

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 02 December 2021

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) Annual Report 2020/21

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Receive and consider the SSASPB Annual Report 2020/21 in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2014
- b. Provide feedback as to how the HWBB 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 2020 to March 31st, 2020/21. 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 2020 to 31st March 2021:

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 12,176 occasions where concerns have been reported that adults with care and support needs have been abused or neglected or may be at risk of abuse and neglect. This number has increased significantly from 2019/20 which was reported as 4,150. This increase is as a result of a change in how Staffordshire County Council (SCC) report the number of concerns that they receive. In previous years it has reported only the number of concerns that progressed to a formal enquiry stage.
- i. Following initial assessment, it was determined that the duty of enquiry requirement was met in 25% of those reported concerns, again this figure varies from the figure of 93% shown in last year's Annual Report due largely to the changes in how the concerns are reported. The conversion rate varies considerably throughout the Country and is dependent upon how Local Authorities record and report safeguarding concerns and Section 42 enquiries. In recent years there have been attempts made nationally to make the information more consistently reported and therefore comparable, but this had very limited success.
- b. **Age:** Of the people subject of a S42 enquiry, those aged 85 to 94 years (26%) represents the largest cohort, very closely followed by 75 to 84 years (25%). There has been very little change when compared to last year's figures. When drawing comparison with the population statistics of Staffordshire it is evident that adults in the 75 years+ age groupings are disproportionately over-represented for Section 42 enquiries.

- c. **Gender:** The majority of Section 42 enquiries involve females – 62%. This is disproportionately above the population average for females in Staffordshire which is 50.3%. Females above the age of 75 years are consistently found to be most at risk of abuse or neglect.
- d. **Ethnicity:** The majority of adults involved in a Section 42 enquiry are white - 87.9%. The percentage of the population of Staffordshire who self-identified as white is 93.6%. In 8.4% of the Section 42 enquiries the ethnicity is 'not known'. Which may in part be due to the adult being unable to self-identify. Recording may also contribute to this figure. In future the recently updated version of the Information Management System used by SCC – 'Care Director' may assist in reducing the not knowns.
- e. **Primary Support Reason (PSR):** Physical support continues to be the most common PSR in Staffordshire at 40% which is a decrease on the figure of 49% reported in 2019/20. This is followed by mental health support at 11% and learning disability at 10%. It is difficult to accurately interpret these figures because 29% were recorded as 'not known'. This is an increase when compared to 16% in the previous reporting year. The reasons for this increase are not clear. In part this may be due to cases that are closed at an early stage when the PSR is not known.
- f. **Type of Abuse:** Neglect and Acts of Omission (36%), Physical Harm (18%) and Financial Abuse (15%) continue to be the most prevalent types of abuse and neglect in Staffordshire. This is broadly similar to the figures reported last year at 35%, 22% and 18%. Institutional (Organisational) Abuse has increased from 0% to 7%. Nationally, Institutional Abuse is reported as 6%.
- i. Pages 17 - 22 of the Annual Report contain case studies which exemplify some types of abuse and neglect and the multi-agency response.
- g. **Location of Abuse:** The most reported location of abuse in Staffordshire was the adults' own home at 66%, this is higher than the National average of 49.8%. Put into context the adult may consider their care/residential or nursing home as their 'own home'. The next most prevalent locations were independent residential home 12% and nursing home 11%.
- h. **Expressed Outcomes met:** In Staffordshire 98% of adults involved in a Section 42 enquiry confirmed that their desired outcomes from the enquiry were fully or partially met. This is the same as last year. Nationally this figure is reported as 95%.

- i. **The COVID-19 Pandemic:** This Annual Report covered the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. At the beginning of the year care homes and adults with care and support needs who were not visible, or unable to receive their usual support, were of huge concern due to the stringent restrictions on social interaction.
6. Safeguarding partners adapted their approaches to become more supportive of front-line operations whilst at the same time remaining vigilant as to the implications for hidden adults arising from shielding; homeless adults and rough sleepers with care and support needs; and the experiences of those adults with care and support needs at increased risk of exploitation and domestic abuse.
7. The Board has adapted its approaches to seeking assurances as to the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements using a range of methods to communicate and engage. The response to the necessary changes has demonstrated the strength of local partnership working which has become even more cohesive and visible over time.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1: The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) Annual Report 2020/21

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