

Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2020-21 – 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 partner agencies (Local Authority, the Police and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group) 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, it 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 ambitions are to:-

- Ensure that collectively they work hard to prevent harm and abuse across Barnsley
- Develop citizen-led approaches to safeguarding
- Continue to develop safe transitional experiences for young people
- Learn together and continually improve

2.0 Current Position

2.1 The BSAB Annual Report 2020-21 (Item 4b - attached) outlines the work of the Board and its local and regional partners from April 2020 to March 2021. Key achievements for the Board during this time include:-

- The appointment of a multi-agency trainer, who commenced work in January 2021, to coordinate and lead the design and delivery of high-quality training and learning opportunities for staff, volunteers, and community groups in Barnsley
- Delivering activities to support the South Yorkshire Safeguarding Awareness Week in November 2020 (moved from July)
- Holding a development event to review the strategic plan and confirm its commitment to tackling issues that have been ‘difficult to solve’
- Agreeing to produce and circulate a bi-monthly newsletter
- The completion of an audit into the deaths of four homeless adults which resulted in the production of an action plan jointly owned by the Adult Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Barnsley Safer Partnership Board
- The design and delivery of a “Welcome to the Board” event for new members

- Signing off of several new policies and guidance, including a new organisational abuse policy
- Agreeing a new communications plan
- Approving the launch of three new E-learning packages on safeguarding and self-neglect, and hoarding

3.0 Covid-19

- 3.1 Covid-19 has had a massive impact on how services have had to respond to safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our communities. Throughout the year, the board has taken a very keen interest in how services have managed to keep doing their work whilst facing a set of circumstances never experienced before.
- 3.2 The Board, and its subgroups, have continued to meet, albeit virtually, and have continued to make improvements, including tackling issues attributable to Covid.
- 3.3 Despite the challenges of Covid, 96% of adults subject to safeguarding reported that the risks they faced had been removed or reduced.

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 2020-March 2021), 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, Adults & Communities Directorate, BMBC
- Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, Adults & Communities Directorate, BMBC
- Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson – Adults & Communities, BMBC
- Susan Brook, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Chief Superintendent James Abdy, 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, South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)

5.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

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

- 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?
- Can you give an example of prevention work that the Board has done over the last 12 months and how local residents have benefitted from it?
- Who is responsible for ensuring that learning from good practice and where things have gone wrong is shared across the system and applied in practice?

- Are people who need safeguarding services fully involved in, and in control of, safeguarding processes? What is in place to protect them if they do not have the capacity to make their own decisions?
- 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?
- What issues do you consider to be 'difficult to solve' and have any solutions been identified?
- What actions have been identified as a result of the audit of the deaths of four homeless adults, what is the timescale for these actions, and where does ultimate responsibility lie for managing the plan?
- What benefits will the new communications plan bring to local residents?
- 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 will you know that the newly signed-off policies and guidance, including the one on organisational abuse, are effective?
- 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 2020-21 (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 Strategic Plan 2021-24
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/18850/safeguarding-adults-board-strategic-plan-v4-optimised.pdf>
- 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

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

Jane Murphy, Scrutiny Officer
27 August 2021