

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2013****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 2012/13.

**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. 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). The current independent chair for NSAB was appointed in the autumn of 2009.
3. The Board's vision for Nottinghamshire with regard to safeguarding adults is of a County where all adults can live a life free from any form of abuse or neglect. The aim of the board is to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm and abuse by effectively working together.
4. The Board is well attended by senior people from partner agencies and this year the membership has strengthened. The Chief Executive Officer, Broxtowe District Council, has joined the Board to represent the districts and provide a vital link to the host of people, services and resources which the districts can contribute to the safeguarding agenda.
5. There are four sub groups which sit under the Board with representatives from each of the statutory agencies.

**Quality Assurance**

6. The Board monitors the quality of its safeguarding response via the Quality Assurance Sub Group. The Group Manager for Safeguarding Adults at Nottinghamshire County Council is the chair of this group. Regular audits of safeguarding assessments are undertaken and learning is fed back to individual practitioners and wider audiences where necessary.
7. This year NSAB has undertaken a full review of its multi-agency policy, procedures and guidance. This work has been overseen and co-ordinated by the Quality Assurance Sub Group. The procedures provide guidance to professionals and members of the public in how to recognise adult abuse and what to do if they suspect abuse or neglect. The process has been the subject of an extensive public consultation involving professionals, the general public, service users and partners. The procedures, which have been produced jointly with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partnership Board, are due to be published on 01 October 2013.
8. The Quality Assurance Sub Group has developed a Service User Involvement Strategy which is in line with the Board's strategic aim to ensure the views of service users are fully integrated into the safeguarding process. The views of service users and carers have been sought in the development of the strategy via the Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection User and Carer Involvement Group. This group will monitor the implementation of the strategy.

### **Serious Case Review**

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. Serious case reviews have been undertaken under national guidance since 2007. To date NSAB has commissioned five serious case reviews within Nottinghamshire; three in 2009, one in 2010 and the most recent review was commissioned in February 2012. This review related to a 40 year old woman with spina bifida who died suddenly as a result of infected pressure ulcers. This review was completed in the autumn and the final overview report, which was authored by an independent expert, was approved by the Board at the meeting on 11 October 2012.
12. In February 2013 the Board hosted two training workshops for practitioners and managers which were facilitated by the review's independent author. Agencies are in the process of implementing the recommendations from the review. As part of its monitoring role the Serious Case Review Sub Group has received presentations from the various heads of service within relevant organisations detailing how their service areas have changed and improved as a result.

## **Training**

13. The Board continues to oversee the delivery of both individual and multi-agency training via the Training Sub Group. A Multi-Agency Training Co-ordinator with the Safeguarding Adults Strategic Team is the Chair of the group. The Training Sub Group exists to ensure that single and multi-agency training is provided across the County at a high standard and that this is accessible to statutory, independent and voluntary organisations.
14. In 2012/13 the Training Sub Group led on the introduction of the National Capability Framework for adult safeguarding across board agencies. The framework, which is endorsed by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), is designed to help organisations ensure that workers, at every level, have the required skills and abilities to carry out their responsibilities towards adult safeguarding.
15. The Training Sub Group has worked with its colleagues from the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board, the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Board and the Nottingham City Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board to produce and implement a quality assurance scheme for training.
16. The Board continues to deliver a range of multi-agency training opportunities and provide a variety of training courses throughout the year.

## **Communications**

17. The Senior Audience and Communications Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council is the chair of the Communications Sub Group. The group has two important roles. One is to raise awareness about safeguarding adults with front line staff such as social workers, police officers and healthcare workers so that they understand how to recognise adult abuse, how to report concerns and what processes are involved.
18. The Board also has a commitment to raise awareness with the general public so they know what adult abuse is, who might be affected and how they can report it.
19. 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 sought to raise awareness of what people can do to look out for those who may be more at risk in the community.

## **The Partnership Board**

20. 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.

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

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub**

22. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is based at the Customer Services Centre, Mercury House and acts as the first point of contact for children's social care and for safeguarding concerns about both children and adults. It involves over 60 representatives from the County Council's Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Education Services; together with the Police, Probation and Health partners co-located and working together.
23. NSAB has fully supported the work to establish the MASH which went live for adults on 28 January 2013. Nottinghamshire was one of the first areas to include adult abuse and child abuse referral processes under one roof. The MASH provides agencies with a single point of contact for all adult safeguarding referrals.
24. The benefits of the MASH are being seen on a daily basis. Those reporting safeguarding concerns are receiving a more consistent, professional response, with advice from social care professionals and feedback on the outcome of their concern. Risks are being assessed more consistently and in a timely manner. Collating information from different sources is enabling better decisions to be made about cases. Operational teams are receiving more intelligence about the circumstances of a case and are able to tailor their response accordingly.

### **Strategic Links**

25. NSAB has strengthened its partnership working at a strategic level with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board, the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **National Concerns**

26. NSAB has received updates from key agencies on actions taken following the Winterbourne View and Francis reports.

### **Annual Report 2012/13 – Key Facts and Figures**

27. 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. The full report will be available shortly however some headline figures are set out below.

## **Referrals**

28. In 2012/13 the upward trend in safeguarding referrals made to Nottinghamshire County Council continues with a total of 4,191 referrals being received. This compares with 2,939 referrals in 2011/12 and 2,357 referrals in 2010/11. There is no doubt that the greater public awareness of adult safeguarding driven by recent media coverage and the Government's commitment to place safeguarding on a statutory footing continues to contribute significantly to this increase in referrals.

## **Referrals which led to Assessment**

29. The statistical returns provided to central government concentrate on those referrals which were accepted by the safeguarding manager and which led to a safeguarding assessment. In Nottinghamshire 1,441 of the 4,191 referrals received in 2012/13 went on to assessment.

30. Work is ongoing to embed the Thresholds and Pathways guidance document which complements the multi-agency procedures and provides practical examples of circumstances which require a safeguarding referral. It is important that Nottinghamshire County Council and its partner agencies target its safeguarding resources to those referrals where there is greatest risk of harm and which require a safeguarding response. Referrals which did not go on to assessment received an appropriate response which may, for example, have been an assessment of care needs, or specific staff training.

31. Additionally, it is anticipated that as the MASH becomes embedded within Nottinghamshire this will provide partner agencies with a single point of contact for advice and a greater consistency of decision making in terms of those referrals which require a full assessment.

## **Conclusion**

32. The Board recognises that there is much work still to do to safeguard the most vulnerable members of society. Government legislation to place adult safeguarding on a statutory footing is on the horizon. The clear message from the Government is that adult safeguarding activity should be focussed on cases where a person is at risk as a result of the act or omission of another. This will bring with it further challenges and public scrutiny which is to be welcomed as it ultimately will be to the benefit of those the Board seeks to help.

33. Finally, it is recognised that agencies face challenging times. However, the commitment and support shown by the Board members, their organisations and broader partnerships to the work of the Board demonstrates that they recognise the importance of safeguarding those most at risk.

## **Other Options Considered**

34. This report is for information only, no other options considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

35. This report is to update the Adult Social Care and Health Committee on the work carried out by NSAB.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

36. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

### **Financial Implications**

37. There are no financial implications contained in this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) It is recommended that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee notes the work 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)

### **Constitutional Comments**

38. As this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (CLK 19/08/13)**

39. There are no financial implications contained in 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.

- a. [Update report to the Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

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

All.

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