

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 15th January 2018

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report 2016/17

Recommendation

1. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee are requested to scrutinise the work of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB); and to consider or comment on the progress that the Board has made since the last report. The progress made between April 2016 and March 2017 is detailed within the SSASPB Annual Report attached (Appendix A).

Report of Cllr Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

2. **What?:** To scrutinise the work of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB); and to consider or comment on the progress that the Board has made since the last report. The progress made between April 2016 and March 2017 is detailed within the SSASPB Annual Report attached (Appendix A).
3. **Why?:** In order to comply with a requirement of the Care Act 2014 which states that the SSASPB must send its Annual Report to a number of bodies including the relevant overview and scrutiny committee meeting of the Local Authority. (Care Act Statutory guidance (August 2017): Chapter 14 para 160).

Report

Background

4. Safeguarding Adult Boards became statutory as a result of the Care Act 2014.
5. There are three main statutory functions of the Board i) To publish an Annual Report ii) to produce a strategic plan and iii) to undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews. This Annual Report of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) covers the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. Mr John Wood was the Independent Chair of the Board throughout this period.
6. The Care Act 2014 states that the 'objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults in its area by coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does'.

7. **Key duties** as outlined in the Board's constitution include:

- a. Play a strategic role in holding organisations to account where practice leads to abuse;
 - b. Ensure policies and procedures promote engagement with adults throughout the enquiry process;
 - c. Ensure staff are competent in working with people and have the authority, skills and knowledge to use the full range of interventions/legal powers;
 - d. Ensure lessons are learnt to improve practice;
 - e. Communicate the importance of adult safeguarding widely to communities and all those delivering services with guidance on how to seek help and support;
 - f. Collect hard data (statistics), qualitative data (audits) and the views of service users, carers' and family members
8. **Structure:** The core functions of the SSASPB are to be delivered through seven sub-groups (District sub-group, Learning and Development sub-group, Policies and Procedures sub-group, Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation sub-group, Mental Capacity sub-group, Safeguarding Adult Review sub-group and an Executive Sub-group. Each sub-group produces its own business plan which is monitored and driven through the Executive Sub-group and overseen by the Board itself whose responsibility it is to monitor progress and unblock inhibitors.
9. **Strategic Priorities:** The 2015/16 Strategic priorities of the SSASPB were i) To improve Engagement with service users – their carers and families, members of the public and professionals, ii) to seek assurance that Transition processes between Children and Adult Services consider the NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidelines and iii) to understand what issues exist with regard to Leadership in the Independent Care Sector.

Adult Safeguarding Data: A brief overview.

10. The report highlights a 25% increase in reports of safeguarding concerns in Staffordshire; from 4393 to 5529. This is in part due to raised awareness of what constitutes abuse and neglect and how to report but it is widely believed that there is still under reporting and the likelihood is for reported concerns to further increase.
11. The majority of people that these concerns relate to are aged 65 years and older (66%) with physical support needs. 28% of concerns reported were in connection to those aged 85 and above.
12. When abuse or neglect occurs it most frequently takes place in the person's own home or a residential care home and is perpetrated by people that they know who should be protecting them.
13. Around one in four of the reported safeguarding concerns relate to People in Positions of Trust.

14. 26% of concerns were about neglect, 26% were physical abuse, 20% financial abuse, 14% psychological or emotional abuse, 8% domestic abuse and 3% sexual abuse. The other remaining 4 categories total 3%.
15. In an ageing society there are many challenges for adult social care and safeguarding and it is vital to continue to work in partnership on preventative strategies to prepare for this.
16. The Annual Report includes case studies forwarded by partner agencies through which they demonstrate their commitment to Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP).

Link to Strategic Plan – The assurance role of the Board supports the following Staffordshire County Council strategic priorities:

- Be healthier and more independent
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

Link to other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

Community Impact – There is no anticipated Community Impact.

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Appendices/Background papers

Appendix A - SSASPB Annual Report 2016/17

Appendix B - SSASPB Strategic Plan