

Health and Wellbeing Board

26 July 2017



Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17

Report of Jane Geraghty Independent Chair Local Safeguarding Adults Board

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report 2016-2017 and in doing so provide information on the current position of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board and outline achievements during 2016/17, and plans for 2017/18.

Background

- 2 Durham County Council (DCC) and its partner agencies continue with their commitment and membership of the SAB and this is reflected in compliance reporting into the SAB on a six monthly basis.
- 3 The Care Act 2014 placed SABs upon a statutory footing with a requirement to produce and publicise an annual report. Supplementary Care & Support Statutory Guidance informs that the SAB Annual Report should have prominence on each core member's website and be made available to other agencies.
- 4 It is expected that the SAB Annual Report evidences specific areas. These are covered by the Annual Report and include:
 - Safeguarding in the national and local context;
 - Achievements and challenges during 2016/2017;
 - Community awareness;
 - Looking ahead, future actions and the refreshed Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2020;
 - Perspectives of the key partners;
 - Consultation with the local Healthwatch;
 - Key data on safeguarding activity and analysis in County Durham which is throughout the report.

Safeguarding in the national and local context

- 5 The Association of Directors for Adult Social Services (ADASS) continues to champion a personalised approach to the safeguarding of adults with a Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) temperature check published in 2016.

The SAB will continue to review progress on its recommendations to inform its future plans and activities.

- 6 The Law Commission undertook a review of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the Mental Capacity Act and published its findings together with new draft legislation in March 2017. Adult and health service staff and service providers have been updated of recent legal changes to DoLS with regards to coroner's rules relating to adults who die whilst subject to a DoLS authorisation. The local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) continue to work with the Continuing Health Care Team in North East Commissioning Support Unit to ensure delivery in relation to the Judicial DoLS agenda.
- 7 Since the implementation of the Care Act 2014, an increase in safeguarding enquiries has been evident across many local authority areas during 2016. There were 3,026 enquiries undertaken in Durham, 64 per cent related to people over the age of 65 years, 29 per cent of enquiries (889) required further investigation and risks were subsequently removed or reduced in 69.9 per cent of these cases. This is slightly higher than the national average in 2015-2016 of 67 per cent. No action taken accounted for 18.5 per cent, 6.5 per cent lower than the reported annual national figure of 25 per cent.
- 8 An easy read version of the report (see Appendix 3) has been prepared in consultation with service user representatives.

Key Achievements in 2016-2017

- 9 The SAB refreshed its annual self-assessment tool to include MSP for partner completion and held an inter-agency peer challenge clinic to review submissions.
- 10 The SAB expanded upon the success of a previous national award winning regional radio campaign, focussed upon raising awareness. There were 1,333 website page views compared to 129 for the same period in 2015. The SAB worked with other local authorities in the region, coordinating and submitting a regional report to ADASS North East with evidence of the campaigns impact.
- 11 Annual monitoring of the evaluation and impact of training is undertaken. NHS England supported the work of the SAB by funding two dedicated Mental Capacity Act training sessions, 169 staff and volunteers from the wider workforce including service providers attending sessions.
- 12 Face to face training across the partnership for safeguarding adults related programmes were delivered to 7,256 staff, in comparison to 2,161 in 2015 – 2016. This is in part due to improved mechanisms for collating data across the partnership. 'Risk Factor' training was delivered to 350 DCC adult and health service staff and multi-disciplinary team staff.
- 13 A SAB newsletter has been introduced raising awareness of key related safeguarding issues, including the Prevent Agenda, Access to Advocacy, Be Fraud Aware and Beat the Scammers. Partner agencies including County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT), Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Durham County Council Housing Solutions

have utilised a dedicated space to raise the profile of their own organisations and key initiatives.

- 14 To support strengthened links with Healthwatch Durham, an overview of the SAB and of safeguarding adults from abuse and neglect was delivered to Healthwatch Board Members, friends and volunteers in March 2017.
- 15 A key safeguarding principle is the empowerment of adults to express what they would like to happen and the outcomes they would like to achieve. This is a focus for all SABs. In 2016-2017 95.8 per cent of adults either fully achieved or partially achieved their desired outcomes following safeguarding enquiries.
- 16 The SAB revisited its performance scorecard to reflect a multi-agency approach to the collation of safeguarding data strengthening the accountability arrangements of the partnership. The first revision was submitted to the SAB in January 2017 and this work continues to progress into 2017-2018.

Key Partner Perspectives

- 17 As part of the annual report process key partners are requested to offer a perspective of their own safeguarding activity and arrangements and their effectiveness for inclusion within the annual report. Submissions were received in 2016-2017 included:
 - Durham County Council – Adult and Health Service;
 - Durham County Council – Housing Solutions;
 - North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group;
 - Durham, Dales, Easington & Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group;
 - County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust;
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust;
 - Durham Constabulary.

Areas of focus in 2017-2018

- 18 In developing and improving upon our performance reporting to ensure it is fully reflective of multi-agency working, and development of thematic audits that are supportive of a prevention agenda.
- 19 Continue our work in gaining the 'voice' of adults and carers to inform our work with a planned follow-up 'seek your views' event in July 2017.
- 20 Continue to strengthen relationships with Healthwatch Durham acting independently to support safeguarding survey activities.
- 21 In an initiative led by Durham Constabulary, the SAB will continue to explore and identify the prevalence of sexual exploitation for adults, developing the most appropriate pathways for early intervention and support of those adults.
- 22 In its development session of March 2017 the SAB reflected upon its progress to date, and its direction of travel in relation to setting future priorities. A key focus of those discussions were prevention and early intervention.

- 23 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance makes clear that SABs must understand the different concerns of the various groups that make up their local communities. In the year ahead, the SAB have agreed to place focus upon financial abuse as part of its preventative work, as well as exploring adults who choose to live in risky situations.
- 24 The SAB agreed to continue with its 'plan on a page' format, revisiting its priorities inclusive of meeting its statutory responsibilities. A refreshed plan has been produced to cover the period of 2017 to 2020. Identified areas of focus are as shown below:
- Prevention;
 - Early Intervention;
 - User/Carer Voice;
 - Awareness Raising;
 - Governance;
 - Performance and Quality;
 - Safeguarding Adult Reviews;
 - Learning Lessons and Improvement.
- 25 The Annual Report 2017-18 will report on achievements and progress against the refreshed plan on a page this time next year

Recommendations and reasons

- 26 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- (a) Receive the annual report for information

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – S.A.B currently receives £93,780 via partner agencies in order to maintain its business functions. This is reviewed on an annual basis.

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 of individuals. As well as the risk of serious reputational 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 / Public Sector Equality Duty – SAB policy and procedures are formulated with reference to statutory obligations in respect of equality and diversity and 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 and prevention of harm is a key principle of the SAB.

Human rights – The prevention and protection of 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. Further work has been undertaken by commissioners for monitoring and review of procured services which will support providing assurance to the board.

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 – Publication of the SAB annual report as well as Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in that period, lessons learnt and any incomplete actions is in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.