

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 September 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Board of the recent resignation of the independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and options for future arrangements.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board agree the preferred option as outlined in section 5.3 of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Care Act 2014, made it a requirement for each LA area to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board. The main objective of the SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who meet the criteria.

3.2 The SAB has a key strategic system role; it oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the locality and focusses on a range of areas that contribute to prevention of abuse and neglect.

3.3 The SAB provides an oversight on all health and social care services in its locality (not just those whose its member's commission and contract). It is important that SAB members are able to challenge each other and should include providers and commissioners.

3.4 In addition the SAB has three key core duties:

- Publish a strategic plan
- Publish an annual report
- Conduct any local safeguarding reviews.

4.0 **THE CHAIR OF THE SAB**

4.1 The appointment of a chair is made by the Local Authority in consultation with other statutory SAB members. (CCG and police). The chair of the SAB is accountable to the Chief Executive of the Council, and may be an employee of one of the member agencies of the SAB or alternatively be a person independent of any of them.

4.2 The performance of the chair is critical to the effectiveness of the SAB. The chairs functions are:

- Promote leadership
- Promote collaborative working
- Promote good practice
- Providing advice, support and encouragement
- Facilitating the partnership of people with care and support needs and carers
- Offering constructive challenge
- Holding member agencies to account
- Ensuring that interfaces with other strategic boards are constructive
- Acting as spokesperson for the SAB
- Developing and maintaining their knowledge and expertise in relation to safeguarding
- Endorsing and promoting good practise and quality services

4.3 The Care Act 2014, does not specifically recommend an independent chair, this decision is for the LA to make in consultation with other statutory board members; however it does state:

It can offer some independence from the LA and other partners, this is especially important in terms of:

- *Offering constructive challenge*
- *Holding member agencies to account*
- *Acting as a spokesperson for the SAB*

4.4 The Care Act does specifically recommend:

The appointment of a vice chair to effectively deputise for the chair

4.5 Other areas for consideration, if the role is not to be independent:

- Rotating chair/vice chair role between partner agencies
- What should be the term of office for the chair- should this be open or to extension- if so how often

- What support should be provided to maintain knowledge base
- How will the chair respond to direct queries; Concerns, complaints, whistleblowing from concerned individuals adults with support needs, carers, public, practitioners
- Will the chair be encouraged to join regional and national chair networks sharing learning and promoting consistency
- If the chair is not independent, should the vice chair be

4.6 **Budget:**

The SAB budget is made up of partner contributions:

LA	30,000
CCG (BCF)	37,000
Police	10,000

This budget funds:

Safeguarding Board Chair	17,000
Board Officer	39,000
Training/publicity and events	10,000

In addition the LA fund policy development and board management through the Integrated Adult Safeguarding unit.

5.0 **OPTIONS**

5.1 **Chair's Role**

1. Continue to employ an independent chair

This role is an important function of the SAB, and it does offer dedicated support and leadership, plus independent challenge.

The support required to the chair is quite challenging and does rely heavily on the Safeguarding unit and DASS to support, as an external person is not always fully briefed on the local/regional issues.

2. Appoint a strategic lead from the partner organisations: (With this option we would need to consider rotating chair function, and appointment of a vice chair)

This would support more local ownership/leadership for the SAB, and adult safeguarding as a whole.

Local knowledge and awareness of key issues for Halton would be improved, and subsequently reduce the reliance on the operational teams to support.

Improve the principal that Safeguarding should be part of every body's role and not a separate entity.

Potential efficiency savings, to either offer as savings or reinvest in the work of the SAB.

5.2 **Board Officer**

The Board Officer was specifically appointed to support the independent chair role. If the agreement is to not appoint an independent chair this role would no longer be required.

As an alternative we could:

- Transfer the functions of board officer to the ASC policy and performance team;
- Request one of the partner organisations to lead on the board officer function.

5.3 **Preferred Option**

- To appoint a strategic lead to chair the Board- Strategic Director People, initially;
- Appoint a vice chair from either the police or CCG;
- Delete the post of Board Officer;
- Transfer the board support function to ASC policy team;
- Review the membership and sub groups of the board with the newly appointed chair.

6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None identified.

7.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The total budget available for the SAB is £77,000 made up from partner allocations.

7.2 The recommended option will realise savings of approximately £50,000 for the system.

7.3 The transfer of the function of board support, performance and policy development to ASC policy team will require some additional funding from the SAB budget.

7.4 **Recommended budget:**

Project Support Costs	30,000
Board Support	20,000

Revised partner contributions:

HBC	20,000 (<i>saving £10,000</i>)
CCG	20,000 (<i>saving 17,000</i>)
Police	10,000

8.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

8.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

8.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

8.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

8.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

8.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

9.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 The immediate risks are:

- Timescales- the current chair has indicated she would like to leave before December, it is essential that we have an alternative in place prior to December;
- Consistency- a handover period for the new chair, including formal handover from the exiting chair;
- Assurance- the next Board meeting is October; new arrangements should be in place by this board- to enable us to

have wider discussions with the current board on review of membership and subgroups.

10.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

10.1 None identified.

11.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board Sub Group Structure

