

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Social Care Health & Wellbeing Cabinet Board

7th September 2017

Report of the Director of Social Services Health & Housing - Nick Jarman

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Safeguarding Children Board Update to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Social Care Health & Wellbeing Cabinet Board on the work of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board and to provide information on the Annual Report for 2016/17 and the Business Plan 2017/18

Executive Summary

The SSWA regulations and codes of practice issued under part 7 (Safeguarding) clearly set out the requirements on Safeguarding Boards to produce and publish an annual plan at 31st March each year and an annual report at 31st July each year. Due to absence within the Business Management Unit there has been a slight delay in the publication of the annual plan. The plan was published 31st May 2017. Welsh Government and the National Independent Safeguarding Board were informed of and accepted the rationale for this.

The attached annual business plan complies fully with the requirements of the Act in terms of its content. The new Safeguarding Children Board business plan is clearly outcomes focussed with overarching and measurable outcomes for each of its strategic priorities. The priority outcomes are set against the 4 Ps¹ methodology which is aligned with police and probation methodologies as well as Welsh Government's National Child Sexual Exploitation action plan and the national counter terrorism strategy.

The Annual Report has been completed and was published in timescale on 31st July 2017. The report is a clear reflection of the work of the Board, where it has achieved its objectives and what needs to be taken forward to this year's business plan. The report sets out what has been achieved against its' strategic priorities and also provides an overview of performance of the Board against its' core business requirements.

1. Background

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board was established in April 2013 following direction from Welsh Government to regionalise safeguarding children boards as recommended within sustainable social services white paper 2011/12.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is identified in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 as being the lead partner responsible for establishing effective regional safeguarding boards for the Western Bay area.

Financial Impact

2. Within the Annual Report there is a section which highlights the requirements of a multi agency budget. In previous years the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board has used its own funding formula to ensure contributions from statutory partners which is not dissimilar to the statutory funding formula set out in the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act regulations for Safeguarding Boards.

¹ Prepare, Prevent, Protect, Pursue

3. There is and always will be a financial implication on Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as a statutory partner to contribute to a multi agency budget as this is now set out in regulation however, in previous years the local authority contributions were equitable with those of the neighbouring local authorities and each contributed the same amount. The regulations now set out local authority contributions aligned with population which has seen a reduction in contribution from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and an increase from City and county of Swansea. These impacts highlight a saving in 2017/18 of £3675.00. The multi agency budget for the Safeguarding Boards across Western Bay has not increased since its establishment in 2013, funds both Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards from a single budget and is projected to not increase over the following next 2 years.

Equality Impact Assessment

4. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.
5. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to “pay due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”
6. Equality Impact Assessments should be completed so that the Council can demonstrate that it has discharged its duty under the Act. In all instances a screening assessment is required. Where required, a full equality impact assessment should also be carried out.
7. An overview of the Equality Impact Assessment (s) should be included here in summary and the full document must be attached as an appendix.
8. Further information and advice can be obtained from Caryn Furlow or Rhian Headon, Corporate Strategy Team

Appendices

9. Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Annual Business Plan - 2017/18
10. Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report - 2016/17

Officer Contact

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