

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 9th November 2016

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) Annual Report 2015/2016

Recommendation:

1. To scrutinise the role and function 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 2015 and March 2016 is detailed within the SSASPB Annual Report attached (Appendix A).

Report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing

Summary

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

2. The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board should report annually on the progress made by the Board to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee to enable robust member scrutiny of its functions. The Care Act 2014 made this a statutory requirement. The last report was presented to members of the Safe and Strong Committee on 5th November 2015.

Report

Background

3. In April 2015 the Care Act gave Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) statutory footing. 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 2015 to 31st March 2016. Mr John Wood was the Independent Chair of the Board throughout this period. He also chairs both Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Safeguarding Children Boards.
4. Role and function of the SSASPB: 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*'.
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
 - d. knowledge to use the full range of interventions/legal powers;
 - e. Ensure lessons are learnt to improve practice;
 - f. Communicate the importance of adult safeguarding widely to communities and all those delivering services with guidance on how to seek help and support;
 - g. Collect hard data (statistics), qualitative data (audits) and the views of service users, carers' and family members to inform commissioners of service requirements and to improve practice.
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 2015/16 Strategic priorities of the SSASPB were i) to embed the requirements of the Care Act 2014 (in relation to Safeguarding Adult Boards), ii) to review the Transition process between Children and Adult Services and iii) to understand what issues exist with regard to Leadership in the Independent Care Sector.
8. **Terms of reference and membership:** During the reporting period the Board and its sub-groups have developed agreed terms of reference and a consistent membership which reflects the broadness of the partner agencies. Together with the statutory partners (Local Authorities, Health and Police) there are representatives from Healthwatch, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust, Her Majesty's Prison Service, District Councils, VAST, Staffordshire Association of Registered Care Providers, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime partnerships.
9. **Budget:** The SSASPB is reliant on the contributions it receives from member agencies and the SSASPB is funded through a multi-agency budget. The partnership funding for 2015/16 was £112,500.

Current challenges:

10. The challenges facing the SSASPB are made out in the attached Annual Report between pages 7 and 14. In brief:-
 - a. The speed of progress with the 'Transition' and 'Leadership in Care Home' Strategic Priorities was slower than expected. Following the Board Development Day held on 8th January 2016 the Board agreed to move to a three year strategy to allow further scoping and making delivery much more realistic.
 - b. Prior to the January 2016 Board meeting the Executive Sub-Group had considered progress towards delivery of the Care Act 2014 requirements and found that all were delivered except for those requiring community engagement. This is an area of challenge for the Board and it was agreed that 'Engagement' would become one of its Strategic Priorities from April 2016.
 - c. The Board acknowledged the challenge in the cultural change required to consistently ensure a Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach within agencies and have been seeking assurances and evidence from partners which demonstrates commitment to it.
 - d. The Care Act 2014 compliant 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Enquiry Procedures' are to be distributed in an electronic version only for the first time. The Board will be seeking assurance that these are readily accessible and promoted within partner organisations for use by front line practitioners.
 - e. The extension of the definition of Domestic Abuse into wider family relationships has led to a number of referrals for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) where there may be a safeguarding element. The Board has worked with connected partners to ensure that the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) sub group is notified of potential DHRs and has the opportunity to consider whether a safeguarding element exists and ensure that it is considered throughout the review process. This approach will need to be formally ratified in the SAR Protocol during 2016/17.
 - f. The provision of a Board approved E-Learning Adult Safeguarding Awareness training package had limited uptake and has therefore not been cost-effective. A decision has been taken not to continue to offer this methodology and instead make the Board approved packages more widely available for delivery within individual organisations.
 - g. During the early stages of the formation of the Mental Capacity Sub-Group there was some uncertainty as to what was required from the Board. The Group has worked through the challenge and is now clearly focused on its important work.
 - h. Due to the different partner organisational structures and data collation processes it was difficult to develop a universal performance data set that all

partners could regularly contribute to. Working with partners the Board has been able to identify the information that is available from each agency and has developed a range of tools and guidance to help gather the relevant data to inform safeguarding work

Adult Safeguarding data: A brief overview.

11. There was a decrease in the total number of concerns (previously called referrals) reported; from 4789 in 2014/15 to 4457 in 2015/16 (7%). This has been attributed to the introduction of the Care Act in April 2015 and the revised criteria for safeguarding enquires. The percentage of concerns assessed as meeting the threshold for a Section 42 Care Act Safeguarding Enquiry dropped from 80.4% in 2014/15 to 71.7% in 2015/16. This is considered to be as a result of increased awareness by the Contact Centre who are now more confident to signpost concerns to other, more suitable, routes. Such outcomes include an assessment of need rather than a safeguarding enquiry.
12. There continues to be unavailable data with regard to the source of concerns this is owing to limitations in the data capture of the Care Director IT system. A service-wide upgrade is scheduled for 2016/17 and it is believed that this information will be available in the future with the potential for historical data to be included.
13. The Care Act 2014 introduced new categories of abuse: Modern Day Slavery, Self-Neglect, and Domestic Abuse. IT systems are to be updated to capture these new categories, but it comes with a challenge as Domestic Abuse may also be sexual or physical abuse. The matter is being discussed nationally as it would be unhelpful to report figures where there is double-counting. The introduction of the new categories makes it difficult to make comparisons between pre-Care Act and post-Care Act data.
14. The main source of risk to adults with care and support needs continues to come from those known to them. This has been the trend for 6 years, and IT systems do not currently record the actual relationship to the adult. With regard to location there are two categories where most reported abuse occurs with 47% occurring in the adult's home and 38% in a social care setting. In the past 3 years the percentage reported in a social care setting has reduced from 43% to 38%.
15. The vast majority of reported concerns are in relation to the adults over 64 with a physical primary support reason (2135), the second largest being adults under 64 with a learning disability (691).
16. **Link to Strategic Plan** – The core aims and strategic priorities support Staffordshire County Council's priority outcomes of people in Staffordshire being healthier and more independent also feeling safer, happier and more supported in and by their communities.

17. **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity** – The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee has oversight of the health providers who make a contribution to the Adult Safeguarding Partnership.
18. **Community Impact** –There are clear links with Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime (particularly disability hate crime) and Community Safety. The local authority takes cases to the Court of Protection on a regular basis when it is believed that there is need to take action to protect adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect - and who lack capacity.

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Appendices/Background papers:

Appendix A - Annual Report of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB)