

TITLE OF REPORT: **Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports and Strategic Plans**

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 to Cabinet, 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 @Gatesheadsafte twitter account
 - Development of the Gateshead Multi-Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART)
 - Maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
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. They are:
- Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Community Engagement and Communication
 - Improved Operational Practice
 - Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
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 or 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.
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.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the content of the annual reports and safeguarding plans.

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 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 2018/19.
5. **Changes to LSCB** - Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaces LSCBs with new local safeguarding arrangements led by the three named statutory safeguarding partners; local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups (health). The three safeguarding partners will assume the responsibilities for safeguarding arrangements that currently sit with LSCBs and will have a shared and equal duty for new safeguarding arrangements and for working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead. The Safeguarding partners in Gateshead are:
 - Gateshead Council
 - Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
 - Northumbria Police
6. **Working together to safeguard children 2018** requires that as local safeguarding partners the council, the police and the CCG publish

arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. The Gateshead Safeguarding children Partnership Plan will come into effect for 12 months from September 2019. Our Safeguarding Plan sets out the transitional arrangements for Gateshead from September 2019.

Consultation

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

Alternative Options

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

Implications of Recommended Option

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

- 16. 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.
- 17. Area and Ward Implications** – Safeguarding cover all areas and wards throughout Gateshead.