

# **Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report**

**15 November 2019**

**Annual Report 2018/2019 County  
Durham Safeguarding Adults Board**



## **Report of Corporate Management Team**

**Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services**

**Lorraine O'Donnell, Corporate Director of Transformation and  
Partnerships**

### **Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide.

### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To present to Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee the County Durham Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Annual Report 2018/2019 (Appendix 2).

### **Executive summary**

- 2 The Care Act 2014 placed Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) upon a statutory footing with a requirement to produce and publicise an annual report.
- 3 This is the fourth LSAB Annual Report, which provides information about achievements and challenges during the year 2018/19.
- 4 Provisional key data on safeguarding activity is included based upon 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 (notably full end of year data is not published until November 2019).
- 5 The LSAB agreed a 3-year plan in 2018 which includes 4 priorities and streamlined working groups of the LSAB across 4 key themes:
  - Practice and Implementation Sub-Group priority Prevention and Early Implementation
  - Engagement and Communication Sub-Group priority User/Carer Voice and Awareness Raising

- Performance and Governance Sub-Group priority Performance, Quality and Governance
  - Learning and Improvement Sub-Group priority SAR Learning and Training.
- 6 The LSAB Annual Report outlines progress against the peer review recommendations and voice of adults and practitioners.
- 7 Key recommendations of the peer review related to revisiting governance arrangements, risk assessment of Chairing arrangements and Chair appraisal.

### **Recommendations**

- 8 The Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- (a) note the future work of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board;
  - (b) note the progress made by the Local Safeguarding Adults Board during 2018/19 and receive the Local Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19 for information.

## Background

- 9 The Care Act 2014 placed Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) upon a statutory footing with a requirement to produce and publicise an annual report. The supplementary Care and Support Statutory Guidance informs that the LSAB Annual Report should have prominence on each core member's website and be made available to other agencies.
- 10 This is the fourth LSAB Annual Report, which provides information about achievements and challenges during the year 2017-18.
- 11 The format of the report is in keeping with the Care and Support Statutory Guidance, and includes evidence (both quantitative and qualitative) and key messages or impact that relate to:
  - (a) community awareness of adult abuse and neglect and how to respond;
  - (b) analysis of safeguarding data, to better understand the reasons that lie behind local data returns and use the information to improve the strategic plan and operational arrangement;
  - (c) what adults who have experienced the process say and the extent to which the outcomes they wanted (their wishes) have been realised;
  - (d) what front line practitioners say about outcomes for adults and about their ability to work in a personalised way with those adults;
  - (e) better reporting of abuse and neglect;
  - (f) evidence of success of strategies to prevent abuse or neglect;
  - (g) feedback from local Healthwatch, adults who use care and support services and carers, community groups, advocates, service providers and other partners;
  - (h) how successful adult safeguarding is at linking with other parts of the system, for example children's safeguarding, domestic violence, community safety;
  - (i) the impact of training carried out in this area and analysis of future need;
  - (j) and, how well agencies are co-operating and collaborating.

## **Summary**

- 12 In April 2018 new chairing arrangements commenced and following feedback from partner agencies during the peer review, a 360° appraisal was completed and reported to partners in May 2019.
- 13 The attached report aims to outline progress against the agreed strategic plan of 2018 and peer review recommendations of March 2018.

## **Consideration**

- 14 The LSAB has expanded its reach, developing closer working links during the year with The Fire and Rescue Service, HMP Durham, and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, and welcomed new partner Durham Community Action who joined the Board in April 2018.
- 15 The LSAB has continued its focus on the service user voice to inform good practice and a deeper understanding of abuse and neglect; it anticipates the publication of the Service User Story as a booklet with a DVD for adults at risk with a peer on peer education approach. The Board will continue its focus on priorities of raising awareness and improving practice particularly in relation to sexual exploitation, self-neglect, financial abuse, and modern slavery.
- 16 The LSAB will build its work to hear the practitioner voice into all that it undertakes, with a consultation early in 2019-2020 to inform a wider workforce practitioner survey with a steer towards how it feels for front-line staff. The LSAB will continue through its Communication and Engagement Strategy to work with wider agencies, stakeholders and partnerships to hear the voice of adults and communities.
- 17 The LSAB monitors information shared in partner updates and is pleased to see the development of new roles within DCC Adult and Health Services Commissioning to support the provider market. The LSAB looks forward to taking part in an event for providers later in 2019.
- 18 In 2019-2020 the LSAB will receive updates from its audit activities and identify any areas it will take forward as part of its continued cycle of improvement.
- 19 In County Durham 'Rethink' provide a range of advocacy services which includes advocacy provision for those adults who have experienced abuse or neglect and whom are currently open to, and involved in, safeguarding processes. In the year ahead the LSAB will strengthen its links with Rethink and draw upon their feedback to inform the LSAB improvement cycle.

