

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 FEBRUARY 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	15
TITLE:	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (SAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18		
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SERVICE:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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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 locality 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 help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:
- 1.3 assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place, as defined by the Care Act 2014, and statutory guidance; assuring itself that:
 - Safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused;
 - Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible;
 - Ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred;
 - Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving;
 - Enhances the quality of life of adults in its area.
- 1.4 The Annual Report 2017-18 presents what the SAB aimed to achieve on behalf of the residents of Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham during 2017-18. 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.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

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 annual report (attached) details how effectively these have been met.

3.2 The priorities for 2017/18 were:

- We have oversight of the quality of safeguarding performance.
- We listen to service users, raise awareness of safeguarding adults and help people engage.
- We learn from experience and have a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.
- We work together effectively to support people at risk.

3.3 The priorities for 2018/21 are:

- We will strengthen our communication and engagement across groups and communities in the West of Berkshire to ensure that our plans and actions are informed by the experience of the widest range of local people.
- We will extend our links with other partnerships to work together to break down barriers across agencies and to promote approaches that safeguard people with those that care about them, in their family and community.
- We will share learning and develop innovative ways to support both paid and unpaid organisations across the partnership to continually build confidence and the effectiveness of everyone's practice.
- We will understand how effective adult safeguarding is across the West of Berkshire to ensure that we identify emerging risks and take action accordingly.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position:

The Annual report notes that:

- There has been a 22% reduction in the number of safeguarding concerns from last year. This is the first time there has been a decrease in the number of safeguarding concerns. This shift in trend has been added to the Board's Risk and Mitigation Log. Local Authority Safeguarding Leads across West Berkshire have been tasked to work together to understand the reasons for the decrease in referrals and report back to the Board. The Board will decide if any further work is required in this area and add to the 2018/21 Business Plan.
- As in previous years, 62% of concerns reported relate to older people over 65 years.
- More women were the subject of a safeguarding enquiry than males as in previous years; however the difference has reduced by 2%.
- 81% of referrals were for individuals whose ethnicity is White. There has been a slight increase in referrals for individuals whose ethnicity is Mixed, Asian, Black or Other. This continues to be a focus of work for the next year in view of the demographic makeup of Reading.
- For 11% of referrals made, the individual's ethnicity was not known. This has increased by 3%. Whilst we seek to establish this on initial contact it is difficult to determine if the referrer chooses not to disclose.
- As in previous years the most common type of abuse for concluded enquires were for Neglect and Acts of Omission. This was followed by Physical, Psychological or Emotional and Financial abuse.
- For the majority of cases, 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.

4.2 Activity in Safeguarding Residents of Reading

In response to the SAB report 2017/18 (Appendix E) Reading has:

- Ensured consistency raising awareness of Domestic Abuse in Reading. The Reading Domestic Abuse Forum was established and is held quarterly attended by multi agencies including providers. This can often attended by over 60 people and ensures consistency in how to report, promote and respond to domestic abuse concerns. This has led to an increase in safeguarding enquiries for the 2017/18 period relating to domestic abuse. This

means individuals are being supported with information and advice and hopefully being informed to make choices that protect them from abuse.

- Promoted tools and training for staff via the Research in Adults Practice safeguarding on-line support tools.
- Reading has delivered Safeguarding Adults “Train the Trainer” programme and 8 social care staff are now trained to deliver safeguarding adults level 1 training within the Borough.
- Reading staff attended a Berkshire joint Children’s and Adults Safeguarding Conference. There were 140 attendees with at least 80% of delegates rating the event as good or excellent. This was an opportunity for good practice to be shared and identify areas of development and understand to improve our support to individuals who may be or are suffering from abuse.
- We have established a programme of Safeguarding “Bite Size Workshops” for multi-agency professionals - which are attended by a wide range of professionals.
- We have continued to promote the importance of involving advocates and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate’s (IMCA’s) to ensure person centred responses are promoted within Safeguarding. This has led to an increase in numbers of advocates used to support the person through the safeguarding enquiry.
- A workshop was delivered at the Joint Conference to raise awareness of the issues and improve practice for working with those who self-neglect. A Self-Neglect audit was commissioned by the SAB following the Conference and a “self-neglect and clutter tool” was launched in Reading. This encourages identification of self neglect as part of our support to resident and reduces the need for safeguarding referrals and is responded to as part of the social care support package working towards positive change. The number of self-neglect S42 enquiries has decreased reflecting an improvement in social work intervention to ensure self-neglect cases are only referred following the use of the “self-neglect and clutter tool”.
- Information on self-neglect added to the Boards Website.
- Safeguarding training has included the importance of recording a person’s ethnicity to ensure the most appropriate response. This has which has led to increase in safeguarding concerns being reported.

4.3 Reading Improvement Plan

In response to the SAB report 2017/2018 Reading have delivered:-

- Reading has a “Time to Change” champion group to promote the understanding of mental health and prevent discrimination. Workshops and training are planned for 2019/20.
- The RBC website is to be re-launched and a user friendly referral form to enable an improved way to raise a referral.
- Reading will partake in a self-neglect project commissioned with the SAB to embed the learning of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR’s) across not only West Berkshire but wider SAB reviews.
- A core set of questions has been agreed at the SAB to collect feedback to ascertain the extent to which service users felt that they had been involved, supported, consulted and empowered during the safeguarding process, and to ensure this is in line with “Making Safeguarding Personal” and the Well-Being principle.
- Endorsed safeguarding training provided by Reading to Train the Trainer sessions for providers and voluntary agencies to continue 2019/20.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The SAB is a statutory function and has set priorities for 2018/2021 as detailed in section 3 of this report. The organisation has a legal duty under the Care Act 2014 to

safeguard adults and promote wellbeing and this has been evidenced within our Cooperate Plan 2016-2019; Service Priority 1 - Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 A priority for the board for 2018-2021 is to strengthen communication and engagement across groups and communities in the West of Berkshire, and to ensure that plans and actions are informed by the experience of the widest range of local people.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 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 is proposed hence an Equality Impact Assessment will not be completed at this stage.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board has a duty under the Care Act 2014 to publish an Annual Report detailing how effective its work has been.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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 but 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.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adult Report 2017/2018
Care Act 2014

<http://sabberkshirewest.co.uk/media/1388/west-of-berkshire-sab-annual-report-2017-18-v10.pdf>