

Report of Director of Adults and Health

Report to Executive Board

Date: 17 March 2021

Subject: Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/2020

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

This report presents members of the Executive Board with the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2019/2020. The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of organisations within Leeds that work to prevent and end abuse of adults with care and support needs in Leeds. The Board includes a wide range of organisations that have a role in safeguarding people from neglect and abuse. This includes senior representatives from Leeds City Council, Adults and Health, West Yorkshire Police and NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as well as other statutory organisations, Healthwatch Leeds, third sector and citizen representatives. The three statutory partners, Leeds City Council, the CCG and West Yorkshire Police are also funding partners. Richard Jones, CBE, is the Independent Chair whose role involves providing challenge and support to the Board in achieving its ambitions.

This report provides an update on the work of the Board in 2019/20 in taking forward its ambitions to make Leeds a safe place for everyone. The Annual Report, the Easy Read version and a list of key members' contributions towards the completion of this annual report are available at appendix 1, 2 and 3.

1. Main issues

The Leeds Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2019/20 details the achievements of the Board over the last 12 months. 'Talk to Me, Hear My Voice' remains the guiding principle to Leeds approach to Safeguarding policy, procedure and practice. This approach puts the voice of the citizen at the centre of safeguarding practice. Pivotal to this methodology is a greater focus on a personalised approach to safeguarding. Key areas of

development and success however have been in relation to developing multi-agency responses and approaches to abuse and neglect. This has involved developing new multi-agency safeguarding adults' policy and procedures, which are both person centred and also compliant with the Care Act 2014 and the accompanying Care and Support Statutory Guidance. These innovative and person centred policies and procedures were implemented in April 2019 and have guided the practice and actions of the Board and its members throughout the year. The Board has taken an outward facing approach and has engaged with citizens of Leeds to ensure that people's voices are embedded in its work.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

The Safeguarding Adults Board works together with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safer Leeds Executive to support people in Leeds to be safe from abuse and neglect. This work contributes to the Best Council Plan priority of 'Keeping people safe from harm'. Enabling people with care and support needs to have choice and control – the Safeguarding Adults Board and its constituent partners implemented a citizen focused safeguarding adults policy within the year in focus. It is a unique policy that embeds the values and approaches of the nationally agreed best practice approach of Making Safeguarding Personal – this places the citizen at the heart of every decision and ensures that their outcomes are met and that they remain in control of the process.

3. Resource Implications

- The Board is funded jointly by Leeds City Council through the Adults and Health Directorate, Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group and the office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

Recommendations

- a) Members of Executive Board are requested to note the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/20 and the Board's Strategic Plan which reflects the Board's ambitions for 2020/2021.
- b) Members of Executive Board are asked to support the strategic aims and ambitions of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to make Leeds a safe place for everyone.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1** This report introduces the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report 2019/20 at Appendix 1 with an 'easy read version' at Appendix 1a, and Strategic Plan at Appendix 2. Together these documents summarise the Board's achievements over the relevant 12 months and set out its ambitions for the coming year, 2020/21. The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board has strategic responsibilities to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and the accompanying statutory guidance. The Board works to ensure that safeguarding practice is person centred and outcomes focused.

The Annual Report is available here:

[https://leedssafeguardingadults.org.uk/Documents/Board/Safeguarding Adults report 2020_Final-Ir \(3\).pdf](https://leedssafeguardingadults.org.uk/Documents/Board/Safeguarding Adults report 2020_Final-Ir (3).pdf) - (also attached as appendix 1).

The LSAB Annual Report Easy Read Version is available here:

[Leeds Safeguarding Adults Annual report 2020-2021.pdf](#) - (also attached as appendix 1a).

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan is attached as appendix 2.

2. Background information

- 2.1** The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body in April 2015, in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2014. Richard Jones CBE is the Independent Chair, appointed by the Chief Executive, Leeds City Council, in October 2015.
- 2.2** The Board includes representation from a range of key organisations within the city, including local authority, police and clinical commissioning group who are all statutory members, and funders of the Board. The full list of member organisations on the Board is included within the Annual Report. The LSAB has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual report and to include in that report details of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews that have been undertaken on a statutory basis within the relevant year.
- 2.3** The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted on Leeds as a city towards the latter weeks of the year and that is outlined in this report. The LSAB, like its partners, has had to operate under Government health restrictions. However, the focus of the Board has remained to oversee that the highest level of standards for safeguarding have been maintained and promoted.

