

Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

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or Exempt Information** No

Title of Report Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-2015

Meeting Date: 7 October 2015

Responsible Officer(s)

Presented by: Julie Ogley
Chair, Bedford and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board
Director of Adult Social Care Health and Housing

Action Required:

- 1. For the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board to receive the 2014-2015 Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report.**

Executive Summary

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| 1. | <p>The Care Act 2014 makes the annual report of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) a statutory requirement. The statutory guidance states that the report should be shared with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board in order that the Health and Wellbeing Board can fully consider the contents of the report and how it can improve its contributions to safeguarding adults through the joint work of the Board.</p> |
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The 2014-2015 annual report of the SAB considers:

- The developing context of Safeguarding – including making safeguarding personal, sexual exploitation and modern slavery, self neglect, PREVENT (preventing radicalisation of vulnerable young people and adults), and deprivation of liberty safeguards.
- The work of the Safeguarding Adults Board in 2014-2015.
- Safeguarding activity 2014-2015.
- Mental Capacity Act (2005) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.
- Learning from Safeguarding activity.
- Strategic objectives for 2015-2016.
- Partnership contributions to adult Safeguarding 2014-2015.

2.	The annual report outlines progress made from April 2014 to March 2015 and is provided to inform individuals, their families and carers who use social care and health services, elected members, those who work in social and health care, all partner agencies, and residents.
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Background

3.	<p>During the year the SAB has continued with strong strategic leadership and operational arrangements which has enabled the SAB member organisations to improve standards, evidence robust safeguarding arrangements and delivered sustained professional improvement. The Board has particularly focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for the new duties under the Care Act 2014 for adult safeguarding and for managing quality and safety in care provision. • Ensuring the implications of the Supreme Court ruling on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (known as “Cheshire West”) are robustly managed. • Making safeguarding personal, ensuring that person centred outcomes are at the forefront of safeguarding work.
4.	<p>Senior level participation from partner agencies has been sustained this year and the annual report includes detailed reports of safeguarding activity by partner agencies. Of particular success was a development day held in November 2014 where all partner agencies attended to hear key presentations and also to make recommendations for proposals for future membership, reporting and governance arrangements following the implementation of the Care Act for approval in June 2015.</p>
5.	<p>During the past year partners have focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and raising awareness including attendance at forums, working with partner agencies, and disseminating information. • Workforce development and accountability including Care Act compliance and practice development work. • Partnership working including developing the relationship with the Community Safety Partnerships and Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards, Hate Crime partnership, the pan Bedfordshire safeguarding adults sub group, and cross the Eastern Region. • Quality assurance and protection including case file audit both independent and internal. • Involving people and empowerment including ongoing work with advocacy services and promoting making safeguarding personal. • Outcomes and proportionality including developing a more proportionate risk based response and a focus on outcomes in decision making and the views of the individual.

<p>6.</p>	<p>Strategic aims for 2015/16 will echo those outlined above in 2015 – 2016 and in addition all Board Members must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence and direct their organisations in ensuring adults are and feel safe and are supported to challenge and change abusive situations. • Lead and support the development and implementation of safeguarding practice and procedures within their own organisations. • Take forward any agreed action plans which prevent and minimise abuse, protect individuals and support the delivery of justice and fairness to all. • Support the development of wider public protection and prevention initiatives as part of embedding the quality and safety agenda. • Ensure safeguarding activities are monitored and audited.
<p>7.</p>	<p>From April 2015 the Care Act 2014 puts the Safeguarding Adults Board on a statutory footing. The safeguarding policies and procedures have been amended to reflect the changes in law, terminology and culture of safeguarding practice.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>The Annual Report has identified the following learning which will be used to inform the activity of the SAB and its partners into 2015/16.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Councils continue to receive large volumes of contacts which are not safeguarding reports but may be intelligence, information and indications of risk that may require a response. Many result in referrals for assessments of need. This activity will be kept under monitoring. • Public information is an area for development. Data supports this as referrals continue to be low from members of the public. • There is a need for the SAB to improve the use of internal data to better understand themes and trends. The quarterly reporting framework has been modified for 15/16 to reflect this. • Further focus on training – for all volunteer, operational, front line staff and managers; and use of the competency frameworks to ensure consistency. • Partners have suggested that consideration should be given to a multi agency safeguarding hub. • Continuing need to improve and strengthen the links with the Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards and the Community Safety Partnerships. Regular meetings and leads have been identified in 2014-2015 which has led to improved communication and understanding of overlapping agendas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Care Act requires the SAB to have an overview of self neglect which includes hoarding. Pathways and procedures have been set out in the updated multi agency policies and procedures. • Audits have identified strengths and areas of weakness in safeguarding practice. Management oversight of cases and recording and assessment of risk have been identified as key themes for development and learning. • The Care Act requirements and data form 2014-2015 indicate a need to focus on advocacy support, both professional and through family or friends and the recording of this. • Following Cheshire West DoLS activity has had a significant impact on the safeguarding teams in terms of management of resources. There has been a ten fold increase in activity for Central Bedfordshire Council and a fifteen fold increase for Bedford Borough Council. • There are improvements needed relating to the recording of Mental Capacity Act assessments in relation to safeguarding. The majority of MCA resources have been diverted to respond to the high level of increase in DoLS applications so this remains a key area for attention. <p>The SAB has agreed to appoint an independent chair and a business support officer to lead and support the work of the Board in 2015-2016 and thereafter.</p>
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Detailed Recommendation	
9.	For the Health and Well Being Board to note the annual report of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Issues	
Governance & Delivery	
10.	The Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board is a joint partnership Board and is jointly accountable to the Chief Executives of the relevant Councils. Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Bedfordshire Police are statutory partners of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
Financial	
11.	None.

