

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 10 December 2020

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) Annual Report 2019/2020

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Receive and consider the SSASPB Annual Report 2019/20 in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
- b. Provide feedback as to how the HWB can enhance contributions to safeguarding of adults with care and support needs at risk of abuse or neglect.

Background

1. Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) became statutory under the Care Act 2014 which states that the main objective of a SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:
 - a. Have needs for care and support
 - b. Are experiencing or at risk of abuse and 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 and neglect.
2. The SAB has a strategic role to oversee and lead adult safeguarding and is interested in a range of matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect. These include the safety of patients in local health services, quality of local care and support services, effectiveness of prisons and approved premises in safeguarding offenders and awareness and responsiveness of further education services. SAB partners also have a role in challenging each other and other organisations where there is cause for concern that actions or inactions are increasing the risk of abuse or neglect.
3. The SAB has 3 core duties
 - a. To publish a strategic plan
 - b. To publish an Annual Report
 - c. To undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews in accordance with criteria
4. This Annual Report of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) covers the period 1st April 2019 to March 31st, 2020. Mr John Wood was the Independent Chair of the Board throughout the period. The report provides an overview of the work of the Board and its sub-groups and illustrated with case studies as to how the focus on Making Safeguarding Personal is making a positive difference to ensuring that adults with care and support needs are supported to make choices in how they will live their lives in a place where they feel safe, secure and free from abuse.

Adult Safeguarding Data: Staffordshire headlines for the reporting period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020:

5. The safeguarding partners have established and widely publicised the procedures for reporting concerns that an adult with care and support needs may be experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect and unable to protect themselves. Reported concerns can progress to a formal enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, if the duty of enquiry requirements are met.

- a. **Concerns reported:** There have been 4150 occasions where concerns have been reported that adults with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse and neglect. The numbers have increased by 439 (11%) occasions compared to 2018/19. This increase is reflective of the national figure of 8.7%. Following initial assessment, it was determined that the duty of enquiry requirement was met in 93% of concerns. This conversion rate varies considerably throughout the Country and is dependent upon how Local Authorities record and report safeguarding concerns and Section 42 enquiries. The national data shows that the number of Section 42 enquiries that concluded during the year increased by 8.7%.
- b. **Age:** Of the people subject of a Section 42 enquiry, those aged 75-84 and 85-94 (both 27%) represent the largest cohort, followed by 65-74 (12.5%). When comparing the breakdown of the general population of Staffordshire it is seen that adults over 65 are disproportionately over-represented in Section 42 enquiries.
- c. **Gender:** Females represent the majority of adults subject of a Section 42 enquiry, with 62% of the total. This has been a consistent proportion in Staffordshire in recent years.
- d. **Ethnicity:** The majority of adults involved in a Section 42 enquiry are White (86.6%). Other categories of ethnicity (other than white) are below 1%, however 7.6 % of records do not have the ethnic background of the adult recorded.
- e. **Primary Support Reason:** Physical support continues to be the most common primary support reason (49%) a decrease on the 61% reported in 2018/19. The second most prevalent was Learning Disability at 19% followed by Mental Ill-Health at 12%.
- f. **Type of Abuse:** Neglect and Acts of Omission (35%), Physical Harm (22%) and Financial Abuse (18%) continue to be the three most prevalent types of harm and abuse. Nationally, the most common type of risk in Section 42 enquiries that concluded in the year was also Neglect or Acts of Omission, which accounted for 31.4%.
- g. **Location of Abuse:** 49% of recorded concerns were at the adults' home, this is slightly higher than the national average which is 44.8%. Caution must be taken in this interpretation as those recording the location may interpret care/nursing

homes as an adult's own home. 21% were recorded as in a residential home and 16% in a nursing home.

- h. **Expressed Outcomes met:** The proportion of people subject of a Section 42 enquiry whose outcome was fully met reached 88%, an increase on 80% in 2018/19. A further 10% stated that their outcome was partially met. These figures are the same as the national average and is the best indicator from which to identify that Local Authorities are completing safeguarding enquiries in line with national policies and Making Safeguarding Personal.
6. It is of note that the report year ended with adult safeguarding in the spotlight as the United Kingdom went into lockdown in the final week of March 2020 due to the spread of the new coronavirus, COVID-19. Care homes and adults with care and support needs who were not visible, or unable to receive their usual support, were of huge concern.
7. The response to the safeguarding aspects including care of adults at risk, the implications for hidden adults arising from shielding, the response to homeless adults and rough sleepers with care and support needs, and trying to establish the risks and lived experience of those adults with care and support needs at increased risk of exploitation and domestic abuse reached national consciousness. The impacts of these lived experiences will be reported in 2020/21.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1: The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) Annual Report 2019/20

Contact Details

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