

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<i>Future Safeguarding Arrangements</i>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Director of Care and Health

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose is to inform the Committee that a decision has been made by the constituent partners of Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) to step down the regional arrangement and establish a Local Safeguarding Adults Boards in each area. This report links into the former Wirral Plan 2020 priority: 'Wirral is a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, every child gets a good start in life and older residents are respected and valued' and affects all Wards within the Borough.

This report constitutes a key decision before members.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Committee are asked to agree in principle that a Wirral Local Safeguarding Adults Board be established to fulfil the statutory requirements that are currently being met and managed by the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB).

The committee are asked to receive a further report at a future meeting outlining the plans to establish a Wirral Local Safeguarding Adults Board

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 Following a Safeguarding Board Peer Challenge Review in 2019 led by the Local Government Association (LGA) which made a number of recommendations about how the Board operates and meets its statutory duties, safeguarding partners have considered whether the MSAB was the most appropriate arrangement for their respective local areas. The conclusion was that the present arrangements under the MSAB should cease as a sub-regional board and therefore a Local Safeguarding Adults Board is required to fulfil the statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and related Statutory Guidance.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The Council could enter into a partnership with another local area to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board, this would not give the same level of focus that a Wirral board would have. The Council must have a Safeguarding Adults Board to fulfil its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014.
- 2.2 There is an option to retain some non-statutory work across the sub-region. It is expected that the positive benefits of performance comparison and best practice development will continue to be supported at a Liverpool City Region level using the project support available across the City Region footprint.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 From April 2017, the existing Safeguarding Adults Boards in Wirral, Liverpool, Sefton and Knowsley formed the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board to work together to achieve more effective and personalised safeguarding. The combined board is currently in its third year and has built on the work of the previous Safeguarding Adults Boards and the valued contributions of partner agencies.
- 3.2 Using the experiences and advice of our communities together with the expertise of its' members, the Board leads adult safeguarding arrangements and oversees and co-ordinates the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies.
- 3.3 There have been advantages to having worked as a combined safeguarding board, which include providing learning opportunities from family's experiences, assurance through safeguarding audit activity and the positive inclusion of user led groups.
- 3.4 These positive advantages have all been pointed out in the Peer Challenge Review (Appendix 1) as positive outcomes from this Board approach. There have also been positives in sharing practice and challenging practice. The four Local Authorities and related safeguarding partners are looking at how they can continue to work with and build on the benefits of the MSAB approach. MSAB is supported by a Business Unit that provides resources to support the delivery of the Board's strategic plan. The Business Unit staff are Wirral Council employees, as Wirral has hosted the resource and the majority of staff were formally employees of the Council prior to the inception of MSAB.

- 3.5 Following the Peer Challenge Review recommendations, partner members of the MSAB have considered their position in relation to future safeguarding and have decided not to continue with the sub regional safeguarding Board approach. One of the key issues for Local Authority partners has been a need for greater assurance around safeguarding locally.
- 3.6 Moving forward, in relation to a Local Safeguarding Adults Board, Wirral Council will be looking to develop closer local links with the domestic abuse strategy and services, Channel Panel, PREVENT and the Children's safeguarding arrangements, promoting the think family agenda.
- 3.7 Wirral officers lead a North West ADASS safeguarding network to share good practice, support service development and facilitate peer support. The group are also represented in the National Safeguarding Policy Network.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A change from the MSAB to local arrangements will mean that Wirral will no longer receive the income from the region that part funds the MSAB Business Unit and this presents a cost pressure.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 S.43(1) Care Act 2014 states that each Local Authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area. Without having arrangements to have a SAB, Wirral will not fulfil its statutory duties. This will also affect S.44 and the role for the safeguarding adults board to ensure that Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) are managed within the local area.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The MSAB Business Unit are all Wirral employees with substantive contracts/posts with the Council. There is one exception where the post is fixed-term.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 If a board were not in place, Wirral Council would be at risk of not fulfilling its statutory functions under S.43/S.44 Care Act 2014. This could place members of the community at risk of harm or abuse and/or neglect. These risks are mitigated by having a Safeguarding Adults Board.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation and discussion has occurred with partners within MSAB to reach the decision not to continue with the regional approach to Safeguarding Adults Boards.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help Council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications. The operational development of a Wirral Local Safeguarding Adults Board will include an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no direct environment and climate implications.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - LGA MSAB Peer Challenge Report (January 2020)

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

2017 Memorandum of Understanding - Combined Safeguarding Adults Board

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>