

# **Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board Funding Proposal**

## **Introduction**

The Care Bill entered committee stage on Tuesday 4 June. The Bill currently states that “each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (an “SAB”) for its area”. It also states that “an SAB must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult in its area” meeting specific criteria. It is anticipated that the Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB) will become a statutory requirement from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

The BSAB has had an independent Chair for over 3 years and a support team in place since January 2013, to prepare for and deliver the new statutory requirements. These resources have been funded solely by Blackpool Council. Maintaining these resources (via multi-agency funding) in the interim period and once the Board operates within a statutory framework would mean that BSAB would already be operating ‘best practice’. The already established Board team seeks to facilitate the drawing together of a wealth of single agency experience from Board members into an effective and business-like framework. This will then allow the Board then to tackle more complex, multi-agency issues, ultimately with the aim of helping and protecting vulnerable adults in its area.

Safeguarding is integral to all professional’s day-to-day roles and therefore all partner agencies benefit from involvement and challenge provided by the Board. The BSAB provides opportunities for partner agencies to improve practice to safeguard adults at risk by fostering good inter-agency relationships and strategic linkages through the Board. The Board also provides opportunity for positive, cross-agency challenge and accountability – which ultimately improves frontline practice. The remit of the Board, set out in the Care Bill mandates that work should be undertaken with consultation with local communities and local Healthwatch; this therefore provides partner agencies with the opportunity to shape and improve services in light of this involvement.

Good interagency working at Board level is promoted by a history of joint working, information sharing protocols, goodwill/positive relationships between individuals and mutual understanding/shared acknowledgement of the importance of adult protection. It is hindered by poor information sharing, limited understanding of roles, non-attendance or involvement of key agencies at meetings and conflicting organisational priority given to safeguarding. In order to achieve the components of excellent inter-agency working described above a multi-agency funded budget provides multi-agency ownership and independence of the work undertaken.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) research on SAB best practice in governance highlights “explicit commitment to multi-agency nature of, responsibility for and ownership of safeguarding” and “Identifiable resources that may be accessed by the Board to pursue its functions and clarity on contributions from partner agencies”. Therefore working towards a multi-agency, pooled budget in order to deliver Board activity would be described as a best practise model.

## **Support Arrangements**

What will agencies get from BSAB?

- Input in developing and access to inter-agency training
- Lessons from Serious Case Reviews and good practice reviews shared multi-agency
- Opportunity to discuss and resolve multi-agency issues
- Quality Assurance and Performance Management framework on a multi-agency basis to allow challenge and sharing of good practice, assuring and improving effective safeguarding adults in Blackpool and as a result improved outcomes for adults at risk.

The multi-agency Board funded budget also allows the employment of an Independent Chair the advantages of which include transparency, objectivity, mediation, challenge and scrutiny. Additionally, this pooled budget would allowed a multi-agency Pan-Lancashire & Cumbria policies and procedures to be developed, which will be accessible to all agency partners and their practitioners. Alongside this, the Board team and associated budget will allow more issues to be tackled (where appropriate) on a Pan-Lancashire & Cumbria footing, which will help prevent confusion, reducing duplication and ultimately be simpler for practitioners and their respective service users.

The Board budget also allows a modest amount for initial delivery of multi-agency training. Benefits of this training (accessible to all partner agencies) include:

- Fostering healthy inter-agency relationships – which supports inter-agency working and is vital to safeguarding adults at risk
- Practitioners have access to high quality inter-agency training as this can be the most challenging part of their work
- Practitioners can and will use good interagency training to develop and provide a better service to service users

## Blackpool Safeguarding Children’s Board

Blackpool Safeguarding Children’s Board has been on a statutory footing for a number of years and as such has a long established support team with multi agency pooled budget arrangements. Multi agency contributors to Blackpool Safeguarding Children’s Board include Blackpool Council, Blackpool CCG, Lancashire Constabulary, the Probation Service and Blackpool Coastal Housing.

### BSAB Costs & Funding Proposal

Full Year Costs	£
0.50 fte Administrator (inc Travel)	12,000
1.00 fte Board Manager (inc Travel)	53,000
Training Costs	15,000
Board Costs inc Independent Chair	16,000
Serious Case Review	18,000

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**114,000**

Agency Contributions	%	£ BSAB requested	£ BSCB contributions (2013-14)
Blackpool Council Adult Services	54	61,560	
Blackpool CCG	30	34,200	56,003
Lancashire Constabulary	13	14,820	21,697
Blackpool Coastal Housing	3	3,420	

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**114,000**

The agency contribution rates (%) are based on the current rate of contribution to Blackpool Safeguarding Children’s Board.

## **Matter for Consideration**

The BSAB has considered the multi agency funding proposals at its last three Board meetings (January, May and July) and as yet has been unable to commit to resources and agree a way forward. However, it was also acknowledged at the last meeting that the proposed support arrangements, as costed above, were insufficient to deliver the priorities and business plan of the BSAB moving forward.

Following the last BSAB, Blackpool CCG has indicated that the funding previously given to Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board was the funding allocation for all safeguarding activity across adults and children's and therefore would not be making any additional resources available. Unfortunately the Safeguarding Children's Board has already committed this to activity/staffing.

Lancashire Constabulary has indicated that their safeguarding investment is via the MASH and they will not be making any additional resources available.