

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee

25 July 2017

Report of the Assistant Director - Adult Social Care

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Annual Assurance Report

Summary

1. This report accompanies the York Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2016-2017 and outlines arrangements in place to ensure that City of York Council discharges its responsibilities to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect, whilst maintaining their independence and well-being.
2. The Committee is asked to accept assurance that arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.
3. The Care Act requires that each local authority must:
 - Make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom.
 - Set up a Safeguarding Adults Board.
 - Arrange, where appropriate, for an independent advocate to represent and support an adult who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) where the adult has 'substantial difficulty' in being involved in the process and where there is no other suitable person to represent and support them.
 - Co-operate with each of its relevant partners in order to protect the adult. In their turn each relevant partner must also co-operate with the local authority.

4. Safeguarding duties under the Care Act apply to an adult who:
 - has need for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
 - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
 - as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

5. The six key principles contained within the care act which underpin all safeguarding work are:
 - Empowerment – “I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens”.
 - Prevention – “I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help”.
 - Proportionality – “I am sure that the professionals will work for my best interest, as I see them and will only get involved as much as needed”.
 - Protection – “I get help and support to report abuse. I get help to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want and to which I am able”.
 - Partnership – “I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together to get the best result for me”.
 - Accountability – “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life”.

Analysis

Key achievements for York Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) 2016-2017.

6. 2016/2017 has been a year of significant progress for the partnership. Building on previous years work to implement Care Act requirements, this year has seen achievements in the roll out of 'making safeguarding personal' (MSP), learning lessons from practice, workforce development and improving policy and guidance.
7. CYC has led the MSP approach across the partnership. As part of the quality and performance work of the board, cases across partners are being audited against MSP standards and the learning used to improve practice. CYC have rolled out a revised training offer to all partners across the city for Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act. CYC are developing their approach to measuring the impact of training through the use of an impact assessment tool. CYC continue to chair the training sub-group and provide well regarded training across the statutory community and voluntary sector.
8. Working with other Safeguarding Adult Boards across North and West Yorkshire, SAB partners have produced a revised safeguarding adults policy to reflect MSP principles. This is expected to become operational in September following final consultation. CYC are working to complete more detailed procedures between North Yorkshire SAB and York SAB to provide a consistent approach across the county and city.
9. During 2016-2017 it has not been necessary to carry out a Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The lessons learned sub-group is now well established and has a rolling programme of cases it oversees to ensure that lessons are learned by partners in cases which do not meet a SAR threshold but which have the potential to inform and improve services and practice.
10. All partners continue to complete self assurance framework. In 2016/2017 this practice has developed to include peer reviewing of the self assurance framework.
11. The approach to deprivation of liberty safeguards has been improved with the recruitment by CYC of dedicated Best Interest Assessors (BIA), the establishment of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) risk based approach to prioritising assessments of those potentially deprived of their liberty and further training of CYC staff as BIAs.
12. Work continues on the York SAB website. This was substantially overhauled at the start of the period and work continues to build its content to inform public and professionals and prevent abuse and neglect.

CYC Performance

13. In 2016-17 City of York Council received a total of 1215 Safeguarding Concerns. This figure is an increase from of 104 Safeguarding Concerns in the previous year.
14. All Concerns raised with City of York Council are scrutinised to see if they meet the Care Act's conditions for a Section 42 enquiry, and to consider our duties under the Wellbeing Principle (Section 1 of the Care Act) to offer support, advice and information to reduce the risk for the person in question and prevent further harm.

Where the council is unable to resolve the concerns at this stage, further enquiries may take place, either under the auspices of S42 or using 'other' enquiry mechanisms as appropriate. The number of referrals progressed to S42 enquiry in 2016/2017 was 454 a reduction of 14 compared to the previous year.

15. A new national MSP measure was introduced in quarter 4 of the year. This is designed to move away from measuring whether risk was reduced to whether the person who is being safeguarded had their personal outcomes met. The percentage of people who were asked and expressed an opinion about personal outcomes was 69% of those subject to safeguarding procedures. Of those 61% had their outcomes fully met, 30% had them partially met and 9% did not achieve their outcomes.

The full narrative on performance is contained within the annual report.

Peer Challenge

16. In January 2017 CYC requested a peer challenge of its approach to safeguarding adults using Local Government Association methodology.

The peer challenge found good evidence of personalised approaches, commenting that "Making Safeguarding Personal" ran through York's social care practice like a stick of rock. York's front line staff were described as 'amazing!' and recognised as highly committed.

The peer team found The Safeguarding Board understand the importance of talking through a case, and this demonstrates a learning organisation from the bottom up and top down.

The Peer challenge identified a number of areas where CYC could continue to improve how it meets the needs of adults with care and support needs. The action plan for this has previously been to this committee and a report of the adult 'Future Focus' programme will come to a future meeting to update on further progress.

Strategic Plan

17. The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2016-2019 continues to be implemented to the expected timetable. Details of the 2016/2017 actions are contained within the annual report which shows good progress on actions complete or in progress.

Council Plan

18. The proposals within this report relate to the Council Plan priority to focus on frontline services, ensuring all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities

Implications

Financial

19. There are no financial implications to this report. Safeguarding activity is undertaken within agreed budgets.

Human Resources (HR)

20. There are no HR implications.

Equalities

21. Safeguarding activity is important to all protected communities of interest. The performance report indicates a relatively high number of referrals.

Legal

22. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

23. All of the issues and actions relating to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults contribute to the Safer Communities agenda. Specifically Safeguarding has strong links with the Domestic Violence agenda and to Hate Crime.

Information Technology (IT)

24. There are no IT issues relating to this report.

Property

25. There are no property issues relating to this report.

Risk Management

26. The recommendations within this report do not present any risks which need to be monitored.

Recommendations

1. The Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee note the SAB annual report and are assured that arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.
2. The Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee receive further updates on an annual basis.

Reason: To assure the Committee arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 – York Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2016-2017

Abbreviations

ADASS – Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

BIA – Best Interest Assessor

CYC – City of York Council

MSP – Making Safeguarding Personal

SAB – Safeguarding Adults Board

SAR – Safeguarding Adults Review