

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH)

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	20 OCTOBER 2021		
TITLE:	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (SAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) must lead adult safeguarding arrangements across its authority and oversee and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies.
- 1.2 The overarching purpose of a SAB is to safeguard adults with health and social care needs. It does this by: Assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place, as defined by the Care Act 2014, and statutory guidance; requiring that Local Authorities demonstrate that:
- Safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused;
 - They are working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible;
 - Agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred;
 - Safeguarding practice is continuously improving;
 - The quality of life of adults in its area is enhanced.
- 1.2 The Berkshire West Annual Report 2020/21 when this is approved by the Safeguarding Board will detail what it aimed to achieve on behalf of the residents of Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham during 2020-21. This is both as a partnership, and through the work of its participating partners. It provides a picture of who is safeguarded across the area, in what circumstance and why. It outlines the role and values of the SAB, its ongoing work and future priorities.
- 1.3 This Report is Reading Borough Council's submission to the Berkshire West Annual Report 2020/21 which will be incorporated with partners contributions with the approved action plan and will be presented to ACE at a later date.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That Adults Children and Education Committee to Note the Report as RBC's contribution to the Berkshire West Safeguarding Board Annual Report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The SAB has a duty to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how it will meet its objectives and how the partnership will contribute. The Appendices (attached) details Reading Borough Council's contribution to the Berkshire West Annual Report 2020/2021.

3.2 The priorities for 2020/21 are that:

- We will consider SAB learning regarding self-neglect and understand why learning has not been fully embedded and what the partnership needs to do to transform our way of working with people who are at risk of self-neglect.
- We will consider SAB learning regarding pressure care management and understand what the partnership needs to do to ensure that our way of working with people at risk of pressure ulcers is consistently of a best practice standard.
- We will consider SAB learning regarding organisational safeguarding and understand why learning has not been fully embedded and what the partnership needs to do to transform our way of working with provider agencies.
- The SAB will continue to carry out the following business as usual tasks in order to comply with its statutory obligations.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position:

The RBC Safeguarding Performance Data is detailed in Appendix A

A summary of the data is:

- In 2020/21 31% of safeguarding concerns (493) led to a section 42 enquiry - this has reduced compared with 2019/20 data. This data is comparable with the our colleagues across West Berkshire.
- In 2020/21 56% (244) of section 42 enquiries reported relate to older people over 65 years - this has shown a slight decrease compared with 2019/20 data.
- More women were the subject of a safeguarding enquiry than males as in previous years; however, however the gap has narrowed to only 4%.
- 80% of section 42 enquires were for individuals whose ethnicity is White. There has been an increase to 20% in section 42 enquires for individuals whose ethnicity is Mixed, Asian, Black or Other. This continues to be the focus of work for all partners in view of the demographic makeup of Reading.
- When all section 42 enquiries concluded, the individual's ethnicity was known.
- As in previous years the most common type of abuse for concluded section 42 enquires were for Neglect and Acts of Omission. This was followed by Financial or Material abuse, Physical abuse and Psychological abuse
- For most section 42 enquiries the primary support reason was physical support.
- As in previous years, the most common locations where the alleged abuse took place were a person's own home and a care home.
- 84% of service users were asked about the outcomes they desired as part of the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda and engagement of the service user throughout the whole process. This is similar to the previous year.

4.2 Safeguarding Activity

The RBC Safeguarding Achievements are detailed in Appendix B

A major achievement to highlight for Adult Social Care this year has been to secure funding to develop a hoarding pathway of £58,030 from the Social Impact Voluntary and Community Grant. The grant will be used to develop a multi-agency hoarding and self-neglect procedure and pathway. The reason for applying for the grant was based on activity data collected during the COVID Pandemic that identified that individuals who needed help to address their hoarding and self-neglect were reported when their situation had often become acute. That individuals who needed help to address their hoarding and self-neglect were reported when their situation had often become acute.

It is expected that that the funding for this project will be targeted at:

- Promoted independence and support for a group of people who often refuse support and are hard to engage.
- Increase access to services to support mental wellbeing, reduce social isolation and stigma.
- Increased access to community and health services
- Prevent crisis and hospital admissions through preventative work
- Enabling people to stay healthy and active in their community and at home

4.3 Improving the Future of Safeguarding Adults in Reading

The aspiration for 2021/2022 will be to:

We will continue to seek assurance that all agencies are clear about their obligations to deliver adult safeguarding activity which prevents abuse, crime, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation.

We will continue to seek assurance that agency obligations are supported by clear processes which directly support the West Berkshire Multi- Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures, as a model of good practice.

We will work with each other and collaborate, to maximise our multi-agency practice to reduce risk and improve lives.

We will raise public awareness about and for adults at risk; what can be done to help; how communities can raise concerns and how the work of the Board is vital for planning; assurance, oversight, transparency and accountability.

We will ensure that the voices of adults at risk are sought, heard, listened to and acted upon, and that we engage with local communities ensuring we are transparent about what we are saying we are going to do and how we will measure it.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The SAB is a statutory function and has set priorities for 2020/2021 as detailed in Section 3 of this report.

5.2 The organisation has a legal duty under the Care Act 2014 to safeguard adults and promote wellbeing and this has been evidenced within our Corporate Plan 2016-2019; Service Priority 1 - Safeguarding and protecting those that are deemed as meeting the safeguarding threshold for a safeguarding intervention

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There is no direct impact noted as a result of this report.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 A priority for the board for 2020/21 is to continue to strengthen communication and engagement across groups and communities of West Berkshire, and to ensure that plans and actions are informed by the experience of the widest range of local people.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The Local Authority, as a public body, is under a legal duty to comply with the public sector equality duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act (2010). In order to comply with this duty, the Council must positively seek to prevent discrimination, and protect and promote the interests of vulnerable groups. There is currently no change in the service to the residents proposed, hence an Equality Impact Assessment will not be completed at this stage.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board has a duty under the Care Act 2014 to publish an Annual Report, detailing how effective its work has been. Appendix 1 details the RBC data and appendix 2 the achievements and a full Berkshire West Safeguarding Annual Report incorporating RBC submission will be presented at a future ACE with all partners contributions across the three Local Authority areas in Berkshire West (Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire)

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Care Act provides a power for members of the SAB to contribute towards the expenditure incurred for the purposes of its work. The work undertaken by social care and health staff for delivering a safeguarding service is provided through their core responsibilities and incorporated into the day to day responsibilities of all staff.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adult Report 2019/2020
The Care Act 2014