

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2012****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR FOR THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide a six monthly update on the work and progress of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) is the multi-agency group of senior managers from key organisations responsible for developing and implementing Nottinghamshire's strategy to safeguard vulnerable adults. Safeguarding adults is a phrase which means all work which enables an adult who is or may be in need of community care services to retain independence, wellbeing and choice and to access their human right to live a life that is free from abuse and neglect. NSAB is chaired by an independent person, Allan Breeton, and the vice chair is a Chief Operating Officer of two Clinical Commissioning Groups, Amanda Sullivan. There are four sub-groups which sit under the Board with representatives of each of the statutory agencies. These sub-groups; Quality Assurance, Serious Case Review, Training, and Communications, implement the actions arising from the Board.
3. Over the past six months the work of the Board has been focused in the following areas:

- **Peer Review**

In November 2011 NSAB commissioned a peer review into all aspects of safeguarding adults in the County to provide independent scrutiny and quality assurance of its safeguarding processes. The review found that safeguarding adults practice and procedures in Nottinghamshire are "sound". However, a detailed report was produced with a number of recommendations and associated action plan. The Board is currently overseeing the implementation of this.

- **Serious Case Review**

The serious case review sub-group considers cases of death or serious harm to vulnerable adults where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor. It ensures that the circumstances are thoroughly reviewed and lessons learned. Serious case reviews have

been undertaken under national guidance since 2007. During that time NSAB has commissioned five serious case reviews within Nottinghamshire; three in 2009, one in 2010, one in 2011 and the most recent review was commissioned in February 2012. This review has recently been completed and the final report was considered by the Board at the most recent NSAB meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012. In each of these cases the Independent Author made a series of recommendations to ensure that lessons are learned by the relevant agencies so that similar circumstances are, wherever possible, avoided in the future.

- **Training**

The Board continues to oversee the delivery of both individual and multi agency training via the training sub group. This comprises of the regular and ongoing training which is provided for Safeguarding Referrers, Investigating Officers, Safeguarding Managers and Training for Trainers. In addition, the Board hosted a “one-off” training event which considered the criminal offence introduced by Section 44 of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) – “Wilful neglect or ill treatment of a person who lacks capacity”. This event brought together a range of police, health and social care practitioners to explore the issues connected with this relatively new piece of legislation and to find ways of overcoming barriers to its appropriate use.

- **Partnership Board**

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is a broad group of organisations drawn from across Nottinghamshire consisting of agencies from the public, private and voluntary sector that have an interest in Adult Safeguarding. The Partnership Board meets twice yearly and provides for a two way flow of information between NSAB and those organisations which are able to contribute to the safeguarding agenda. We have forged strong links with the Nottinghamshire Coroner who gave a presentation at a recent Partnership event which was extremely well received. In May this year the half day event focused on raising awareness of the Mental Capacity Act. It included presentations and case studies and allowed those present to consider what further work is needed to fully embed the Act within their organisations.

Much of the work of the Partnership is focused on raising awareness of safeguarding and ensuring all agencies and their staff are able to identify safeguarding concerns and are familiar with the process to follow to make a “referral”. The pro-active work in this area has contributed to the high number of safeguarding referrals which Nottinghamshire historically has in comparison to neighbouring Council areas.

The “good neighbour campaign” was launched by the communications sub-group in June 2012 as one part of the Board’s wider communication strategy. This campaign aims to raise awareness of what we can do to “look out” for those who may be more at risk in our communities.

- **Quality Assurance**

In addition to the peer review mentioned above, the Board continues to monitor the quality of its safeguarding response via the Quality Assurance sub-group. Regular audits of safeguarding assessments are undertaken and learning fed back to individual practitioners and wider audiences where necessary. The sub-group has developed a “Thresholds and

Pathways” document which supports the multi-agency procedures and provides further advice and guidance on the referral process.

- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures**

The Board has worked hard to improve the application of the safeguarding procedures. This has resulted in a significant improvement in the recording of safeguarding plans following on from safeguarding assessments.

- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

NSAB has fully supported the work currently taking place to establish the MASH. This has included representation on the MASH Strategic Board and also the Safeguarding Adults Group Manager is leading on the workstream to establish operational procedures. This will ensure that Safeguarding Adults is able to reap the full benefits of closer inter-agency working at the point of referral and throughout the safeguarding process.

- **Annual report**

The Board produces an annual report which contains both statistical and qualitative information on its performance and that of adult safeguarding in the preceding year. In the most recent 2010/2011 report the Board responded to feedback and changed the format of the report. It is shorter with less statistics, user friendly, focused on outcomes and how the Board has “made a difference”.

Created in April 2008 the Board builds upon the seminal work undertaken by its predecessor, the Nottinghamshire Committee for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (NCPVA). Allan Breeton was appointed as independent chair for NSAB in the autumn of 2009. The Board has worked hard to promote the message first articulated in the Department of Health (2000) “No Secrets” document which states “There can be no secrets and no hiding place when it comes to exposing the abuse of vulnerable adults”. The Board has produced and coordinated multi agency policy which ensures a consistent approach to safeguarding is applied across the county. It has developed a culture of cooperation and critical review which has led to improvements in practice and outcomes for those adults at most risk of abuse. Recent serious case reviews involving adults with pressure ulcers have led to improved monitoring, documentation, recording, and treatment for adults with pressure ulcers and a more coordinated multi-agency response. The Board continues to oversee work programmes which help improve safeguarding awareness and practice across Nottinghamshire.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

4. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee:

- 1) Note the report of the Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

### **ALLAN BREETON**

**Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Bob Ross NSAB Board Manager

Email: [bob.ross@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:bob.ross@nottscc.gov.uk)

Tel: (0115) 9773278

### **Constitutional Comments**

5. Because this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 02/11/2012)**

6. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

(a) Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board – [Annual Report 2010/2011](#).

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

ASCH64.