

2 March 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR FOR THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Adult Social Care and Health Committee on the work and progress of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board during the financial year 2013/14.

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 adults at risk. We are committed to preventing and reducing the incidence of abuse and neglect of people in need of care and support and to improving the outcomes for people when abuse or neglect has occurred.
3. This year the membership of NSAB has been strengthened further with the addition of the Chief Executive of Healthwatch as an associate member.
4. Much of the work of the Board in 2013/14 has been targeted in two key areas; firstly, to ensure that the Board is "fit for purpose" to undertake the requirements of the Care Act 2014 which place adult safeguarding on a statutory footing as of 1st April 2015 and, secondly, to begin the work to understand and embed a "Making Safeguarding Personal" (MSP) approach to adult safeguarding which seeks to put the service user at the centre of all we do.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

5. During 2013/14 Nottinghamshire took part in a national MSP project whereby locally two teams were asked to approach safeguarding cases with an outcomes focus, working much closer with the person at risk to understand what he/she wants. The results of the pilot were fed back into the national project and the learning was used to inform the subsequent review of our policies and procedures. We have improved the way we consult with service users, carers and their representatives and involved service users in the delivery of training.

6. Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection have supported the temporary secondment of the Group Manager, Access and Safeguarding, to work one day per week with the Local Government Association (L.G.A) to support the national roll out of the MSP agenda.

Policy Review

7. NSAB has carried out a review of its multi-agency safeguarding procedures jointly with Nottingham City Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board. This work has been overseen by our Quality Assurance Sub Group. The revised procedures were published on 7th October 2013. The documents have been streamlined, providing a thorough overview of what staff need to do, either to raise a concern or make a referral about a vulnerable adult who is at risk of significant harm, abuse or neglect in Nottingham City or Nottinghamshire. This information is now in one document, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Procedure. Additional information to consider and support agencies raising a concern or making a referral, including guidance on legislation, links to domestic violence and possible indicators of abuse, is contained within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Guidance.
8. Additionally Nottinghamshire has reviewed its Safeguarding Adults Procedures following a referral. Our new procedures adopt a MSP approach which is person led and outcome focused and which puts the individual at the heart of the process. The revised procedures were published in July 2014 and Nottinghamshire is one of the first Local Authorities to adopt this approach which is advocated by the Care Act 2014.

Serious Case Reviews

9. 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. The Chief Operating Officer for Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group is the Chair.
10. The group ensures that cases of death or serious harm that involve abuse or neglect are thoroughly reviewed. Its aim is to find out why things went wrong and then to ensure that lessons are learned and shared across agencies.
11. On 8th October 2013 NSAB commenced a serious case review, SCR F 13, jointly with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board, following the death of an 18 year old woman who was detained under Section 3 of the Mental Health Act in an independent hospital. The review focused on the effectiveness of transition arrangements from children's to adult services and involved a number of statutory and non-statutory organisations. An independent expert was commissioned to author the final overview report which was approved at an extra-ordinary meeting of NSAB on 22nd May 2014. NSAB is monitoring the implementation of recommendations and action plans arising from this review.

Partnership Board

12. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is a broad group of organisations, service users and carers 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 and individuals who are able to contribute to the safeguarding agenda.

13. Our two events for the year 2013/14 focused on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Care Act 2014. At our November meeting attendees received presentations and updates on the progress of the MASH and were able to provide valuable feedback as to what was working well and importantly what needed to improve. In May 2014 attendees were updated on the requirements of the Care Act and implications for safeguarding adults.

Annual Report 2013/14 – Key Facts and Figures

14. As in previous recent years NSAB has produced an annual report which is clear, concise, free from jargon and accessible to members of the general public. The annual report, which is available on our website at www.safeguardingadultsnotts.org contains statistical and qualitative data on the performance of the Board and adult safeguarding. Some of the headline data is set out below.

Referrals

15. In 2013/14, the upward trend in safeguarding referrals made to Nottinghamshire County Council continued with a total of 4,751 referrals being received. This is an increase of 560 referrals (13%) on 2012/13.

Referrals which led to Assessment

16. The statistical returns provided to central government concentrate on those referrals which were assessed as requiring a safeguarding response and which led to a safeguarding assessment. In Nottinghamshire, 1,006 of the 4,751 referrals received in 2013/14 went on to assessment. Whilst the number of referrals remains on an upward trend the actual number, and percentage, of those which required a safeguarding assessment has reduced from 1,441 (34.4%) in 2012/13 to 1,006 (21.2%) in 2013/14. Part of the reason for this has been the role of the MASH in scrutinising and prioritising referrals. 41% of all referrals received by the MASH which don't meet safeguarding thresholds have been diverted to other service areas to provide a more appropriate response. This has allowed the County Council and its partners to focus its safeguarding resources on those referrals where there is the greatest risk of harm and which require a safeguarding response.

Next steps-The Care Act 2014

17. The Care Act 2014 places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and Local Authorities are required to have safeguarding arrangements in place by 1st April 2015. This includes a Safeguarding Adults Board which has a membership consisting of the Local Authority, Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and "any other persons who the Safeguarding Adults Board considers appropriate". The Safeguarding Adult Board has a "strategic role which is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners" and its objective is "to help and protect adults in its area by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each member does". The Board will have 3 core duties which it must carry out. It must publish a strategic plan, publish an annual report and conduct any Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

18. NSAB was created in April 2008 and is well placed to undertake the statutory requirements of the Care Act 2014. The Board is well supported by senior representatives from the core agencies and many others. Over the years it has published annual reports, produced strategic plans and been proactive in undertaking and learning from Serious Case Reviews/Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The Board has more recently embraced the MSP philosophy which underpins much of the Care Act Statutory Guidance and leads the way in its implementation.

Other Options Considered

19. This report is for information only and there are no other options considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation

20. This report is to update the Adult Social Care and Health Committee on the work carried out by NSAB 2013/14.

Recommendations

21. The Adult Social Care and Health Committee note the work of NSAB.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

ALLAN BREETON

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Constitutional Comments (SG 04/02/2015)

23. Because this report is for noting only Constitutional Comments are not required.

Financial Comments (KAS 28/01/2015)

24. There are no financial implications contained within this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All