

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday 12 September 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Barnard, Bellamy, Booker, Bowser, Christmas, Clarke, Denton, Eastwood, Fielding, Green, Hayward, Lodge, Markham, Moore, Morrell, Murray, O'Donoghue, Osborne, Peace, Sheard, Smith, Tattersall, Webster, A. Wray and N. Wright

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Peace declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being the Cabinet Support Member for Children's Services.

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a member on the Berneslai Homes Board and the Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a member on the Berneslai Homes Board

Councillor Bellamy declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being the Cabinet Support Member for Place, Health and Adult Social Care and a Corporate Parent

Councillor Lodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a Local Governor at the Mill Academy, Worsbrough Dale and a Volunteer Coordinator at Centrepont (supporting young people and adults in the Borough)

Councillor Sheard declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a Governor at Barnsley Hospital

Councillor O'Donoghue declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Councillor Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel

Councillor Eastwood declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Fostering Panel

Councillor Bowser declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to being a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the following meetings were received and approved by Members as a true and accurate record:-

Full Committee – 25 April 2023

Sustainable Barnsley Workstream – 6 June 2023

Growing Barnsley Workstream – 27 June 2023

Healthy Barnsley Workstream – 18 July 2023

3 Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Marianne Huison, Independent Chair, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB)
- Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Place, Health and Adult Social Care
- Julie Chapman, Service Director Adult Social Care and Health, Place Health and Adult Social Care
- Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager
- Councillor Jo Newing, Cabinet Spokesperson Place, Health and Adult Social Care
- Chief Superintendent Simon Wanless, Barnsley District Commander (SYP)
- Dawn Gibbon, Head of Safeguarding, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Katie Puplett, On behalf of Emma Cox, AD of Nursing, Quality and Professions (SWYPFT)
- Angela Fawcett, Deputy Chief Nurse Head of Safeguarding (Barnsley)
- Rebecca Slater, Named Nurse for Adults, Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust
- Sharon Graham, Head of Joint Commissioning Service

The Chair welcome Marianne Huison, Independent Chair of Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board and Chief Superintendent Simon Wanless to their first Scrutiny Meeting.

The Committee was provided an overview of the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23 which set out the progress made against the four main ambitions within their strategic plan. The four main ambitions were:

- To collectively work hard to prevent harm and abuse across Barnsley
- To develop citizen led approaches to safeguarding
- To continue to develop safe transition experiences for young people
- Learning together and continually improving

The Committee were informed of the future plans and challenges the Board faced including improving the quality and analysis of data. It was reported that significant improvements had been made by the development of a robust quarterly dashboard from BSAB Members and work with BMBC Business Intelligence colleagues to develop a more comprehensive dashboard based on data held within the ERICA system. This data would allow the Board to take a more proactive and ward based approach to combatting abuse across Barnsley.

The real ambition was to improve recognition for adults across Barnsley and identify those that are in need of help and support, and to signpost them to the relevant partner agencies and organisations for help.

In the ensuing discussion and in response to detailed questioning and challenge, the following matters were highlighted:-

Following the Ofsted Inspector report in January 2023 that there was a lack of early transitional support. Positive changes had been put in place with the Preparing for Adulthood Team picking up cases from the age of 14 with complex disabilities transitioning into adulthood. Close work was undertaken with individual families and carers to be prepared and aware of potential changes that could occur during the transition. More vulnerable older children transitioning from leaving care or those that may have chaotic lifestyles, collaborative work with Mental Health Services was undertaken to help them have a good start to transitioning into adulthood. This team would be supported by colleagues from Children's Social Care and in the future by mental health and other organisations.

It was recognised that there were some challenges around obtaining data and intelligence to support a robust response to meeting the needs of adults in both the preventative and safeguarding arenas. Work was in place to improve this and regular meetings were in place to deliver data around service users experiences from the Service, in order to inform the responses to both individuals, their families and carers. As the Preparing For Adulthood Team was a relatively new Service (9 months) it had limited evidence of the difference it was making, though positive relationships were being forged with relevant organisations. More data would be available in the coming year.

