

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)
to Cabinet

(24th August 2016)

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To bring to Cabinet the latest Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report for 2015-16 and update Cabinet on developments, including the strategic plan.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet members are asked to note the Annual Report and comment on the direction of travel for adult safeguarding.

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 Following the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, adult safeguarding has been put on a statutory footing, with detailed guidance being included in the national Care and Support Guidance.
- 3.2 The SAB has three core duties: -
- to publish a strategic plan for each financial year, developed with community involvement and in consultation with Healthwatch
 - to publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done to deliver its main objective, which is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners protect adults meeting the criteria for being helped
 - to conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews when these are required.
- 3.3 Last year the annual report was not finalised until quite late in the year and was not reported to Cabinet until November 2015. This year, the report was complete much earlier and was signed off by BSAB on 20 July 2016. The report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.4 The report fulfils the requirements set out in the Care and Support Guidance and is designed to be a more succinct and readable document that will appeal to a wider audience, including staff in partner organisations, those directly affected by safeguarding and members of the public. It also includes a

number of actual case studies that help to illustrate how safeguarding impacts on people living in Barnsley.

- 3.5 In linking to the BSAB strategic plan, the annual report summarises on page 9 the board's vision and priorities, with a focus on *Making Safeguarding Personal*. This is a significantly different approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect which seeks to empower them and give them greater control over what happens. This is already leading to quite profound changes in frontline practice.
- 3.6 On pages 12, 14 and 15 there are tables which show what key actions the board and its two sub groups were tasked with achieving during 2015/16 and what progress they made. After a slow start, the board's work gathered momentum towards the end of the year and many of the actions were progressing well.
- 3.7 On pages 17-19, the work of partner organisations (including the council) is highlighted. Some good work has been done and most partners have demonstrated a firm commitment to adult safeguarding.
- 3.8 The report contains a statistical section and this contains a detailed commentary, which helps to interpret what the data is telling us.
- 3.9 On pages 32-33 there is a summary of BSAB's plans for 2016-17. There is a detailed business plan that was recently updated and is coming to every board meeting, with RAG ratings on what progress is being made.
- 3.10 The achievements of the board during 2015/16 included:
 - Appointing an independent board chair
 - Streamlining the SAB structure and reducing the number of subgroups
 - Holding a development day that set the board's vision and direction of travel
 - Agreeing a three year strategic plan
 - Agreeing a protocol for Safeguarding Adult Reviews that aligns with the process for Domestic Homicide Reviews
 - Strengthening reporting on standards of care in care homes
 - Working to get a shared understanding of safeguarding across the partnership, including Making Safeguarding Personal
- 3.11 The key pieces of work that are currently underway include the following:
 - Strengthening performance reporting to address data quality issues; to provide better information to operational managers; to benchmark our comparative performance with other authorities; to meet national requirements to report on outcomes; and to have more partner data

instead of relying solely on council data. A task and finish group is carrying out this work.

- Providing quality assurance of front line practice by carrying out case audits, both multi-agency audits and single agency audits, with the latter focusing on the council's safeguarding. These audits are now taking place and will be embedded over the coming months.
- Engaging more effectively with wider communities and with adults who experience safeguarding in determining what the board does. The SAB also needs to have a more robust communications strategy, part of which will include launching a dedicated website later in the year. A second task and finish group is addressing communications and engagement.
- Although plenty of safeguarding training is taking place (as detailed in the Annual Report), there are some significant gaps, particularly for staff taking the lead on carrying out formal safeguarding enquiries. A third task and finish group will develop proposals to strengthen training, where necessary.
- In order for the SAB to hold its partners to account on how well they undertake safeguarding, they have recently submitted self assessments and will then be part of a challenge process that will enable the independent chair to question senior board members on how effectively their organisations are carrying out their safeguarding business.
- Although Barnsley has signed up to the South Yorkshire Adult Safeguarding Procedures, it is acknowledged that we do not have clear local guidance and this makes it difficult to ensure that practice is consistent and robust. A priority during the year will be to put local procedures and guidance in place, particularly in relation to large scale investigations in care services and for people in positions of trust who pose a risk to others.

3.12 The annual report is being produced as an interactive PDF document which can be accessed online, with a printable version for people who prefer a hard copy of the document.

3.13 It is intended that the report will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board in August and the Safeguarding and Overview and Scrutiny Panels' meetings in September and October.

4.0 Consideration of Alternative Approaches

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Proposal and Justification

5.1 This report highlights the SAB's work over the last 12 months and enables Cabinet members to have a good understanding of developments in adult safeguarding.

6.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users

6.1 Keeping people safe is one of the council's highest priorities. It is vital that local people have confidence in safeguarding services and also know what to do when they are concerned about someone. The SAB's work is vital to ensuring that people are effectively safeguarded and that the Care Act guidance is fully implemented in Barnsley.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The annual report has been coordinated by the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager and draws on partners and on corporate council functions. The design cost has been £575, which it is hoped that partners will contribute to.

7.2 The main costs related to BSAB are the funding of the independent chair, the SAB Manager and business support (one full time equivalent) – which comes to approximately £85,000 per annum. In addition, funding is needed for any additional costs incurred, such as publicity, for which there is currently no provision.

7.3 The council is the largest funder, with partners contributing less than 20% of the cost of maintaining the BSAB. Discussions are currently taking place with the statutory partners - the CCG and South Yorkshire Police - regarding their contributions.

8.0 Employee Implications

8.1 No direct staffing implications.

9.0 Communications Implications

9.1 The BSAB Annual Report will be published during August 2016 and be made widely available through the council and partners.

10.0 Consultations

10.1 There has been formal consultation over the content of the annual report with Healthwatch Barnsley.

11.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

11.1 Under the Corporate Plan priority – people achieving their potential – one of the key outcomes is keeping children and adults safe from harm. There are two specific adult safeguarding indicators in the corporate plan performance report.

12.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

12.1 The priorities and objectives of the Board will be achieved having due regard to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable adults and eliminating any discrimination.

13.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

13.1 Not applicable to this report.

14.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

14.1 Not applicable to this report.

15.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder

15.1 Not applicable to this report.

16.0 Risk Management Issues

16.1 Safeguarding is an area of council business that carries high risks and it is critically important that the council, as the lead safeguarding agency for adults, is able to demonstrate that its service is robust and well managed.

16.2 BSAB has a key role in quality assuring safeguarding across the partnership and holding organisations to account, including the council.

17.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues

17.1 Not applicable to this report.

18.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 Not applicable to this report.

19.0 Conservation of Biodiversity

19.1 Not applicable to this report.

20.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

20.1 None, applicable.

21.0 List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16

22.0 Details of Background Papers

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Date: 19 July 2016

Financial Implications/
Consultation <i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications</i>