

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee - 3rd September 2018

Quarterly Performance Update against Safeguarding Adults' Indicators

Recommendations

1. For the Select Committee to consider the Quarterly Performance Update against Staffordshire County Council's Safeguarding Adults' Indicators.

Report of Cllr Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing and Cllr Gill Burnett, Cabinet Support Member for Adult Safeguarding

Summary

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

2. The Select Committee is being asked to consider the Quarterly Performance Update against Staffordshire County Councils Safeguarding Adults' Indicators.

Report

Background

3. The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other public bodies should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.
4. Local authorities have specific statutory duties in relation to Safeguarding Adults. These are:
 - a. Lead a multi-agency local adult safeguarding system that seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens
 - b. Make enquiries, or request others to make them, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect and they need to find out what action may be needed
 - c. Establish Safeguarding Adults Boards, including the local authority, NHS and police, which will develop, share and implement a joint safeguarding strategy.
 - d. Carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews when someone with care and support needs dies as a result of abuse or neglect and there is a concern that the local authority or its partners could have done more to protect them
 - e. Arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or review, if required.

Safeguarding Adults definitions

5. The following terms are used routinely:
 - a. **Safeguarding Adults Concerns.** These are the specific risks of abuse or neglect that have been included in a referral.

- b. **Safeguarding Adults Referral.** A referral is new information passed to the Council including to Safeguarding Adults concerns. Referrals are considered initially to determine whether the risks are sufficiently serious to require an Enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014.
- c. **Section 42 Enquiry.** A Section 42 Enquiry is initiated where an adult has care and support needs and is identified through the referral process as being at significant risk of abuse or neglect and unable to protect themselves. An Enquiry officer will work with the adult/advocate and other agencies to investigate the concerns and implement appropriate protective measures.
- d. **Safeguarding Adults Plans.** Plans are implemented following a Section 42 Enquiry if there is a continued risk of abuse or neglect of a medium or high risk. Plans are intended to ensure that the adult has appropriate support and guidance to mitigate the risks and can serve to assist both the adult, their representative or professionals in identifying what support can be accessed at points of crisis. Plans will remain in place for as long as is necessary and will be reviewed regularly as needed and at least annually, and then closed when the risk of abuse or neglect has been reduced to low or removed.
- e. **Safeguarding Adult Outcomes.** Achieving the desired outcomes for the adult is imperative to ensure that the Safeguarding process is being completed in line with the Making Safeguarding Personal Agenda. This is a sector led initiative which aims to develop an outcomes focus to safeguarding work, and a range of responses to support people to improve or resolve their circumstances. It is about engaging with people about the outcomes they want at the beginning and middle of working with them, and then ascertaining the extent to which those outcomes were realised at the end. The work is supported by ADSS, the LGA and other national partners. It can be that the protection from abuse or neglect may have an impact on the adults emotional wellbeing and so the balance of this needs to be carefully considered and the persons wishes must be central to the safeguarding planning. In some cases the outcomes that the adult wants to achieve are vastly different to those that professionals involved deem appropriate and sometimes the outcomes are unachievable due to reasons outside the control of professionals involved.
- f. **Safeguarding Adult Reviews.** A Safeguarding Adult Review is a multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or death of an adult with care and support needs from taking place. The purpose of a SAR is not to apportion blame but identify learning. The Safeguarding Adult Board is responsible for carrying out SARS and reporting on any findings

Safeguarding Adults Data

6. For the reporting year 2016/17:

	National	Staffordshire
Number of concerns of abuse or neglect referred	364,165	5,529
Trend in number of concerns of abuse or neglect referred	Increase of 6% on 2015-16	Increase of 18% on 2015-16

