

**Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board
Progress Report for Leeds City Council
Scrutiny Board Meeting
24th November 2020**



Title:	Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board – Progress Report
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Summary (Key issues for discussion/decision)

This report has been produced by the Independent Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board for the Leeds City Council: Scrutiny Board meeting on the 24th November 2020.

This report highlights key achievements from 2019/20 and provides a progress report in relation to the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board’s ambitions for the City, with, at Appendix 1, the Board’s Annual Report 2019-2020 and at Appendix 2, its Strategic Plan for 2020-2021.

Actions Required –

Members are invited to note the contents of this report and its appendices.

Report to Leeds City Council: Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Progress Report

24th November 2020

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory body, established by the Care Act 2014 and implemented in April 2015. The overarching purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.
- 1.2 The Board does this by assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place and that safeguarding practice is continuously improving to safeguard adults in its area.
- 1.3 Safeguarding Adults Boards have three core duties. They must:
 - develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
 - publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been
 - commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the statutory criteria for these (see section 3.4).
- 1.4 This report provides members of the Scrutiny Board, Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles with the Board's Annual Report for 2019/20 and the Strategic Plan for April 2020 – March 2023.

2.0 Annual Report 2019/20

- 2.1 The Board's Annual Report for the period April 2019 – March 2020 is included in Appendix 1. It provides an overview of the Board's achievements during this period as well as highlighting work undertaken by member agencies to promote the Board's ambitions.

3.0 Strategic Plan 2020/23

- 3.1 The Board's Strategic Plan, includes an Annual Plan for 2020/21. It is included at Appendix 2. The plan sets out the ambitions of the Board for this period. The addendum, member organisation commitments set out how each agency plans to support this plan within their own organisation and networks.

4.0 Progress Update

- 4.1 At the time of presentation of this report, the Board is part way through the first year of its Strategic Plan and this has taken place, of course within the context of the Covid-19 Pandemic. This progress update

provides an overview of the Board's achievements and highlights areas for continued development to be taken forward. The report also provides a summary of the Board's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This update is based around the Board's four key ambitions:

3.1 Ambition One:



Develop citizen-led approaches to safeguarding

Reason for this ambition:

One of the key thrusts of the Care Act 2014 was to promote person-centred approaches to safeguarding, this involves listening to the person, promoting their involvements and working with them to promote the changes they want wherever possible. The ambition was set based upon a desire to actively promote this approach. Until April 2020, this ambition was worded in this way to express the learning in Leeds from a Safeguarding Adults Review, in which a person's safety concerns were not recognised or sought. This occurred in part because all communication was through their relative/carer, who unknown at the time, was committing abuse.

The term, '*Talk to me, Hear my Voice*' has been adopted as an important message from citizens in Leeds and underpins all the Board's work. With this in mind, the Board decided to alter this ambition when it developed the Strategic Plan for 2020/23 by explicitly stating that the Board intends to develop to citizen-led approaches to safeguarding in the City; this is more than being person-centred, it is about all our safeguarding work being developed by citizens themselves.

Achievements:

In April 2019, the Board launched its citizen multi-agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures. These were developed with the support of nine citizen groups in Leeds and the foreword was written by Touchstone Safeguarding group. In addition, citizen guidance for practitioners, in areas such as risk management planning and management of safeguarding adults meetings has been developed and has been well-received across the safeguarding partnership.

The Board has commissioned Advonet to lead a project gathering feedback from citizens about support they have received within these multi-agency policy and procedures. This project is underway and learning will feed into review of the multi-agency policy, procedures and guidance.

In support of this approach, the Board has developed the Leeds Approach to Safeguarding Learning and Development which sets out the Board's approach to support organisations to deliver training that reflects the messages within this ambition.

The citizen-led guidance developed on behalf of the Board has been written in citizen's own words and reflects their own experiences; Leep1, a learning disability self-advocacy group volunteered as a result to become the Board's Talk to me, Hear my Voice Ambassadors. This has involved them developing a film (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOJ6pGQNLfY>) and visiting a number of services to explain why they think the message, 'Talk to me, Hear my Voice' is so important.

