

Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee

16 January 2019

West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017/18

Report by the Independent Chair of the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

Summary

There is a legal duty, under the Care Act (2014), to have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to ensure the following three statutory duties are met:

- To develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how it will meet its objectives and how its member and partner agencies will contribute to this;
- To publish an annual report detailing how effective its work has been;
- To commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for such reviews.

In response, the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (WSSAB) has produced an annual report for 2017/18 documenting the activity and initiatives overseen by the Board during that year.

The focus for scrutiny

The Committee is invited to consider whether sufficient action is being taken to ensure that adults in West Sussex are being protected from abuse and neglect as reported in the WSSAB Annual Report 2017/18 and whether there any issues arising from the detail of the WSSAB Annual Report 2017/18 requires any further scrutiny.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

1.1 Although there was already an established Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in West Sussex prior to 2015, the statutory requirement for one came into force in April 2015 under the Care Act (2014) which, specifies the Board's three statutory responsibilities.

1.2 SABs' three statutory duties are that it **must:**

- develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how it will meet its objectives and how its member and partner agencies will contribute to this;
- publish an annual report detailing how effective its work has been;
- commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

- 1.3 The overarching purpose of a SAB is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:
- assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance;
 - assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused;
 - working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
 - ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred;
 - assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

- 1.4 The SAB must provide strategic leadership for adult safeguarding arrangements across its locality and oversee and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies, underpinned by the six key principles outlined in the Care Act Guidance:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

This also requires the SAB to develop and actively promote a culture with its members, partners and the local community that recognises the values and principles contained in 'Making Safeguarding Personal'.

The SAB should also concern itself with a range of issues which can contribute to the wellbeing of its community and the prevention of abuse and neglect, such as:

- the safety of people who use services in local health settings, including mental health;
- the safety of adults with care and support needs living in social housing;
- effective interventions with adults who self-neglect, for whatever reason;
- the quality of local care and support services;
- the effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders;
- enhancing partnership working between adult safeguarding and domestic abuse.

- 1.5 To report on West Sussex SAB's response to its statutory requirements, the Board has produced an annual report for the year 2017/18 which summarises the vision, principles and work achieved by the Board.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Independent Chair of the WSSAB along with West Sussex County Council's Head of Safeguarding, provide the annual update to the Committee in respect of the strategic plan, action taken and annual report for 2017/18.

3. Resources

- 3.1 The funding of the WSSAB mirrors that of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board and is funded by key agencies including health, police and, district and borough councils. Given the County Council has lead responsibility for safeguarding, it provides the largest contribution.

Factors taken into account

4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to consider the WSSAB Annual Report 2017/18 including the key areas of focus as detailed in the report and, whether sufficient action is being taken to ensure that adults in West Sussex are being protected from abuse and neglect.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The work undertaken by the WSSAB is based upon full multi-agency engagement. This includes representation from voluntary groups and independent sector providers. There has also been improved engagement with the community via a WSSAB sub-group focusing on engagement. It is recognised that further work is required for fuller engagement with service users.

6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 In terms of political, reputational, legal and financial risks which may occur, the risk in relation to the on-going scrutiny of the WSSAB lies in reputational risk to the Council if this is not adopted. As the lead agency for safeguarding, there is a need for Members to provide scrutiny and to understand how effectively West Sussex residents are protected.

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 The Council is committed to safeguarding adults within its community. The only alternative to this proposal would be for the Committee to be unsighted on the activity of the WSSAB. However, this would consequently present the risk that the Council would fail to meet its responsibilities as lead agency for safeguarding adults and elected members would not meet their corporate responsibility to prevent and report abuse.

8. Equality Duty

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Report is not required for this report, as no actions identified within the report impact on groups with protected characteristics.

9. Social Value

- 9.1 Central to this approach is building resilience and social capital that can contribute towards stronger and effective communities.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Human Rights Implications

11.1 The 2014 Care Act introduces new legislation governing social care but there is still a need for specialist and on-going training to keep the legal literacy of practitioners, current. Local authorities must also ensure they support workers to utilise the less restrictive options and, comply with both the 1998 Human Rights Act and the 2005 Mental Capacity Act.

11.2 The Care Act requires practice in accordance with Making Safeguarding Personal. It follows the edict of 'no decision about me without me' and means that the adult, their family and carers are working together with agencies to find the right solutions to keep people safe and support them in making informed choices.

11.3 The Care Act introduces a duty on local authorities to consider whether it should provide an advocate for a person where an assessment, review, or safeguarding enquiry for a person is being undertaken, if that person would have significant difficulty in representing themselves in this process and has no-one else who could represent them. The local authority must have enough capacity to provide an advocate to individuals in these circumstances, in addition to ensuring there is sufficient capacity to provide for an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate if they are subject to the Mental Capacity Act or, an Independent Mental Health Advocate if they are subject to the 2007 Mental Health Act.

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Appendices West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-18

Background Papers None