

Report of the Director of Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Bradford and Airedale Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on 29th November 2016.

Subject:

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Working Better Together on Safeguarding: Annual Reports of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

Summary statement:

This report for the Health and Wellbeing Board brings progress updates from the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adult Board – Bradford and Airedale for feedback and discussion. The report outlines in brief the main areas covered by the annual reports and highlights where joint approaches to policy and practice are in operation and a number of areas where further development across children's and adults' safeguarding arrangements could be beneficial.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Health and Social Care



1. SUMMARY

This report for the Health and Wellbeing Board brings progress reports from the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) – Bradford and Airedale for feedback and discussion. The report outlines in brief the main areas covered by the annual reports and highlights areas of focus where joint approaches to policy and practice are in operation or are being considered for development across children's and adults' safeguarding arrangements.

The report introduces the annual reports which outline the progress that has been made on the delivery plans for the Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards. A copy of the Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2015 – 16 is attached as Appendix 1. A final draft of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board report is provided as an appendix. This will be signed off by BSCB on the 1st December and will then be published on the BSCB website. Links to the Safeguarding Board websites are provided in section 12 – Background documents.

2. BACKGROUND

The Bradford Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency partnership that leads on the development of safeguarding adults work in the Bradford District. The main focus of the Board is to safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. Membership to the Board includes representation from the main statutory agencies Bradford Council, NHS organisations, Police, Probation and Fire Service, the housing sector and from independent and voluntary sector organisations.

The Health and Wellbeing Board resolved in November 2015;

- (1) That the Board receive the annual reports of the Bradford Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards.
- (2) That the Board support the development of a new integrated Early Help Offer for the District
- (3) That the Board task the Bradford Health and Care Commissioners to support the development of a Joint Commissioning Strategy for Special Educational Need and Disability based on the recent update of the SEND Needs Assessment.
- (4) That a further report be provided to the Board at its meeting in February 2016 which includes the progress made with:
 - (a) communication issues with the Health Service and the CSE Hub in relation to the system to flag up children/adults at risk of exploitation



- (b) service provision in terms of therapeutic support for victims of exploitation and appropriate support for frontline staff.

In February 2016 the Health and Wellbeing Board received an update in relation to communication and the raising of safeguarding concerns for children and adults at risk of exploitation and the Board was assured that sufficiency of therapeutic support would be addressed through the review of the CSE Hub during 2016.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Bradford Safeguarding Children Board

The Safeguarding Children Board in Bradford has undergone a change of leadership over the period of this report. The Vice Chair of the Board Julie Jenkins, stepped up to chair the Board in March 2015 while a new chair was recruited. A new Independent Chair, David Niven, was welcomed in place in September 2015. The new chair's history included being chair of the British Association of Social Workers and of being nine months into a contract as Independent Chair of Tameside Safeguarding Children Board, and he was looking forward to taking on the role for Bradford.

The Bradford Safeguarding Children Board has produced an annual report covering the period April 2015 – March 2016, reporting on the work carried out on the Board's business plan which set out 4 Key Priority areas:

- 1-Performance
- 2-Engagement and Participation
- 3- Challenge and Change
- 4-Responding to existing and emerging safeguarding issues

Each priority area identified outcomes to be achieved that could be measured and evaluated for impact on the difference the activity made to children and their families.

3.1.1 Priority 1 has seen a significant input of resources into the performance framework by Children's Services, West Yorkshire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the CCG and Bradford Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust. This has led to a significant move forward in the quality of data being recorded around safeguarding areas of activity across the partnership, in particular the input into the Section 11 reports, and is enabling the Board to evaluate services effectively and hold partners to account where required.

3.1.2 Priority 2 has seen a qualitative improvement and an embedding of the work being carried out with faith settings across the district. Joint working with the fire service and the transport department of the Council has seen safeguarding improvements made across the District aimed at keeping children safe as they access and leave faith settings. Faith teaching providers have been more open to their safeguarding responsibilities for the volunteers they engage and there has been a marked improvement in the take up of safeguarding policies and procedures.