3.2 Ambition Two:



Improve awareness of safeguarding across communities and partner organisations

Reason for this ambition:

It is recognised that understanding and awareness of safeguarding and the support available to people is not always well understood. This is not unique to Leeds. Members of the public however will not automatically know how to gain support unless the message is promoted by the Board and member agencies. The Board currently has its own website (www.leedssafeguardingadults.gov.uk), posters, leaflets and cards.

Achievements:

During 2017 the Board invested a new post of a Citizen Engagement Officer. This has enabled the Board to reach out a large number of community groups / third sector organisations to promote awareness of safeguarding and in 2019/20, many groups across the city were visited and awareness sessions were held. In addition, the Board promotes important messages through social media and its website.

In 2019/20, the Board reviewed and redesigned its engagement materials to reflect the messages provided by citizens.

3.3 Ambition Three:



Develop city-wide approaches to safeguarding practice

Reason for this ambition:

Citywide approaches include working in partnership with key strategic boards, such as Safer Leeds and Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, in relation to support for people with complex needs. Work during this period will include however, developing citywide approaches to self-neglect, identifying learning to support people living street-based lives and working with strategic partners to develop our approach to domestic abuse.

Achievements:

- The Board has worked closely with its partner strategic groups in working to develop city-wide approaches to safeguarding. This work has included: Funding and supporting a Multi-Agency Conference to develop understanding of the impact of Coercive and Controlling abuse on adults with care and support needs;
- In collaboration with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, (LSCP) and Safer Leeds, developing the 'Was Not Brought' approach to supporting adults at risk of abuse and neglect and children who are not taken to important meetings about their welfare;
- Developing and communicating, with the LSCP and Safer Leeds, the city-wide 'Think Family, Work Family' policy and way of working;
- Developing a city-wide approach to responding to and supporting adults living in highly self-neglectful circumstances. This work has continued into 2020/21 and is a response to the learning identified in two mandatory safeguarding adults reviews (see ambition four).

These important initiatives form only a part of the Board's ambition to develop city-wide approaches to safeguarding practice; this ambition will be developed significantly into 2020/21. In Section 5 of this report, the Board's plans for development of its constitution, governance and membership are explained. These form an important element of the Board's approach to this ambition to develop city-wide approaches to safeguarding practice. The Board will be enabling members to work collaboratively in achieving the Board's strategic aims and communicating core messages and ambitions by acting as Board champions; enabling the Board to play an active role in all relevant city-wide work that impacts on the experience of adults with care and support needs at risk of or experiencing abuse, neglect or self-neglect.

3.4 Ambition Four:



Learn from experience to improve how we work

Reason for this ambition:

This ambition is based on the ambition for continued improvement and learning from individuals experiences of support. We want to make sure that learning changes practice and leads to improved experiences for others.

This work is led on behalf of the Board by the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub-group and the Learning and Development Sub-group.

Achievements:

The Board completed two mandatory Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to learn from people's experience and improve responses to how the partnership works to support people to be safe. Both of these reviews concerned people living in extreme circumstances of self-neglect and the reviews were conducted by leading experts in this field, Professors Suzy Braye and Michael Preston-Shoot. The important learning from these reviews has informed a significant area of development work for the Board in 2020/21. Work has already been undertaken to take forward this city-wide learning; the Board has developed and published a multi-agency self-neglect policy and guidance that is being disseminated across the partnership with accompanying learning and development workshops that have been commissioned from Professors Braye and Preston-Shoot. Further work to develop a city-wide high risk forum to consider those in exceptionally high risk circumstances is underway and will address one of the key recommendations from the SARs.

The Board is currently also undertaking a Joint Strategic Review together with Safer Leeds and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership regarding Jordan Burling (named included here, as he has been named in the media). Jordan died of neglect within his own home at the age of 19 and the review follow from a criminal prosecution of some relatives. This review is ongoing.

