
Health and Wellbeing Board – 13th December 2017

Report of the Chair of the Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board

Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016/17 and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

Purpose of Report

1. To present the Adult Safeguarding Board's Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Background

2. The Care Act 2014 (introduced in April 2015) provided clarity on the responsibility of a Safeguarding Board. As well as making it a statutory responsibility for local authorities to have a Board they are also required to produce an Annual Report, a Business Plan and to conduct any Safeguarding Adult Reviews that are required.
3. The Board has been in existence since 2009. It includes senior representation from all key agencies – Dudley MBC, CCG, Dudley Group NHSFT, West Midlands Police, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust, Healthwatch and the independent sector.
4. In 2016-17 the Board established an Executive Group to oversee the work of its subgroups. The subgroup structure was improved and there are now groups looking at quality, policy, safeguarding training, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, communications and engagement. The terms of reference for these groups have been added to the Board's website.
5. The Board had three strategic priorities for 2016-17:
 - To improve service user involvement in safeguarding development
 - To make safeguarding personal for the victim of abuse, harm or neglect
 - To develop information in order to prevent safeguarding incidents from occurring
6. The annual report demonstrates the progress achieved in these priorities in 2016-17.
7. Our action plan to improve service user involvement in the safeguarding process focused around increased working and formal links with user organisations across the borough. Healthwatch Dudley championed and facilitated this priority. Public information was updated and additional information was produced.

8. Our second priority was to ensure that safeguarding was made personal for the victim of harm, abuse or neglect. A framework was developed to embed this work. Data collected at the end of 2016-17 indicated a 28% increase in the number of people who felt that the outcomes they achieved from the safeguarding process had been achieved – 65% in 2015 compared to 93% in 2016. The data also shows that over 80% of people had had risk reduced or removed as a result of this intervention.
9. Much work has been done to prevent safeguarding incidents occurring (priority three). Public information has been distributed, self neglect practice was issued and a multi agency practice learning event was held to facilitate learning.
10. The Adult Safeguarding Team, in conjunction with Trading Standards, spoke at two conferences in the year about the partnership they had developed in the borough to tackle financial abuse. This work led to a major prosecution within the borough of a “carer” who had financially abused an elderly gentleman over a period of time.
11. Work with Trading Standards on financial abuse has led to the agreement of a Scams Unit to provide support to the Safeguarding Team to raise awareness about financial scams in 2017-18.
12. During this year two Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) were conducted. These both related to individuals with care and support needs who choked , where the actions of the carers supporting them were under scrutiny. The recommendations that the Board received have led to the formulation of two action plans with working groups created to drive forward, monitor and regularly review progress.
13. The creation of the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) has made progress in 2017-18. The Adult MASH development is planned to commence in September 2017 with a dedicated team to address individual safeguarding concerns and ensure that the victim is safe. This will involve partners within the borough making decisions about safeguarding thresholds and seeking information to plan more effectively the safeguarding intervention.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

14. These safeguards exist to provide a legal process and suitable protection for people in residential, nursing or hospital settings where deprivation of liberty is unavoidable and in a person’s own best interest.
15. In 2014 different thresholds were applied which has resulted in a significant backlog of cases regionally.
16. Additional resources were provided by the Department of Health with a grant to support the administrative process and additional staff training. As a result of the additional resources the number of assessments completed in Dudley in 2016-17 totalled 363, as against 234 for 2015-16..
17. A new scheme for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards is currently being developed following national consultation which Dudley contributed to in 2016-17. This recognises the backlog of cases nationally .,Currently Dudley has a backlog of 952- which is comparable to many local authorities. In this year we

have received 812 application requests. In 2013-14 there were just 142 within the year prior to the threshold changes.

Finance

18. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of the report.

Law

19. The annual Safeguarding Board report shows compliance with the Care Act 2014.

Equality Impact

20. The West Midlands Safeguarding Procedures are implemented within Dudley and are consistent with the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.

Recommendation

20. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment upon Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report for 2016-17

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Background Papers

Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report available on CMIS – Health and Adult Scrutiny Committee – 27th September, 2017 link:
<http://cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cm5/Meetings/tabid/116/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/543/Meeting/5410/Committee/502/Default.aspx>