

Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2019-20 - Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Local Safeguarding Adults Boards are a statutory requirement of the Care Act 2014 and require organisations to come together to agree on how they will cooperate with each other to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults. The Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) has been operating since 2000 but was originally known as the Adult Protection Committee. The Care Act gives the Board the power to place a “duty to enquire” on statutory partners (Local Authority, the Police and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group) agencies to progress safeguarding enquiries.
- 1.2 The Government recognised that even though local authorities had been responsible for adult safeguarding for a number of years, there had never been any clear laws to support this. Therefore, under the Care Act 2014 there was a statutory responsibility for SABs to be in place from April 2015, enabling local partnership working amongst key organisations to hold each other to account and to ensure safeguarding adults remains high on the agenda across the area. The Care Act 2014 recognises that local authorities alone cannot safeguard individuals but requires joint-working with other agencies supported by increasing the awareness of adult safeguarding amongst the wider public.
- 1.3 The BSAB is a multi-agency Board comprising statutory, independent, voluntary organisations and service user/carer representation which have a stakeholder interest in safeguarding adults. The Board believes that everyone has a right to feel safe and to live without fear of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The Board’s priority is to protect adults who live in the borough, promote their wellbeing and reduce the risk of harm for those with care and support needs.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 The BSAB Annual Report 2019-20 (Item 4b - attached) outlines the work of the Board and its local and regional partners from April 2019 to March 2020. Key achievements during this time include:
- The production of a leaflet for use by workers and volunteers to help adults understand the safeguarding journey and who to contact with concerns
 - Joint working to share ideas; the creation of a health passport for any adult who may need support to access health care; work around the increased risk of abuse faced by adults who are lonely/socially isolated; and work around the learning disability strategy
 - An increase in the number of referrals as a result of regular publicity campaigns
 - Training delivered to over 120 workers, and 140 staff attended two self-neglect learning events to explore how to work with adults who self-neglect/hoard. Specialist training has also been delivered to adult social care staff, BIADS Dementia Service and to South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
 - Increased contact with the voluntary sector, with Barnsley Community & Voluntary Services (BCVS) now sitting on the Board and sub-groups

- Data from regional and national sources are used to evaluate performance at least twice a year. Quarterly data submitted by joint commissioning and partners to seek assurance and evidence that care provision and services in Barnsley are safe for adults who use them. In addition, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) attend on an annual basis to share their findings about local care providers
- Changes in policy as a result of the audit of self-neglect and hoarding as well as the management of People in Positions of Trust (PIPOT) cases
- A highly successful Safeguarding Awareness Week (SAW) which involved schools; colleges; health; police and other partners to highlight support available to all residents of Barnsley to prevent and stop harm and abuse

2.2 The report also shows BSAB's plans for 2020-21, based on the four strategic priorities for the Board:-

- Making Safeguarding Personal – supporting adults who have been abused to stop the harm and help them feel safe
- Prevention - preventing abuse and neglect from taking place and supporting people to feel safer
- Accountability – making sure safeguarding arrangements work effectively
- Transitions – working with young people to reduce the risk of abuse as they become adults

3.0 Covid-19

3.1 Covid-19 did not impact on the work of the Board for the 2019-20 reporting period. The Board is pleased to report that:-

- The Board and its sub-groups continued to meet throughout the lock down period
- Active work to highlight the increased risks of scams etc. was completed by both BMBC and other partners' communications teams
- The independent chair was party to the weekly calls with the Chief Executive about Covid-19
- Virtual training was delivered to front line workers
- Links were maintained with safeguarding colleagues both locally, sub-regionally and regionally
- The Board received updates from all partners about how they were continuing to keep adults safe and respond to allegations of abuse and neglect
- Safeguarding data was closely monitored and appropriate action taken to address reductions in referrals
- A development event for new Board members was held to maximise the effectiveness of the Board
- The Board Chair and relevant partners have been fully briefed on the recent issues in a local care home

4.0 Invited Witnesses

4.1 At today's meeting, a number of Board representatives have been invited to answer questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding their work over the last annual reporting year (April 2019-March 2020), as well as work being undertaken currently and future plans:-

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSAB
- Wendy Lowder, Executive Director – Adults & Communities, BMBC
- Julie Chapman, Service Director – Adult Social Care & Health, BMBC

- Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson – Adults & Communities, BMBC
- Susan Brook, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Chief Superintendent Sarah Poolman, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Becky Hoskins, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
- Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, SWYPFT

5.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

5.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- How did the Covid-19 pandemic affect the number of safeguarding concerns reported, what action was taken, and what do the numbers look like now?
- How has the Safeguarding Board been involved in the recent high-profile safeguarding issue in a local residential home?
- Can you give an example of why someone would meet the three-stage test but would not progress to a section 42 enquiry, and what happens to those cases deemed to be 'concern only'?
- What area of work/performance is the Board most proud of over the last 12 months and what positive impact has this had on the safeguarding of local residents?
- Are there any actions from last year that have not been achieved and if so, why not?
- How effective is the joint-working between agencies to tackle and prevent domestic abuse, especially given the high-increase in arrests over recent months?
- What lessons were learned from the case studies in the report and whose responsibility is it to ensure that the learning is applied in practice and shared across the system?
- When will the audit on the interface between safeguarding and the homeless be complete?
- When people self-neglect and continually miss appointments, how do health and social care work together to build a picture, ensuring that these individuals do not fall through the cracks?
- How do you plan to increase community reporting of safeguarding concerns?
- How confident are you that staff have the time and skills to be curious and persistent with individuals who may not initially want to engage?
- How do you demonstrate that the Board is value for money?
- How do you know whether the Board is effective and what are the barriers that may prevent it from being so?

- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in the work of BSAB?

6.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- BSAB Annual Report 2019-20 (Item 4b - attached)
- Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Website:
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-adults-in-barnsley/barnsley-safeguarding-adults-board/>
- BSAB Safeguarding Adult Reviews – Lessons Learned
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-adults-in-barnsley/barnsley-safeguarding-adults-board/safeguarding-adult-reviews-sars/>
- Making Safeguarding Personal – Local Government Association website
<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal>
- The Care Act Easy Read Summary:-
<https://inclusionnorth.org/uploads/attachment/600/care-act-easy-read-summary.pdf>

7.0 Glossary

BCVS	Barnsley Community & Voluntary Services
BHNFT	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
BIADS	Barnsley Independent Alzheimer’s and Dementia Support
BSAB	Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CQC	Care Quality Commission
MSP	Making Safeguarding Personal
OSC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
PIPOT	Persons in a Position of Trust
SAFE	Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Forum by Experience
SAR	Safeguarding Adults Review
SAW	Safeguarding Awareness Week
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
SYP	South Yorkshire Police

8.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer
28 August 2020