

Meeting: Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee

Date: 25 January 2023

Title: Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report 2021-2022

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Service: HECS

Wards affected: all

1. Purpose of Report

To present to the Sub-committee the annual report of the Joint Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for the period April 2020-March 2021.

2. Recommendation:

The Safeguarding Adults Board has ratified its Annual Report.

The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report.
- note that the report will be published on the Safeguarding Adults page of North Tyneside Council website and can be accessed via <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1033/safeguarding-adults>

3. Introduction

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the joint Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for the period April 2020 – March 2021.

The Board has been a joint arrangement with Northumberland since 2016. A Local Government Association peer review held in early 2021 identified that although the Board had been very successful in helping both Authorities manage emerging safeguarding themes; if the arrangements were to remain joint ones, work needed to happen to strengthen the identity of the Board itself.

Following this, and in line with upcoming changes in the NHS with the development of Integrated Care Systems and Integrated Care Boards, a decision was made to end the Joint Board arrangements and establish two place-based SAB's. This annual report is therefore the final report of the work of the Northumberland and North Tyneside joint SAB.

4. Details

1. Board Information

The SAB is a statutory multi-agency partnership mandated by the Care Act 2014 that leads the strategic development of safeguarding across Northumberland and North Tyneside Local Authority areas. Its purpose is to ensure that people with care and support needs are safeguarded and to develop a culture of continuous improvement in local safeguarding arrangements to ensure that partners act to help and protect adults experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect.

The report identifies the Board's membership which is wider than the 3 statutory partners of LA, CCG and Police.

The 3 core duties are to develop and publish an annual report, develop and publish a strategic plan and commission safeguarding adult reviews for any cases that meet the criteria.

2. Achievements

Despite the work that services have needed to do to manage the impact of Covid-19, the Board has delivered on a number of its promises:

- Worked to develop new place-based SAB arrangements
- Used a risk register to monitor and respond to risks posed by Covid
- Worked with the Domestic Abuse Boards to align priorities
- Supported the Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers project and briefed staff and partners on the issues this group of people face.
- Looked at closed cultures and sought and scrutinised assurance from partners
- Contributed to regional self-neglect campaign producing and animation and a series of 7-minute guides
- Developed the training offer
- Launched "Tricky Friends" animations – helping people understand about good and harmful friendships

3. Demand and Activity

All partners saw an increase in safeguarding activity.

North Tyneside saw an increase in safeguarding concerns reported with a total of 3462 concerns raised, an increase of 13% from the previous year. This resulted in the teams needing to open safeguarding investigations under section 42 of the Care Act 2014 in 1245 cases (an increase of 20% on the previous year). 60% of cases related to females. The majority of cases relate to the age groups 18-64 and 75-94.

The largest category of abuse was neglect, followed by physical abuse and financial abuse.

Where we have progressed to a safeguarding enquiry, just over half of people involved experienced abuse in their own home and just under a third occurred in a nursing or residential home. In 88% of cases the person causing the abuse was known to the person experiencing abuse.

78% of cases had risk identified and action taken.

77% of people undergoing the safeguarding process were asked what their desired outcomes was and of those expressed, 94% were either fully or partially met. The highest rates recorded across the region were attributed to the Northumberland and North Tyneside SAB.

4. Impact of Covid

Reports are published regionally and nationally in respect of the impact of the pandemic on local safeguarding activity which helped the SAB to plan and respond to emerging issues. An example of this was that all partners saw an increase in self neglect. Working with people who neglect themselves can be challenging due to differing value bases, perceptions of lifestyle choice versus impaired capacity and very difficult legal frameworks around this. A number of national safeguarding adult reviews highlighted that staff were not following guidance on managing self-neglect. To respond to this, we worked regionally to develop a series of 7-minute briefings and a self-neglect animation was developed.

5. Strategic Priorities

The report highlights the SAB's 5 strategic priorities and the progress made against them. Progress has been made in all areas although there is work to do to ensure that improvement is continuous. The safeguarding team is currently working on audits and analysing performance in all areas to identify that learning has been embedded into practice.

6. SAB Highlights

The annual report highlights the work of the Board across the year which shows the breadth and number of actions undertaken and completed.

One area of concern was this impact of the pandemic and the lack of oversight in closed environments and both the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and CQC published guidance. The SAB sought assurances around monitoring of these environments. In North Tyneside there are a number of forums for information sharing and partners are clear about indicators and warning sign. Regional benchmarking did identify that there is variation in practice about practice and thresholds and this has allowed us to approach the national safeguarding network to request the development of national guidance.

A number of awareness campaigns were arranged throughout SAFE week and the SAB produced shared and promoted a partner resource pack concerning domestic abuse, self-neglect, financial abuse and scams, criminal exploitation and transitional safeguarding. We also promoted the Missing Adult Protocol and the Winnie and

Herbert protocols as well as launching the Tricky Friends animation to help people understand what good friendships look like.

Committee has been previously briefed about the outcome of the SAB Peer review that occurred in January -March 2021. The annual report gives an overview of the outcome.

7. Lessons learned

There were no Safeguarding Adult Reviews in this period, but the Safeguarding Adults Review Committee considered 5 new case referrals. Two learning reviews were undertaken in Northumberland.

A number of 7-minute guides were developed around the themes of exploitation and language, professional curiosity, thinking about the whole family, child to parent violence and abuse, mate and hate crime, and caring about adversity resilience and empowerment.

The SAR in relation to Leigh was featured in the previous annual report. Following this we provided a briefing summary across partner agencies, developed the 7-minute guides referred to earlier delivered training and recorded a webinar for staff about the importance of considering the impact of long-term conditions.

We also developed, with regional partners a suite of tools to support the process of Safeguarding Adult Reviews, work that was nationally recognised. Benchmarking against national safeguarding adult reviews continue.

8. Partner Spotlights

The SAB is a real partnership with very close working links, and this was evidenced through the pandemic. The Annual Report provides a highlight of work undertaken by our partners to demonstrate how work undertaken within agencies enhances the safeguarding work more generally in the Borough.

5. Appendices

North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual Report
2021-2022