

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date: 19 September 2019

By: Graham Bartlett, Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

Title of report: Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report 2018-19

Purpose of report: To present the SAB annual report as required in the Care Act 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is recommended to comment on and note the contents of the report.

1. Background

1.1 The SAB Annual Report (Appendix 1) outlines the multi-agency safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex between April 2018 and March 2019.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Highlights in the report are as follows:

2.2 Priority 1.1: Ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the Safeguarding Adults Board to oversee and lead adult safeguarding and the prevention of abuse .

- The work of the Quality Assurance and Learning Development Officer has been key in developing a more enhanced multi-agency audit process, implementing learning from reviews and ensuring action plan improvements are made across agencies.
- The SAB has contributed to a research project being led by the University of Sussex looking at how learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) involving self-neglect can inform practice and organisational change.

2.3 Priority 1.2: Develop arrangements with other Boards to respond to and capture emerging themes, including domestic abuse, modern slavery, cuckooing, exploitation and abuse of those transitioning from children's to adults services, and safeguarding rough sleepers.

- The local authority Safeguarding Adults process has been updated to ensure that a robust referral pathway is in place for all suspected concerns involving modern slavery and human trafficking. A focus to increase awareness about modern slavery has continued in 2018-19, and links maintained with the Pan Sussex Modern Slavery Network.

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

- A range of new policies and procedures were published over 2018-19, including revised self-neglect procedures, Multi-agency Mental Capacity Act Policy and Procedures, and Guidance on Raising Concerns about Abuse and Neglect.
- In 2018-19 two new SARs were commenced. As these reviews are current, summaries of these and findings will be included in next year's annual report. The SAB also contributed to a Serious Case Review (SCR) led by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), which related to a young man who died aged 18.

- A multi-agency audit of safeguarding cases was undertaken, with a focus on how partner agencies work together to support people with complex needs. Good practice in the application of a Making Safeguarding Personal approach was evidenced, as well as appropriate consideration of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

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

- Key safeguarding data reflects a decrease in the number of safeguarding contacts received from 5,551 in 2017-18 to 5,532 in 2018 – 19. Of the total contacts received in 2018 - 19, 4,589 (83%) were considered safeguarding concerns.
- The number of enquiries completed has also decreased by 18% when compared with 2017-18 (decreasing from 1,450 to 1,182). This is due to issues with the recording of safeguarding concerns and enquiries and measures are in place to address this.

2.6 Priority 4.1: Allow the voice of clients, carers and the local community to be heard in safeguarding policy and practice.

- In 2018 – 19, in 85% of enquiries there was an identified risk to the adult and action was taken. In 93% of these cases the risk was either reduced or removed completely. This is a slight increase from 91% in 2017 – 18.
- Nationally, 79% of adults who lack capacity to make informed decisions about the enquiry receive support. In East Sussex, 99.5% received support. This is an improvement from 2017 – 18 when 96% were supported.

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

- A video created by Ben, a member of the Safeguarding Community Network, about his own experience of safeguarding was published on the SAB website in April 2019. This illustrates a powerful message about overcoming abuse and the importance of Making Safeguarding Personal.

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

- Key training figures from partner agencies are included in the annual report, with a particular focus on domestic abuse, modern slavery and the Mental Capacity Act.
- The Sussex Learning & Development Strategy 2019-22 has been developed, which will be shared across the East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and West Sussex SABs to provide an overarching framework for adult safeguarding training and workforce development.

2.9 Priority 5.2: Ensure clear links exist between partnership boards with accountability arrangements documented and understood to avoid duplication of workstreams.

- The SAB has maintained its links with a number of other strategic partnerships, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer in East Sussex and the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The commitment to these partnerships will continue with the implementation of the new East Sussex Children Partnership in September 2019.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The annual report shows significant progress in adult safeguarding activity and the continued commitment from partner agencies to work together in delivering the aims set out in the SAB Strategic Plan 2018 – 21. The SAB will ensure that learning from the two SARs commenced in 2018 is shared and embedded into practice over the coming year. We will also continue to focus on developing and delivering multi-agency training to ensure that staff involved in safeguarding have the appropriate skills and knowledge.

GRAHAM BARTLETT
Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

LOCAL MEMBERS: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - SAB Annual Report