In questioning of the 4 key Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board ambitions and whether they were still seen as the correct ones going forward, members were informed that they were broad enough to carry a lot underneath them. Huge strides had been made in preventing harm and abuse and public awareness had increased evidence by an increase in reporting by this group from 1% to 4%. The Board had an ambition to increase that to 10% in the near future. There was a more joined up partnership working approach with wrap around support for people struggling with self neglect and hoarding. Members were informed that working with Barnsley's Community and Voluntary Services, public conversations are taking place to shape the priorities for Adult Social Care. The annual safeguarding awareness week in November would include a customer conference to share information about staying safe. Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board have a development event planned for November to agree a new strategic plan from 2024, this will include an evaluation of the Boards success in meeting their ambitions for the previous year.

There were a number of challenges experienced in the ability to collect appropriate and relevant data needed in order to inform practices. Additional support has been secured by business intelligence by appointing a Consultant to work with BMBC colleagues to further develop the datasets by reviewing safeguarding data and suggest system improvements. The Service was confident that the refinement in data and being able to drill down would be something achieved within the year. It was acknowledged that to gain quality data, people had to feel comfortable working with the service and that staff were good quality guardians of the data. It was hoped

that as part of the data improvement, there would be the ability to provide Ward specific data and be able to target specific issues in those areas.

The report had highlighted a significant increase in safeguarding referrals. It was noted that an audit into referrals from Care Homes had evidenced that only 11% met the threshold for safeguarding. To reduce the demand on both care homes and the front door of Adult Social Care a low level concern form had been developed and circulated to care providers. The forms would still be triaged by adult social care before being shared with adult joint commissioning to provide quality assurance.

Bookmarks had been produced to help reach those members of the community who have limited or no access to the internet and who may struggle to leave their homes to have access to information about staying safe and how to contact for help. These would be available via libraries, other public buildings and would be delivered into people's homes by visiting professionals such as nurses. Councillors were welcome to have some for distributing in their local communities, bookmarks were circulated at the event.

In terms of specific support for Ex Service Personnel, it was reported that when someone calls in to any service within the council, they are asked specifically whether they are ex service personnel and are then signposted to connect with universal services as well as targeted services delivered by Adult Social Care.

Members were informed that there were a number of Safe Places across the Borough for people to visit if they were feeling scared, staff and volunteers will support them to resolve the issues including making referrals to other organisations. Members were asked to help identify community groups and local shop keepers who might be able to offer this service or to let regular customers know about this resource. All Safe Places were offered training and resources to become a Safe Place and could access support, if needed. The Adult could sign up to the scheme and they would be issued with a card they can share with the Safe Place detailing the contact details of a trusted person who could be rung to offer support.

In order to raise awareness and tackle safeguarding issues with asylum seekers and ethnic minority groups that live in the Borough, awareness and training had been provided by a Multi Agency Trainer with specific sessions to support groups supporting the minority and asylum groups. This was also seen as something that would be picked up by universal services and it would be important for partnerships to share information as to what they have done or what requires doing in order to avoid duplication. In terms of engagement with those who did not have English as their first language, members were informed that the offer from Adult Social Care varied in languages and was available to everyone. Members were informed that providing translated written word was problematic due to the number of languages that would be required. They heard how the information via the website could be translated into any language using the Google translate function.

Members were informed of the Safeguarding Adults week taking place in November and were encouraged to inform the Service of any areas they would want the Service to support them in, in order to raise awareness.

The statistics showed that 57% of women and 43% of men had needed help to stop abuse. It was unknown what the nature of abuse had been in these cases. In terms of suicide, members were informed that Adult Social Care had close links with the Suicide Panel in order to determine whether a suicide had been as a result of harm and abuse.

Whilst it was acknowledged that there was a need for better data analysis and how the systems work together across the board to share information, the collective work across all partners involved was strong and they worked effectively. It was noted that no specific work had been carried out with the Samaritans but the Service would be happy to have introductions made and provide support and training to anyone wishing to be involved.

In relation to the Care Quality Commission report reporting inadequacies in midwifery services at Barnsley Hospital, the committee were informed that there were some inaccuracies in the report and that the figures in the report did not reflect the 12 month training plan in place.