3.1.3 Priority 3 has seen the establishment of multi-agency challenge panels by the



Board enabling a deep dive focus on areas of safeguarding activity identified in the business plan or through the serious case review sub group. In this period, the panel has carried out two deep dives on children with disability and children suffering sexual exploitation. The outcome of these activities has identified action plans for agencies across the partnership to address issues raised as part of the process, celebrate good practice where identified and deliver targeted multi-agency learning events to ensure the findings from the panels is shared as widely as possible. In addition, a training needs analysis has been carried out across the partnership, and has enabled the training plan for 2016-2017 to be drafted to meet the Board's responsibilities that staff and volunteers are skilled and equipped to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

3.1.4 Priority 4 has identified that there are newer and more challenging forms of abuse that have required agencies to look inwards at their safeguarding cultures and beliefs and challenge themselves on how well they are able to meet practice expectations in these areas.

Children's Services are taking forward the 'Journey to Excellence' approach in order to co-ordinate effectively the current early help provision in the Bradford District and this is being monitored by the Proactive and Responsive sub group. There is currently underway the review of the Child Sexual Exploitation Hub to evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency CSE service in Bradford and this is being monitored and scrutinised by the CSE sub group. The Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel continues to report directly to BSCB. The panel has responded to the high level of child deaths in Bradford by developing work around consanguinity, and the learning from this has been delivered across safeguarding week alongside learning around online safety, female genital mutilation, counter radicalism and neglect.

Over the last year several serious case reviews have either concluded or are in process. The learning from these has been helpful and there has been a good response to the learning. In particular, it has brought to the forefront the challenges facing practice of how organised criminal activity is impacting on child sexual exploitation and the risks facing children both directly and online. These challenges are being addressed within the review of the CSE Hub.

Regular meetings are now held with senior staff from all agencies looking at best practice in several areas as well as readiness for inspection. The focus on domestic abuse has continued and this work, along with substance abuse and the mental health of vulnerable parents, make for a strong overlap with the work of the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board. These shared areas that have such impact on a child's experience at home are subject to continued efforts for the Boards to work together. Finding ways to engage the voices of children and young people is regularly reviewed.

3.2 Safeguarding Adults Board – Bradford and Airedale

2015/16 was the first year of the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) operating under the legislative framework of The Care Act 2014. The Act put the Safeguarding Adults Board on a statutory basis and required the SAB to produce a strategic plan, our first covers the period 2015 – 2018.



The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015 - 2016 provides an update on the priorities of the SAB during the year and the progress made against them. The report also signals those areas the board will continue to prioritise in 2016/17.

3.2.1 Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) was and continues to be a key priority for the SAB, the approach is about putting the person at the centre of our involvement in making people safe. That where possible the wishes of the person are paramount in directing any actions without negating our duties to act where the circumstances dictate (criminal behaviour or issues of capacity are in question). The SAB has made some progress in this arena and is evidenced in some of the case examples in the annual report; there is however a way to go to ensure the practice is fully embedded across all partner services.

3.2.2 Mental Capacity - The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and 'tenfold' increase in requests for assessments under the act continue to put significant pressure on the Local Authority to respond, the Council has continued to invest in training more suitably qualified staff to undertake the specialist assessments required but continue to struggle to meet the level demand. In 2016 -17 the service has engaged in the use of independent assessors to assist with this task.

The annual report allows the SAB Partner agencies to report on individual progress made last year. The annual report provides some performance information offering some analysis of what the data is indicating at this point.

3.2.3 Forms and types of Safeguarding concern - Performance data indicates a significant increase in the incidence of abuse categorised as neglect over the previous year with reductions across all other categories. The increase may be reflective of the introduction by the Care Act 2014 of 'Self-Neglect' as falling within the remit of adult safeguarding.

