

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Agenda Item no. 8

DATE	4th December 2019
TITLE OF REPORT	Adult Safeguarding Board and Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Reports for 2018/19
Organisation and Author	Paul Kingston Independent Chair

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To present the Adult Safeguarding Board's Annual Report 2018/19 and the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2018/19 to the Health and Wellbeing Board

2. Safeguarding Adult's Board Annual Report

Background

2.1. Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 requires the Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) whose main objective is to protect adults from experiencing, or being at risk of abuse and neglect. Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board has been established since 2008 and works to ensure there is an appropriate response from a whole range of professionals to situations where there is actual or suspected abuse, harm or neglect. The Board considers how partners across Dudley Borough responsible for safeguarding work together and the quality of support provided to people who have been abused, neglected or harmed. The board is required to meet the following 3 statutory responsibilities. They must:

- Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been
- Commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

2.2. The Board had three strategic priorities for 2018-19:

- 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

3. Key Points

3.1. During 2018 to 2019 adult safeguarding has produced excellent outcomes for the residents of Dudley. Awareness has increased and is evidenced by a 64%

increase in referrals since the inception of the Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the conversion rate to enquiry being lowered to 14%, furthermore 98.6% of people going through the safeguarding journey report their desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved, this demonstrates that Making Safeguarding Personal is established!

- 3.2. The developing work of the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) panel has received regional recognition and referrals rates have significantly increased, 17 SAR referrals were received during this period with 1 SAR review commencing and a further 3 being commissioned by the Board. The findings of these independent reviews will be published and training commissioned to ensure any lessons learnt are appropriately embedded in practice.
- 3.3. There are approximately 2 SARs referrals per month being received. There were previously two SAR's commissioned, it should be noted that the learning from these relating to dysphasia have as yet not been fully embedded, this work will continue to be monitored and regular updates provided. Furthermore two external reviews have been commissioned and the findings will be published in the New Year
- 3.4. Emerging themes and trends from safeguarding inform practice, this is evidenced by the development of policies such the multi-agency, self-neglect and hoarding policy which is delivered by a nationally recognised expert.
- 3.5. The Board highlighted the potential financial risk vulnerable adults often face. Intelligence was secured by the partnership from, West Midlands Police, Trading Standards and Adult Safeguarding, this identified a variety of methods to work with communities, organisations and practitioners. Additionally a stake holder event took place in November 2018, this was called (Shine A Light). Importantly the voice of a victim/s and families were heard. This has resulted media attention and in organisation becoming Scambassadors, along with individuals adopting the role of Scam champions. Essentially, this work is being undertaken to make Dudley a safer community.

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/>
<https://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/news/friends-against-scams/>
- 3.6. 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 have presented a report relating to the voice of individuals who experienced the safeguarding journey. In addition a number of reference groups which benefit from experts by experience have been held, and the documentation reflects the requirements of the population. Consultation around referral documentation has also taken place and it is believed that making this more user friendly has helped to increase referrals of safeguarding concerns. Additionally our developed SARS documentation has received regional recognition during a peer review and from our police colleagues
- 3.7. Much work has been done to prevent safeguarding incidents occurring. Public information has been distributed, self-neglect practice was issued and a multi-agency practice learning event was held to facilitate learning.

- 3.8. Deprivation of Liberty 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. In 2014 different thresholds were applied which has resulted in a significant backlog of cases regionally. 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.
- 3.9. Dudley had a backlog of 952 - which was comparable to many local authorities. However, monies from none recurrent monies have been secured and this has resulted in a specialist DoLs team being employed, this has eradicated the backlog and we are ensuring that systems are in place to meet the legal requirements of the liberty protection safeguards

4. Dudley Safeguarding Children Annual Report

Background

- 4.1. The report covers the extent to which the functions of the DSCB as set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015" are being effectively discharged, including
- Governance and Accountability of the Board
 - DSCB Income
 - Progress against the Improvement Plan
 - Progress in relation to the strategic priorities 2017-18
 - Activities of the sub groups of the Board
 - Other Monitoring Activities
 - Contributions from Partners both financially and resource
 - Future challenges

5. Key Points

- 5.1. It sets out an overview of the progress that has been made over the last 15 months, and summarises the ongoing areas for development with the new arrangements for Safeguarding as introduced by the Social Work Act 2017 and the revised publication of Working Together 2018
- 5.2. The engagement of partner agencies in the work of the Board is stronger and there are good examples of effective multi-agency working at the front line, e.g. Adult MASH, Children's MASH, the Boards have also increased the extent to which they operate as "learning organisations
- 5.3. The report summarises the key activities from 1st April 2018 through to 30th June 2019 and then concentrates on key aspects of the Board's work; notably progress made in complying with the statutory functions, the strategic priorities outlined in the business plan for the stated period and the notable improvements made to move from 'inadequate' in 2016 to 'good' following the Ofsted Inspection in November 2018.

- 5.4. This report is aimed at everyone involved in safeguarding children, including members of the local community as well as professionals and volunteers who work with children, young people and families
- 5.5. This report provides a closing position statement from the DSCB to the new safeguarding partnership represented as Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership Board (DSPPB), who will take forward the work of DSCB as prescribed by the Social Work ACT and the subsequent statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018)
- 5.6. The Annual Report draws from information presented at DSCB meetings, including updates provided by each of the assigned sub group chairs against specific work plans, the task and finish groups and the progress report provided to the Children's Services Improvement Board (CSIB)

6. Key asks of the Board/wider system

6.1. It is asked that the Board members:

- Consider and note the content of the Children's Safeguarding Board Annual report 2018/19
- Consider and note the content of the Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2018/19

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