



Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

Report of Corporate Management Team

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

Councillor Lucy Hovvels, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services

Subject of Report

1. The County Durham Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Purpose of Report

2. To present the draft SAB Annual Report and in doing so provide information on the current position of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board and outline achievements during the year 2015/2016.

Background

3. With the introduction of the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adult Boards are placed upon a statutory footing.
4. A statutory requirement placed upon the Safeguarding Adults Board is to produce and publicise an annual report.
5. Revision to the Care & Support Statutory Guidance (March 2016) informs that the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report should have prominence on each core member's website and be made available to other agencies.
6. In addition to core member's making the report accessible, a number of areas are highlighted within the statutory guidance that the report should evidence:-
 - community awareness of adult abuse and neglect and how to respond.
 - 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 arrangements.
 - what adults who have experienced the process say and the extent to which the outcomes they wanted (their wishes) have been realised
 - what front line practitioners say about outcomes for adults and about their ability to work in a personalised way with those adults.
 - better reporting of abuse and neglect.
 - evidence of success of strategies to prevent abuse or neglect.

- feedback from local Healthwatch, adults who use care and support services and carers, community groups, advocates, service providers and other partners.
 - how successful adult safeguarding is at linking with other parts of the system, for example children's safeguarding, domestic violence, community safety.
 - the impact of training carried out in this area and analysis of future need
 - and how well agencies are co-operating and collaborating.
7. There are a number of specific areas covered by the Annual Report which are as follows:-
- Safeguarding in the national and local context.
 - Achievements and impact during the year 2015/2016.
 - Looking ahead, future actions and the refreshed Strategic Plan for 2016/17.
 - Perspectives of the key partners.
 - Key data on safeguarding activity in County Durham is throughout.
8. The format of this annual report has changed from previous years, mindful of the widened arena and audiences with regards to its publication. The report reflects the extensive body of work undertaken by the SAB and its partner agencies during this reporting period.
9. It is intended that a condensed version of this report will be produced, making it more accessible to a wider readership.
10. Recognition was given to the key partners of the Board for their contributions to the formulation of the documents. Subsequent feedback and comments were received for the draft annual report in September, which was approved by SAB in October.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- Receive the annual report and note the ongoing developments achieved in this important area of work.

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Appendix 1: Implications

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

Staffing – The sustaining of adult safeguarding activities requires continued priority to staffing to ensure adequate resources are maintained. The continued contribution to staffing from partner agencies supports the sustainability of dedicated safeguarding adults posts/ functions.

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 damage to statutory and non-statutory agencies in County Durham. The Safeguarding Adults Board puts considerable effort into training and awareness-raising to ensure that abuse and neglect is recognised and reported. All reports of concerns are screened and directed so they receive the most appropriate response. Any risks identified are included within risk arrangements under the umbrella of the Board reviewed quarterly, and the impact of training is regularly explored and reported upon annually.

Equality and Diversity – Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked and this is covered in the SAB policies and procedures with equalities impact assessments undertaken where appropriate.

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and disorder - Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked, and this is covered in the SAB policies and procedures. There is a close working relationship to the Safe Durham Partnership, and annual review of the Safeguarding Framework outlining working arrangements across a range of partnerships. Durham Constabulary is a statutory partner of the SAB.

Human rights - Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked and this is covered in the SAB policies and procedures. Human rights is fundamental to the work of the SAB and its related partners in the context of safeguarding and adult protection.

Consultation – Report available for all partner agencies.

Procurement – The adoption of safeguarding principles in the procurement of health and social care services is essential.

Disability issues – Safeguarding Adults procedures apply to ‘adults at risk’, who are adults with needs for care and support, whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs.

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 any Safeguarding Adult Reviews in that period, lessons learnt and any actions incomplete.