

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan 2016-2019

2018 update

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Introduction

This is the first Strategic Plan for the now statutory Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board post implementation of the Care Act (2014) on April 1st 2015. This three year Strategic Plan is supported by annual Business Plans to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity over the three year period. Of course, the national and local policy landscape is constantly changing and it is important to review the Strategic Plan on an annual basis to ensure that the Strategic priorities remain right for Gateshead. **This plan has been reviewed and updated in April 2018.**

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board is committed to make Safeguarding in Gateshead person-led and outcome focussed by adopting and implementing a preventative model. The Board have worked hard to ensure that within Gateshead we are Care Act compliant and have demonstrated via internal and independent scrutiny that we deliver quality services.

We face new challenges, however, ranging from the inclusion of new categories of abuse, the removal of thresholds, an important emphasis upon the empowerment of those Adults at risk of or experiencing abuse and neglect, and unprecedented organisational changes for many of our partner organisations as a result of continued austerity.

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board also continues to provide strategic leadership for our approach to responding to statutory duties detailed within the Mental Capacity Act, including the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board has a strong commitment from its members to implement the Strategic Priorities identified within this plan. Some of these we can address and deliver quickly. Others will need commitment and further development throughout the three year period.

Policy Context

The Care Act 2014 has enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults, which will not only ensure that the most vulnerable members of society are afforded appropriate support and protection, but will also help them to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible. Chapter 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act replaces the No Secrets document as the statutory basis for all safeguarding activity. This was updated in March 2016 by the Department of Health. The Care Act sets out the Safeguarding Adult responsibilities for Local Authorities and their partners. It places a duty upon Local Authorities to establish Safeguarding Adults Boards.

A corner stone of the Care Act is the general responsibility placed on all local authorities to promote wellbeing. Significantly, the Care Act emphasises the importance of beginning with the assumption that individuals are best placed to judge their own wellbeing. Under the definition of wellbeing, it is made clear that protection from abuse and neglect is fundamental.

The Care Act identifies six key principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work, and which apply equally to all sectors and settings:

- **Empowerment** – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – support and representation to those in greatest need
- **Partnership** – local solutions through services working with their communities
- **Accountability** – accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

Schedule 2 of the Care Act (2014) stipulates that Safeguarding Adults Boards must publish a Strategic Plan each financial year, identifying how the Boards and their members will protect adults in their respective areas from abuse and neglect.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

Our vision

Our vision for adult safeguarding in Gateshead is:

‘Everybody in Gateshead has the right to lead a fulfilling life and should be able to live safely, free from abuse and neglect – and to contribute to their own and other people’s health and wellbeing’

In Gateshead we believe that Safeguarding is everyone’s business. This means - whoever you are, wherever you are and whatever position you have – you have a responsibility to take action to help protect our local residents when you hear about allegations of abuse or neglect.

We believe that our vision is shared and practiced by all our partner organisations. Safeguarding cannot be fully delivered by agencies acting in isolation – and can only be achieved by working together in partnership to help protect and support adults at risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect.

Governance arrangements

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body in April 2015. The Board is responsible for assuming the strategic lead and overseeing the work of Adult Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards arrangements in Gateshead. Within Gateshead we have commissioned an Independent Chair to enhance scrutiny and challenge. The Board has a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding, which provides the framework for identifying roles and responsibilities and demonstrating accountability. The Safeguarding Adults Board has developed strong links with the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Board.

In law, the statutory members of a Safeguarding Adults Board are defined as the local authority, the local police force and the relevant clinical commissioning group. However, in Gateshead, we recognise the importance of the contribution made by all of our partner agencies and this is reflected by the wider Board membership (correct as of April 2018):

- Gateshead Council
- Northumbria Police
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (on behalf of NHS England, North East Ambulance Service and incorporating GP lead for Adult Safeguarding)
- Lay Members
- Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tyneside Foundation Trust
- Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- Gateshead College
- The Gateshead Housing Company
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service
- Oasis Aquila Housing
- Mental Health Concern
- National Probation Service

The Safeguarding Adults Board is supported by five sub-groups:

- **Practice Delivery Group** (Chaired by an officer from The Gateshead Housing Company)

The role of the Practice Delivery Group is to ensure that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures and supporting practice guidance continue to be fit for purpose. The Group has responsibility for keeping up to date with national policy changes that may impact upon the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board. The Group also has responsibility for the development and implementation of the Communication and Engagement strategy and implementation of the Dignity Strategy.

- **Safeguarding Adult Review Group** (Chaired by an officer from Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group)

The Safeguarding Adults Review Group (SARG) will consider Safeguarding Adult Review referrals, commission reviews and subsequently monitor their progress. The SARG may also oversee discretionary reviews into cases that do not meet the criteria for a Safeguarding Adult Review, where the group feel there are multi-agency lessons to be learned. It will collate and review recommendations from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other reviews, ensuring that achievable action plans are developed and that actions are delivered.

- **Quality and Assurance Group** (Chaired by an officer from Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust)

The Quality and Assurance Group have developed and implemented a Quality and Assurance Framework that provides a structure for scrutinising activity that is undertaken by Board member agencies and relevant services or organisations. The group monitors and scrutinises the quality of activities to ensure that the interventions offered are person-centred, proportionate and appropriate. The Quality and Assurance Group is also responsible for the development of a performance dashboard and for considering lessons learned that are identified nationally, regionally and locally from any cases requiring a Safeguarding Adults Review, Serious Case Review or any other review process relevant to the Safeguarding Adults agenda.

