

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****25 NOVEMBER 2014****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN****WESTERN BAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to Committee regarding the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan which was published on 31st July 2014. The report also provides information about the governance arrangements that are in place to ensure the effectiveness of the Board's activity

2 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report links to the following corporate improvement priorities:
- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement.
 - Working with children and families to tackle problems early.
 - Working together to make the best use of our resources.
 - Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB) was established in April 2013 preceding the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 at the request of Welsh Government. Section 7 of the Act will require that Safeguarding Boards publish a business plan and report based on Board performance annually. Due to its successful early establishment the WBSCB had structures and processes set up to fulfil the requirements of the Act and was one of the first Boards in Wales to produce and publish the reports as required. (The Annual Report can be found at Appendix A, and the Business Plan at Appendix B).
- 3.2 The Business Plan focusses on how the Board will respond to its strategic priorities and has been developed to enable monitoring of its implementation against desired outcomes. The annual report evidences the performance and structure of the work of the Board and identifies where further focus should lie. The Annual Report also reviewed the strategic priorities for the Board and influenced the Board's direction for the coming year.
- 3.3 Members will be aware that prior to April 2013, Bridgend County Borough Council had its own stand-alone Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). However,

following the direction from Welsh Government to respond to the white paper; “Sustainable Social Services: Framework for Action” and the development of the “Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014”, the decision was taken to collaborate with the two other Local Authorities within the Western Bay region. Welsh Government made it clear that new Regional Safeguarding Children Boards had to be established within the current Welsh Health Board footprints. Hence, the WBSCB was therefore established and became fully operational in April 2013.

- 3.4 The Board works with three Local Authorities, three Youth Offending Services, one Health Board, one Police force (two Basic Command units), the National Probation Service, Welsh Ambulance Service, the Safeguarding Children Service (Public Health Wales) and voluntary sector organisations.
- 3.5 Since its establishment the Board has been chaired by the Local Authority Director for Social Services for Neath/Port Talbot County Borough Council. It has been agreed that chairing arrangements will rotate between Local Authorities’ Social Services Directors on a two year basis.
- 3.6 At present, reporting arrangements into each Local Authority’s Service Board are currently inconsistent; however each receives progress updates when required along with access to the Board’s Annual Report and Business Plan.
- 3.7 Prior to the Board becoming operational, Terms of Reference were developed and agreed for WBSCB to promote the requirement for accountability and to ensure agencies are clear in their definitions of professional challenge and to hold agencies to account. These Terms of Reference are reviewed annually to ensure they remain fit for purpose. (A copy of the current Terms of Reference can be found at Appendix C).
- 3.8 Each Board member is required to sign up to a Member Role Profile to which they are individually accountable in relation to their contribution to the Board and attendance at Board meetings. The Board also has measures within its “Performance and Impact Framework” which assist in reporting activity of Board members against elements within their role profiles. This allows the Board to demonstrate multi agency working at a strategic level.
- 3.9 To ensure that the business of the WBSCB is managed effectively, the Board has established a dedicated Business Management Unit which is financed through the Board’s budget. At present the Business Management Unit comprises of a Strategic Business and Development Manager, a Strategic Business Co-ordinator and two administrators. In addition to servicing the business requirements of the WDSCB, the Business Management Unit also provides support to the Western Bay Safeguarding Adult Board. The Business Management Unit was established alongside both the regional Boards in April 2013 and is carefully monitored by the Strategic Business Manager to ensure its structure and functions remain fit for purpose

4 Current situation/Governance arrangements

- 4.1 In terms of governance arrangements for the WBSCB these have been established in business arrangements and strategic priorities. The Performance and Impact Framework requires the Board to monitor its performance against standards set by

Welsh Government within a self- assessment reporting framework known as the “SAITv6” Tool. This tool sets standards aimed at assisting the Board to ensure that arrangements are in place to support the business and structure of the Board in terms of membership, finance and process.

- 4.2 Membership is checked to be compliant with the requirements within Chapter 4, Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004. This prescribes the statutory membership of the Board and dictates that attendance is monitored and is regularly reported to Welsh Government. Each member is required to sign a role profile. To ensure that each member is clear about their role and responsibility as a Board member all members were encouraged to attend an induction process prior to the establishment of the WBSCB. Since implementation all new members have each received an induction and signed a role profile.
- 4.3 Since the Board’s establishment each statutory agency has been represented at each meeting with only three members sending deputies on one occasion. Individually, most members have achieved their agreed attendance record of two thirds.
- 4.4 Prior to each Board meeting, a structured agenda is prepared and status reports from each of its management groups is provided in written format prior to the meeting. For each of the management groups, activity is monitored via the Business Management Unit using action registers. At present, the Board has the following management Groups;
- Child Practice Management Group
 - Child Practice Review Group
 - Policy Procedure practice Management Group
 - Audit and Evaluation Group
 - Strategic Training Management Group
 - Participation and Engagement Group.
- 4.5 During each Board meeting, the chairperson of each of the above groups present an update report.
- 4.6 Each year, the WBSCB is required to publish an annual report which summarises the work of the Board but also details the strategic priorities for the coming year. To date, only one annual report has been published in July 2014.

5 Effect upon Policy Frameworks and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 This has been considered but as there are no new or changed services policy / functions in this report, it is therefore not applicable at this time.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 This has been considered but as the report is for information purposes, an assessment is not deemed necessary at this stage.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Each year the budget for the WBSCB budget is developed and agreed by all Board Member agencies as the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Board is dependent on effective management and co-ordination. Therefore the primary cost for the Board is staff. Both the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board and Western Bay Safeguarding Adult Board share a Business Management Unit which is funded through the Safeguarding Boards multi agency financial contributions, which are agreed annually. Due to this arrangement and the level of consistency across both safeguarding Boards, a single budget was developed and agreed for this financial year, 2014-15. The contribution that Bridgend County Borough Council makes to the Board is £27,815.32 from the Safeguarding and Family Support core budget.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 Children and & Young People overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the content of this report and associated appendices.

Deborah McMillan
Corporate Director - Children

Date: 22nd October 2014

Contact Officer: Colin Turner
Telephone: (01656) 642611

E-mail: deborah.mcmillan@bridgend.gov.uk

Background papers

Appendix A - WBSCB Annual Report 2014
Appendix B - WBSCB Business Action Plan
Appendix C - WBSCB Terms of Reference