

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

**Date:** 6 October 2016

**Title:** Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16 and Annual Plan 2016-17

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**Service:** Adult Social Care

**Directorate:** Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

**Wards affected:** All

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## 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

- a) To consider the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16
- b) To note the data contained in the Safeguarding Adults Return 2015-16
- c) To be aware of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan 2016-17

## 3. Details

### a) To consider the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16

April 2015 saw the implementation of The Care Act 2014. This enshrined Adult Safeguarding in law for the first time. The main element of this is the duty to carry out Section 42 Enquiries into concerns and allegations of abuse for adults at risk of harm. The Care Act also made it a statutory duty to have an effective multi agency Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). North Tyneside has had a SAB in place for many years; however the formal recognition of this was welcomed by all partner agencies.

The SAB in North Tyneside has good representation from key partner agencies; Local Authority, Police, CCG, Health Trusts etc.

The aim of the SAB is to improve the experience of those adults at risk of harm in North Tyneside with a particular focus on preventing abuse and protecting the most vulnerable

in our society. Within the Local Authority this comes under the Creating a Brighter Future work stream of Cared for, Safeguarded and Healthy.

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.

North Tyneside SAB has an independent chair, Pat Robinson who has been the chair for the past 4 years. Last year Pat indicated her intention to step down as chair in 2016. I would like to express my thanks for the work Pat has undertaken on behalf of the Board during the past four years.

This decision has led to a review of the Board and consideration given to its future. Discussions have taken place with neighbouring authority Northumberland and also with current SAB members. The plan now is to join the North Tyneside SAB with Northumberland, creating one SAB across the two areas. This will provide greater transparency between the two areas and also will provide a more efficient process, in particular for partner agencies that have to attend many similar meetings.

2015-16 was the last year of the SAB's 3 year strategic plan which has been in place from 2013-16. This identified four key priorities areas for improvement in the strategic plan: Outcomes; Leadership; Service Delivery and Working Together.

The SAB Annual Plan for 2015-16 had fourteen key actions. Of these, eleven have been fully completed and three have been identified as ongoing pieces of work. These have been carried forward into the plan for the coming year to ensure these actions are completed.

The focus of the Annual Plan 2015-16 included:

### **Outcomes**

- A key principle of The Care Act for Safeguarding Adults is to ensure that processes for safeguarding follow the principle of Making Safeguarding Personal. This is about ensuring that an individual's views and outcomes are identified and recorded. In North Tyneside there is a robust system for recording these, which was fully in place for April 2015. During 2015-16, 76% of individuals who went through the safeguarding process had individual outcomes recorded and of those 85% had their outcomes met or partially met by the end of the process.
- A key aspect of the SAB Annual Plan for 2015-16 related to improved awareness raising. 2015 saw the second annual SAFE Week (Safeguarding Adults for Everyone). This was an exciting week of events, including a zip slide from the Tyne Bridge, a Yarn Bombing event in Northumberland Square and a school poster competition. The week attracted a wide range of media interest including coverage from local TV, newspapers and social media.

### **Leadership**

- In light of The Care Act the SAB has developed a Constitution, which clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of SAB members.
- The SAB also ensures that all partner agencies fulfil their responsibilities regarding Safeguarding by carrying out an annual audit. This is the Quality Assurance

Framework (QAF). Last year the QAF was completed in conjunction with Northumberland and Newcastle to increase the efficiency for partner agencies.

### **Service Delivery**

- The multi agency policies and procedures for Safeguarding Adults were reviewed and revised to ensure full compliance with the Care Act 2014. The North Tyneside policies are joined with Northumberland which supports multi agency partners who cover more than one Local Authority area, providing consistency of practice across the areas.
- The SAB has an effective training programme in place across multi agency partners, to ensure that all staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding adults.

### **Working Together**

- During the past year guidance for staff has been developed on Self Neglect. This is a new category of abuse under The Care Act and poses a challenge for staff in terms of tackling this issue. The guidance has been welcomed as a way of supporting staff in terms of responding to this issue. There was a regional conference to launch the guidance which was attended by over 100 delegates.
- The issue of Sexual Exploitation is a very high priority for the SAB. During the past year the SAB has joined up with the Children's Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnership to form a joint sub group on sexual exploitation. This is proving to be an effective way to provide the strategic oversight of work aimed at identifying and addressing issues of concern relating to sexual exploitation of children, young people and adults at risk of harm.

### **b) To note the data contained in the Safeguarding Adults Return 2015-16**

Key messages from the 2015-16 data:

- The number of referrals remains broadly in line with those from the previous year; there is a slight increase in reporting of lower level concerns. However the number of cases taken forward into Section 42 Enquiry remains at a similar level to the previous year.
- The three main types of abuse is neglect or act of omission, followed closely by physical abuse and financial abuse. These types of abuse have remained the highest recorded type of abuse. These types of abuse include medication errors and moving and handling issues.
- The location of abuse continues to be in individuals own home. This trend reflects the aim for people to continue to live independently in their own home for longer. However residential and nursing home combined make up the second highest location.
- 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.
- 88% of cases have recorded an outcome of action taken and risk removed or reduced at the end of the safeguarding process. This highlights the positive impact that safeguarding can have on an individuals' life or situation. Only 11% of concerns have an outcome of risk remaining at the end of the process. This often relates to cases

where capacitated individuals have made decisions to continue to live with a level of risk, which they feel is acceptable for them. This is in line with the Making Safeguarding Personal principle.

### **c) To be aware of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan 2016-17**

For its Business Plan for 2016-19, the SAB has adopted the key principles from The Care Act 2014 which underpin Safeguarding Adults. These are Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability.

The Annual Plan 2016-17 has a particular focus on:

- Sexual Exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- Making Safeguarding Personal
- Data analysis
- Raising awareness
- Effective training
- Quality Assurance Framework

## **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - SAB Annual Report 2015-16

Appendix 2 - SAB Annual Plan 2016-17