



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

14 January 2021

North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual Report – 2019/20

Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chairperson

Cabinet Member: Councillor Veronica Jones, Adult Care and Public Health

Purpose of report

To provide an overview of the work carried out under the multi-agency arrangements for Safeguarding Adults in 2019/20.

Recommendations

This report is for the Board's information.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Health and Well Being priority in the Corporate Plan.

Key issues

1. The attached Annual report describes the work of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) during 2019/20, and provides information about operational safeguarding activity during the year. The report also describes a range of improvements in safeguarding arrangements.
2. There has been one Safeguarding Adults Review completed in Northumberland during this reporting year, which was published on behalf of the SAB in November 2019. Further details of the learning from this review are included within the Annual report, and the full Executive Summary report can be found at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Health-and-social-care/Care%20support%20for%20adults/Adult-U-Executive-Summary-report-PUBLISH.pdf>

Two Learning Reviews also commenced in Northumberland during this year, which will be reported on in the 2020/21 Annual report.

3. The report outlines that there has been an 11% increase in Adult Concern Notifications and a 23% increase in Safeguarding Adults enquiries, compared to the previous year. This reflects the ongoing development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which has led to more consistent, appropriate and proportionate decision-making.
4. Northumberland have continued to develop their Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

as part of their front door services, and have extended their partner membership. Joint partnership working in relation to Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse, Exploitation, County Lines and domestic abuse has strengthened, and has proven effective in relation to early intervention and safety planning.

5. The report outlines some key highlights of the SAB's work during this year, which has included a focus upon the Herbert protocol, County lines, and the links between Safeguarding and issues such as homelessness and alcohol. Work is also underway to raise awareness of criminal exploitation across the partnership, and to develop transitional safeguarding arrangements to ensure robust and consistent responses are in place to manage safeguarding for vulnerable young people.
6. The report also sets out the key strategic priorities in the SAB Annual Plan for 2020/21, which have been informed by local safeguarding data; experiences and feedback; partner self-assessments; and regional priorities.

BACKGROUND

The County Council has strategic responsibility for overseeing multi-agency arrangements in its area for safeguarding adults at risk. This includes both arrangements for investigating and where necessary acting on referrals alleging that vulnerable adults are being abused or neglected, and wider arrangements for ensuring that the safety, independence and dignity of vulnerable adults are protected.

In accordance with the Care Act the SAB has a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults. The SAB also has a statutory responsibility to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.

The attached Annual Report describes the strategic activity undertaken by the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board, and the most significant specific issues dealt with during 2019/20 under the safeguarding adults policy and procedures. It also provides statistical information about operational safeguarding activity.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background documents for this report within the meaning of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy	Safeguarding arrangements in Northumberland are in line with Care Act 2014, and national policy statement on safeguarding adults issued in March 2015
Finance and value for money	No direct implications
Human Resources	Safeguarding investigations can in some circumstances lead to disciplinary action against staff. Safeguarding

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	training is mandatory for all staff working in adult services
Property	No direct implications
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	This is an information report so does not require an EIA. Referrals statistics suggest that the gender and ethnic balance of safeguarding referrals broadly match those of the care management caseload.
Risk Assessment	Management of risks in individual cases is a core element of safeguarding. Management of risks in commissioned services is a core role of contracting work. There are various multi-agency risk assessment groups in place including Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).
Crime & Disorder	Northumbria Police are members of the Safeguarding Adults Board, and there is close joint working to ensure that prompt and appropriate action is taken where it is suspected that a crime may have been committed.
Customer Considerations	There is a continuing need to keep under review the balance between maximising the control 'adults at risk' have over their support arrangements and ensuring that they are adequately protected from the risk of abuse or exploitation – although greater individual control can often also in itself be a means of reducing people's vulnerability.
Carbon reduction	No direct implications.
Consultation	The Executive Member for Adult Care and Wellbeing has been consulted about this report.
Wards	All

Report sign off

Paula Mead – North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board
Independent Chair

Author and contact details

Report Author: Karen Wright (Strategic Safeguarding Manager)
Tel: 07779983138
Email: karen.wright01@northumberland.gov.uk