

Report of the Assistant Director Adult Social Care

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Annual Assurance

Summary

1. This report 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. Health Overview and Scrutiny are 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

6. York Safeguarding Adults Board, (SAB) continues to have a strong focus on partnership working between the following twelve member organisations
- City of York Council
 - North Yorkshire Police
 - Vale of York CCG
 - York Hospital NHS Foundation Teaching Trust
 - Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
 - NHS England

- Stockton Hall Hospital
- The Retreat Hospital
- The Independent Care Group
- York CVS
- Healthwatch York

7. York SAB vision is that we will do our best to ensure that agencies supporting adults who are at risk or in vulnerable situations, and the wider community, can by successfully working together:

- Ensure that Safeguarding is Everybody's business
- Develop a Culture that does not and will not tolerate abuse
- Raise awareness of abuse
- Prevent abuse from happening wherever possible.

Where abuse does happen, the SAB and its partners support and safeguard the rights of people who are harmed to; stop the abuse happening, access services they need including advocacy and post-abuse support, have improved access to justice and have the outcome which is right for them and their particular circumstances.

8. The SAB is independently chaired. Tim Madgwick, former Deputy Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police was appointed as the new independent Chair in January 2019 following the resignation of Kevin McAleese. The board continues to meet four times yearly, overseeing a comprehensive work programme. The board has recently reviewed its structure to take forward this work and has agreed a substructure of a Delivery Group and a Lessons Learned & Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
9. A recommendation to agree The SAB 2019 annual report will go to the December 2019 Board, describing the progress against the strategic plan. The report will be published following the December board and made available to this committee.

Key achievements 2018/19

10. 2018/19 has been a year of significant progress for the partnership, building on the previous year's work to further embed the new Safeguarding Adults Policy and procedures. The completion of the 2018-19 SAB management plan has informed the development of the 2019/20 SAB Business Plan.

Actions completed include:

- The start of a new initiative by Healthwatch to offer a conversation to people who have been through a safeguarding enquiry process, in order to elicit feedback about their personal experience of the process.
 - A re-structuring of the local authority's DoLS team and establishing of a multi-agency Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) Working Group to scope, prepare for and implement LPS.
 - A review of the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) procedure.
11. The Learning and Review subgroup of the Board has looked at the implications for York of a number of SARs from other areas, covering issues such as consent and coercive control and links between mental health problems and financial abuse.
 12. 2019 has seen the continued collaboration between Public Health, the Workforce Development Unit and the SAB to facilitate two training programmes to address suicide prevention, Assist and Safe-Talk.
 13. A S44 Panel has been established to consider all potential Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). The Panel acts as a triage for cases being referred to the Learning and Review Group. It comprises representatives from Adult Social Care, North Yorkshire Police and Vale of York CCG.
 14. Work is ongoing to develop a new corporate Safeguarding Policy within the council. This is aimed at supporting both officers and elected members to improve their safeguarding knowledge and skills, in line with national guidance.

CYC Safeguarding Adults Collection Performance

15. In 2018-19 City of York Council received a total of 1,172 Safeguarding Concerns. This figure represents an 11% increase from the 1,052 Safeguarding Concerns that it received in the previous year.
16. 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 2018-19 was 458, an increase of 84 from the 374 progressed in 2017-18. Adults in York were, in 2017-18, less likely to be the subject of a S42 enquiry than elsewhere (188 per 100,000 population compared with 245 per 100,000 population nationally), but whether this remains the case, particularly with the increase reported in 2018-19, will only become apparent when national Safeguarding statistics are published later in the Autumn.

17. The National Safeguarding Adults Collection has a making safeguarding personal indicator which measures if the person who is being safeguarded had their personal outcomes met. Of people who were asked about the outcome of their safeguarding enquiry in York during 2018-19, 72% expressed an opinion about their outcome, an increase from the 60% expressing an opinion during 2017-18. Of those, 65% had their outcomes fully achieved, 30% had them partially achieved and 4% said their outcomes were not achieved, which are broadly similar to the percentages reported during 2017-18.
18. The demographics of clients involved in York's completed safeguarding cases remains broadly similar to that found in 2017-18. There was an increase in the proportion of cases that dealt with concerns from males (41% in 2018-19 compared with 36% in 2017-18), and two-thirds of cases involve those over the age of 65. Adults at risk mainly have the support of advocates (91% of them did in 2018-19). There was little change in the proportion of enquiries that concluded that risks are removed (36% in 2017-18 and 2018-19) or reduced (62% in 2018-19 compared with 61% in 2017-18). The most common type of concern investigated was of "Neglect" – almost a third of all cases. Someone's own home was most likely to be the setting for a concern to take place (36% of all completed cases in 2018-19, an increase from 32% in 2017-18). Service providers were most likely to be investigated, with 56% of all completed cases involving them in 2018-19, but there was an increase in the proportion of completed enquiries where the source of concern was known to the individual (41% in 2018-19 compared with 36% in 2017-18).

Strategic Plan

19. The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2016-2019 continues to be implemented to the expected timetable. The following actions have been

agreed as part of the 2018-19 management plan in order to make progress towards the three year strategic plan.

- Reporting safeguarding website usage to SAB.
- Widely circulating the 'Keep Safe Guide' to key public outlets
- Establishing a safeguarding service user forum.
- Taking and considering evidence from partners on the implementation of Making Safeguarding Personal.
- Ensuring partners report to their governing body on an annual basis summarising their safeguarding activity.
- Engaging the safeguarding team with wider preventative initiatives across the city.
- Receiving the risk register update at every SAB meeting.
- Monitor the use of advocates and waiting times for deprivation of liberty safeguards assessments.
- Receive reports on case file audits on best interest decisions and least restrictive interventions.
- Continue to work with regional partners on the implementation of multi agency procedures.

20. The SAB are developing a new strategic plan to take us from 2019 to 2022. The focus of this plan is enable more personalised safeguarding processes, create better awareness and responses to safeguarding concerns, improve community capacity to safeguard adults at risk and create a more efficient, proportionate, comprehensive and accessible safeguarding services. This new strategy will be published following its agreement by the SAB and made available to this committee.

Council Plan

21. 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

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

Human Resources (HR)

23. There are no HR implications.

Equalities

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

Legal

25. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

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

Information Technology (IT)

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

Property

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

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee note this report and are assured that arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.

Recommendation 2

The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee receive the SAB annual report following its publication

Recommendation 3

The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee receive updates to this report on an annual basis.

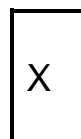
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**Report
Approved**



Date 22.8.19

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All ✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

CYC - City of York Council

CVS - Community Voluntary Service

DoLS – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

LPS - Liberty Protection Standard

S42- The Care Act 2014 (Section 42) 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.

SAB – Safeguarding Adults Board

SAR- Safeguarding Adult Review