
TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Adults Board update

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the views of the Health & Wellbeing Board on the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) 2020/21 Annual Report and 2019/24 Strategic Plan (2021 update).

Background

2. The Care Act 2014 states that every SAB must publish an Annual Report and strategic plan. The Annual Report must set out how the Board and its members achieved the objectives as identified within the Strategic Plan.
3. 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. In April 2021 the three SAB statutory partners appointed Phil Conn as the new Chair of the SAB. Phil is a Director within Oasis Community Housing and brings with him a wealth of expertise in safeguarding, particularly in relation to homelessness, severe multiple disadvantage and complex needs.
4. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up SAB and there has been a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this, along with ongoing challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Report illustrates that good progress has been made.

Annual Report 2020/21

5. The SAB 2020/21 Annual Report provides an overview of the policy context and of the SAB Structure, governance and scrutiny arrangements. The report documents the SAB arrangements during Covid-19. Scheduled Board meetings and Sub-Groups were cancelled to enable our partners to respond to the challenges brought by Covid-19. Meanwhile, virtual strategic and operational meetings were established to enable partners to continue to work together to safeguard our most vulnerable adults. The Annual Report also summarises Safeguarding Adult performance information and Safeguarding Adult Review activity.
6. Key achievements of the SAB during 2020/21 are documented within the report and are aligned to the five Strategic Priorities. These include:
 - Recruitment of three new lay members to the Board
 - Hosting a regional transitional safeguarding workshop, in partnership with South Tyneside
 - Development and implementation of the Northumbria Missing Adults Protocol
 - Delivery of a more flexible training programme in light of Covid-19 restrictions

- Effective communication during Covid-19, and successful awareness raising programme during Safeguarding Adults Week
- Development of the SAB Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures

Strategic Plan 2019/24 (2021 Refresh)

7. The five year Strategic Plan that was first published in 2019 is refreshed on an annual basis to ensure that it continues to reflect the priorities of the Board. The 2021 refresh confirmed that the five strategic priorities remain fit for purpose. These are:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Community Engagement and Communication
 - Improved Operational Practice
 - Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
8. The 2021 refresh details changes to the Sub-Group arrangements of the Board, including the merger of two previous groups to create the Quality, Learning and Practice Group. The refresh incorporates additional actions including:
 - Supporting closer integration of services across the wider Gateshead System
 - Working in partnership with the new regional victim to support victims of exploitation
 - Improve partnership working to safeguard people who experience homelessness
 - Strengthen multi-agency safeguarding transition arrangements, including procedures for responding to child to parent violence

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 Adults agenda.

Recommendations

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

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