

Meeting: Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee

Date: 8 October 2015

Title: Safeguarding Adults Board

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Service: Safeguarding Adults

Directorate: Adult Social Care

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee with an overview of the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) during the past year. This report aims to provide assurance to the Committee that the SAB is an effective strategic body working across North Tyneside for benefit of individuals at risk of harm and abuse.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) consider the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15;
- b) note the data contained in the Safeguarding Adults Return 2014-15; and
- c) be aware of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan 2015-16.

3. Details

a) To consider the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15

The SAB is a multi agency body; however its work comes within the Local Authority Creating a Brighter Future work stream of Cared for, Safeguarded and Healthy. The focus of the SAB is to improve the experience of those at risk of harm in North Tyneside aiming to prevent abuse and protect the most vulnerable in our society.

North Tyneside SAB has an independent chair, Pat Robinson and has good representation from key partner agencies; Local Authority, Police, CCG, Health Trusts etc.

The SAB has for several years been very well supported by North Tyneside's elected members. Members have taken a keen interest in the issue of safeguarding, recognising

the importance of this work to protect the most vulnerable in our society. This is important to demonstrate the leadership from the local authority at the highest level.

In April 2105 The Care Act 2104 came into force. This has brought about a significant legal framework for Safeguarding Adults for the first time. The legislation sets out the requirements for Safeguarding Adults processes; the requirement to have a SAB and the duty commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews if certain criteria are met. North Tyneside has had a SAB in place for many years.

The SAB has had a 3 year strategic plan in place from 2013-16. This identified four key priorities areas for improvement in the strategic plan: Outcomes; Leadership; Service Delivery and Working Together. Each year the SAB produces a detailed annual plan to ensure the priorities of strategic plan are being met.

The Annual Plan for 14-15 had fifteen key actions. Thirteen of these were fully met with two having some outstanding actions. These have both been carried forward into the Annual Plan for 2015-16.

Outcomes

- The Annual Plan for 2014-15 ensured that training was available in particular for provider agencies to both prevent abuse from occurring and to improve the support they offer people who have experienced abuse.
- The Local Authority Safeguarding process has fully embraced the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda, this aims to establish the views of individuals and support them to achieve their identified outcomes.

Leadership

- The SAB's Quality Assurance Framework was shared with all partner agencies to seek assurance in relation to their policies, recruitment, leadership, training and operational practice.
- The SAB also agreed a Constitution which sets out the roles and responsibilities of all SAB members.
- During 2014 the Local Government Association undertook a Peer Review in North Tyneside, which focused on operational practice and the effectiveness of the SAB. This had very positive outcomes and feedback. It also influenced the Annual Plan for 2015-16.

Service Delivery

- The Care Act 2014 led to a thorough review and revision of all policies and procedures for Safeguarding Adults to ensure that the requirements of the legislation were fully met. These are joint policies with Northumberland. This included a revision of the threshold tool to offer clear guidance to all social care staff about how to respond to differing levels of concerns. This revision was carried out on a North of Tyne basis to ensure consistency of practice across a wider regional area.

Working Together

- A Task and Finish group was set up in 2014 to concentrate on engagement with the voluntary sector. This aimed to raise awareness of Safeguarding Adults across the voluntary sector workforce and to promote training more widely in that sector.
- 2014 saw the introduction of SAFE week. This is an initiative to host events and activities with the aim of raising awareness about Safeguarding adults to the wider

public, service users and professionals. Several elected members took an active part in some of the SAFE week activities last year.

- The SAB have agreed a formal Information sharing policy to provide clarity for all partner agencies about what needs to be shared and when in relation ensuring the safety of adults at risk of harm in our community.

b) To note the data contained in the Safeguarding Adults Return 2014-15

Key messages from the 2014-15 data:

- 25% of High and Low Level referrals went into the formal Safeguarding Procedures. This is a 9% reduction since 2013-14. However this reflects the aim to manage more concerns at the Front Door. The Safeguarding Adults Team duty system is a part of the Front Door arrangements.
- The location of abuse whilst having a slight reduction in actual numbers follows a similar trend to previous year.
- 44% of cases had an outcome of No Further Action; with 37% recorded that the risks were reduced, 15% risks removed and only 5% had risks remaining. This would be as a result of individuals capacitated decision making to remain in a risky situation.
- There has been a reduction in recording of Inconclusive as an outcome, which is a positive trend. The aim has been to provide clearer decision making at the end stage of the Safeguarding process. This is also reflected in the increase of cases which are recorded with an outcome of partially substantiated.
- There is a reduction in the actual numbers across most age categories of people experiencing abuse. This reflects the lower numbers of cases going into the formal Safeguarding procedures.
- The trend of individuals' vulnerabilities continues in a similar pattern to previous years with people with physical disabilities experiencing the most harm. This will include older people with physical or mobility issues so is linked to the higher number of people over 65.

c) To be aware of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan 2015-16

The Annual Plan 2015-16 has a particular focus on

- Sexual exploitation
- Self neglect
- Escalation Policy
- Making Safeguarding Personal agenda
- Improved feedback from individuals
- Data analysis
- Health response to the Lampard (Saville) Report
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The SAB is now in the planning stages of the 2015 SAFE Week which aims to build on the successes of last year.

The SAFE week 2015 timetable is:

Sunday 1st November – Zip Slide from the Tyne Bridge - Sponsored event raising money for Action on Elder Abuse

Monday 2nd November – Yarn Bombing event - Socks and Gloves to be displayed in a public place

Tuesday 3rd November – School Competition **#internetsafety4urgranny** Awards Ceremony

Wednesday 4th November – Question Time style debate on Self Neglect (Newcastle)

Thursday 5th November – Launch of Sexual Exploitation Webinar (Northumberland)

Friday 6th November – Coffee Mornings/Bake Off

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - SAB Annual Report 2014-15

Appendix 2 - SAR Return Data 2014-15

Appendix 3 - SAB Annual Plan 2015-16