

TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the views of the Health & Wellbeing Board on Annual Report 2016/17 and Business Plan 2017/18 for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the Annual Report 2016/17 and updated Strategic Plan 2016/2019 for the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).

Background

2. The Local Safeguarding Children's 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.
3. 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.
4. 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
5. 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.

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

6. 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).
7. 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

8. 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.
9. 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

10. It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider the content of the Annual Reports and Strategic Plan / Business plan and comment on how the Board can contribute towards the safeguarding agenda.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to continue to receive updates from the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Contact: Paul Ennals – Independent Chair
Carole Paz-Uceira - Safeguarding Adults Business Manager
Saira Park – Safeguarding Children's Business Manager