

TITLE OF REPORT: **Safeguarding Boards update**

REPORT OF: **Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing
and Learning**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report 2016/17 and Business Plan 2017/18 for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Annual Report 2016/17 and updated Strategic Plan 2016/2019 for the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for endorsement by Cabinet.

Background

2. The Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board continue to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. The Boards have been strengthened via the appointment in November 2016 of a highly regarded and experienced Independent Chair Sir Paul Ennals who is responsible for Chairing both Boards. Both Boards have a strong commitment to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17 and Business Plan 2017/18

3. The LSCB Annual Report 2016-2017 details developments for both the LSCB itself and its partner agencies, of which Gateshead Council is one, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough. Key areas include work to understand high levels of Permanent Exclusions and self-harm, work to improve links with local communities and ongoing work to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of abuse. The report also contains an analysis of data (including the increase in the numbers of children subject to child protection plans and child protection investigations).
4. The LSCB Business Plan 2017-2018 sets the strategic direction for the LSCB and reinforces the specific role of the LSCB to lead, challenge and support learning and focuses on the specific role and remit of the Board. The action plan for 2017-2018 supports those three key priorities of leadership, challenge and learning and also focuses on the five key thematic priority areas of the voice of the child, improving relationships and the interface with schools, Early Help, mental health and safeguarding disabled children. The LSCB will also be working to prepare for the implementation of new legislation and guidance around statutory strategic arrangements for safeguarding (including the removal of the requirement for local authorities to ensure that there is a LSCB and a new requirement for a new strategic partnership between the local authority, police and CCG).

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016/17 and updated Strategic Plan 2016/19

5. The SAB 2016/17 Annual Report highlights progress throughout the year. Key areas of work include the development of bespoke safeguarding adult training courses, the establishment of a Serious Provider Concern process to enable management of Safeguarding Concerns more appropriately and effectively, the adoption of a Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) and the establishment of a new Safeguarding Adults Review Group which has delegated responsibility for the co-ordination of statutory Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The report also articulates how partner governance arrangements ensure members are accountable for Safeguarding Adults and includes what members have done in order to deliver the objectives highlighted within its strategic plan. The SAB has streamlined the way in which it operates, to seek to get the most out of the contributions of senior partners from all agencies.
6. The revised Strategic Plan 2016/19 sets out how the Safeguarding Adults Board will achieve its five Strategic Priorities which are:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Community Engagement and Communication
 - Improved Operational Practice
 - Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The Strategic Plan includes key challenges to be addressed over the three year period. 2017/18 is year two of the three year Strategic Plan and the revision, supported by a Business Plan for 2017/18, which helps to reprioritise the work of the Board to ensure that the Strategic Priorities are addressed.

Proposal

7. Cabinet is asked to endorse the respective Annual Reports and Strategic Plans for both the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that the Annual Reports and Strategic Plans be endorsed.

For the following reason:

To ensure that statutory duties of the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board and Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board are met.

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APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The proposals support Vision 2030 and the Council Plan 2015-2020, ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe and supported.
2. The Care Act 2014 enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults and the Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body in April 2015. The Care Act states that a Safeguarding Adults Board must:
 - publish a strategic plan for each financial year. This plan could cover 3 – 5 years in order to enable the Board to plan ahead as long as it is reviewed and updated annually
 - publish an annual report which details how the Board and its members achieved the objectives as identified within the strategic plan
3. Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and Regulation 4 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations (2006) set out the statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs. As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), every Local Safeguarding Children Board is required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The annual report sets out the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead and provides an assessment of those arrangements. The report also sets out how the LSCB discharges its statutory functions.

Background

4. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up the LSCB and SAB and a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this, along with ongoing public sector austerity measures, the two Annual Reports illustrate that considerable progress has been made. Neither of the Boards were subject to external inspections during 2016/17 and there were no new Safeguarding Adult Reviews or Serious Case Reviews commissioned. Nevertheless a number of emerging local and national issues meant that the two Boards were extremely busy.

Consultation

5. The LSCB and SAB Boards and Sub-Groups were fully engaged and consulted with during the production of the Annual Reports and Strategic Plan / Business Plan.
6. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Adult Social Care have been consulted.

Alternative Options

7. There are no alternative options available to the Council.

Implications of Recommended Option

8. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms there are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific human resource implications arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** – There are no specific property implications arising from this report.

- 9. **Risk Management Implications** – The production of the Safeguarding Annual reports and Strategic Plans / Business Plans provides control measures for risk management
- 10. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – Safeguarding activity makes a major contribution to protecting vulnerable adults from harassment, abuse and discrimination. The Council has a duty under the s149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- 11. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The wider safeguarding agenda is an integral part of the Council's work to create a Safer Gateshead. There is a close connection between community safety, MARAC, MAPPA, the protection of adults with needs for care and support and the safeguarding children agenda.
- 12. **Health Implications** – The priorities and subsequent actions identified within each of the annual plans support the mental health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.
- 13. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no direct sustainability issues within this report.
- 14. **Human Rights Implications** – Account is taken of Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life when considering Safeguarding activity. Independent advocacy is also used during the safeguarding process to ensure service users have an independent voice.
- 15. **Area and Ward Implications** – Safeguarding cover all areas and wards throughout Gateshead.