undertaken and achievements which is reported directly into Welsh Government.
- 4.12 As the remit of Boards now covers both Protection and Prevention of Adults and Children there are a number of ways Boards can demonstrate how they are discharging their functions:
- Raising awareness of abuse, neglect and harm, through training and education programme for professionals and citizens
 - Reviewing effectiveness of local safeguarding measures, through the Quality Assurance process and completing thematic audits
 - Undertaking child and adult practice reviews and other audits, reviews and investigations and monitoring their recommendations, through the work of the Case Review Group
 - Reviewing the performance of the Board in carrying out its responsibilities, through self assessment and multi agency audit
 - Disseminating information about best practice and learning, through practitioner forums and Website resources
 - Research into the prevention of harm, through the Business Unit informing the training programmes
 - Reviewing training needs and ensuring provision of training, through the agreed multi-agency training strategy
 - Co-operating with other Boards, through the Chairs and Business Unit working on a national footprint
 - Seeking specialist advice and information, through the National Independent Safeguarding Board
 - Responding to any notification to a Board in relation to its functions, through the performance management frameworks
 - Engaging in other activities relevant to the Board's objectives, through national initiatives, for example in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Development of national and regional protection procedures, through the work of the regional group and the All Wales forums for protection of children and adults.
- 4.13 Following on from the introduction of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014, work is currently underway to ensure that both Boards have a consistent framework in which to operate and a number of sub groups are reviewing their Terms of Reference and membership to ensure consistency and governance across both Boards.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only, therefore the Council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As stated in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.9 above, funding for the Regional Safeguarding Business

Unit needed to be identified from 2016/17 onwards. Welsh Government grant funding had been utilised to support the Children's Board but this ended in March 2016 and the Adult Board had no budget attached having been supported through the goodwill of Board Members.

- 6.2 The Regional Business Unit full year costs are set at £355,055 made up of £288,655 staffing costs and £66,400 non staffing costs. Following the Welsh Government funding formula, the varying contributions from partner agencies are attached for information at Appendix 1.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Human Resources or Personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report reflects the views of the consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the information contained in this report.
- 9.2 It is recommended that in future years the Annual Reports from both GWASB and SEWSCB are provided to Scrutiny Committee for information purposes.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Scrutiny Committee is apprised of the work of the Regional Safeguarding Boards.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The report does not require a decision to be made.

Author: Mel Roach, Regional Safeguarding Business Unit Manager
Consultees: Dave Street, Corporate Director – Social Services
Cllr. Robin Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services
Jo Williams, Assistant Director – Adult Services
Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director – Children's Services
Divisional Management Teams

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Business Unit Staffing Structure and Funding contributions