Number of individual adults subject to a Section 42 Enquiry	101,145	1,977
Number of Section 42 Enquiries commenced	151,160	2,495
Trend in number of Section 42 Enquiries commenced	Increase of 6% on 2015-16	Decrease of 22% on 2015 - 16
Breakdown	60% female	54% female
	63% aged 65 or over	66% aged 65 or over
	Most common type of risk was Neglect and Acts of Omission: 35% of concerns	Most common types of risk were Neglect and Acts of Omission: 26; and Physical Abuse: 26% of concerns
	Most common location of risk was the adults' own home: 44% of concerns	Most common location of risk was the adults' own home: 50% of concerns

7. Staffordshire figures are comparable to national data, nationally during this period the percentage of number of concerns raised that led to a Section 42 enquiry is 41.5 % and in Staffordshire the data shows that 45.1 % of alerts convert into a section 42 enquiry. Whilst in Staffordshire there has been a significant increase in rate of referrals (18%) and a significant decrease in the numbers converting to section 42 enquiry, this has led to our conversion rate being more in line with the national data. The adult safeguarding team has since changed recording and is signposting more referrals to more appropriate agencies. The development of an add on for Care Director will further reduce the incorrect recording of information as safeguarding and so should reduce the number of alerts Staffordshire reports and give a more accurate picture of the rate of abuse and neglect referrals in Staffordshire.

Safeguarding Adults Performance

8. The summary below highlights the progress that the Council is making in relation to Safeguarding plans, reviews and outcomes at June 2018.

Successes	
<p>SA4b - Percentage of people adult safeguarding who achieve the outcomes they want although this indicator has fallen slightly over the last three months overall performance has remained high at 82.2% and continues to be well above target.</p> <p>SA3 Timeliness of safeguarding plan reviews has improved again over the last month (up to 59.2% compared to only 20% a year ago) and although the numbers are relatively low the drive to record these reviews seems to be making progress.</p> <p>SA5 The rate of repeat referrals to safeguarding is falling; 17.9% compared to 25% a year ago.</p>	<p>Some of this improvement may be attributed to better recording where multiple referrals are received for the same allegation or concern.</p> <p>It is legitimate for a proportion of enquiries to remain open for a long period, particularly where police enquiries are taking place.</p>
Underperforming but Recoverable	

<p>SA6 The number of safeguarding referrals and enquiries that remain open after 12 months has begun to creep up again (50 from a 17/18 outturn of 28)</p> <p>Currently only 14.5% of safeguarding referrals result in a safeguarding plan, although this is an increase compared to the 10% figure this time last year.</p>	<p>The target for 2018/19 has been set at 20%.</p>
<p>Challenges and Difficulties</p>	
<p>Nothing to report</p>	

Lessons for future years

9. Nationally and locally there has been a recognised over referral of concerns about people's personal living circumstances. In Staffordshire this has been a particular issue with the West Midlands Ambulance Service and Penal services. West Midlands Ambulance Service had been referring in concerns relating to prisoners living conditions, e.g. that a cell is not an appropriate setting and therefore the adult is being neglected. The Safeguarding Team Manager has been exploring this with the relevant organisations with a view to bringing their Safeguarding Policies and Procedures in line with our own.
10. There have also been discussions at the Safeguarding Adults Board about repeat referrals. The intention is to conduct an audit to identify repeat referrals and the underlying reasons, with a view to developing multi-agency guidance that will set thresholds for appropriate referrals. This will help to ensure that risks are being appropriately assessed prior to a Safeguarding Adults referral and that people are being directed to the most appropriate agency if necessary at the earliest opportunity.

Link to Children's Safeguarding Board:

11. We are fortunate in that John Wood is the Chair of both the Safeguarding Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards and therefore has an overview and insight into safeguarding issues across all ages. There has been a request following a Safeguarding Adult Review for the Safeguarding Adults Service to have access to the Children's Safeguarding records to facilitate more comprehensive information sharing—particularly when planning ahead for the Preparing for Adulthood Pathways.

Link to Staffordshire County Council Strategic Plan

12. Safeguarding Adults supports the people to be healthier and more independent, and to feel safe, happier and more supported in and by their community. Safeguarding Adults is one of the Council's highest risks, legally and reputationally, and it is crucial that it is effectively managed.

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