

Report of Director of Adult Social Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 17th September 2014

Subject: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013/14 and Business Plan 2014/15

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 seventh Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013/14 and the work plan for 2014/15.
2. During 2014/15, the Safeguarding Adults Board will be preparing for the implementation of the Care Act 2014. From April 2015, under this Act, safeguarding adults boards (SABs) will be 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 2013/14 annual report and endorse the work programme of the Safeguarding Adults Board for 2014/15.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the seventh annual report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and to update the Executive Board on the work of the 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 some years.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Leeds Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2013/14 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 harm from abuse or neglect in Leeds.
- 3.2 Achievements during 2013/14 include:
- As previously planned, the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedure was launched on 1st April 2013.
 - There were 3,753 safeguarding alerts during 2013/14, compared to 3,438 in the 12 months before. This is a rise of 9%, and indicates that awareness of safeguarding adults issues is improving.
 - Where a safeguarding investigation has been undertaken, this has resulted in a significant reduction in the risk of abuse or neglect. In 95% of occasions the risk was assessed to have been reduced or completely removed.
 - To further promote awareness of safeguarding and to encourage more people to report concerns, new safeguarding materials have been developed and work has been undertaken in preparation of a Prevention of Abuse Campaign to be launched in 2014.

- To support the continued improvement of safeguarding adults practice in Leeds a range of new safeguarding practice guidance has been introduced.
- The Board has revised its approach to Serious Case Reviews, renaming these Safeguarding Adults Reviews, in line with the terminology of the Care Act 2014, and adopting a more tailored and responsive approach to gather and share the learning from particular cases. Two reviews have been completed, and a further three were commenced during 2013/14 to improve practice.
- To help support the development of closer partnership approaches in Leeds, a joint Board Development Day with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and the Safer Leeds Executive was held, to identify potential opportunities for closer joint working. Areas identified included mental capacity, domestic violence and Think Family approaches.
- Furthermore member organisations of the Safeguarding Adults Board, including Police, Social Care and Health partners, have been working closely, together with Children's Services to explore new integrated working practices that allow partners to work together to decide how best to respond to concerns.
- Work to promote the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) has continued. Applications for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) increased by 16% over the last 12 months. There was also an increase in authorisations of 37%, which means that more people are receiving the protection of these safeguards in Leeds than ever before.
- In addition, the most recent national comparison reports identified that Leeds had the highest use of Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCAs) in the country during 2012/13. It is anticipated that this will continue to be the case when the data is published for 2013/14. IMCAs provide additional support and representation for people who lack mental capacity in relation to certain important decisions.

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

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

- 923 people were the subject of one or more safeguarding investigations that started during 2013/14.
- Physical disability/frailty (excluding sensory impairment) and learning disability continue to be the most highly represented client groups (together accounting for 63%). This is a higher proportion than the previous year, although largely in line with 2011/12.

- In 54% of completed investigations the allegation was either substantiated or partly substantiated “on the balance of probabilities”. This was a slight decrease compared to the previous year’s 59%.
- For the first time in 2013/14 it was recorded for all completed investigations whether an adult at risk lacked mental capacity or not, and if so, whether they were supported by a family member, friend or advocate. In 38% of the completed investigations, the adult at risk was assessed as lacking mental capacity to make informed choices and decisions about their safety. Of those, 82% were supported by a family member, friend or advocate.
- Use of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) service decreased slightly from 2012/13 to 2013/14 overall by 3%. The use of IMCA’s increased for decisions about Serious Medical Treatment and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), and decreased slightly for decisions about Change of Accommodation and Care Reviews. Use of IMCA’s in Safeguarding remained broadly the same.
- Applications for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) increased from 122 during 2012/13 to 142 in 2012/13, an increase of 16%. Following a landmark ruling in March 2014, it is anticipated that many more people will be covered by the protection of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in future. It is envisaged that the number of applications for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards will increase significantly during 2013/14.

3.5 All of the information contained in the report and the activity that has taken place in 2013/14 have been reported to the governance structures of the Safeguarding Adults Board member organisations.

3.6 Performance monitoring and quality assurance of safeguarding adults work is undertaken locally within each local authority area. 2013/14 has seen the first year of a new national Safeguarding Adults Return (SAR). This data forms the basis of the activity reported in Appendix B of the annual report.

3.7 The Annual Report describes in detail the board’s achievements over the last 12 months. Based on the Board’s learning and development over the last 12 months, the Board has agreed priorities for 2014/15, which are detailed within the attached Board Business Plan 2014/15.

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 2014/15, 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 City Priorities

4.3.1 Safeguarding Adults work contributes to the City priority of helping people to stay 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' (with priorities of 'Ensuring the best start in life' and 'Reducing the need for children to become looked after') and 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty' (with a priority of 'Tackling domestic violence and abuse').

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The resource of the Board are set out in the annual report. The Board's work is funded equally by the NHS and Adult Social Care. West Yorkshire Police contribute in kind to the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board. In addition to this, Board partners work together to undertake investigations into allegations of abuse and neglect and to support adults at risk of harm to manage the risks they face by developing protection arrangements. Arrangements in Leeds for resourcing the Safeguarding Adults Board are in line with the Care Act, which 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 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.

4.5.2 Local arrangements to manage the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and the associated Deprivation of Liberty safeguards are managed within the governance structures of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board, reflecting national best practice and policy guidance.

4.5.3 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.

4.6 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.

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 2013/14 has ensured that this principle is now embraced across West Yorkshire in the new shared West Yorkshire multi-agency policy and procedures.
- 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.
- 5.4 Work will continue throughout 2014/15 with the other West Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Boards to review the West Yorkshire-wide Policy and Procedures and to ensure compatibility with the Care Act 2014.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of the Board are requested to note the content of the attached 2013/14 annual report and endorse the work programme of the Adult Safeguarding Board for 2014/15.

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.