

**TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Annual Report & Plans: Adults and Children**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek the views of the Health & Wellbeing Board on the 2018/19 Annual Reports of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), to provide an overview of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children in Gateshead and present the 2019-2024 SAB Strategic Plan

**Background**

2. The Care Act 2014 states that a SAB must publish an annual report and strategic plan. The Gateshead SAB continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding adults. The Board has a strong commitment to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up SAB and a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this, along with ongoing public-sector austerity measures, the Annual Report illustrates that good progress has been made.
3. 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. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. The LSCB has a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

**Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19 and Strategic Plan 2019-24**

4. The SAB 2018/19 Annual Report provides a policy context and an overview of the SAB Structure, governance and scrutiny arrangements and performance information. Key achievements of the SAB during 2018/19 are documented within the report and are aligned to the five Strategic Priorities. These include:
  - Adult Sexual Exploitation practice guidance and implementation of the Adult Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked group
  - Development of a case file audit tool
  - Successful joint Adverse Childhood Experiences conference with the LSCB and Public Health
  - Delivery of bespoke training courses, including voluntary sector management trustees and resident groups

- Launch of Safeguarding in Gateshead website and @Gatesheadsafes twitter account
- Development of the Gateshead Multi-Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART)
- Maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

**Link to full report:** [SAB 201819 Annual Report](#)

5. The SAB Strategic Plan 2019/24 was developed following a period of consultation involving service users, key partners and providers. Importantly, the Strategic Plan also focuses upon areas of work identified from local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other inquiries. The consultation identified that the five SAB strategic priorities that had been in place since 2016 remained fit for purpose for 2019-24, those are:

- Quality Assurance
- Prevention
- Community Engagement and Communication
- Improved Operational Practice
- Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

**Link to full report:** [Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2019-2024](#)

6. Each strategic priority is accompanied by a series of key actions that the Board are committing to deliver during the five-year period. The Strategic Plan is supported by an annual business plan to assist the SAB Executive Group to prioritise workstreams and keep on track with delivery. The Plan will be refreshed on an annual basis to ensure that new legislation and emerging issues are reflected and that the Strategic Priorities remain fit for purpose.

### **Gateshead LSCB Annual Report 2018-2019 and MASA Safeguarding Plan 2019-2020**

7. The [LSCB Annual Report 2018-19](#) details developments for both the LSCB itself and its partner agencies, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough. Key areas include developing early help strategy and work regionally, developing integrated tools and further integration of processes – performance datasets, QA frameworks, policies & procedures, training, and practice review arrangements.
8. The report also contains an analysis of data, numbers of contacts and notifications have reduced. The number of children on child protection plans have decreased, as have numbers of children in care. The timeliness of assessments and conferences remains high.
9. A major focus of work during 2018-2019 has been around developing our new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) and safeguarding plan – [link to safeguarding plan](#)
10. The proposals for implementation in September 2019 represent a transitional process. Some streamlining is proposed to the current arrangements, with greater integration between the children and adult boards; however, much of the current structure will be retained for at least 12 months.
11. During the course of 2019-20, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, and a wider structure review will be

undertaken in the spring of 2020. It is envisaged that in September 2020 new arrangements will be introduced.

### **Proposal**

9. It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider the content of the reports and comment on how the Board can contribute towards the Safeguarding agenda.

### **Recommendations**

10. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to continue to receive safeguarding updates.

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