

Annual Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) for 2021-2022

Date: 8 February 2023

Report of: Director of Adults & 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

This report presents the Annual Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) to Executive Board members. The LSAB Annual Report is produced by the Chair of the Board with the support of the LSAB Strategy Unit. It outlines the work of the relevant year, 2021/22, provides updates on completed Safeguarding Adults Reviews and an update on outcomes of any of the plans set for the relevant year within the context of the LSAB strategy.

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. There were, within the relevant year, three statutory partners – the Council, the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Board and West Yorkshire Police. Broader membership is drawn from other health and care partners, Healthwatch Leeds and other Third Sector and citizen representatives.

Richard Jones, CBE, is the Independent Chair whose role involves providing challenge and support to the Board and partner agencies in achieving their ambitions. A key message from the Chair this year has been the need to increase the accessibility of services and to improve the clarity about and language of safeguarding to people and communities across Leeds. The Board has been committed to listening to more people and communities and making deeper connections about safeguarding adults across Leeds.

This report provides an update on the work of the LSAB in 2021/22 taking forward its ambitions to making Leeds a safe place for everyone.

Recommendations

- a) Members of Executive Board are requested to note and fully consider the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2021/22.
- b) Members of Executive Board are asked to support the strategic aims and ambitions of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board as set out in the accompanying Strategic Plan.

<https://leedssafeguardingadults.org.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/strategic-plan> 2022/2023 to make Leeds a safe place for everyone, and attached.

- c) Members of the Board to note that the Safeguarding Board will develop an action plan in response to the Peer Challenge that will be set out in the Annual Report 2022/23

What is this report about?

- 1 This report introduces the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and invites Executive Board to review the contents
<https://leedssafeguardingadults.org.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/annual-report> and attached.
- 2 The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board arrangements are aligned and work closely with the Safer Leeds Executive partnership arrangements and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, both of which also report annually to Executive Board. The nature of work undertaken in all three boards, is such that there are a number of cross-cutting themes aimed at supporting communities, families, and individuals, and in order to ensure effective partnership working on these cross-cutting themes takes place, appropriate working arrangements have been implemented to ensure the necessary leadership and coordination of work is embedded.
- 3 The Safeguarding Adults Board is established under the Care Act 2014 to support adults in Leeds who have needs for care and support and as a result of these, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or the risk of abuse and neglect. 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 across the city and across all partners is person centred and outcomes focused.
- 4 The Board has responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to produce an annual report, devise a strategic plan and undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews, as set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. It brings together the range of organisations – statutory and otherwise – who are accountable and responsible for services and their safeguarding practice.
- 5 The Board has active and consistent representation from organisations and partners across the city, including the Executive Member for Adults and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships and representatives from across Leeds City Council services, West Yorkshire Police and (in the relevant year) NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group – these are the statutory partners. In addition, members include the NHS Provider Trusts, HMPPS Probation Service, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, and Advonet as Third sector representatives.
- 6 Board governance arrangements are led by the Independent Chair, Richard Jones CBE, and include the board itself, Board Champions, and the Performance and Quality Sub-Group which drives good quality through multi agency audits and other activity. There is a Board Strategy Unit which supports the Chair and the work of the Board to achieve its strategic outcomes. The report sets out the performance activity that it has overseen in 2021/22 including a 12% increase in safeguarding referrals put through to Adult Social Care safeguarding teams since 2019/20. The detail on demand and activity and the demographic data of the population that have been affected is also set out at Section 2 of the report.
- 7 The Board has four strategic ambitions, the first of which is to develop citizen led approaches to safeguarding. The report provides an update on its progress towards this

ambition. It has worked with Advonet, a Leeds advocacy service, on a 'Talk to Me, Hear my Safeguarding Story' project which aims to hear the voices of people who have been supported by services working within the LSAB policy and procedures. Key lessons at this stage in the project include the need to further promote awareness and understanding of safeguarding across every community in Leeds.

- 8 Other updates to this ambition include the development of the Board Citizen Reference Group and the Friends of the Board Network which has welcomed nine new members in the last year including the Friends of Swarthmore Centre, Carers Leeds, the Hamara Centre and the LCC BAME Health and Wellbeing Centre in Chapeltown. Representing a really diverse range of organisations (see page 8 for the full list), the Friends of the Board Network gives the Chair an insight at first hand into the work across the city, into the views of diverse communities in Leeds and provides a further really rich method of engagement and reach across the city.
- 9 The Board sought to raise awareness of the safeguarding activity across the city, its second strategic ambition. Pages 10 – 14 of the annual report set out the range of methods that have been utilised to raise awareness, including a video called 'Tricky Friends', the Adult Social Care Ambassador's programme, a social media campaign and an e-bulletin which is regularly issued to over 500 people and organisations across Leeds.
- 10 The third strategic ambition is to further develop city wide coordinated approaches to safeguarding practice. The Annual Report draws attention to the development of the Exceptional Risk Forum (ERF). This is a multi-agency group of senior professionals to which practitioners can refer and present situations where despite all attempts to reduce risk, a risk remains. The Forum has been meeting monthly since September 2021. The Forum was evaluated in January 2022 and the outcomes of that evaluation are set out on p14 of the annual report – they indicate the ERF has made a good start and has provided an important role in supporting practitioners in their everyday roles. Further work in this strategic area includes a refresh of the innovative Citizen Led Policy, a focus on 'professional curiosity and difficult conversations', and maintaining links to other strategic networks including the city's work on domestic abuse, and links to drugs and alcohol strategies. See page 17 of the annual report for the full details.
- 11 The Board's commitment to learning from experience is set out in section 6. As is required by the Care Act 2014, a summary of the safeguarding adult reviews (SAR's) undertaken in 21/22 is presented. There are also two ongoing reviews which should conclude in 22/23 and a summary of two situations which were raised with LSAB but which on consideration were felt not to meet the conditions necessary to be taken forward as a SAR, the criteria set out in S44 of the Care Act 2014 not having being met. This section concludes on p22 with a summary of the other work that is being undertaken by the Board to meet this strategic priority.
- 12 The Board has continued this year to develop its approach to Learning and Development through the development of a range of resources set out in section 6.4 including the 'ALWAYS Care' resources which were developed in response to feedback from two SARs that focused on self-neglect, and which have been well received by practitioners, and a briefing on Adults Living Street Based Lives.
- 13 As indicated in the report, the Board has established close working relationships with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, and the Leeds Safer Communities Board. The chairs from the three Boards meet regularly to share information and to identify opportunities