- 20 In May 2019, a BBC Panorama Programme exposed concerns for the safety of adults placed within an Independent Private Hospital in Barnard Castle. Since the programme, the LSAB has sought assurance from agencies and identified areas of work it will take forward in the year ahead, including any legislative requirements. It should be noted that work is ongoing with DCC and NHS commissioners in respect of addressing the requirements of the national programmes: Transforming Care, and Building the Right Support.

### **Background papers**

- None

### **Other useful documents**

- None

### **Author**

Gordon Elliott

Tel: 03000 263605

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Statutory requirement to publicise Annual Reports and publication of an Annual Report from 1st April 2015 in line with the Care Act 2014 and the number of Safeguarding Adult Reviews, lessons learnt and any actions incomplete. The LSAB addressed any implications of the Data Protection Act 2018 and related General Data Protection Regulations.

### **Finance**

Continuing financial pressures on public services remains a challenge for agencies of the LSAB, particularly in relation to how responses to the safeguarding agenda are agreed. The LSAB monitors risks and challenges through its governance arrangements; Durham County Council ensures it includes any such areas in those arrangements.

### **Consultation**

Report available for all partner agencies. The LSAB shared the annual report with partner agencies and provides opportunity for single agencies to submit an annual overview of their contributions to the work of the LSAB.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked and is covered in the LSAB policies and procedures with equalities impact assessments undertaken when and where appropriate.

### **Climate Change**

The SAB Business Unit is mindful of its impact and aims to reduce the carbon footprint where possible. Emissions due to SAB activity are in line with other County Council activity. For this report they include: vehicle use as partners attend meetings and training; power use due to online processing and storage; paper use and photocopying for formal meetings; and heating, lighting and other emissions by use of offices in County Hall.

### **Human Rights**

Human rights are the core of the LSAB and its work. The LSAB and relevant partners within the context of safeguarding and adult protection should ensure it is embedded in policy and practice.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Adult safeguarding is linked and is covered within the LSAB policies and procedures. There is a close working relationship to the Safe Durham Partnership, and review of the Safeguarding Framework outlining working arrangements across agencies and broader partnerships. Durham Constabulary is a statutory partner of the LSAB.

## **Staffing**

The sustaining of adult safeguarding activities requires continued priority to staffing to ensure adequate resource is maintained. The continued contribution to staffing from partner agencies supports the sustainability of dedicated safeguarding adults' posts/ functions and there is continued pressure for capacity within the unit when unforeseen situations arise.

## **Accommodation**

None

## **Risk**

The risks associated with not appropriately managing responses to safeguarding are extremely high and include risks of ongoing abuse and neglect and the risk of serious organisational and/or reputational damage to statutory and non-statutory agencies in County Durham.

The LSAB puts considerable effort into training and awareness raising to ensure that abuse and neglect is recognised and reported. Screening of all reported concerns takes place and directed appropriately to ensure the most appropriate response is taken.

Any risks identified under the umbrella of the LSAB updated within a risk and challenge log which is reviewed quarterly. The impact of training is regularly explored and is reported annually. This is an area that the peer review team highlighted as a potential area for development with continued work in 2018-2019.

## **Procurement**

The adoption of safeguarding principles in the procurement of health and social care services is essential. The LSAB and Durham County Council included as partners in the regionally agreed framework for the commissioning of authors and panel Chairs for Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

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## **Appendix 2: County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19**

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### **Appendix 3: Title**

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