
Report of Director of Adult Social Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 18th November 2015

Subject: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15 and Business Plan 2015/16

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report introduces members of the Board to the eighth Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, for 2014/15 and the work plan for 2015/16.
2. During 2014/15, the Safeguarding Adults Board has been preparing for the implementation of the Care Act 2014. From April 2015, under the Act, safeguarding adults boards (SABs) were put on a statutory footing.
3. The Annual Report will be available to access at www.leedsafeguardingadults.gov.uk following the Board meeting.

Recommendations

4. Members of the Board are requested to note the content of the attached 2014/15 annual report and endorse the work programme of the Safeguarding Adults Board for 2015/16.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the eighth and last annual report of the previous Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board, prior to its re-constitution as a statutory board under the Care Act 2014, and to update the Executive Board on the work, going forward, of the new statutory Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Each year Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board produces an annual report of its business for the previous year and a work programme for the following year. The work programme is informed by the priorities of the Board and its partner agencies.
- 2.2 The Care Act 2014 includes the duty on the local authority to establish a statutory Safeguarding Adults Board from April 2015. The Care Act signals parity for Safeguarding Adults Boards in that regard with Safeguarding Children Boards, and a formal recognition of the work of Safeguarding Adults Boards as a national priority for central government.
- 2.3 Schedule 2 of the Care Act places a duty on the Safeguarding Adults Board to publish an annual plan and to report on achievements in an annual report. In Leeds, the Safeguarding Adults Board has been satisfying this requirement for a number of years.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Leeds Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2014/15 details the achievements of the Board over the last 12 months. The Board involves statutory and non-statutory agencies as members with the sole purpose of achieving continual improvements in practice that safeguards adults at risk of abuse or neglect in Leeds.
- 3.2 Achievements during 2014/15 include:
- Responding to 4,951 safeguarding alerts during 2014/15. This is an increase of 32% over the previous year and indicates that there is an increasing awareness of safeguarding adults within the city.
 - A Prevention of Abuse campaign that used social media, press releases, radio, leaflet and poster campaigns, to help ensure that more and more people across our city know how to report abuse and have the confidence to do so.
 - New initiatives to improve partnership working between agencies. The Front Door Safeguarding Hub has provided new opportunities for closer, more integrated working practices, providing for better coordinated responses to domestic abuse. Think Family approaches, developed with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and Safer Leeds Executive have provided an improved framework for practitioners to consider the needs, not just of individuals, but of families as a whole.

- The completion of a Safeguarding Adults Review in relation to a young woman with a learning disability who lived in supported accommodation and had been reportedly harmed during the course of receiving care. Safeguarding Adults Reviews are opportunities to identify learning and improve practice; in this review, learning was achieved about provision of mixed-gender care, the timeliness of case conferences and the involvement of families in that process. All the review recommended actions have now been implemented.
- The completion of a Local Government Association led Peer Review of Safeguarding Adults in Leeds, which provided a good validation of the Board's assessment and provided useful learning for Board members about how to progress its work.
- An independent review of the Support Unit of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Developing new West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures in preparation for June 2015. The revised approaches will help us to focus on working towards the adults desired outcomes and to provide more proportionate and individualised responses to the concerns raised.

There have also been significant developments in promoting the safeguards of the Mental Capacity Act, these include the work of Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCAs) and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

- IMCAs provide representation for people who lack mental capacity in relation to certain important decisions. Although Leeds already had the highest use of IMCAs in the country, use of IMCAs increased by 33% during 2014/15. This provides reassurance that those in need of representation are receiving the support they need.
- The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are a legal safeguard for adults who lack capacity to consent to care or treatment that deprives them of their liberty. Changes in case law in March 2014 has meant that substantially more people are covered by the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) than previously. In 2014/15 DoLS was put in place for 1455 people, this is an increase of 2108% on the year before. This has only been possible due to the substantial response taken to plan for and provide for the assessments required.

3.3 Each of these and other achievements within the report illustrate the continued progress of the Board in promoting and improving safeguarding adults within our city.

3.4 An analysis of safeguarding referrals and investigations over the last 12 months reveals the following findings:

- 940 safeguarding investigations were started during 2014/15.

- In 55% of completed investigations abuse or neglect was substantiated “on the balance of probabilities”.
- In 97% of responses to safeguarding concerns, the actions taken either reduced or removed the risk of abuse or neglect. As part of supporting people to live the life they choose, it should be noted that some people prefer to live with a risk rather than for it to be removed.
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Authorisations increased from 69 during 2013/14 to 1455 in 2014/15, an increase of 2,108%. This was following a landmark ruling in March 2014, after which it was anticipated that many more people would be covered by the protection of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in future.
- Use of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) service increased from 2013/14 to 2014/15 overall by 33%. This is in part due to the dramatic increase in the number of cases going through the DoLS process.

3.5 Performance monitoring and quality assurance of safeguarding adults work is undertaken locally within each local authority area. 2014/15 has seen the second year of the national Safeguarding Adults Return. This national data return has been modified for 2015/16 to take account of the requirements of the Care Act.

3.6 Looking forward into 2015/16, the Board, informed by its learning from the Local Government Association led Peer Review, has set out its Annual Plan for the year ahead focusing on 4 key priorities:

- Reduce the risk of abuse within our communities

Promoting safe services through providing safeguarding standards for service specifications and commissioning arrangements, and developing multi-agency arrangements to respond to potential risks posed by ‘persons in position of trust’, such as an employee or volunteer within the course of their duties.

- Raise awareness of safeguarding adults and how to report abuse

Undertaking targeted approaches to those most in need and developing engagement events, to promote increase awareness of safeguarding adults.

- Support adults at risk to end abuse and achieve the changes they want

This includes, developing multi-agency guidance and partnership working arrangements, as well as a Learning and Improvement Plan, and a revised approach to managing quality and performance.

- Learn from people’s experiences to help others

Improving how we gather the feedback of people involved in safeguarding adults about their experiences, to inform and develop good practice.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Building on the Board's Customer Perceptions Questionnaire, further development work has led to the development of surveys aimed at service providers, family carers and others involved in the safeguarding process.
- 4.1.2 These questionnaires are to be implemented in 2015/16, as relevant, in all cases that are the subject of a safeguarding adults case conference meeting.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no specific considerations in relation to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 Safeguarding Adults work contributes to keeping people in Leeds safe. The Safeguarding Adults Board works together with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and the Safer Leeds Executive to progress this priority. The work also supports the Best Council Plan objectives of, 'Building a child-friendly city' and 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty'.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 For several years, the Board's work has been funded equally by the NHS and Adult Social Care. In addition to funding, Board members work together to undertake enquiries into allegations of abuse and neglect and to support adults at risk to manage the risks they face by developing protection arrangements. Under the Care Act, West Yorkshire Police is now considering contributing to the cost of the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board, as one of the new statutory partners of the Board. The Care Act explicitly refers to NHS, Adult Social Care and Police as the bodies responsible for resourcing the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The Care Act 2014 provides a new statutory basis for the Safeguarding Adults Board, and associated duties on both the Board and local authorities. The Care Act also places duties on others, such as the duty to cooperate and the duty to supply information to enquiries or safeguarding adults reviews.
- 4.5.2 In addition to the Care Act, the legal implications relate to a significant array of legislation in relation to offences against the person, guidance in relation to Care Standards, Mental Capacity, the implementation of specific guidance in relation to Adult Safeguarding, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and the Protection of Freedoms Act.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The nature of Safeguarding Adults work is that there is always risk involved. It is often the case that there is disagreement between parties involved. The Board is determined to ensure that its processes are just and fair to reduce the risk of challenges to partner organisations. Where challenges do arise, legal advice is provided by the Council to the Board, to ensure that risk to the statutory sector partners is informed and well-managed. The Council ensures regular monitoring of safeguarding adults as a standing risk on the corporate risk register.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Annual Report provides evidence that systems and practices to safeguard adults at risk continue to be firmly established as being everybody's business in Leeds, and used more widely across all sectors.
- 5.2 Work throughout 2014/15 has ensured that this principle is now embraced across West Yorkshire in the new revised multi-agency policy and procedures for West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire, ensuring compatibility with the Care Act 2014.
- 5.3 The Annual Report provides assurance that that all the partners have committed to a continuing programme of work designed to achieve excellence in safeguarding practice in Leeds.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of the Board are requested to note the content of the attached 2014/15 annual report and endorse the work programme of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board for 2015/16.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.