

Central Bedfordshire Council

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26th OCTOBER 2015

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

Advising Officer: Julie Ogley Director of Adult Social Care Health and Housing
julie.ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Drafting Officer: Emily White Head of Safeguarding and Quality Improvement
emily.white@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report

1. For the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the annual report of the Safeguarding Adults Board, with a particular focus on how awareness raising and knowledge of adult safeguarding could be improved for the public and within the wider community.

Summary

1. 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 relevant scrutiny committees so that they can fully consider the contents of the report and how they can improve their contributions to safeguarding adults through the joint work of the Board.
2. 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
3. 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.

Background

4. 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:
- 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
5. 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.
6. During the past year partners have focused on:
- 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

7. Strategic aims for 2015/16 will echo those outlined above in 2015 – 2016 and in addition all Board Members must be able to:
 - 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.

8. 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.

Learning and action for 2015-2016

9. 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.
 - 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
 - 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.
10. 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.

Council Priorities

11. The work of the Safeguarding Adults Boards supports the work of the following Council priority through prevention of abuse and neglect and improving inter-agency responses to abuse and neglect:
- promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

12. The Care Act 2014 sets out the statutory framework for safeguarding adults and requires that the Council:
- leads a multi-agency local adult safeguarding system that seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens
 - makes enquiries, or request others to make them, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect and they need to find out what action may be needed
 - establishes a Safeguarding Adults Board, including the Council, NHS and police, which will develop, share and implement a joint safeguarding strategy
 - carries out Safeguarding Adults Reviews when someone with care and support needs dies as a result of neglect or abuse and there is a concern that the local authority or its partners could have done more to protect them

- arranges for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or review, if required.

Financial Implications

13. A specialist safeguarding team operates within available resources to undertake the work of the Council and Safeguarding Adults Board.

Equalities Implications

15. Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. The council's duty is to the safeguarding of all vulnerable citizens from all forms of abuse.
16. All Local Authorities are required to implement a range of equality legislation which requires the Council to:
 - Understand issues relating to disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, age, and sexual orientation.
 - Engage with service users, local communities, staff, stakeholders and contractors to identify and implement improvements
17. Abuse of adults with care and support needs can include discriminatory abuse, including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, hate crime or similar treatment.

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached/provided through an electronic link:
[Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-2015](#)

Background Papers

The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website:

None