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**To**

Cabinet Member Health and Adult Services

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**Subject**

Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2012/13 – Comments and Recommendations following consideration by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)'s recommendations and issues raised following their consideration of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2012/13 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to consider and decide whether to agree the following recommendations of the Scrutiny Board:

**That the Report was accepted and endorsed by the Scrutiny Board, and**

**That the Cabinet Member considers the Scrutiny Board's recommendation that further consideration be given to the appointment of an Independent Chair to the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board.**

**Other comments made:**

**The Board also requested that officers ensure that any significant developments in the area of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults are reported to the Scrutiny Board as and when appropriate.**

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note prepared by the Head of Safeguarding along with the Annual Report. Members questioned officers on a number of points which arose from the report particularly around the changing rates of alerts / referrals and some of the demographic data included. In particular the Board were interested to understand any potential under reporting of Safeguarding concerns from BME groups.
- 3.2 In questioning the Executive Director, People Directorate (and Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board) made clear the evolving statutory framework surrounding the Safeguarding of vulnerable adults. It appears likely that what is currently guidance from Government will soon become statutory as the importance of Safeguarding vulnerable adults becomes more prominent. This raised the issue of the potential value of an Independent Chair in leading a

multi-agency and multi-disciplinary Safeguarding Board. The Director made clear that he had raised this matter on a number of occasions and had sought to persuade colleagues on the Board that this should be considered. After reflection and with no criticism of the current arrangements for chairing the Safeguarding Adults Board the Scrutiny Board concluded that this matter once more be considered to ensure that practice in Coventry remained ahead of national developments.

- 3.3 Notwithstanding the above the Board complimented officers on the readability of the Annual Report and the improvements made from the previous year's document, particularly the use of case studies and the introduction of trend data where appropriate.
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Board has a representative who sits as an observer on the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board and this was agreed by all to be a positive arrangement which enabled the Board to remain informed of the strategic direction of this important area of work for the City Council.
- 3.5 In accepting and endorsing the Annual Report the Scrutiny Board requested that officers ensure that should there be any significant developments during the time between Annual Reports, that these be reported to the Board as appropriate.

### **Briefing Note Author**

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1<sup>st</sup> October 2013.