

Report to: Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 14 September 2017

By: Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

Title: Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Report 2016-17

Purpose: To present the SAB Annual Report as required by the Care Act 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the report

1 Background

1.1 The SAB Annual Report (Appendix 1) outlines the multi-agency safeguarding activity for vulnerable adults in East Sussex between April 2016 and March 2017, the key elements of this are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

1.2 Appendix 2 outlines how safeguarding involving paid home carers is managed.

2 Supporting information

2.1 Highlights contained within the report are as follows:

Priority 1.1: Ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the SAB to oversee and lead adult safeguarding and the prevention of abuse

- This year saw the launch of the SAB website, for increased accessibility and transparency of the work of the Board. <http://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/>
- Learning - A quarterly multi-agency forum has been established during 2016-17 focussing on the use and application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, using case studies in order for learning and practice development to be achieved.

Priority 2.1: Ensure Section 42 safeguarding arrangements are in place under the Care Act 2014, with appropriate feedback and review arrangements

- A multi-agency safeguarding case audit was undertaken by several representatives of the SAB, with the main focus on Domestic Abuse (DA). Good practice included engagement with the adult in several cases and referrals and involvement of specialist DA services was evident in the majority of cases. Development areas included the need to find creative ways of seeing the victim of DA by themselves, and sufficient information sharing to make robust decisions within the MARAC process.
- Three Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals were made in 2016-17. Of these referrals, one met the criteria for a SAR and findings from this are due to be published within the next two months. Of the other two referrals, one case was taken forward as part of the safeguarding quality audit. Actions are being taken forward in the remaining case via the Operational Practice subgroup in respect of coordinating activity and knowledge of a range of professionals in contact with difficult to reach vulnerable adult groups.

Priority 3.1: Focus on personalising and integrating safeguarding responses, and measure safeguarding outcomes that bring safety and people's wishes together

- The number of recorded safeguarding enquiries has increased by 126% since 2015/16 (increasing from 1,868 to 4,222). This is, in part, because of a change in the way safeguarding activity was recorded following the introduction of a new client activity database. In effect, all safeguarding concerns were recorded as enquiries and these enquiries were managed in proportion with the degree of risk associated with each concern raised. Moving forward, recording will capture the number of safeguarding concerns raised, and those that are subsequently taking into a safeguarding enquiry.
- Neglect and physical abuse remain the highest types of abuse investigated. Emotional/Psychological abuse is now the third most common form of abuse, whereas financial abuse was the third most common in 2015-16. This change is likely due to increased awareness that abuse such as physical and financial often involve elements of emotional and psychological abuse as well.

Priority 4.1: Allow the voice of client's, carer's, and the local community to be heard in safeguarding policy and practice.

- In 90% of cases where there was action under safeguarding arrangements, risk was reduced or removed. This is an increase from 86% in 2015-16. The proportion of people receiving support from an advocate, family member or friend where they lacked capacity in this period was 96%. This is an increase from 92% in the previous year, and compares favourably to the national average of 62%.

Priority 4.2: Ensure that people are aware of safeguarding and know what to do if they have a concern

- In partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership, the SAB hosted a conference on 'Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse: Impact within the Family'. Approximately 170 delegates attended, representing a broad range of agencies.

Priority 5.1: Ensure that all people involved in safeguarding have the appropriate skills, knowledge and competencies

- Key training figures from partner agencies included in the report evidence the fact that there has been a particular focus on Domestic Abuse training this year.

Priority 5.2: Ensure clear links exist between Partnership Boards with accountability arrangements documented and understood to avoid duplication of work-streams

- A protocol for safeguarding relationships, including the SAB, LSCB, Safer Communities, Children's Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, was developed and agreed in 2016-17. It clarifies priorities, accountabilities, and joint working opportunities and can be accessed on the SAB website.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 This report has shown the continued effort of the County Council and partner agencies to work together to safeguard adults. The SAB will ensure learning from the first SAR conducted under the Care Act 2014 is shared and embedded into practice appropriately in the coming year.

GRAHAM BARTLETT
Independent Chair

Background documents:

None