

Adult Social Care Committee

Item No:

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| Report title: | Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17 |
| Date of meeting: | 9 October 2017 |
| Responsible Chief Officer: | James Bullion, Executive Director of Adult Social Services |

Strategic impact

The annual report at Appendix A summarises the work of the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) during 2016-17.

It illustrates the delivery by the multi-agency partnership of the statutory requirements for safeguarding adults as set out in the Care Act.

The local authority along with the police and health commission form the three statutory partners for safeguarding adults, with the local authority holding lead responsibility.

Publication of an annual report is a statutory requirement (14.136 Care Act Guidance 2016).

Executive summary

The purpose of Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:

- a) assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
- b) assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- c) working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- d) ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- e) assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area

The NSAB leads adult safeguarding arrangements across Norfolk and oversees and coordinates the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. This requires the NSAB 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. It also concerns itself with a range of issues which can contribute to the wellbeing of its community and the prevention of abuse and neglect, such as:

- a) the safety of people who use services in local health settings, including mental health
- b) the safety of adults with care and support needs living in social housing
- c) effective interventions with adults who self-neglect, for whatever reason
- d) the quality of local care and support services
- e) the effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders
- f) making connections between adult safeguarding and domestic abuse

The Care Act 2014 introduced a legal requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards to complete an annual report once a year, covering its activities. A copy is required to be sent to the chief executive and leader of the local authority, the police and crime commissioner, the chief constable and the local Healthwatch.

Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Constabulary and the NHS (Clinical Commissioning Groups) are statutory partners on NSAB. The board has a wider membership covering a range of agencies active in safeguarding adults in the county. These include health provider organisations from both acute and community settings, Norfolk Fire and Rescue, Healthwatch, probation, representatives of the voluntary and independent sectors, prisons, CQC, district councils and the police and crime commissioner's office.

Key findings from the reporting period are:

The number of safeguarding referrals has decreased for the last two years from 2,945 to 1,880. This represents a decrease of 36%. We believe the number of documented referrals has fallen because of the way very low level incidents are recorded, which changed following the Care Act 2014 and guidance from national safeguarding leads.

Over half (56%) of safeguarding enquiries were initiated by organisations who provide social services care and support. There were slight increases in the proportion of referrals from health services, police and housing, suggesting improved partnership working, with a decrease in referrals from a family member or friend.

More than 50% of safeguarding enquiries were found on the balance of probability to be fully substantiated. A further 15% of cases were found to be partially substantiated. There was a decrease of 23% from last year in the proportion of cases that were not substantiated. This is thought to be due at least in part to a number of referrals received from agencies or the public which are single view or perception-based, or with very limited information or evidence. The Care Act requires a more robust investigation/checking process and so these cases need to be investigated but frequently result in an unsubstantiated outcome. There was an increase of 9% in the proportion of cases where, on investigation, no abuse was identified.

Key highlights for the NSAB during 2016/17 were:

- a) a successful safeguarding awareness-raising week in September 2016
- b) the launch of the board's Self-Neglect and Hoarding Strategy in September 2016
- c) two safeguarding adults' partnership events in September and November 2016, attended by nearly 400 people
- d) the publication of Norfolk's second safeguarding adults review (SAR) in December 2016
- e) the launch of the NSAB Twitter account in March 2017
- f) the development and publication of a model safeguarding adults policy document to support organisations and partners (August 2016), multi-agency guidance on allegations against a person in a position of trust (November 2016), a best practice factsheet on Making Safeguarding Personal (January 2017) and Complex Case guidance (March 2017)

One safeguarding adults review was published during the reporting period and the findings and learning are covered in the full report.

The full report can be accessed at www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/safeguarding-adults-review/sar-mrs-bb-published/

The most significant problem for NSAB remains capacity to deal with all the work required to improve safeguarding for adults in Norfolk. This will be the subject of discussions throughout this coming year.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to

- a) agree the content of the report
- b) share this report with partner organisations with whom they have contact and actively encourage their involvement with NSAB's work
- c) ensure all organisations in their constituency with whom they have contact have safeguarding adult promotional material

(Please contact Andrea Smith (01603 223085) andrea.smith@norfolk.gov.uk for promotional material)

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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