



Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Priorities and Business Plan

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Introduction

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board has been established since April 2013 and each year since, has developed a business and action plan which outlines the Board's strategic priorities and how they align with its core business which was previously set out in Chapter 4 Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children 2004.

On 6th April 2016 the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 will become law and with it Section 134 – 141 (Part 7) of the SSWA 2014 replaces the requirements for Local Safeguarding Children Boards referenced above with new provisions for Safeguarding Boards. The Safeguarding Board (General) (Wales) Regulations 2015 make provisions for the requirements of Safeguarding Boards including the production of an annual business plan. This is the first Business Plan developed in accordance with the Safeguarding Board (Wales) Regulations 2015.

Governance

The Governance arrangements within the WBSCB are strong and robust with a clear business plan setting out required outcomes. It has a clear and effective management group structure which supports the delivery of its business plan on behalf of the Board. Reports are routinely submitted to the Board to raise risks and issues against the delivery of the plan and for decision and action from the Board. This enables the Board to take ownership of its work at strategic level and provide leadership to the management groups on the delivery of the business plan. The reporting arrangements into each LA's Service Board or equivalent remain inconsistent however each receives progress updates when required. Work on wider governance issues, links with other partnerships and robust reporting mechanisms continue to develop.

Core Business

The Board recognises its functions under Section 139 of the Safeguarding Board Regulations within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 as core business. Core Business/core functions underpin the effectiveness of a Safeguarding Children Board and are therefore written into the Terms of Reference for the Board and its management groups. Membership and structures are regularly reviewed and updated within the Safeguarding Board arrangements and work plans are aligned with this business plan and include core business functions to monitor effectiveness. These plans are regularly reviewed and amended throughout the year.

Core Business is undertaken through its established Management Groups: Child Practice Review, Policy Procedure & Practice, Quality & performance, Strategic Training and Communication and Engagement. It is therefore expected that the management groups continue to review, establish, monitor and report to the Board against individual work plans in place to undertake Core Business whilst also addressing individual actions set out within the Board's strategic priorities in order to achieve the overarching outcomes of the plan.

Strategic Priorities

One of the major challenges for this, or any other Safeguarding Board is to get everyone's attention and thus make a difference. For this reason the WBSCB is run in a very business-like way, with a streamlined, priority-driven programme; and emphasis upon results and outcomes, not process.

The Board is not a Provider Organisation; it is an Enabler. That is to say it is there to make sure that things happen and vice versa. So for example, the Board cannot and should not 'provide' training; but it ensures that where required, agencies do.

The WBSCB must demonstrate that it makes a definite, positive impact upon safeguarding and prioritising the wellbeing of children and young people. The business action plan will be reviewed against its outcomes early in 2017 in order to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 to publish an annual business plan at the end of March and annual report in July each year.

Strategic Priorities

The following Strategic Priorities are set out with overarching outcomes using the 4 Ps methodology. An action plan to achieve the outcomes will align with individual priorities and identify actions for the Board's individual Management Groups and other business arrangements.

NEGLECT

OVERARCHING OUTCOME:	
All children resident or visiting the region are safeguarded from Neglect effectively and at the earliest opportunity	
PREPARE	Operational arrangements and practitioner tools are in place and understood in order to ensure a timely approach and appropriate responses to indicators of neglect.
PREVENT	Families and the general public are made aware through targeted campaigns of the indicators and impact of neglect for children
PROTECT	Children on the Child Protection Register for neglect have robust care and protection plans in place which are timely, effective and keep children safe
PURSUE	The Western Bay region is hostile to all types of neglect and takes a child centred approach to addressing risk factors and incidences of neglect

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The WBSCB has developed mechanisms for responding to CSE and assessing effectiveness of partner agencies in identifying and managing CSE cases by adopting the Bedfordshire CSE assessment tool. The following aligns with Welsh Government's CSE action plan but also takes into account the work already achieved and underway through the Bedfordshire CSE assessment.

OVERARCHING OUTCOME:	
All children and Young People resident or visiting the region who are subject to or at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation are identified and safeguarded effectively, consistently and at the earliest opportunity.	
PREPARE	WBSCB assumes CSE to be present and has specific objectives to support:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The identification of children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE- A range of appropriate responses and resources designed to improve the well-being for children subject to or at risk of CSE:
PREVENT	WBSCB has a prevention programme and responsive services in place to help children and young people a risk of CSE and their families
PROTECT	WBSCB actively protects children and young people from CSE, by ensuring all agencies work together to achieve the continuity and effectiveness of services for those children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE
PURSUE	WBSCB and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support of victims who have suffered CSE

Domestic Abuse

When considering the strategic priority of Domestic abuse the WBSCB should focus on the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015 (VAWDASV Act):

OVERARCHING OUTCOME:	
All Children and young people are safeguarded so that they develop healthy relationships with successful futures.	
PREPARE	<p>The WBSCB ensures the Training Framework for the VAWDASV Act is aligned with the requirements of those who experience GBV, DA & SV.</p> <p>The WBSCB fully understands the extent to which trained staff have met the key competencies set out within the Training Framework and holds to account agencies with identified gaps in training.</p>
PREVENT	<p>The Safeguarding of Children and Young People features throughout Welsh Government's National Strategy designed to implement the VAWDASV Act</p> <p>The Safeguarding of Children and Young People features strongly within LA/LHB strategies for tackling Gender Based Violence (GBV), Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV).</p> <p>Local authorities across Western Bay have made provisions in schools across the region to implement key actions to address GBV, DA and SV within Education functions.</p>
PROTECT	<p>The WBSCB actively protects Children and young people affected by GBV, DA or SV by ensuring all agencies work together to deliver effective services for affected families who are identified, safeguarded effectively and supported consistently and at the earliest opportunity</p>
PURSUE	<p>WBSCB and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support those affected by GBV, DA & SV.</p>

New Psychoactive Substances

When considering new psychoactive substances the WBSCB should focus on the wider aspect of substance misuse and the statutory obligations placed on Area Planning Boards to respond to the management of substance misuse across the region.

OVERARCHING OUTCOME: All Children and young people affected by New Psychoactive substance misuse issues are able to make informed choices in order to prevent and reduce the harm associated with the use of NPS	
PREPARE	The Working Together to Reduce Hidden Harm Delivery Plan has clear objectives to safeguard children and young people from associated NPS harm. The WBSCB is fully informed of the training and awareness raising plans for staff and children and young people relating to substance misuse and in particular NPS.
PREVENT	The WBSCB is informed and can hold to account against plans to reduce the availability of substances including NPS to children and young people. The WBSCB is informed and can hold to account against the effectiveness of e-learning modules developed to ensure prevention and response to substance misuse in particular NPS is more integrated into mainstream health service delivery for children and young people.
PROTECT	The WBSCB actively protects Children and young people affected by the use of substances in particular NPS by ensuring all agencies work together to deliver effective services for affected families who are identified and safeguarded effectively at the earliest opportunity
PURSUE	WBSCB and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they contribute to the disruption and prosecution of vendors of NPS in order to reduce availability, harm and related crime.