

TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Board Update

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Children, Adults and Families

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Gateshead Safeguarding Adult's Board (SAB) and Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership (GSCP) Annual Reports for endorsement by Cabinet, and present the 2020 refresh of the 2019-2024 SAB Strategic Plan.

Background

2. Gateshead Council, along with Northumbria Police and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, is a statutory partner of the SAB and GSCP.
3. 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. The 2019/20 Annual Report demonstrates that progress continues to be made within the Safeguarding Adults agenda in Gateshead.
4. As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), the three Safeguarding Partners are required to publish an Annual Report that sets out what they have done as a result of the new safeguarding arrangements. The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. The GSCP has a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

Proposal

5. The SAB 2019-2024 Strategic Plan (2020 refresh) and the GSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements articulate how partners in Gateshead will work together with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults in Gateshead.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the content of the safeguarding reports

For the following reason:

Gateshead Council is a statutory partner of the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board and Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership

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Carole Paz-Uceira – Safeguarding Adult Business Manager

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. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaced Local Safeguarding Children's Boards 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 have assumed the responsibilities for safeguarding arrangements that previously sat with LSCBs and now 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
 - Northumbria Police
4. 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, and publish an annual report that sets out what they have done as a result of the arrangements. This should be published at least once in every 12 month period, and include:
 - evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
 - an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
 - a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.

Background

5. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up the GSCP and SAB and a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this the two Annual Reports illustrate that considerable progress has been made.
6. Sir Paul Ennals has now stepped down as independent Chair of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group are working together, as the three statutory partners, to consider future chairing arrangements.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/20 and Strategic Plan 2019-24 (2020 refresh)

7. The SAB 2019/20 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:
 - Held our first Challenge Event during which partners were asked to present their Quality Assurance Frameworks
 - Conducted two themed case files audits relating to neglect and domestic abuse
 - Shared learning from the Winnie Smith appreciative inquiry and actioned recommendations
 - Held a co-production workshop to explore the role of safeguarding in supported people impacted by substance misuse
 - Delivered a full training programme, including bespoke training such as on the psychology of trauma
 - Supported the launch of the Herbert Protocol which is designed to improve response to incidents of individuals with dementia who go missing
 - Refreshed our communication and engagement strategy, including an updated media protocol in response to early recommendations from the County Durham Whorlton Hall organisational abuse case
 - Launched the Safeguarding Adult Champion scheme, providing a link between the Safeguarding Adults Board and services in Gateshead
 - Reviewed our approach to sexual and criminal exploitation in Gateshead
 - Maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
8. The SAB Strategic Plan 2019/24 was reviewed and updated in July 2020 to ensure that new legislation and emerging issues are reflected and that the Strategic Priorities remain fit for purpose. This is with the recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented challenges placed upon our services and is expected to have a long-lasting detrimental impact upon our communities from a socio-economic perspective. The five SAB strategic priorities that have been in place since 2016 remain fit for purpose for 2019-24 and they are:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Community Engagement and Communication

- Improved Operational Practice
- Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

9. 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.

Gateshead GSCP Annual Report 2019-20

10. The GSCP Annual Report 2019-2020 details developments for both the GSCP itself and its partner agencies, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough. Key areas include work regionally, developing integrated tools and further integration of processes – performance datasets, QA frameworks, policies & procedures, training, and practice review arrangements.
11. The report also contains an analysis of data, and some narrative.
12. A major focus of work during 2019-2020 has been around developing our new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) and safeguarding plan.

Consultation

13. The GSCP and SAB Boards were fully engaged and consulted with during the production of the Annual Reports and Strategic Plan / Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.
14. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Adult Social Care have been consulted.

Alternative Options

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

Implications of Recommended Option

16. **Resources:**

- a) Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital 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.

17. **Risk Management Implication** - The production of the Safeguarding Annual reports and Strategic Plan / Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements provides control measures for risk management

18. **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.
19. **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, safeguarding adults and safeguarding children.
20. **Health Implications** - The priorities identified support the mental health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.
21. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no direct climate emergency or sustainability implications within this report.
22. **Human Rights Implications** - Account is taken of 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.
23. **Ward Implications** - Safeguarding covers all wards throughout Gateshead.