

TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
(2022/23) and Strategic Plan

REPORT OF: Dale Owens, Strategic Director Care, Integrated
Adults and Social Care Services

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) statutory Annual Report 2022/23 and the updated 2023 refresh of the Strategic Plan 2019/2024.

Background

1. The Care Act 2014 enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults and the Safeguarding Adults Board subsequently 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.
 - publish an annual report which details how the Board, and its members achieved the objectives as identified within the strategic plan.
2. The GSAB was independently chaired by Phil Conn, Oasis Community Housing until July 2023. Following Phil Conn's resignation due to a change in role and additional work commitments the GSAB appointed a new Independent Chair. Nicola Bailey joined the Board in July 2023, having recently retired from her role as an Executive Director for the ICB, prior to that she was a Chief Officer in CCGs across Durham and the Tees Valley in which she was involved in the safeguarding chief officers' groups in both areas. Before re-joining the NHS Nicola held roles including LA Chief Executive, DASS and DCS, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in strategic safeguarding.
3. Partner agencies continue to work under immense pressure with the effects of the Covid Pandemic still evident across the sector. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to put health and social care services under additional pressures. Despite this the Annual Report illustrates that considerable progress has been made.

Annual Report 2022/23

4. The GSAB 2022/23 Annual Report highlights progress throughout the 2022/23 financial year. The report articulates how partner governance arrangements ensure members are accountable for Safeguarding Adults.
5. The GSAB Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Cases Sub-group continues to support the statutory work of the GSAB through completion of mandatory Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and local learning reviews. This provides an opportunity for GSAB partners to review cases where a person with care and

support needs has suffered abuse and neglect which has resulted in their death or serious injury or illness. The learning from these reviews allows the board to identify areas of development, in knowledge, skills and practice and to focus on areas where improvements are required to protect people which care and support needs. The Quality, Learning and Practice Sub-group takes on an operational role, taking the learning from SARs and developing these into clear and measurable actions to be progressed by partners.

6. Key areas of work in 2022/23 include the launch of the regional self-neglect seven-minute guides and animation, the introduction of the Adult Concern Decision Making tool to support practitioners in deciding on whether to submit a safeguarding concern. Northumbria Police have started to implement Right Care Right Person in line with national best practice and Gateshead Housing have set up the 'Less is More' – Hoarder Support Group, residents and practitioners are working together to identify best practice in dealing with hoarding issues. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue continue to promote the Safe and Well visits. All agencies have promoted safeguarding training and development both internally and through the multi-agency offer. The GSAB multi-agency training offer has been reviewed and refreshed offering a robust and accessible training offer for partners.

Strategic Plan 2019/24 (2023 refresh)

7. The revised Strategic Plan 2019/24 (2023 refresh) sets out how the Safeguarding Adults Board will achieve its five Strategic Priorities which are:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Communication and Engagement
 - Operational Practice
 - Mental Capacity
8. The Strategic Plan includes key challenges to be addressed over the five-year period. 2023/24 will be the final year of the Strategic Plan, during 2023 the board will be working to develop their Strategic Plan for 2024-2026.
9. As this is the final year for the current Strategic Plan the GSAB has arranged a development day in September 2023. The purpose of the day is to identify the priority areas for the Board over the coming 3 years, with the aim of setting objectives, goals and actions as well as identifying mechanisms to measure outcomes and the impact of the boards work.
10. GSAB partners are fully involved in the day and the process of developing the strategic plan. This will support a shared understanding and ownership of the strategic plan and the business plan which will be used to monitor progress against actions.
11. Following the development day statutory board members will review the governance, membership and resourcing of the board to ensure they are adequate to ensure the strategic plan can be delivered.

Recommendation

12. The committee is asked to consider and comment on the Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2022/23 and Strategic Plan 2019/24 (2023 refresh).

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