

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH)

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	18 January 2023		
TITLE:	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (SAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 UPDATE		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is responsible for leading adult safeguarding arrangements and overseeing and coordinating the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of member and partner agencies.

1.2. The overarching purpose of a SAB is to safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place, as defined by the Care Act 2014. Local authorities must demonstrate that:

- Safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome focused.
- Partners 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.

1.3. The approach taken by Reading Borough Council to discharge its duty is twofold:

- RBC hosts the strategic partnership arrangement between Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham and operates as the lead organisation, hosting the joint Safeguarding Adult Board across the 3 areas. The Board is chaired by an Independent Chair.

- All safeguarding referrals are now received by the RBC Contact Centre (since July 2022). RBC also has a dedicated operational Quality & Safeguarding Adults Team who lead the response to safeguarding concerns and referrals once they have been screened by the Contact Centre.

1.4. The Berkshire West Annual Report 2021/22 has been published since approval by the Safeguarding Adult Board. The published report is an overarching partnership report, appended by individual organisational reports from participating partner agencies.

1.5. The full report and Reading Borough Council's submission to the Berkshire West Annual Report 2021/22 are attached for information.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 Adults Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee (ACE) to note the Berkshire West Safeguarding Board Annual Report for 2021/22.

2.2 RBC's contribution to the Berkshire West Safeguarding Board Annual Report was reviewed by ACE in September 2022.

3. CONTEXT

Safeguarding continues to be a key priority for RBC and as a core statutory duty service have been prioritised and maintained throughout the pandemic, with increased volumes in referrals being experienced.

RBC is fully committed to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place and operates as a lead partner in the SAB.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position

The SAB priorities for 2021/22 were:

Priority 1: To consider SAB learning regarding self-neglect; to understand what more we need to do to ensure that our ways of working with people who are self-neglecting are consistent and

Priority 2: To 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 sores is consistently of best practice standard.

Priority 3: To consider SAB learning in regard to organisational safeguarding and identify what the partnership needs to do to transform our way of working with provider agencies to promote and ensure good quality, safe and consistent standards of care.

Priority 4: The SAB will continue to carry out the following business as usual tasks in order to comply with its statutory obligations.

4.2 The SAB priorities for 2022/23 are:

Priority 1: To expand on learning regarding self-neglect: to offer the partnership resources to support them to achieve effective outcomes for individuals that self-neglect.

Priority 2: To seek assurance that the quality of health and social care services delivered in the West of Berkshire or those commissioned out of area for West of Berkshire residents is monitored effectively and there is a proportionate response to concerns.

Priority 3: The SAB to review its Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process, in order to ensure that it is timely and good value for money.

Priority 4: The SAB will continue to carry out business as usual tasks in order to comply with statutory duties.

4.3 Improving the Future of Safeguarding Adults in Reading

The 2022/23 priorities for Reading as a Council in supporting the Board priorities are:

- We will seek to manage safeguarding referrals through a single point of contact and will utilise the Council's 'front door'.
- We will engage with wider preventative programmes and link with other workstreams such as those being led by Public Health to ensure any harm from abuse and neglect is prevented.
- Using the census data to better understand any inequalities in accessing safeguarding services, we will meet with groups and partners in the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to raise awareness and understand the barriers and reasons for the inequalities. We will then seek to address these barriers.
- We will progress the interface between quality assurance and safeguarding to provide a proactive response to quality concerns. Through a restructure the team will become a Quality & Safeguarding Team, responsible for the continuum of quality and safeguarding, with an emphasis on preventing harm.
- We will continue to support partners with their understanding of the thresholds for safeguarding referrals and the appropriate pathways and routes for addressing the care and support needs of adults.
- We will ensure that the voices of adults at risk are sought, heard, listened to and acted upon and our approach to making safeguarding personal will be developed and enhanced along with partners.

- We will revisit the safeguarding training pathway for staff employed by Reading Borough Council, particularly decision makers and we will audit compliance with safeguarding training.
- We will introduce an audit programme to ensure continuous professional practice.
- We will pay particular attention to understanding the context of risks for young people and introduce a transition protocol.
- We will ensure all staff are conversant with any new or emerging legislation and policy in relation to safeguarding, through the direction of our Principal Social Worker.
- We will seek to undertake a programme of audits to evaluate our practice and ensure continuous improvements.
- We will ensure SAB priority areas are fully embedded.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The SAB has set priorities for 2022/2023 to ensure adults at risk of abuse or neglect are safeguarded.
- 5.2 RBC will support the SAB priorities fully and these will also be reflected in the Corporate and Service Plans where relevant. Monitoring of the Reading priorities will be via a Delivery Plan, overseen by a Safeguarding Development Group.

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 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. The attached reports reflect this legal duty in the form of the Berkshire West Safeguarding Annual Report 2021/22 incorporating the Reading Borough Council submission.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Care Act 2014 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 Adults Partnership Boards Annual Report 2021/2022](#)
- 11.2 [Reading Borough Council](#)