

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 Gateshead Safeguarding Adult's Board (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Annual Reports for endorsement by Cabinet.

Background

2. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board continue to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. Both Boards have a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2017/18

3. The LSCB Annual Report 2017-2018 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, work to improve links with our schools and ongoing work to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of abuse. The report also contains an analysis of data. (Numbers of children on child protection plans have decreased slightly., numbers of children in care have increased slightly. The timeliness of assessments and conferences remains high)
4. The LSCB Business Plan 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 supports those three key priorities of leadership, challenge and learning and also focuses on the five key thematic priority areas Voice of the child, Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools), Early Help & Early Intervention, Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing, Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing. The LSCB will also be continuing 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 2017/18 and Strategic Plan 2016/19 Refresh

5. The SAB 2017/18 Annual Report highlights progress throughout the year. The report also articulates how partner governance arrangements ensure members are accountable for Safeguarding Adults. 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. This includes the establishment of an Executive Group whose role is to monitor the effectiveness of the Board and its sub groups and to report directly to the Board on any emerging themes, risks areas of good practice and learning.
6. Key areas of work in 2017/18 include the development of a performance dashboard, the development of practice guidance for adult sexual exploitation, the implementation of a community and engagement strategy, improved links with the voluntary and community sector, maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and a revised approach for responding to statutory Safeguarding Adult Reviews. During 2017/18 the Safeguarding Adults Board continued to explore opportunities for working collaboratively at a regional level.
7. The revised Strategic Plan 2016/19 (2018 refresh) 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
8. The Strategic Plan includes key challenges to be addressed over the three year period. 2018/19 is the final year of the three year Strategic Plan and is supported by a Business Plan for 2018/19, which helps to reprioritise the work of the Board to ensure that the Strategic Priorities are addressed.
9. The Safeguarding Adults Board will be implementing a programme of consultation and engagement over the coming months in preparation for the new three-year strategy which will commence in April 2019.

Proposal

10. Cabinet is asked to endorse the respective Annual Reports and 2018/19 Plans for both the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board.

Recommendations

11. 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's 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's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, 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 contained in the Children Act 2004. 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 (s.14A Children Act 2004). 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 2017/18. There was one new Safeguarding Adult Review commissioned and no Children's Serious Case Reviews. Nevertheless, a number of emerging local and national issues meant that the two Boards were extremely busy.
5. The LSCB and SAB have launched a new website which contains detailed information about Safeguarding in Gateshead. This includes information about the Boards, policies and procedures, training and information and advice for practitioners and members of the public www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk.

Consultation

6. 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.
7. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Adult Social Care have been consulted.

Alternative Options

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

Implications of Recommended Option

9. 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.
10. **Risk Management Implications** – The production of the Safeguarding Annual reports and Strategic Plans / Business Plans provides control measures for risk management
 11. **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.
 12. **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.
 13. **Health Implications** – The priorities and subsequent actions identified within each of the annual plans support the mental health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.
 14. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no direct sustainability issues within this report.
 15. **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.
 16. **Area and Ward Implications** – Safeguarding cover all areas and wards throughout Gateshead.