

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2016/19 and Annual Business Plan 2016/17

**REPORT OF:** Alison Elliott, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory requirement to publish a Strategic Plan and Annual Report. The three year Strategic Plan 2016/19 is supported by Annual Business Plans to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity over the three year period.

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### **Background**

1. The Care Act 2014 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.
2. 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 for Health.
3. The Care Act places a duty upon Local Authorities to establish Safeguarding Adults Boards and stipulates that Safeguarding Adult Boards must produce a Strategic Plan and Annual Report. The Statutory Guidance encourages the Safeguarding Adults Board to link with other partnerships in the locality and share relevant information and work plans.
4. The Safeguarding Adults Board held a development day in May 2016 to reflect upon progress during 2015/16 for the Annual Report and to ensure that the Annual Business Plan for 2016/17 would enable the Board to focus activity and assist in meeting the challenges identified within the Strategic Plan.

## **Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2016/2019 and Annual Business Plan 2016/17**

5. This is the first Strategic Plan for the now statutory Safeguarding Adults Board (Appendix 1). The Safeguarding Adults Board is committed to making Safeguarding in Gateshead person-led and outcome focused by adopting and implementing a preventing model.
6. 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
7. These strategic priorities will be underpinned by the six Principles of Safeguarding identified within the Care Act:
  - **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
8. The three year Strategic Plan is supported by an Annual Business Plan to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity over the three year period (Appendix 2). To enable the Safeguarding Adults Board to fulfil its statutory obligations and the key principles of partnership and accountability, and additional priority of 'Strategic Governance' has been added.

## **Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16**

9. The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16 will be considered at the Safeguarding Adults Board in July 2016. Partners within the Board were asked to complete a summary of achievements, progress and performance throughout the year and these summaries will form a core part of the annual report.
10. Key successes for the Board during 2015/16 were:
  - Implementation of revised Care Act compliant Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures
  - Publication of Practice Guidance on Self Neglect, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Financial Abuse

- Embedding a personalised approach to Safeguarding – referred to nationally as Making Safeguarding Personal
  - Publishing updated publicity information, including easy read Safeguarding Adult leaflets
  - Producing guidance for partner organisations on the development of single agency policy and procedures
  - Development and implementation of Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Policy and Procedures
  - Maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards despite a significant increase in the number of applications
  - The development of closer working relationships with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), for example the establishment of a joint Strategic Exploitation sub-group which focuses on sexual exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking
  - Facilitating a Safeguarding and Housing conference which aimed to encourage greater involvement and engagement of housing providers and housing services within Safeguarding Adults processes
  - The delivery of bespoke workshops focussed upon the new category of abuse of Self Neglect for front line practitioners
  - Taking part in SAFE Week (Safeguarding Adults For Everyone) – working with providers to raise awareness of Safeguarding Adults
  - The delivery of workshops for our commissioned providers to raise awareness about the new Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures
11. In 2015/16 there were 2034 Safeguarding Adult Concerns which led to 1638 Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries. For a Concern to progress to a Section 42 Enquiry it must meet the statutory criteria. The Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
  - Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
  - As a result of those care and support need is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect
12. This was the first year of the implementation of the Care Act so it is not possible to directly compare to previous years. It is helpful to note however that in 2014/15 there were 1844 Safeguarding initial alerts which does demonstrate that there has been an increase in Safeguarding Adult activity.

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that the Care, Health and Wellbeing OSC note and endorse the Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan.

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