The Board also undertook a thematic review with Safer Leeds in relation to people living street-based lives. The report of this review was published October 2020 and reported to the Council's Executive Board and the learning informs the work of the Board into 2020/21.

4.0 The Board's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

4.1 The Pandemic and the associated lockdown has had a significant impact on the city. The Board did not meet in April 2020 as scheduled, but did so virtually in July and October.

The Independent Chair spoke with all Board members during the lockdown and the Board provided information for partners about relevant safeguarding information via its website and through social media.

In July, Board Members were asked to provide information on how their agency's ways of working and engaging with adults in Leeds has changed during the current Covid-19 situation and the implications this has created. A summary of the findings is provided below.

This summary includes all responses received from Board members. The main points against the questions are as follows:

Operational challenges in delivering safeguarding during the Covid-19 period:

- Lack of face to face contact
- Monitoring the mental and physical wellbeing of staff whilst working remotely.

Changes in the nature, type or number of safeguarding issues / concerns identified by your agency during this period:

- Decrease in safeguarding concerns being reported.
- Increase in DVA cases.
- More complex cases being reported as a consequence of lockdown measures.

New safeguarding initiatives/achievements within your organisation:

- Increased use of technologies available, this has created flexibility when not being able to undertake face to face contacts.
- Improved relationships between staff and people / care homes / providers due to more frequent contact.

Anticipation of new/additional safeguarding pressures or challenges as lockdown measures become eased:

- Overall increase in safeguarding activity.
- Increase in DV referrals and reporting of safeguarding concerns.
- Pandemic related mental and physical health.

- Increase in scams and fraud.
- Adapting to operating to full capacity whilst living with the Covid-19 situation.

What, if any, are the implications for the role and work of the Board going forward?

- The Board will need to review available data to see what the safeguarding trends are and how Covid-19 has affected them.
- Assurance will need to be gained on the response to safeguarding concerns.
- The Board will need to seek out the learning from the response to Covid-19 and how this can be applied to future practice.

4.2 This information is invaluable for the Board going forward; understanding the impact of the pandemic on the city and the work of organisations to support adults at risk of abuse and neglect will be a dynamic process and the conversation with members will continue throughout the coming year.

5.0 Plans for 2020/21

5.1 This report provides an overview of achievements to promote the Board’s ambitions. Plans for 2020/21 are outlined in the attached Strategic Plan 2020/23.

5.2 The Board has decided to review its functions, governance, membership and working arrangements. This is a significant area of work that has begun with the Independent Chair undertaking consultation discussions with Board members and other stakeholders, with a Board Development Session being held in October. These have resulted in the Independent Chair, Richard Jones producing a ten point plan. He advised the Board¹, *‘From the discussions that have been undertaken over the summer and the reflections on 8th October, I am clear that our vision for the development of the Board must be about developing an effective, impactful Board, with arrangements and governance that enable us to work together effectively to improve outcomes for citizens of Leeds.*

I believe we will achieve this by:

- *Being clear about individual and collective roles and responsibilities, listening and respecting each other while being open to mutual challenge, gaining mutual understanding and ownership of the Board;*
- *Enabling members to work collaboratively in achieving our strategic aims and communicating our core messages and ambitions by acting as Board champions; enabling the Board to play an active role in all relevant city-wide work that impacts on the experience of adults with care and support needs at risk of or experiencing abuse, neglect or self-neglect;*

¹ LSAB Board Development Report to LSAB 23.10.2020

- *Understanding and assessing our achievement of our statutory responsibilities and the means by which we achieve these together as a Board;*
- *Focusing on the governance of the Board and the ways in which it can demonstrate ownership, accountability and achievement of these responsibilities’.*

This plan will form an important part of the Board’s work in 2020/21, in addition to the aims set out in the attached Strategic Plan.

Emma Mortimer
Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

26th October 2020

Appendices

1. LSAB Annual Report 2019/20
2. LSAB Strategic Plan 2020/23