

Health and Wellbeing Board

5 November 2014

Safeguarding Framework



Report of Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager, Policy, Planning & Partnerships, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Lee Alexander, Safeguarding & Practice Development Manager, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Pixley Clarke, Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

1. Following discussion at the Health and Wellbeing Board development meeting on 3rd September 2014, this report seeks formal agreement and ratification from the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Safeguarding Framework.
2. The Safeguarding Framework outlines the joint working arrangements between the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Families Partnership and the Safe Durham Partnership. The Safeguarding Framework is attached at Appendix 2.

Background

3. A Safeguarding Framework was developed initially in 2012 to provide assurance during a period of transition in the NHS. It set out the transitional arrangements with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board. It was agreed at the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board on 8th November 2012.
4. Following the Health and Wellbeing Board becoming a committee of Durham County Council and the establishment of Clinical Commissioning Groups in April 2013, a review of the Safeguarding Framework was undertaken to ensure that, post-transition, robust arrangements are in place across the partnership boards who have a priority to protect children and adults from abuse and harm. It is important that the Safeguarding Framework sets out the shared agenda to ensure all partners have a joined up approach which adopts a "Think Family" approach.

Safeguarding Framework

5. The Safeguarding Framework outlines the statutory responsibilities of the LSCB and SAB, and how their work interfaces and complements the work of the Partnership Boards and has been updated to reflect recent legislation and guidance including the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Care Act 2014.
6. The Care Act 2014 places the Safeguarding Adults Boards on the same statutory footing as the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. This will give the Safeguarding Adults Board a clear basis in law for the first time and will strengthen the existing arrangements that are in place.
7. In addition to the statutory requirements, the Safeguarding Framework details the functions of the safeguarding boards and outlines the governance, chairing and membership arrangements.
8. The Safeguarding Framework demonstrates that there are close working arrangements in place and documents the commitments from the partnership boards and the LSCB and SAB to work together in protecting vulnerable children and adults from harm.
9. The Safeguarding Framework has been agreed by the following boards:
 - Children and Adults Services Senior Management Team
 - Durham County Council Corporate Management Team
 - Safeguarding Adults Board
 - Local Safeguarding Children Board
 - Children and Families Partnership
 - Safe Durham Partnership

Next Steps

10. A communications plan will be produced to ensure that the Safeguarding Framework is circulated to relevant staff and organisations, to ensure there is an awareness and understanding of the joint working arrangements between the Partnership Boards and the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - Formally agree and ratify the Safeguarding Framework and note the partnership arrangements in place to protect vulnerable children and adults from harm.

Contact: Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager, Policy, Planning & Partnerships – Tel: 0300 267312
Lee Alexander, Safeguarding & Practice Development Manager – Tel: 03000 268180
Pixley Clarke, Business Manager – Tel 03000 265775

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – No direct implications.

Staffing - No direct implications.

Risk - No direct implications.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - No direct implications.

Accommodation - No direct implications.

Crime and Disorder – No direct implications.

Human Rights - No direct implications.

Consultation – The Safeguarding Framework has been completed in consultation with LSCB and SAB partners. It will be shared according to the communications plan.

Procurement - No direct implications.

Disability Issues – No direct implications.

Legal Implications – Legal implications are considered in the Safeguarding Framework