



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
26 NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) 2012-13 and consider any points they wish to draw to the attention of the Cabinet.
2. The report is joint with the Safeguarding Children Board. This is the first time the County Council has produced a combined report and follows the decision taken in January 2012 to closely align the work of the two Boards.
3. The Annual Report, attached as Appendix A, sets out the work that has been undertaken in 2012/13, to highlight the achievements and progress made against the Business Plan for the year, to outline other activities that have flowed from national and local developments within the year and to identify the remaining challenges and work priorities for the future.
4. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2012/13 on service quality and effectiveness and on outcomes for children, young people and adults in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set in the Business Plans 2012/13 and other statutory functions that the Safeguarding Children Board, in particular, must undertake.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The last 12 months has witnessed some significant change in the way the Board operates and for the agencies that constitute the Boards. Rutland County Council has experienced an Ofsted inspection of its child protection arrangements. The health sector has experienced significant change in its structures and organisational arrangements culminating in the creation of the local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS England Area Team from April 2013. The first Police and Crime Commissioner was also elected in November 2012.
6. Towards the very end of the year the Department for Education published the new Working Together arrangements and it is anticipated that SABs will become statutory bodies in the early part of 2014. This report presents a considerable range of success and achievement, however, outcomes from internal review processes,

performance assessment undertaken through the Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework also indicate the need for further improvement. These will be addressed in the new three year Business Plan (attached as Appendix B) which is also presented as a joint plan covering both children and adult services.

Background

7. Formal national guidance on arrangements for protecting vulnerable adults from abuse is currently set out in No Secrets (Department of Health, 2000) and the Association of Directors of Social Services (now ADASS) national framework of 11 Standards for good practice, which was published in 2005. This guidance provides a clear message that the responsibility for protecting vulnerable adults is one that is led by the local authority and shared across the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors, facilitated by the creation of a: 'framework for action within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy and a consistent and effective response to any circumstances giving ground for concern or formal complaints or expressions of anxiety.' The guidance further states that the primary aim should always be to '... prevent abuse where possible.'
8. The White Paper 'Caring for our Future: Reforming Care and Support', confirmed earlier intentions to legislate and ensure that all agencies work together at a local level to prevent abuse. As now under best practice guidance, local authorities will have responsibility for convening a statutory SAB, with core membership from the police and NHS organisations. These partners should decide which other key local organisations should be invited to join the Board. Member agencies should work collaboratively with the community, including local Healthwatch, to publish a strategic plan setting out priorities and outcomes. The Board should publish an annual report on the exercise of its functions and its success in achieving its strategic plan and outcomes.
9. The ADASS Standard 1.25 for Safeguarding Adults states that 'an annual review by the partnership of progress on its strategic plan using this national framework, and an Annual Report is produced'. This report aims to address these requirements by outlining what has been done and assessing how well it has been done for the year ending 31 March 2013.
10. Section 4.1 sets out the structure of local safeguarding boards, 4.3 gives membership details and sections 5, 6 and 7 give progress against the current priorities.
11. National legislation and policy changes were expected to take place in both the children and adult safeguarding arenas during this year. The updated version of Working Together to Safeguard Children was expected to be released in the autumn of 2012. However it was not published until 22 March 2013 to take effect from 15 April 2013. This had the effect of delaying policy and procedural decision-making which was postponed until the new guidance was released.
12. Similarly, Adult Safeguarding initiatives have been hampered by the delay of the Care Bill which was expected to be given mandate during this financial year but has currently no fixed date. The Care Bill is planned to reform the law relating to care and support for adults and the law relating to support for carers, to make provision

about safeguarding adults from abuse or neglect, to make provision about care standards, and to reform the care funding system. Implementation is expected from April 2015.

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

13. The role of the Leicestershire and Rutland SAB is to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults and to ensure that local agencies co-operate and work well to achieve this.

SAB priorities

14. The Board provides strategic leadership and challenge for all the organisations across Leicestershire and Rutland that have responsibilities to safeguard adults from abuse. In 2012, the SAB set out the following priorities in its business plan as a focus until 2015:
- Improve the effectiveness of the SAB;
 - Ensure the operational effectiveness of the Safeguarding Adults partner agencies;
 - Quality Assurance and Performance;
 - Communication and Engagement - Develop a Communication and Engagement Strategy;
 - Family and Community – Strengthen Multi Agency Working to prevent harm and abuse (a joint priority with Safeguarding Children Board).
15. The achievements secured by the SAB during 2012/13 have taken place at a time of significant change at both national and local levels. The Government is now considering placing adult safeguarding boards on a statutory basis. In part this is a response to a number of high profile cases such as Winterbourne View that have been the subject of intense media focus.
16. Safeguarding activity for 2012/13 shows a general increase in safeguarding adults' referrals.

Key points

17. Some of the key points are as follows:
- There were a total of 1,341 referrals (leading to investigation) received by the Adults and Communities Department between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013. Compared to 2011/12 this is a 28% increase.
 - For 842 referrals (63%) the location of alleged abuse was in a residential or nursing care home, whilst for 461 referrals (34%) the location of alleged abuse was in the community. There were 38 referrals (3%) where location of abuse was not recorded.
 - This shows that the proportion of referrals in the community is rising. Since 2011/12, the number of community referrals has risen by 71% whilst the number of residential referrals has risen by 10%. However, residential referrals rose again significantly in the final quarter of 2012-13 and early indications are that this trend is continuing into the current year.

- Despite the efforts to improve the quality of residential care there are still increasing numbers of safeguarding referrals arising from unacceptably poor standards of care relating to issues such as nutrition, administration of medication, moving and handling and falls.
- The most significant change in terms of referral profiles relates to the category of abuse. There has been an increase in referrals related to neglect from 31% to 38% with a corresponding decline in referrals related to physical abuse from 43% to 34%.

Timetable for Decisions

18. The SAB Annual Report 2012/13 will be presented to the Cabinet for information on 13 December 2013.

Resource Implications

19. The work of the SAB is funded by multiagency contributions as set out in section 4.2 of the Annual Report.

Background Papers

- Working Together to Safeguarding Children: March 2013 - <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/w/working%20together.pdf>
- No Secrets: guidance on protecting vulnerable adults in care: March 2000 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-secrets-guidance-on-protecting-vulnerable-adults-in-care>
- Safeguarding Adults - A National Framework of Standards for good practice and outcomes in adult protection work: October 2005 <http://www.adass.org.uk/images/stories/Publications/Guidance/safeguarding.pdf>
- Caring For Our Future: reforming care and support: July 2012 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/caring-for-our-future-reforming-care-and-support>
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2010 - <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/dcsf-00305-2010>
- 'Care Bill', Department of Health: 10 May 2013 – http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0001/lbill_2013-20140001_en_1.htm

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

- Appendix A – Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2012/13
- Appendix B – Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards Business Plan 2013-16

Relevant Impact Assessments**Equal Opportunities implications**

20. Safeguarding is everybody's business and the multi-agency approach seeks to ensure that all vulnerable people are safeguarded from potential abuse.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

21. At local level most agencies have been experiencing significant change and working within a challenging financial climate. The SAB has, for example, been engaged in major changes in the Health sector and the transition to the new CCG arrangements that came into place in April 2013. Despite the rapidly changing environment within which we are working, partners on the Board have retained their firm commitment to the safeguarding agenda and to doing everything possible to prevent adults suffering abuse and neglect. The importance of ensuring that lessons learned from past cases are reflected in service development and delivery is recognised by all the partners.

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