

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 3 December 2019

North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual Report – 2018/19

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 2018/19.

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 2018/19, 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 initiated in 2018/19 by the Safeguarding Adults Board into the events leading up to a death, which will be concluded in 2019/20. The attached report provides an overview of the key learning from one Safeguarding Adults Review which was concluded and published in 2018/19.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Health-and-social-care/Care%20support%20for%20adults/safeguarding%20adults/Adult-W-SAR-1.pdf>

3. The introduction of a formal Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has seen the number of Adult Concern Notifications (2001) significantly reduce by 25% from the previous year. A triage system has similarly impacted on the number of enquiries (246), which is 44% lower than 2017/18. This demonstrates more appropriate concerns are being reported.
4. In 2018/19 both North Tyneside and Northumberland have continued to develop their Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) as part of their front door services, and have extended their partner membership. The information provided by partner agencies not only improves decision making, but also supports in the planning and intervention required, resulting in appropriate responses to both adults and children.
5. The report demonstrates that in 2018/19 the SAB's response to Sexual Exploitation has

strengthened. In Northumberland the Sexual and Criminal Exploitation strategy (2019-2022) was launched this year, and the implementation of the multi-agency delivery plan to support this commenced. Work is also underway to raise awareness of criminal exploitation across the partnership, and to develop local arrangements to respond to County Lines.

6. The report sets out the key strategic priorities in the SAB Annual Plan for 2019/20, 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 2018/19 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

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| 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 training is mandatory for all staff working in adult services |
| Property | No direct implications |
| Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) | 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 |

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| Yes No N/A | 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

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