

## Health and Wellbeing Board

18 January 2022

## Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP) Annual Report



### Report of Lesley Jeavons, DSAP Independent Chair

#### Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present to Health and Wellbeing Board the Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP) Annual Report which provides an update on the DSAP activity during 2020/21, assurance from partner agencies on safeguarding adults across County Durham, and an overview of the DSAP priorities for 2021/22.
- 2 The Annual Report can be accessed [here](#).
- 3 The Annual Report is accompanied by the Annual Report on a Page 2020/21 (Appendix 2), and the Annual Report Easy Read 2020/21 (Appendix 3).

#### Executive summary

- 4 The Care Act 2014 states that Safeguarding Adults Boards must publish a report as soon as is feasible at the end of each financial year on the following:
  - (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 adult 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.

5 The DSAP Annual Report must be sent to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 6 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to
- (a) Note the content of the DSAP Annual Report
  - (b) Note the scope of work undertaken during 2020/21
  - (c) Note the areas of priority focus for the DSAP for 2021/22 and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - (d) Direct any questions on the Annual Report to Heidi Gibson, DSAP Business Unit Manager, email [SABBusinessUnit@durham.gov.uk](mailto:SABBusinessUnit@durham.gov.uk)

## Background

- 7 Previously the DSAP Annual Reports have been presented as a Word document, with the suite of Annual Reports hosted on the [DSAP website](#).
- 8 In July 2021, the Partnership agreed to produce the Annual Report in a different format, which would be conveyed as a PowerPoint slide show, which appears as a film. The aim is to increase its attractiveness and accessibility, which in turn will improve the uptake of key safeguarding messages.
- 9 The new version continues to include headline messages of the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) as well as partner contributions to the work of the partnership. To ensure the new format is compliant with accessibility regulations, a separate document accompanies it.
- 10 The Annual Report is also comprised of a 'Report on a Page' and an 'Easy Read' version.
- 11 Content of the Annual Report includes:
  - (a) Chair's foreword and introduction
  - (b) The local picture
  - (c) Our vision and partners
  - (d) Strategic plan
  - (e) Statutory functioning
  - (f) Review of safeguarding issues relating to Covid-19
  - (g) Core business
  - (h) Professional and community engagement
  - (i) Quality assurance
  - (j) Looking ahead
  - (k) Partners' action reports

## **Safeguarding adults assurance in County Durham**

- 12 The Annual Report aims to provide assurance about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in County Durham.
- 13 The DSAP regularly reviews its strategic plans. For the period September 2020 to March 2022 the partnership agreed a plan that placed focus upon the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19). It encompasses the initial response and moving towards the 'new normal' ways of working with the partnership having oversight of recovery and restoration during the pandemic. The Strategic Plan's three agreed priorities for 2020-2022 were:
  - (a) Reflect upon the learning from Covid-19 and inform new ways of working
  - (b) Seek assurance from agencies and use that information to strengthen safeguarding
  - (c) Share key messages with our community, our networks and work co-productively with adults.
- 14 In May 2019, a BBC Panorama programme exposed concerns for the safety of adults placed within an Independent Private Hospital in Barnard Castle. The DSAP Board was assured that the adults had been accommodated safely elsewhere. Post programme the DSAP agreed to commission a SAR. That review was ongoing for the period of this report and is anticipated early 2022.
- 15 Throughout the pandemic the DSAP Independent Chair requested and sought assurance from partners related to nationally emerging themes, for example, concerns related to care homes, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, and safeguarding people in closed environments.
- 16 The DSAP addressed other nationally emerging themes with briefings and awareness raising bulletins, that covered a range of topics, inclusive of (not exhaustive) financial scams, modern slavery, and domestic abuse. The DSAP introduced a new on-line training offer with additional safeguarding adults programme topics of domestic abuse and Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- 17 The DSAP held its first virtual safeguarding week in conjunction with the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) and Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP). Notable success of 836 attendances during the week across a range of subjects which included Covid-19 related workshops such as Mental Health.
- 18 Adults are asked what they wish to happen throughout each safeguarding enquiry. The DSAP was assured that the voice of adults is central in safeguarding as out of the 71% of adults or their

representatives who expressed a view, 96.3% said their desired outcomes were met.

- 19 The DSAP will continue its focus on priorities of raising awareness and improving practice particularly in relation to self-neglect and professional curiosity. The DSAP was assured about practice as where risk to adults was identified and action was taken, risk was reduced or removed for 86% of safeguarding enquiries.
- 20 In January 2021 a new name and a new logo were agreed to better reflect the partnership approach of safeguarding adults.

### **Conclusion**

- 21 The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the work of the DSAP during 2020/21 and the priorities for 2021/22.

### **Author(s)**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The Care Act 2014 states that Safeguarding Adults Boards must publish annual reports. The DSAP assessed and addressed implications of the Coronavirus Act 2020. Annex D safeguarding guidance, published on 1 April 2020, set out that the Coronavirus Act did not remove the Care Act Section 42 safeguarding duty, nor the need for safeguarding training.

The DSAP Annual Report must be sent to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Finance**

Continuing financial pressures on public services remains a challenge for member agencies of the DSAP, particularly in relation to how responses to the safeguarding agenda are agreed. The DSAP 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 DSAP shares the Annual Report with partner agencies and provides opportunity for each partner to submit an annual overview of their contributions to the work of the DSAP.

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

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

### **Climate Change**

The DSAP Business Unit is mindful of its impact and aims to reduce the carbon footprint where possible. Emissions due to DSAP activity are in line with other County Council activity. For this report they include power use due to online processing and storage; and heating, lighting and other emissions by use of staff homeworking during the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Human Rights**

Human rights are at the core of the DSAP and its work. The DSAP and relevant partners within the context of safeguarding adults should ensure they are embedded within policy and practice.

## **Crime and Disorder**

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

## **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**

Not applicable

## **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 organisations in County Durham.

The DSAP 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 they are directed appropriately to ensure the most appropriate response is taken.

Any risks identified under the umbrella of the DSAP is updated within a risk and challenge log which is reviewed quarterly. The impact of training is regularly explored and is reported annually.

## **Procurement**

The adoption of safeguarding principles in the procurement of health and social care services is essential. An example is DSAP support for Durham County Council checking supply chains for modern slavery.