- **Training Group** (Chaired by an officer from the Local Authority)

The Training Group coordinates and develops Safeguarding Adults training and Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards training that is accessible for practitioners and managers in a multi-agency setting. For the purposes of quality assurance, data is monitored regarding attendance, cancellation as well as evaluation of training courses. The group develops and implements ad-hoc bespoke training courses to meet evidenced demand in addition to core training courses.

- **Strategic Exploitation Group** (Chaired by an officer from Northumbria Police)

The Strategic Exploitation Group is a sub-group of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The group is responsible for overseeing all work with respect to sexual exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking and female genital mutilation in Gateshead.

The Board and the five sub-groups regularly commission time limited task and finish groups to undertake specific pieces of project work.

Developing the Strategic Plan

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan has been developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders, and underpinned by performance information and feedback from members of the general public, safeguarding adult service users, advocates and professionals from a range of service users.

Stakeholder consultation included:

- Safeguarding Adults Board partner organisations
- Practice Delivery Group
- Health Partners Network
- Healthwatch
- General public
- Commissioned Providers
- Practitioner feedback

The 2018 refresh involved learning from national best practice and Safeguarding Adult Review recommendations in conjunction with additional consultation with the following:

- Commissioned Providers (November 2017)
- Board Development Session (February 2018)
- Community and Voluntary Sector (February 2018)

Strategic Priorities and Key Challenges

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board has established five Strategic Priorities for 2016/19:

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

Consultation for the 2018 refresh of the Strategy confirmed that the priorities should remain. The Safeguarding Adults Board are committing to embedding the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda throughout the five Strategic Priorities.

1. Quality Assurance

The Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to prioritise Quality Assurance in its widest sense. This will enable the Board to demonstrate quality and effectiveness at both strategic and operational levels. It aims to support a better understanding of how safe adults are locally and how well local services are carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities in accordance with the Care Act and the Gateshead Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures. In particular, the Board will seek to demonstrate effectiveness in implementation of the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda.

Key Challenges 2018/19 include:

- Develop and implement a self assessment process to monitor the effectiveness of the Board and partner organisations
- Implement a Safeguarding Adults Peer Review and act upon subsequent recommendations
- Revise the Safeguarding Adults Review Policy and Practice Guidance
- Demonstrate learning from best practice / inspections / audits and reviews
- Measure the quality of user engagement

2. Prevention

Prevention is one of the six Principles of Safeguarding. Within Gateshead we have prioritised preventative work and have produced a range of practice guidance notes and bespoke training courses to support our front line practitioners. Challenge has also been encouraged at Board level to develop services that are preventative and proactive rather than reactive. Nonetheless the Policy landscape is changing, along with operational practice, and it is important that the Safeguarding Adults Board continue to focus on the prevention agenda.

Key Challenges 2018/19 include:

- Revise the Self-Neglect Practice Guidance note and deliver updated practitioner training
- Work with Community Safety to enhance operational response to the Prevent agenda
- Revise the Financial Abuse Practice Guidance note, taking into account the issues arising from implementation of Universal Credit
- Develop and Implement Modern Day Slavery Strategy
- Continue to enhance and champion the links between safeguarding and housing
- Develop and Implement Level Two and Level Three Safeguarding Adult Training courses
- Continue to engage with providers to understand issues within the care and support sector and support through provider concern process
- Develop an understanding of the safeguarding implications for the integration of health and social care
- Explore opportunities for working in partnership to develop Early Help models
- Work with Community Safety to raise awareness of mate crime

3. Community Engagement and Communication

The Safeguarding Adults Board have prioritised empowerment, personalisation and Making Safeguarding Personal to ensure that those adults involved within the safeguarding process have their wellbeing promoted and, where appropriate, that regard is given to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. Everyday practice however has demonstrated that there is a lack of understanding about Safeguarding Adults within the wider community, which can impact upon the effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults as a whole.

Key Challenges 2018/19 include:

- Deliver Communication and Engagement Strategy delivery plan including;
 - Develop a bespoke Safeguarding in Gateshead website
 - Develop and implement a Safeguarding Adults Champion Scheme
 - Develop a programme of Community Engagement activities
 - Host a Safeguarding conference
- Develop a programme of consultation for the next three year Strategic Plan

4. Improved Operational Practice

Whilst this is a Strategic Plan, the Safeguarding Adults Board must ensure that operational practice is fit for purpose and delivering person-centred outcomes. Following implementation of the Care Act on April 1st 2015 and the subsequent implementation of revised Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures in Gateshead feedback from Adults who have been through the Safeguarding process and from practitioners has identified a number of key challenges that the Board must ensure are addressed.

Key Challenges 2018/19 include:

- Revise the Safeguarding Adults Board Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures
- Further embed the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal
- Improve the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act within the safeguarding adult process
- Complex cases – understand interface between community safety, MASH, contract management and Safeguarding

5. Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The Mental Capacity Act, including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, has been subject to significant legislative changes resulting in an unprecedented increase in resource demands nationally and local. The agenda will continue to evolve as new ways of working and case law is embedded into practice. There is an increasing need to improve the knowledge base of the MCA and DoLS agenda and to further enhance engagement with partner agencies and service users in relation to the MCA to enable the successful incorporation into everyday assessment and care provision.

Key Challenges 2018/19 include:

- Focused awareness raising with professionals with respect to 16/17 year olds and the MCA
- Community engagement with respect to MCA and DoLS
- Develop a targeted approach to MCA and financial abuse
- Practitioner training on court processes



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