

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Safe and Strong Select Committee - Monday 13 January 2020**

### **Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report 2018/19**

#### **Recommendation**

The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is asked to:

- a. Scrutinise and provide feedback on the progress of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board between April 2018 and March 2019 as set out in their detailed Annual Report (Appendix 1).

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

#### **Background**

1. Safeguarding Adult Boards became statutory as a result of the Care Act 2014. There are three main statutory functions of the Board/
  - a. to produce a Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan;
  - b. to undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews; and
  - c. to publish an Annual Report.
2. The Care Act 2014 requires that Safeguarding Adult Boards send their Annual Reports to a number of bodies including the relevant overview and scrutiny committee meeting of the Local Authority.
3. This Annual Report of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) covers the period from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. 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. The Board's role is to assure itself that safeguarding partners act to protect adults who:
  - a. Have needs for care and support;
  - b. Are experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect; and
  - c. As a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.
5. The SSASPB has a constitution that outlines its responsibilities – these are to:

- 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; and
  - f. Collect hard data (statistics), qualitative data (audits) and the views of service users, carers and family members.
6. The Strategic Priorities of the SSASPB are to:
- a. Improve Engagement with service users, carers and families, members of the public and professionals/volunteers;
  - b. Understand safeguarding related issues with regard to Leadership in the Independent Care Sector; and
  - c. Reduce financial and Material Abuse.
7. The SSASPB has 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.

### **Adult Safeguarding data: reporting period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019**

8. **Concerns reported:** There have been 3711 concerns reported that adults with care and support needs may be at risk, or are experiencing, abuse or neglect. The numbers have decreased by 1197 (24%) occasions compared to 2017/18. The decrease coincides with a change in the way that data is captured.
9. Following the change in recording practice only reports that meet the threshold for a Section 42 enquiry are recorded as a safeguarding concern. As a consequence the number of concerns are lower and the proportion of those referred for Section 42 enquiries are much higher. Following an initial assessment, it was determined that the duty of enquiry requirement was met in 90% of concerns.
10. **Age:** Of the people subject of a Section 42 enquiry, those aged between 75-84 and 85-94 (both 26%) represent the largest cohort, followed by 64-74 (14%) and then 50-64 (12%). There is very little change compared to last year. When comparing the age breakdown with general Staffordshire population statistics, it is evident that people in the 65+ age grouping are disproportionately over represented for Section 42 enquiries.

11. **Gender:** Females represent the majority of adults subject of a Section 42 enquiry, with 61% over the year – this is similar to last year.
12. **Ethnicity:** The majority of individuals subject of a Section 42 enquiry are White 89.6% followed by Asian with 0.9%. Anecdotally, people from ethnic minorities are disproportionately under represented for Section 42 enquiries. However 8.5% of records do not have ethnic background recorded which limits the usefulness of any comparison to the wider population.
13. **Primary Support Reason:** Physical support continues to be the most common primary support reason (61%) an increase on what was reported last year (49%), followed by learning disability support (14%) and mental health support (11%).
14. **Type of abuse:** Neglect and Acts of Omission/Physical Harm/Financial Abuse continue to be the most frequent types of harm and abuse identified for Section 42 enquiries, together accounting for 75% of all harm/abuse recorded.
15. **Expressed outcomes met:** The proportion of people subject of a Section 42 enquiry whose outcome was fully met decreased from 85% last year to 80% this year. When combining outcomes fully met with partially met this figure increases to 97%.

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

Adult Safeguarding Referrals  
The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

**Community Impact** – There is no anticipated Community Impact

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board (SASPB) Annual Report 2018/19

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