3. Main issues

- 3.1** The Leeds Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2019/20 details the achievements of the Board over the last 12 months. This year, as in recent years, the Annual Report is accompanied by an Easy Read Version that is intended to make the information accessible to a wider range of people, including those with accessible information requirements and those with learning disabilities. These reports are available through the links in 1.2 above.
- 3.2** There are three LSAB Sub Groups: Performance and Quality Assurance, Learning and Development and the Mental Capacity Act Local Implementation Network. Each sub-group is chaired by a senior manager from across partner agencies and has membership drawn from across the sector. The sub-groups develop their plans in line with the Strategic Plan. They report progress against their plans to the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 3.3** 'Talk to Me, Hear My Voice' remains the guiding principle to Leeds approach to safeguarding policy, procedure and practice. This approach puts the voice of the citizen at the centre of safeguarding practice. Pivotal to this methodology is a greater focus on a personalised approach to safeguarding, which is embedded in national good practice as Making Safeguarding Personal. The LSAB policies and

procedures embed this approach, placing the citizen at the heart of decision making and support to assist them to maintain wherever possible their independence while living a safe and fulfilled life. The Board remains committed to a citizen-led approach which it has developed following intensive consultation with a range of people from across Leeds, including those who have experience of safeguarding practice. There is ongoing work commissioned via Advonet to engage with citizens to provide feedback of their experiences of the Leeds Safeguarding approach. There is a commitment by partners to use the results of Advonet's project to further improve and enhance the citizens' experience of safeguarding, this work is not planned to conclude within the year in focus.

- 3.4** Key achievements in 2019/20 have been on the development of the multi-agency responses and approaches to abuse and neglect. This has involved developing new multi-agency safeguarding adults' policy and procedures, which are both person centred and also compliant with the Care Act 2014 and the accompanying Care and Support Statutory Guidance. A strengths-based approach to practice has been developed in Leeds, building on the tradition of asset based community development.
- 3.5** Following a review of the lessons learned from recent cases of self-neglect in Leeds which were reviewed in 2019/20 and which are outlined in section 7 of the report; the LSAB Unit and partners have been tasked by the Board to develop Self-Neglect and Hoarding Practice Policy Guidelines for Leeds which it is envisaged will be implemented from November 2020. The new guidelines will ensure that vulnerable people are supported by multi-agency working and best practice.
- 3.6** Citizen-led practice guidance – new policies and procedures implemented in 2019/20. The approach taken by Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board recognises citizens as experts in their own lives and in how they wish to be supported. Details of the range of activities that were carried out in 2019/20 are set out in section 5 of the report. It details how people were consulted about how they wished to have their voices heard. In developing this new approach, the Board worked with a range of citizen groups to understand their views of what good support would look like and feel like to them. What underpins this approach is a fundamental belief that, as described by Mr Justice Munby in a judgement in 2007 'what's the point of making someone safe if in doing so you just make them miserable?'. The Social Care Institute for Excellence outlines the need to place an emphasis on balanced risk assessment and being able to manage risks, not simply seek to eradicate them. The LSAB policy seeks to address this balance. The policy and procedure includes citizen expectations in relation to how support is provided and key conversations they would want to have. The overwhelming principle for good practice identified by citizen groups was, what they called, 'Talk to Me, Hear my Voice'. As key partners in the development of our policy and procedures the Board has embedded this principle throughout, including a special introduction from Touchstone Safeguarding Service User Group explaining why 'Talk to Me, Hear my Voice' is so important in practice. It is thought to be one of the first citizen centred safeguarding adults' policies, and promotes effective person centred practice.

The revised approach includes citizen-led practice guidance including:

- Developing safeguarding plans
- Good support

- What empowerment looks like and feels like in practice
- Developing procedures with citizen involvement. Listening to and working towards the person's desired outcome
- Ensuring people have the support they need to take part in the safeguarding process
- More flexible and individually tailored responses
- Proportional and timely responses
- Auditing safeguarding referrals to measure and support good practice

3.7 Similarly, the Board has continued to support the development of multi-agency responses to domestic abuse and violence through the support of its member agencies to the Front Door Safeguarding Hub. The Front Door Safeguarding Hub brings together relevant agencies, including Children and Families Services and West Yorkshire Police to ensure a practical and timely response to concerns as a partnership, with a shared understanding of risk.

3.8 The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board works closely with Safer Leeds and Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership; the respective chairs meet regularly to discuss learning and cross cutting themes and issues. The respective Board Managers also meet regularly in relation to opportunities for shared working and learning.

Over the last year, this has included:

- Undertaking the Joint Strategic Review with Safer Leeds and Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership in relation to a young man who died at home in circumstances of extreme neglect.
- Undertaking a Safeguarding Adults Review, in conjunction with Safer Leeds in relation to adults who have died Living Street-based lives in Leeds.
- The three safeguarding partnerships jointly developed and published new Think Family, Work Family Principles and Practice Guidance. This was to be accompanied by jointly commissioned learning workshops, however these have been postponed due to Covid-19, but will be delivered remotely in 2021.
- The three safeguarding partnerships have also worked closely, as they do each year to promote Safeguarding Week promoting service relevant safeguarding messages across Leeds.
- The three safeguarding partnerships also worked to promote 16 Days of Action in relation to domestic abuse, which included a Safer Leeds/LSAB conference in relation to adults with care and support needs experiencing coercive control.

3.9 Operational Interface with Children's and Families – as children become adults, when they are known to Children and Families, there is a strong interface with a jointly funded team, managed within Adults and Health, that supports children with disabilities as they pass through the preparing for adulthood process This team ensures that any safeguarding issues that may be in existence or arise though this time period are addressed according to the appropriate legal framework in partnership with families, individuals and the teams around them. In addition for young people at risk of sexual and other forms of exploitation and harm there is a process in place whereby Adults and Health are informed by Children and Families of young people who may be at risk as they reach 18 and are no longer subject to

child protection support so that a plan can be put in place as the young person reaches adulthood.

3.10 Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan

3.10.1 The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board's vision is for Leeds is to be a 'Safe Place for everyone' in support of this vision. The Board has developed a three year strategic plan identifying four key ambitions that will be the focus of all its work going forward.

3.10.2 Four key ambitions will be the focus of our work over the next three years.

- Talk to me, hear my voice
- Improve awareness of safeguarding across all our communities
- Improve responses to domestic abuse
- Learn from experience to improve how we work

3.10.3 The Board Strategic Plan includes an Annual Plan with more specific objectives for each year. This is made up of contributions from each partner agency and ensures a coordinated approach. The Strategic Plan includes an addendum document which sets out Board Member Organisation commitments to safeguarding adults. It identifies what each agency will do within its organisation and networks to help promote each of these ambitions.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 The Impact of Covid-19 on Safeguarding - from March 2020 face to face contacts were considerably reduced to ensure compliance with governmental health guidelines. Therefore, there was a decrease in safeguarding reporting to services just towards the end of this reporting year.

4.2 Consultation and engagement

The Board has consulted and worked with partners including:

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Domestic Violence Programme Board
- Safer Leeds Executive
- Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Healthwatch
- Adult Social Care Leeds Forum Network
- Voluntary Action Leeds Network

4.3 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.3.1 The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board ambitions recognise the need to promote awareness across Leeds' diverse communities. The Board is currently exploring

approaches and networks that will help the Board to achieve this going forward. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 3.

4.4 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.4.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board works together with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safer Leeds Executive to support people in Leeds to be safe from abuse and neglect. As such this work contributes to the Best Council Plan priority of 'Keeping people safe from harm'.

4.5 Climate Emergency

- 4.5.1 Where practicably possible, documents which are provided to the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and its sub-groups will be available electronically in the first instance to reduce paper and printing usage by both the Board and partner agencies.
- 4.5.2 Meetings have been previously held in settings where there is easy access to public transport. This enables citizen representatives and board members to make choices to use public transport to LSAB meetings.
- 4.5.3 The key change that has been made towards the end of 2019/20 has been in response to Covid 19. Under Covid-19 Restrictions and the safe wellbeing of the health of colleagues and citizens until further notice meetings will take place using IT Conference Call facilities, reducing the need further for travel.

4.6 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.6.1 The Board is funded jointly by Adults and Health Directorate, Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group and the office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The budget is held by Leeds City Council and the Safeguarding Unit is hosted by the Council. It is a partnership resource and supports the work of the Board on behalf of all partners.

4.7 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.7.1 Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 2 to the Care Act 2014 require every Safeguarding Adults Board to produce a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report for each financial year. The documents annexed to this report are produced in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2.
- 4.7.2 The report is subject to call-in and there are no legal or access to information implications.

4.8 Risk management

4.8.1 This report is part of the risk management and assurance arrangements for Leeds City Council. As such there is a link through to the corporate risk on 'Safeguarding Adults' "Failure of (a) staff in any Council directorate to recognise and report a risk of abuse or neglect facing an adult with care and support needs in Leeds; (b) staff in Adult Social Care to respond appropriately, in line with national legislation and Safeguarding Adults procedures".

5 Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The Annual Report provides evidence that the Board has delivered on the actions outlined in the 2019/20 plan.
- 5.1.2 From April 2019 the Leeds Safeguarding Board and its partner members have adopted the new multi-agency safeguarding adults' policy and procedures which were developed in the relevant year, 2018/19. "Talk to Me, Hear My Voice". This provides the foundation for more flexible and individually tailored responses, in line with Care Act 2014 and *Making Safeguarding Personal* principles. It is thought to be one of the first citizen centred safeguarding adults' policies, and promotes effective person centred practice.
- 5.1.3 The Strategic Plan sets out a clear focus for the Board's work, and the Member Organisation commitments help to illustrate how partners have committed to a continuing programme of work designed help us all achieve the Board's ambitions for people in Leeds.

6 Recommendations

- a) Members of Executive Board are requested to note the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/20 and the Board's Strategic Plan which reflects the Board's ambitions for 2020/2021.
- b) Members of Executive Board are asked to support the strategic aims and ambitions of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to make Leeds a safe place for everyone

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

8 Appendices

- Appendix 1: Annual Report 2019/20
Appendix 1a: Easy Read Version of Annual Report
Appendix 2: LSAB Strategic Plan 2016/20
Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment

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.