

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 22nd January 2019

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report 2017/18

Recommendations

The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is asked to:

- a. Receive the SSASPB Annual Report 2017/18 in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance.
- b. Provide feedback and challenge to the work of the SSASPB.

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?

1. 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 2017 and March 2018 is detailed within the SSASPB Annual Report attached (Appendix A).
2. 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: Chapter 14 para 160).

Report

Background

3. Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) became statutory as a result of the Care Act 2014. 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 2017 to 31st March 2018. Mr John Wood was the Independent Chair of the Board throughout this period.

4. The Care Act 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'.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **Strategic Priorities:** The 2016/18 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 – a brief overview

8. During the course of the year in Staffordshire there have been 4908 occasions when concerns have been reported that adults with care and support needs may be at risk of or are experiencing abuse or neglect. The total figure has decreased by 621 occasions from 5529 in the previous year 2016/17 which is a decrease of 11%. The reported concerns averaged 409 per month; but there has been a reduction of nearly 50% each month from December 2017 onwards. The reason for this reduction is due to a change in recording practice, only those referrals that meet the threshold are now recorded as a referral. This change also had an impact on the number of referrals meeting the duty of enquiry requirement; increasing from 65% to 85% after December 2017.
9. Of the people subject of a Section 42 enquiry, those aged 85-94 (26%) represent the largest cohort, closely followed by 75-84 (25%), and then 65-74 (12%). There has been a small change in the population this year and the proportion of over 75

year olds has increased by 4 percentage points to 56% (from 52% in 2016/17). Other key findings from the data are:

- a. Women remain most likely to be subject of a Section 42 safeguarding Enquiry.
 - b. 92% of adults involved in an enquiry are white.
 - c. Neglect continues to be the most prevalent factor which has lead to the concern being made, followed by physical abuse. Financial abuse referrals are increasing; this is a new Strategic priority for the SSASPB during 2018/2021.
 - d. 50% of the abuse and neglect concerns raised occurred in the adult's own home.
 - e. There was a 27% increase in the number of reports of acts of abuse or neglect by people in a position of trust.
10. The proportion of people subject of a Section 42 enquiry whose expressed outcome was met has increased to 85% from 74% last year with over 97% of people expressing their desired outcomes as either fully or partly met.

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

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

Link to other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

Community Impact – There is no anticipated Community Impact

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List of Background Papers: N/A

List of Appendices:

Appendix A – SSASPB Annual Report 2017/18