for collaborative working. In 2021/22 the Safeguarding Adults Board worked with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership to develop a joint adults and childrens organisational self-assessment, the learning from which will influence future plans

- 14 Section 7 of the report concludes by setting out the Board's ambitions for the coming year 2022/23. The four strategic aims set out above remain and continue to be developed through a range of activities including the development of a self-neglect strategy for Leeds.
- 15 Yorkshire and Humber Peer Challenge – outside of scope of this year's annual report, but worthy of report to Executive Board was the Peer Challenge which took place in April 2022. The Board invited the Peer Challenge to Leeds to check and assure the plans and processes that the Board has overseen in recent years. Led by a Director of Adult Social Services from Yorkshire and Humber and with senior managers from other local authorities and the NHS and an elected member from another area, the Peer Challenge provided an opportunity to reflect on progress made through the delivery of the Board's three-year strategy. The Board submitted a self-assessment prior to the visit, and the Peer Challenge team were on site for three days, culminating in a presentation to Board and the provision of a report. The recommendations in the Peer Challenge report will be built into future plans. The report is attached as an appendix to this report.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 16 The Report is intended to provide assurance and feedback to Executive Members regarding the way in which the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board has operated and delivered throughout 2021/22. It has continued to deliver against its strategic plan and has used the developing 'new ways of working' to deepen and embed its relationships with the people of Leeds. It is intended to update Executive Members on the work of the board and provide an opportunity to seek assurance from the Independent Chair.

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 17 This report contributes to support the ambitions of the Better Lives Strategy - the Council's strategy for people with care and support needs, which helps the Council deliver overarching Health and Wellbeing Strategy aim for Leeds to be: "A healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest".
- 18 A key aspect of this strategy is the delivery in partnership of effective safeguarding activity to protect from harm the city's most vulnerable individuals, those at risk of harm and in need or potentially in need of care and support. The Safeguarding Adult Board works together with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Leeds Safer Stronger Communities and the Mental Capacity Act Local Implementation Network to support people in Leeds to be safe from abuse and neglect. This works contributes to the best Council Priority of 'keeping people safe from harm'.
- 17 Building on the changes to the way that the board operated throughout the pandemic, the Board now relies on electronic distribution of all reports to members, and all meetings have been held virtually, reducing the need for travel.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

The Board has consulted with and worked with partners in the production of the report and the completion of the work including:

- Safer Leeds Executive
- Children and Young People's Partnership
- Healthwatch
- Advonet
- Leeds NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust
- Leeds NHS Community Health Trust
- Leeds and York NHS Partnership Foundation Trust

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

What are the resource implications?

- 18 The Board is funded jointly by the Adults and Health Directorate, Leeds NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (in the relevant year) and the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The budget is held on behalf of the Board by Leeds City Council and the Strategy Unit is hosted by the Council as employer. The Unit is a partnership resource and supports the work of the Board on behalf of all partners.

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

- 19 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 risk of abuse or neglect facing an adult with care and support staff in Leeds; (b) staff in Adult Social Care to respond appropriately in line with national legislation and Safeguarding Adults procedures.

What are the legal implications?

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

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 22 The report is a statutory requirement of the Safeguarding Adults Board, and it is required for assurance and governance purposes that the Executive Board of the Council receives and reviews the report.

How will success be measured?

23 The report outlines the work that has been carried out in the relevant year, 2021/22 and the intended plans for the next year 2022/23 and sets out the achievements of the partnership. The Leeds Adult Safeguarding Board has developed a three-year strategy; each year it produces an action plan to support the delivery of the strategy and the outcomes of these are reported in the Annual Report.

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

24 The annual report looks back at the last calendar year and the strategic plan looks forward to the current year. The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and its members will be delivering actions across the year and will report outcomes in the annual report for 22/23.

Appendices

- LSAB Peer Challenge Report.
- Equality Assessment.
- LSAB Strategic Plan 22-23.
- LSAB Annual Report 21-22.

Background Papers

- None.