
Cabinet Member (Health and Adult Services)

11 November 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Health and Adult Services) - Councillor Gingell

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, People

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Annual Report of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board 2013/14

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report presents the annual report of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board 2013/14.

The Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board is a multi-agency partnership made up of statutory sector member organisations and other non-statutory partner agencies. An Elected Member also attends the Board as an observer.

The role of a Safeguarding Adults' Board is laid out in the Care Act 2014. For the first time, the Act has made it a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to have a local Safeguarding Adults' Board. Coventry has had a Board for many years and was ahead of this legislation. The Board has strategic responsibility for the development, co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of multi-agency policies and procedures that safeguard and protect vulnerable adults in Coventry. Through its work, the board promotes the welfare of adults at risk and their protection from abuse and harm.

Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board meets quarterly to provide strategic leadership and direction. The work of the Board is supported by a number of Sub-Groups that are responsible for developing and managing the delivery of activity to achieve the Board's priorities.

The Annual Report covers the Board's activities for the period April 2013 to March 2014 and records the progress that has been made over the year, whilst acknowledging the considerable challenges in the year ahead. Each year the Board reviews progress against actions set for the previous year and establishes new priorities for the forthcoming year to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Coventry continue to be improved. The annual report provides a public record of this.

During 2013/14, the Board was chaired by Brian Walsh, Executive Director, People. In April 2014 Joan Beck, former Director of Adult Social Care in Doncaster, was appointed as Independent Chair to the Board. Joan will work closely with the Independent Chair for the Children's Safeguarding Board.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member (Health and Adult Services) is asked to endorse the contents of the report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Annual Report of Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board 2013/14

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No – Although this report has not been considered by Scrutiny, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) received a briefing note on this matter at their meeting on 10 September 2014

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Annual Report of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board 2013/14

1. Context

- 1.1 The Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board is a multi-agency partnership made up of statutory sector member organisations and other non-statutory partner agencies. An Elected Member also attends the Board as an observer.
- 1.2 The Board has strategic responsibility for the development, co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of multi-agency policies and procedures that safeguard and protect vulnerable adults in Coventry. Through its work the Board promotes the welfare of adults at risk and their protection from abuse and harm. The Annual Report includes information on safeguarding adults in general in order to raise awareness of the issue.
- 1.3 The Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board had three key priorities for the 2013/14 year:
- Responding, listening and acting on concerns (including learning lessons from reviews)
 - Continuing and strengthening multi-agency working
 - Reducing harm – (including preventing harm; recognising risk and harm; and dealing with it when it occurs)

The Annual Report outlines some of the activity which the Board and the sub-groups have undertaken to deliver against these priorities.

- 1.4 Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board meets quarterly to provide strategic leadership and direction. The work of the Board is supported by a number of Sub-Groups that are responsible for developing and managing the delivery of activity to achieve the Board's priorities. The sub-groups produce action plans for the year which set out what they plan to do to achieve the Board priorities.
- 1.5 The Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board Sub-Groups for 2013-14 were:
- Executive
 - Partnership and Practice Development
 - Policy and Procedures
 - Quality and Audit
 - Serious Case Review
 - Workforce Development
 - Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Steering Group (from March 2013)

The Annual Report details the work of the sub groups.

- 1.6 Each year the Board reviews progress against priorities set and the new emerging context around adults safeguarding and sets new priorities for the year ahead to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Coventry are effective and achieve positive outcomes for those people in need of safeguarding. The Board agreed 5 new priorities for 2014/15 at the development event in March 2014. These priorities include:

1. Prevention

Raising awareness about adult abuse (and thresholds for abuse) and communicating better with the public.

2. Quality

Continuing to focus on quality and auditing services to continually improve the way we work to improve the lives of vulnerable adults in Coventry.

3. Care Act 2014

Ensuring that the Care Act is implemented effectively.

4. Domestic Violence and Abuse

Working with the Coventry Police and Crime Board to ensure that knowledge and awareness of domestic violence is embedded in safeguarding adults work and those dealing with domestic violence recognise and respond to the needs of vulnerable adults.

5. Synergies between Safeguarding Boards

Ensuring that the Board learns from and works effectively with the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board.

Progress against these priorities will be monitored by the Board throughout the year and reported on in the next Annual Report due in 2015.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Cabinet Member (Health and Adult Services) is asked to note the contents of the Report.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

No specific consultation has been undertaken. The Annual Report of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board is the result of the contributions of Board members made on behalf of the organisations they represent, concerning the work undertaken between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

N/A

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

5.2 Legal implications

The Care Act 2014 and accompanying regulations and guidance will make it a statutory requirement for each Local Authority to have a Safeguarding Adults' Board (SAB) The Care Act states that the objective of an SAB is to help and protect adults in its area in prescribed cases. The way in which an SAB must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does. Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 places a requirement on the SAB to produce an annual report as soon as is feasible after the end of each financial year on

- (a) what it has done during that year to achieve its objective,
- (b) what it has done during that year to implement its strategy,
- (c) what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy,
- (d) the findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (safeguarding adults reviews) which have concluded in that year (whether or not they began in that year),
- (e) the reviews arranged by it under that section which are ongoing at the end of that year (whether or not they began in that year),
- (f) what it has done during that year to implement the findings of reviews arranged by it under that section, and
- (g) where it decides during that year not to implement a finding of a review arranged by it under that section, the reasons for its decision.

The SAB must send a copy of the report to:

- (a) the chief executive and the leader of the local authority which established the SAB,
- (b) the local policing body the whole or part of whose area is in the local authority's area,
- (c) the Local Healthwatch organisation for the local authority's area, and
- (d) the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for that area.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The safeguarding of adults at risk is a corporate priority and the Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board oversees arrangements across the City to ensure partner agencies work together to address and prevent abuse and neglect. The Board works closely with other partnerships in the city including the Local Police & Crime Board.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board and Sub-Groups have action plans which seek to ensure that progress continues to be made to manage the risks associated with this important area of activity. These are reviewed on a regular basis.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The work of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board as documented in the Annual Report demonstrates the commitment of all partner organisations to continuous improvement in adult safeguarding.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

There is a need to ensure that adults who are at risk of abuse receive protection and support and that their human rights and dignity are respected. This includes a duty to intervene proportionately to protect the rights of citizens.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Coventry Safeguarding Adults' Board is a multi-agency board on which a range of partners are represented. The annual report acknowledges the contribution of Board members and commits them to action in order to continue to improve safeguarding in Coventry.

Report author(s):

Name and job title: Isabel Merrifield
Assistant Director

Directorate: People

Tel and email contact: 02476 833403, isabel.merrifield@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

| Contributor/approver name | Title | Directorate or organisation | Date doc sent out | Date response received or approved |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Contributors: | | | | |
| Susan Harrison | Head of Safeguarding | People | 27 October | 27 October |
| Sara Roach | Deputy Director | People | 27 October | 28 October |
| Lara Knight | Governance Services Team Leader | Resources | 29 October | 29 October |
| Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members) | | | | |
| Finance: Ewan Dewar | Finance Manager | Resources | 28 October | 29 October |
| Legal: Julie Newman | People Manager | Resources | 28 October | 29 October |
| Director: Brian Walsh | Executive Director | People | 30 October | 31 October |
| Members: Cllr Gingell | | | | |

This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings