

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 January 2022

North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual Report – 2020/21

Report of Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Children's Services, Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member: Wendy Pattinson

Purpose of report

To provide an overview of the work carried out under the multi-agency arrangements for Safeguarding Adults in 2020/21.

Recommendations

Members to note the content of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual report 2020/21.

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 2020/21, and provides information about operational safeguarding activity during the year. The report also describes a range of improvements in safeguarding arrangements.
2. The report outlines how the SAB adapted very quickly during the Covid-19 pandemic, identifying alternative ways of safeguarding adults at risk, and responding to emerging risks and demands. The SAB introduced a range of measures and assurance frameworks to promote multi-agency working arrangements and monitor and mitigate areas of risk and concern.
3. The report outlines that during this period, Northumberland experienced a 40% increase in reported safeguarding concerns, and a 14% rise in safeguarding enquiries, compared to the previous year. The main location of abuse has been within people in homes, which is likely to be linked to lockdown restrictions. In terms of local trends there have been rises in episodes of domestic abuse, physical abuse and self-neglect. On a more general note, the impact of Covid restrictions has also been evident in the increase in safeguarding concerns being reported which relate to isolation, mental health and wellbeing.
4. Our local data evidences that our local MASHs (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hubs) are

operating successfully and provide effective multi-agency partnership arrangements, and a holistic approach to risk.

5. There have been no Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) undertaken in Northumberland during this reporting year, however the report provides details of a North Tyneside SAR relating to Leigh, which was published this year on behalf of the SAB. During this year one joint Learning Review with Children's Services has been concluded in Northumberland, following the suicide of a young person 'Bobby'. Further details of the learning from these reviews are included within the Annual report.
6. The report outlines some key highlights of the SAB's work during this year, which has included a focus upon a range of themes including Transitional Safeguarding, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers Project, Channel arrangements and updates, and criminal exploitation and the local experience of Operation Momentum.
7. The report also sets out the key strategic priorities in the SAB Annual Strategic Plan for 2021/22, which have been informed by local safeguarding data; experiences and feedback; partner self-assessments; and regional priorities.
8. During this reporting year the SAB commissioned and completed an independent review of their SAB arrangements, which identified that the joint board was valued and well regarded as a forum for bringing a wide range of partners together. Partners and local safeguarding leads work well together, and relationships were viewed as well-developed and strong. However, it was recognised that now is an appropriate time to focus on the needs of our respective communities and ensure that strategic arrangements are aligned locally.

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 2020/21 under the Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures. It also provides statistical information about operational safeguarding activity.

Implications

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
Legal	The Annual Report 2020-21 evidences how the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) arrangements meet the statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report demonstrating how partners safeguard 'adults at risk'. In accordance with the statutory functions set out in the Care Act (2014).
Procurement	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) 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 Consideration	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
Health and Wellbeing	Promoting the safety, welfare, health and wellbeing is a primary function of the SAB and its work.
Wards	All

Background papers:

North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2020-21.

Report sign off

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Graham Reiter on behalf of Cath McEvoy-Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wendy Pattison

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

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