In the case of Domestic Violence there has also been an increase in activity again possibly attributable to the work undertaken across agencies in preparation for the introduction of the Care Act.

The data in respect of where abuse is happening shows a marked increase in Care Settings, residential and nursing homes in the main as opposed to people's own homes. This picture is not reflective of the wider national data which report increased levels of abuse taking place in people's own homes. Possible explanation of this difference may be reflective of the introduction of the new CQC Inspection regime which saw a high level of services being deemed to be 'inadequate' and a consequent increase in the number of providers embargoed from new referrals pending their successful implementation of improvement plans and re-inspection. In 2015 -16 Members agreed to defer consultation on the closure of one of its residential care homes in order to respond to the reduction in availability of this type of care in the market.

3.2.4 Outcomes - The outcomes for people who have been through the safeguarding process in the main has resulted in the risks to their wellbeing reducing or being eliminated



in the main. Fewer people than in the previous year remain at risk despite the intervention of services within the safeguarding framework. This will always be the case for some few people who continue to knowingly put themselves in risky situations, a reflection of the rights of people to make informed choices about the lives they lead.

3.2.5 Emerging issues - In recent years there has been much media reporting of Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking. In 2015 -16 there were no instances recorded within Adult Safeguarding. The service is however aware of some initiatives across West Yorkshire where trafficking was identified and the department was alerted to the potential for referrals arising out of Police activity. This is an area of concern for the SAB and will be an area of focus in 2016 – 17 along with strengthening links to the Children’s Safeguarding Board and the Safer and Stronger Board in the District.

The priority areas for the SAB continue to be:

In partnership with communities and local organisations the SAB will

- work towards ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ (MSP) and the embedding of MSP into the work of all partner agencies in line with the Care Act 2014.
- The SAB will ensure the deployment of independent advocacy to support adults at risk. It will also ensure that service users and carers’ views are taken into account, acted upon, and implemented into service delivery.
- There is a need for the awareness of safeguarding to be promoted in order to mitigate the risk of people suffering abuse or neglect. The profile of SAB activities will be raised and the SAB will work collaboratively with communities and partners to prioritise and strengthen local arrangements to identify and monitor the incidence of abuse.
- Effective arrangements to share good practice and lessons learnt from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and inter-agency working and the sharing of information will be strengthened through collaboration between the Children’s Safeguarding Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, the Domestic Abuse partnership and other key partner organisations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Financial and Resource appraisal is ongoing through the 2017-18 budget process of the Council.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Risk and governance relating to safeguarding is managed through the two Safeguarding Boards’ and through each Board’s sub-groups. The approach to both risk and governance is explained through the annual reports. See Appendix 1 and Section 12 Background Documents.



6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The annual reports of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board, and the Safeguarding Adults Board – Bradford and Airedale (to be published), describe how the Boards coordinate and govern the work of the Council and partners to fulfil the statutory duties in respect of safeguarding children and adults.

Legal appraisal of the 2015-16 annual reports of the BSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board – Bradford and Airedale will be undertaken.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Safeguarding vulnerable people whether children or adults cuts across all categories of communities with protected characteristics. Improvements in how our collective resources work together will increase our ability to prevent and intervene earlier when people are being abused or are at risk of abuse or neglect.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Boards for the District have representatives from the uniformed organisations as Board members and make a key contribution to community safety by leading co-ordinated, partnership action to safeguard children, young people and adults, particularly vulnerable adults, in the District.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.6 TRADE UNION

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None



9. OPTIONS

None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Board receive the annual reports of the Bradford Safeguarding Boards.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2015-16

Appendix 2 Safeguarding Adults Board – Bradford and Airedale 2015-16

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2015-16 – Final version to be published early December 2016 – see Appendix 1 to this report for a draft version.

<http://www.bradford-scb.org.uk/documents.htm>

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) – Bradford and Airedale

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/3321/sab-annual-report-2015-16.pdf>