The Right Person Right Care initiative was in the process of being rolled out and was in Phase 2 of 3 which involved engagement with key partners on a strategic and tactical level. Barnsley had been seen as a leading light in how to implement the initiative. The second phase had included concerns of safety on the streets and leaving A and E etc. The third phase would include working with people with mental health issues.

It was recognised that the Adult Social Care sector was predominantly female orientated. Work was ongoing to rebalance and increase diversity and to encourage people from different backgrounds to apply for leadership roles and Board representation. The representative from SWYPFT outlined the work they had completed which had resulted in a more diverse workforce and management structure.

There was an enquiry as to the cost of providing translation and interpreters for the Services provided. They were informed that this was a question for Customer Services to respond to and a response would be circulated to members in due course.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) that the report be noted.

4 Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2022-23

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- David Radford, Independent Chair & Scrutineer, BSCP
- Annette Carey, Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Manager, Children's Services, Barnsley Council

- Cllr Ashley Peace, Cabinet Support Member Children's Services, Barnsley Council
- Chief Superintendent Simon Wanless, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Dawn Gibbon, Head of Safeguarding, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
- Angela Fawcett, Deputy Chief Nurse, Head of Safeguarding (Barnsley)
- Katie Puplett on behalf of Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)

David Radford, Independent Chair and Scrutineer, Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership introduced the report to Members and provided a full overview of the Annual Report. Members heard in detail the range of work that had been undertaken, the wide range of partnership work that was involved and what the future plans, focus' and priorities were for the Partnership.

In the ensuing discussion and in response to detailed questioning and challenge, the following matters were highlighted:-

In terms of Social Worker Caseloads, retention and recruitment, members were informed that reports had indicated that investment through a variety of mechanisms had allowed caseloads to reduce allowing for a more realistic case load size but that some pressures remained and they were not where they needed to be just yet. In terms of retention and recruitment, Barnsley had creative ways of bringing staff and retaining staff and there was confidence that this was also heading in the right direction. Members were informed that former agency staff were now full time and a Staff Engagement event had taken place over the Summer and feedback from staff had been positive in terms of management and that they felt understood, valued and had a voice.

A range of partnership working was being undertaken to engage with and hold conversations with Academies and Trusts in the Borough in order to tackle bullying and getting the anti bullying message across. Designated Safeguarding Leads are recruited from settings Senior Management Teams. The Designated Safeguarding Lead's Forum met every term and include representatives from all 91 Schools in Barnsley which is a very effective way to get safeguarding information and guidance into maintained schools and Trusts.

Concerns were raised around the number of children being reported as missing and what work was undertaken following someone being found. It was reported that a return to home interview was undertaken in each case in order to have a conversation around what the driving factors were and what issues the child was experiencing. Recently the South Yorkshire Police had created a Child Exploitation Team with a Sergeant and 5 staff members. It works alongside the new Children's Services' Child Exploitation Team with Social Workers and a wider Safeguarding Team to carry out in depth work around missing people. It was seen that the multi agency team were able to look into themes and trends in schools in order to pick out what the root causes could be.

Comments were received on the safeguarding elements of children in Academies and Trusts in relation to isolation and rules around wearing blazers during heatwaves in schools and the impact on individuals. Members were informed that any issues could be taken up with Governing Bodies and Headteachers for these to be dealt with and that all academies were self-governing and rules were implemented by the Trusts.

One target this year was to improve the quality of data streams coming in from partnership key agencies in order to keep children safe. It was acknowledged that the migration to Mosaic had caused some challenges but that much information was now available. South Yorkshire Police had a rich data set which was being looked into as to what could be provided for Barnsley and whether this could be provided on a regular basis. The structure of health was broad but work was being undertaken in how to bring in data streams from the Integrated Care Board, Hospitals and Children's Mental Health Services.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) that the report be noted

5 Strengthening Children's Services - Quarterly Update Report

Due to a number of important witnesses being unable to attend, the Committee agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

6 FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Children's Social Care Performance Report (REDACTED)

Due to a number of important witnesses being unable to attend, the Committee agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

7 Children's Social Care Performance Report

Due to a number of important witnesses being unable to attend, the Committee agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

Chair