

PROPOSAL TO MERGE TORBAY SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD WITH DEVON SAFEGUARDING ADULT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Report of the Head of Service for Adult Care Operations and Health

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by Cabinet before taking effect.

Recommendation:

That DCC Cabinet approve the proposed merger of Torbay Safeguarding Adult Board (TSAB) and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership (DSAP).

1. Summary
 - 1.1 Work has taken place to understand what the future arrangements across Devon could look like in order to deliver safeguarding duties and local priorities as effectively and efficiently as possible.
 - 1.2 The recommended merger of the Devon and Torbay Safeguarding Adult Boards is a result of an options appraisal conducted by statutory partners with targeted engagement from care providers and the people who have lived experience of safeguarding in Devon and Torbay.
 - 1.3 Pending Devon County Council Cabinet approval of the recommendation, the first joint board would take place in December 2020. An Implementation Group will oversee the necessary steps to ensure the delivery of statutory requirements.
2. Introduction
 - 2.1 Work has taken place to understand the safeguarding priorities across Devon and Torbay. In order to understand the things that we can do together and do once across organisational boundaries for the direct benefit of those we collectively serve.
 - 2.2 Key partners across Devon and Torbay met with senior officers of Devon County Council and Torbay Council Safeguarding Adult Boards to consider potential options for future safeguarding governance arrangements and structures.
 - 2.3 Members of the public, people who have experienced of using Devon and Torbay services were engaged via two separate forum discussions supported by Living Options (Living Options are a user-led charity championing needs and rights and providing vital support to people with disabilities).

- 2.4 Views from independent providers were gained at an engagement event including attendance by providers of services who have had recent Whole Service Safeguarding experience across Devon and Torbay.
- 2.5 Following this engagement, in September 2020 both the Adults Boards agreed to the proposal to combine the TSAB & DSAP resulting in one Safeguarding Adult Board with one Independent Chair and recommended that the proposal be presented to the respective Local Authority Cabinets.
- 2.6 Following the outcome of DCC Cabinet on 14 October 2020, the proposal will also be presented to Torbay's Cabinet on 20 October 2020.
3. Impact of the proposed merger
 - 3.1 The proposal is for the Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership and the Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board to form one Board with a single set of priorities, a single chair, and a number of sub-groups across Devon and Torbay to enable the following improvements:
 - 3.2 For the people we serve
 - 3.2.1 The fundamental aim of the proposed merger of Safeguarding Adult Boards is to ensure that we maximise the opportunities to keep people in local communities safer.
 - 3.2.2 A merger will improve partnership working across Devon and Torbay, for both statutory partners and people/members of the public.
 - 3.2.3 Restructure/rebrand of both TSAB and DSAP will provide an opportunity to improve public awareness of Adult Safeguarding.
 - 3.3 For our partners
 - 3.3.1 It is recognised that some partners have a remit over the wider Devon geographical area and are therefore servicing up to three or more Safeguarding Adults Boards at present (Devon, Torbay, Plymouth).
 - 3.3.2 A single reporting framework across Devon and Torbay.
 - 3.3.3 It is also recognised that partners work closely with other strategic partnerships and that as much alignment as possible would greatly improve efficiency, effectiveness and wider benefit to the communities of Devon and Torbay.
 - 3.4 For local authorities
 - 3.4.1 Both Devon and Torbay Local Authorities, alongside our statutory partners will be in a strong position to ensure a robust approach to safeguarding across region.
 - 3.4.2 It will enable an enhanced sharing of good practice.
 - 3.4.3 It will Improve efficiency of governance arrangements.

- 3.4.4 Increase influence within regional and national safeguarding arenas.
- 3.4.5 Provide consistent messages shared across boundaries.
- 3.4.6 Further benefits may be realised in relation to the economies of scale related to the administration costs of running two separate boards who have largely overlapping agendas.
- 3.5 Upon agreement of the recommendation, an Implementation Group will be set up to deliver the changes needed in an effective and timely manner.
- 4. Options/Alternatives
 - 4.1 The Task and Finish Group initially considered 6 options and appraised each of these for their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- 5. Engagement/Consultation
 - 5.1 Views from independent care providers were gained at an engagement event with no disadvantages being raised. An agreement to merge, as per the recommendation of this report was the consensus of the attendees.
- 6. Financial Considerations
 - 6.1 This exercise has not had an objective to make financial savings although some efficiencies are expected by virtue of the benefits arising from merging together two statutory boards.
 - 6.2 There will also be an opportunity to review partner yearly contributions to the running of the new joint board, thus allowing the new board to be set effectively to meet its strategic priorities.
- 7. Legal Considerations
 - 7.1 The lawful implications/consequences of the recommendations proposed course of action have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report and formulation of the recommendation set out within.
- 8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)
 - 8.1 The recommendation put before cabinet has an overall neutral impact on the environment, however, if the merger of the two boards is agreed, it is recognised that less travel across Devon will be needed for partners attending meetings. This will therefore reduce carbon emissions.
- 9. Equality Considerations
 - 9.1 In progressing this recommendation, an Impact Needs Assessment has been prepared which will be circulated separately to Cabinet Councillors.

10. Risk Management Considerations

10.1 Weaknesses, Threats and potential risks have been discussed throughout the options appraisal process. The task and finish group have not identified any risks that could have a significant impact on the recommendation to merge the boards.

10.2 Upon implementation of the recommendation, any specific risks will be identified and managed as part of the Implementation Plan.

11. Public Health Impact

11.1 A fundamental aim of this proposed amalgamation of Safeguarding Adult Boards is to ensure that we maximise the opportunities to keep people in local communities safer. This would be achieved by aligning priorities, continuing to benefit from the shared sub-groups that already exist and enable Devon and Torbay to work closer together.

12. Summary

12.1 For the reasons and benefits outlined within this Cabinet report, Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation set out above

Keri Storey

Head of Service for Adult Care Operations and Health

Electoral Divisions: All

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health: Jennie Stephens

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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BACKGROUND PAPER DATE FILE REFERENCE

3.4.1 A SHARED RESOURCE IN TERMS OF PARTNER ENGAGEMENT
9.1 IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT