

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Date: 18 September 2024

Report of: The Director of Adults and Health

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief Summary

The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board produces an annual report and an annual strategic plan each year. This is now presented to Executive Board with the accompanying LSAB Strategy document. The purpose of this report is to fulfil the statutory requirements of the Care Act 2014. The Council is required by the Care Act 2014 to receive the annual report and take note of any actions or recommendations that relate to the Council's statutory responsibilities. The Annual Report for the relevant year 2023/2024 was produced in June 2024 and provides Executive Board with:

- An update on the work of the Leeds Safeguarding Board
- The steps taken by the Board to implement its strategy
- The actions taken by each member of the board to implement that strategy
- An outline of the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews held in the relevant year

The Annual Report is presented at that meeting alongside the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/24 and the Safer Leeds Annual Update in order to provide an opportunity for Executive Board to take a strategic view of the work of the three statutory safeguarding boards.

Recommendations

Executive Board are recommended to:

- Note the content and recommendations of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24.

What is this report about?

- 1 Since the introduction of the Care Act 2014, the production of an annual report has become a statutory requirement of Safeguarding Adults Boards. As set out in Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014:
 - As soon as is feasible the SAB must publish a report on what it has done during the year to achieve its objectives
 - What it has done during the year to implement its strategy and what each member has done to support the implementation of the strategy
 - The findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews that it has concluded during the year
 - Any reviews that are underway during the year
 - And when it has declined to undertake a safeguarding adults review, the reason for that decision

- 2 Outline:
 - a) The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24 provides a summary of the Board's main achievements over the previous 12 months. This year, in response to comments last year regards the role of member agencies in implementing the strategy, the appendix to the report now outlines the member involvement in each of the main workstreams.
 - b) Once approved the report will be published on the LSAB website as a webpage.
 - c) This report to Executive Board fulfils the requirement within the Care Act 2014 that the report is sent to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the local authority that establishes the board.
 - d) It is intended to increase accessibility of the information in the Annual Report by producing a Summary Video of this report with contributions by the partners of the board as well as an 'easy read' pictorial version.

Main Points covered by the report:

- 3 The Chair's Foreword focuses on two specific areas of work in the last year – the first focus is the way in which partners have worked really effectively together to own their collective responsibilities to ensure the effectiveness of the partnership work we are required to undertake. The second focus is with regards to the frontline staff. The Chair pays a heartfelt tribute to the work of the frontline staff – the committed individuals across the city who go the extra miles each and every week to support the Board's various workstreams and who really 'make it happen'. The chair cites, as examples of this skilled work, the feedback he receives through the various mechanisms including the Exceptional Risk Forum, the multi-agency audit work and from the external body the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) who have been working with front line staff and managers within Leeds over the last year.

- 4 The report sets out the vision for its work: for Leeds to become **a safe place for everyone** and how to achieve this the Board and its partners work together to raise awareness of abuse, prevent harm, enable people to have control over their lives, raise public awareness so that communities can be supported to play their part and providing information and advice in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety and wellbeing of an adult.

- 5 The Board also seeks to gain assurance from its partners that effective arrangements are in place. It does this through multi agency and single agency audits, learning from reviews and ensuring actions are embedded, and the implementation of board priorities and actions.
- 6 The Board has membership drawn from the statutory health and care agencies in Leeds, from third sector agencies, including Advonet, and records effective engagement at Board meetings and in the sub-groups which are chaired by senior representatives from the Boards' member agencies.
- 7 The Board has four main ambitions: developing citizen-led approaches to safeguarding, improving awareness of safeguarding, developing citywide approaches to safeguarding practice, and learning from experience to improve the work of the Board and partners.
- 8 The annual report sets out the ways in which the board has worked towards its ambitions in the year, including an evaluation of the Citizen Reference Group, a new approach to working with ethnically diverse communities, coordinating the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023 and the development of a new website.
- 9 The Board has also supported the development of several city-wide initiatives including the embedding of the self-neglect strategy and undertaking some work with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) in developing an innovative model of inter-agency working for safeguarding in the city.
- 10 A key focus for the board is to ensure that the partnership learns from experience. This report highlights the activity that is taking place regards Safeguarding Adult Reviews – one has concluded in the relevant year 2023/24. New processes have been established that include learning from incidents that fall short of requiring a formal SAR but where it is felt that there is learning to be derived. An Annual Analysis of the learning from this Board activity is in the process of being published on the website.
- 11 Ensuring the effectiveness of the Board's arrangements is carried out not through any regulatory responsibilities or accountabilities but through creating an effective partnership with appropriately senior representatives from across the city and a clear set of policies and frameworks to which each agency works.
- 12 The work of the three statutory safeguarding boards in the city has been coordinated through the implementation of a number of activities and themes. The Boards have undertaken to work together on these themes. A sample of the joint work is set out below.
- 13 The Leeds Self-Neglect Strategy Group is chaired by LSAB membership but includes representation from the LSCP and Safer Leeds to ensure consistency across the city in delivery of the strategy. The includes some direct conversations between Chairs/Executives. In addition the LSAB Self-neglect policy has been endorsed by the Safer Leeds Executive.
- 14 The Think Family, Work Family approach is one shared across the three Boards. Each has contributed and shares ownership of the Think Family, Work Family guidance. Similarly there is a shared approach to 'was not brought' – an approach that recognises that there may be reasons why a child/adults with care and support needs was unable to attend an appointment – inviting professional curiosity as to underlying issues.
- 15 A project initiated by the LSAB in relation engagement with ethnically diverse communities has been joined by LSCP and Safer Leeds with joint proposals for taking forward this work currently being considered by each Board.

16 An Organisational Self-assessment has been endorsed by both the LSAB and LSCP to enable any organisation to self-assess measures in place to protect both adults and children. The LSCP and LSAB are both jointly involved in a regional approach to developing safeguarding resources for faith communities.

17 Board Managers from the LSAB, SCP and Safer Leeds meet monthly to review emerging issues and identify opportunity for joint working. The current focus is in relation to our statutory reviews and when and how processes can be aligned and how learning can be shared. Although not required in the last year, the LSAB has been involved in joint statutory reviews where the issues cross the responsibilities of more than one Board.

18 A working group sits beneath the Board Managers Meeting that takes forward shared priorities, currently this is focused on:

- Developing shared professional curiosity resources and definitions.
- The sharing of learning and training opportunities.
- Establishment of a Leeds Safeguarding Week in November. A regional West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week in June each year.

19 Recommendations

Executive Board are recommended to:

- Note the content and recommendations of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24.

20 **What impact will this proposal have?**

The report will:

- Raise the profile of safeguarding adults and the statutory requirements of the Council, in relation to safeguarding adults.
- Encourage actions to be implemented that address key needs and recommendations identified within the report to increase the safety and wellbeing of adults in need of care and support.
- Maintain the Council's commitment to support vulnerable adults, to work in partnership to keep people safe.

21 **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- The report and the impacts of the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board contributes to the Health and Wellbeing pillar of the Best City Ambition by ensuring Leeds is a safe place to live and grow old in. It contributes to people feeling safer in their own communities and feeling more able to actively participate. Through receiving the three statutory board Annual Reports at the same meeting, permits an oversight and overview of safeguarding activity across the City, giving a comprehensive view of the range of activity, successes and goals across the three partnerships.

22 **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

Wards affected: All wards

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

The Annual Report 2023/24 was produced in partnership with the full range of the Board's membership which includes partner agencies, such as the statutory NHS partners, Advonet, the city's Safeguarding Champions Network. This has included individual agency submissions which have been produced in each agency.

23 What are the resource implications?

No additional resources needed.

Implementing recommendations of the Annual Report will:

- Require a continued focus on working in partnership across the statutory and other members of the Board.
- Require the partner agencies, including the Council, to learn, adopt and implement the reflections and learning outlined in the report.

24 What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

The Board has a sound governance framework, with a learning and development network, a quality assurance and performance sub-group (that incorporates work on policy and procedures) and a Safeguarding Adults Review sub-group. The Board is attended by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Healthy Lifestyles and Culture, the Director of Adults and Health and the two Deputy Directors which ensures that the Board is well-supported, and any actions or learning can be implemented across adults and health, including commissioned services. There are also representatives from Housing Services on the Board. Key members of the LSAB are also members of the Cross Council Safeguarding Adults Board and related boards such as Safer Leeds Executive and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board – there are therefore good links between the boards that are responsible for keeping people safe in the city.

25 There is a corporate risk regarding the failure of council staff to recognise risk and harm in the community. The Board produces documents and supports the delivery of safeguarding awareness training that results in staff having an awareness of abuse types and mitigates this risk. The Annual Report is received by the Boards of every partner member and therefore influences and supports the work of the Board across a range of services including the NHS, Police and Probation, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and third sector organisations.

26 What are the legal implications?

The Care Act 2014 requires Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce an evidence based strategic plan for each financial year, this plan sets out how the Board will meet its objectives and what each Board member will do to achieve this. It also requires Boards to publish an annual report that sets out what the SAB and each member has done during the relevant year to achieve its objectives and detail the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews that have taken place. The Care Act 2014 also requires local authorities' chief executives and leaders to receive the Annual Report and Strategic Plan. This report fulfils that requirement. There are no sanctions that would arise from the failure to produce an annual report. However, the annual report is one of a suite of documents that the Care Quality Commission would expect to see when they review a local authority's safeguarding

arrangements. The Strategic Plan provides a focus for the working relationship between the Chief Executive and the Independent Chair.

27 Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

There is a clear statutory requirement for an Annual Report to be produced by the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board. Along with the Strategic Plan it is one way in which the Board, and its statutory partners, assure themselves of the quality of the safeguarding response in Leeds, the effectiveness of the engagement of citizens and the strength and effectiveness of the partnership arrangements with the City. Therefore there were no other options considered.

28 How will success be measured?

Each year the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board provides a strategy document setting out its plans for the next financial year, based on the current three-year strategy. It then provides an annual report that updates on the progress made. It includes an update from each workstream and tracks progress made against objectives set.

29 What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

The Independent Chair provides an update report to Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board each municipal year. This is planned for the Scrutiny Board meeting to be held on 15th January 2025.

30 Appendices

Appendix 1 - LSAB Annual Report 23/24

Appendix 2 - LSAB Strategic Plan 24/25

Appendix 3 - Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening (EDCI)

31 Background papers

None.