



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Thursday, 3 March 2022

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks to further update the Committee on the establishment of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) however it is not a key decision as the board has already been established following a previous report to committee (please see attached). This board affects all wards and is linked to the Wirral plan.

The Care Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board in its area. Up until June 2021 the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board fulfilled this requirement for Wirral Local Authority, however, following the cessation of the Merseyside Board in June 2021 it became a necessity to establish a new board for Wirral.

RECOMMENDATION

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to note the update report and be assured that the new arrangements have been put in place to meet all statutory requirements in relation to the Safeguarding Adults Board.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

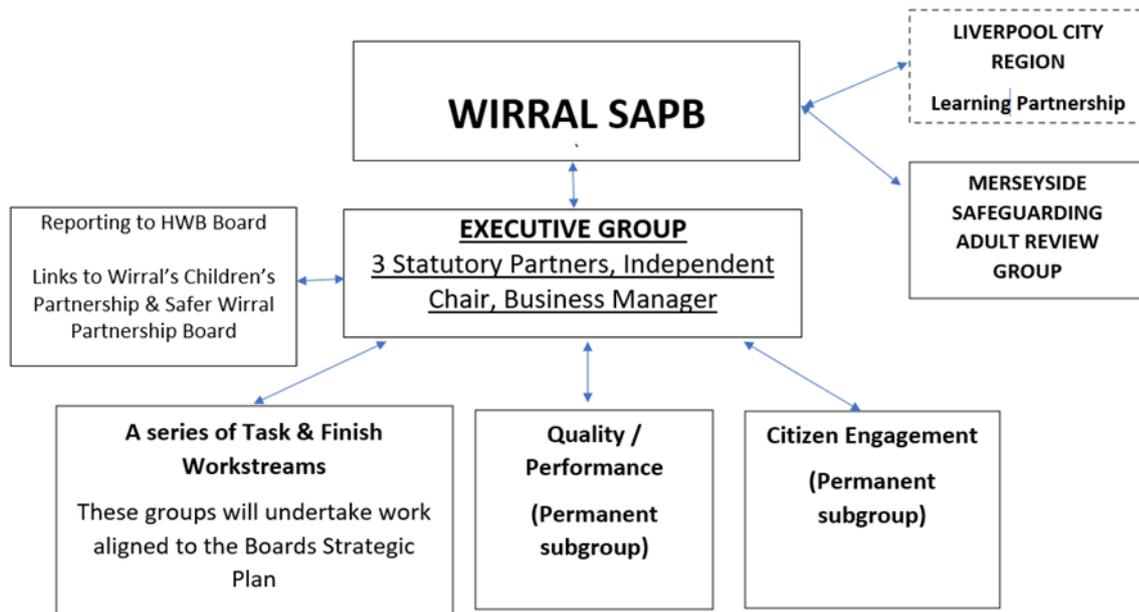
- 1.1 The Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board was disbanded in June 2021 and there is now a new Wirral Safeguarding Adults Board in place.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A combined approach has been in place historically however a move back to 'Place' based approaches and a local board was felt to be the most appropriate for Wirral going forward. Other areas previously involved in the Merseyside collaboration voiced a strong desire to move back to localised arrangements.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Prior to the inaugural meeting of the board a stakeholder session was held in May 2021. The group were presented with a draft board structure which had been developed following a series of 1-1 discussions between the Board Manager and individual agencies. The session also included breakout groups to consider a number of questions looking at existing processes and systems, desired behaviours and culture of the board and views on current areas of concern. The session was well attended, feedback was extremely positive and demonstrated a desire to develop an effective, productive, transparent board for the Wirral.
- 3.2 The Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board held its inaugural meeting in September 2021 and meets quarterly with the addition of two development days a year. The board is chaired by an Independent Person, Sue Redmond and is supported by a Board Manager and an Administrator.
- 3.3 The following diagram shows the current structure which will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains fit for purpose.



- 3.4 The Board has an executive group made up of the 3 statutory partners - Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police and then a series of multi-agency subgroups and task & finish groups who progress the work of the board.
- 3.5 The subgroups detailed above are chaired and made up of representatives from a wide range of agencies.
- 3.6 The board also has a collaborative arrangement in place in relation to the consideration of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). The Merseyside Safeguarding Adults review Group has been maintained and is hosted by Knowsley Council under the Liverpool City Region arrangements. The multi-agency group considers SAR referrals from the 4 Local Authority areas of Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley and Wirral and makes recommendations to the Chair of each SAB. The final decision-making sits with the Chair of the Local Board and the progress of reviews and decisions made are reported at each board meeting. The Wirral Board Manager attends all meetings and maintains oversight of all cases relating to Wirral.
- 3.7 The Quality and Performance subgroup are developing a series of frameworks to ensure that the board is provided with the information it requires to undertake its assurance responsibilities.
- 3.8 The Citizen Engagement group have been tasked with developing a holistic approach to the involvement of all stakeholders in the production of policy and procedure. A core component of the boards work will be co-production.
- 3.9 There is current a Workforce Development task & Finish group in place to develop a multi-agency training strategy.
- 3.10 Under the Care Act 2014 a Safeguarding Adults Board has a duty to do three things:

- Produce a strategic plan
- Publish an Annual Report
- Undertake SARs (Safeguarding Adult Reviews) where an individual has experienced serious abuse and/or neglect and there is concern about how agencies worked together.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no further financial implications other than those stated in the previous report to Committee. Please find the previous report attached.

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 of the Care Act 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: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The board is supported by 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Board Manager, 1 FTE Administrator and up to 24 days per year of support from the Independent Chair.

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 A wide range of Stakeholders were consulted in the lead up to the implementation of the new board and engaged within a stakeholder workshop which was felt to be a positive and productive event. Moving forward a key priority of the board is to hear the views of citizens including those experiencing services, families, carers and those working within organisations and systems. Co- production is also a key priority, and we are linking with other key strategic partnerships around this i.e. Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Partnership, Safer Wirral Partnership, Domestic Abuse Change Board.

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. There are no direct equality implications from this report

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environment and climate implications

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The board has a role to play in supporting the development of resilient local communities and community support organisations in relation to adult abuse and neglect both from a preventative perspective as well as identification and response.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Care Act 2014

WSAPB Terms of Reference

Future Safeguarding Arrangements paper – ASC & PH Committee 18th January 2021

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	18 January 2021