

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

## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 14 September 2021**

### **Safeguarding Adults on the Cusp of Care**

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that:

- a. The committee consider the information pertaining to safeguarding adults on the cusp of care and the current position of Staffordshire County Council
- b. Consider and comment on the information regarding the activities that occur within other Local Authorities regarding safeguarding adults on the cusp of care.

#### **Report of Cllr Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care**

### **Summary**

#### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

1. Following discussions held at the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) request had been made by the board that Staffordshire County Council consider the response to adults who do not meet the requirement for a statutory safeguarding response. The Committee are being asked to consider and comment on the current position within Staffordshire and responses within other local authorities.

### **Report**

#### **Background**

2. Section 14 of The Care Act (2014) places a duty on Local Authorities to make enquiries, or cause others to make enquiries where they reasonably believe that;
  - a. An adult who has care and support needs
  - b. Is at risk of or is experiencing abuse and neglect, and
  - c. As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the abuse or neglect.
3. Care and support needs arise as a result of a learning disability, physical disability, sensory impairment, mental health need or substance misuse.

4. Within Staffordshire the Local Authority has clear Adult Safeguarding Enquiry procedures which detail what our responsibilities are, meetings that may be held and the involvement of other agencies.
5. Staffordshire Police have the Harm Reduction Hubs within localities that allow for a more focused discussion regarding complex individuals using their skills and partnership approach, the work within the hubs mainly centres on domestic abuse.
6. There are adults within our communities who do not meet the requirement for a statutory safeguarding response but who come to the attention of partner agencies where there are high risks to them or towards the wider community. Currently there is no formal forum for these situations and agencies have reported feeling isolated in managing risks.

#### **Activities within other Local Authorities.**

7. Throughout the country there are formal multi-agency meetings that discuss and risk assess individuals who do not meet other statutory process such as:
  - a. Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA);
  - b. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC);
  - c. Channel (multi-agency meeting within the Prevent programme);
  - d. Formal adult safeguarding procedures
8. Examples of these forum include:
  - a. VARM – Derbyshire, Herefordshire
  - b. MARG – Stoke On Trent
  - c. Structured Partnership Approach – Norfolk and Solihull
  - d. ShEP – Solihull Exploitation Panel – Solihull
9. The purpose of these meetings is for agencies to share risk and concerns for individuals where the risks to the individual are high, often as a result of risk-taking behaviour, exploitation, anti-social behaviour or self neglect. The adult will usually come into frequent contact with statutory agencies, housing etc. The multi-agency meetings are held to:
  - a. Identify the relevant risks for the individual;
  - b. Discuss and agree agency responsibilities/actions;
  - c. Record, monitor and review progress with the agreed action plan;
  - d. Agree when the risks have been managed and evaluate the outcome.
10. These forums are managed by different partners but usually have the involvement of Police, Adult Social Care, NHS, Housing, voluntary organisations. Scrutiny and oversight of these arrangements does depend on which organisation takes the lead for hosting the arrangements.
11. It is to be acknowledged that the Local Authority is responsible for providing support where adults have been assessed as having needs for care and support as defined within the Care Act. The local Authority would be supportive of multi-agency risk

assessing for adults with complex and/or chaotic lifestyles but this would not lead to services being provided where there is no assessed need.

12. Staffordshire County Council, Adult Social Care and Safeguarding have not formally scoped the demand for a similar forum within Staffordshire. We are aware that Staffordshire Police and borough housing colleagues would be agreeable to the consideration of this and the partners from the SSASPB would also be supportive of this.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

13. Adult Social Care & Safeguarding as a service play an important part in contributing to the Health & Care Vision by:

“Working in partnership to ensure that people who need support are able to maintain and maximise independence.”

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

N/A

### **Community Impact**

N/A

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

None.

### **Contact Details**

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