



Health and Wellbeing Board

3 September 2014

Report title	Safeguarding Children's Board Report 2012-13 Report of the Independent Chair
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels Health and Wellbeing
Wards affected	All
Accountable director	Sarah Norman, Community
Originating service	Children's Safeguarding
Report to be/has been considered by	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board 11 th February 2014

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Provide assurance to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board that the respective agencies represented on the Health and Wellbeing Committee report annually to their respective boards on children's safeguarding;
2. Ensure all agencies represented at the Board have internal assurance mechanisms that can demonstrate their role and performance in relation to safeguarding arrangements for children and young people.
3. Note the report

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and the health and Wellbeing Committee represent the aspects of the partnership agenda of the City and have a responsibility to hold one another to account. This is represented by a formal agreement recently signed by the Chairs of both Boards and is included in the schedule of background papers. The annual report of the Safeguarding Children Board offers a formal opportunity to ensure that this relationship in practice operates in accordance with the protocol. From the perspective of the Children's Safeguarding Board it provides an arena for challenge and an opportunity to seek assurances from members of the Health

and Wellbeing Board that their constituent organisations discuss and review safeguarding at their respective Boards and, where relevant, scrutiny committees.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Safeguarding Children's Boards are statutorily required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of children's safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The Board is a broad partnership of key agencies who have a collective responsibility for safeguarding children and providing mutual assurance that the practice of safeguarding reflects jointly agreed policies and protocols. The board meets four times a year with much of its business conducted through a range of committees that report into the Board. It is expected that annual reports are presented to the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the local Police and Crime Commissioner. The annual report describes the combined activities made in respect of children safeguarded at a local level.
- 2.2 This report relates to the year 2012-13 when the Board was chaired by the previous chair, William Anderson. It was signed off by the Safeguarding Children Board in May. There was some delay in its production due to a number of staff changes within the children's safeguarding service and from key partners who would be required to contribute to the report. It is intended that future reports including that for 2013-14 will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at an agreed timescale on an annual basis.
- 2.3 There is an executive summary which provides the key activities and highlights key achievements for the reporting year.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 1.1 Towards the end of the reporting year, the need for a review of board was recognised. This presented a number of challenges that have now been addressed, some of these being:
- Review of the Governance arrangements, including board membership
 - Clarity regarding agency roles and responsibilities in a climate of significant change
 - Revised branding
 - Review of the WSCB Committees
- 1.2 Progress made in the areas mentioned will be covered in greater depth in the 2013 -14 annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 As this report covers the period 2012 -13, there are no associated financial implications.

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBB) were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the Health and Wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.
- 5.2 The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). It is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that these agencies are effective. It operates under guidelines known as 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'; the latest version came into effect from 15th April 2013.
- 5.3 Outlined in Working Together is the responsibility of the Chair to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. As stipulated in the related guidance, the annual report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and is presented here for the attention of members of the health and wellbeing board.
- 5.4 Following discussions between the Independent Chair of both Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, it was agreed that there should be a formal agreement outlining this relationship.
- 5.5 The attached protocol sets out the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards, the interrelationships between them in terms of safeguarding, and wellbeing and the means to ensure effective co-ordination between the all Boards.

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 Within this report covering the period 2012 -13, there are no equality implications. However issues of ensuring a greater understanding of safeguarding children features more prominently in both the 2013-14 report and in current priorities.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no specific environmental implications.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Annual Report of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board 2012-13
- 10.2 Executive Summary
- 10.3 Joint protocol between Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Board and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board.