

Cabinet

Meeting to be held on 14 July 2016

Report of the Interim Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board

Electoral Divisions affected: All

Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Victoria Gibson, (01772) 538352, LSCB/LSAB Business Manager

victoria.gibson@lancashire.gov.uk

Jane Booth, Interim Independent Chair LSAB

jane.booth@btinternet.com

Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council is a prominent member agency of Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB). This report sets out the Draft Annual Report of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board for 2015-16. The report is being presented prior to publication.

The report is attached as an Appendix. The main body of the report has been written by the previous Chair of the Board, who resigned earlier in 2016 and an Interim Independent Chair has been in place since March 2016.

The report draws attention to the impact of changes in legislation which have put the Board on a statutory footing; it provides a brief local context and information about the Board's priorities in 2015-16, together with analysis of data, it reports on coordination and collaboration between services and draws conclusions re adult safeguarding. The report concludes with a review of news during the year which highlights issues in safeguarding.

What is clear from the report is that adult safeguarding is challenging. Adult vulnerability is complex. The demographic profile of the community will continue include increasing numbers of people who fall into service user groups more vulnerable to risk of abuse or neglect (including self-neglect) because of their health or social care needs or issues of mental capacity, abuse and neglect. The challenge will be, at a time of reducing resources, making a proportionate response and delivering a personalised service.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to consider the content of the Annual Report and identify any areas it may wish to comment on and any action it may wish to take.

Background and Advice

Since April 2015 the LSAB has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by its members and partner agencies to safeguard adults in Lancashire. This Annual Report reflects on the work undertaken in this regard in Lancashire for the 2015-16 financial year. The report is attached at Appendix 'A' for information. The Lancashire Board has an Independent Chair who has the responsibility, amongst others, to promote good practice and collaborative working. The Chair of the Board is accountable to the Council's Chief Executive who is, in turn, responsible for ensuring its effectiveness.

Protocols are in place which establish the relationship between the LSAB, the health economy, Police and other partners. The Director of Adult Services is a member of the LSAB, as is the Lead Member.

The report draws the following conclusions:

Lancashire's Safeguarding Adults Board has benefitted from the learning arising from members' association with such pan-Lancashire and national activities as work concerning the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Prevent, the Chair's North West network and the English network of Safeguarding Adult Board Chairs.

Rearranging tasks into more integrated processes has been critical during 2015-16 in Lancashire. Feedback concerning the provision of consistent administrative support from the Business Unit (since September 2015) has made a significant and positive difference to the work of the Board and its subgroups. The Action Monitoring Log has sharpened the distinction between the Board's expectations and the actions of individuals.

The previous Chair expressed disappointment that agencies have required prompts to share information about the outcomes they are achieving with, and on behalf of, adults at risk. A further concern was the decision not to commission a Safeguarding Adult Review following the death of Continuing Health Care funded patient in a nursing home. New arrangements for review of cases and decision making about such reviews have now been developed.

The level of referrals is impacting on the ability of social care staff to manage the associated enquiries and case work. Necessarily there is a dependency on providers to undertake a greater volume of enquiries which may presents risks in terms of oversight and potential for challenge regarding objectivity.

Critically, this report is not able to provide information about Safeguarding Adult Reviews – none were undertaken during 2015-16. The Chair of the sub group stepped down during 2015 and did not forward any information to the Board.

Although the County is large, the case for hosting three leadership groups is becoming less credible, particularly since attendance at these is reported as uneven and diminishing. Lancashire's investment in place-based commissioning and initiatives to improve neighbourhoods and public spaces is being led by Public Health.

Website development is essential, not least in terms of prompting all agencies to respond to events which feature in the media in Lancashire and nationally. This is not a new concern. The annual report of 2014-15 noted that, *a website that is tuned into the media is likely to tell a better story and speak in a language that the public can follow instead of processes, acronyms and claims about lessons learned, for example. Ensuring that Lancashire's Safeguarding Adults website reflects and enlarges on information featuring in the local press, region and national news broadcasts should begin with a consideration of what is going to better inform the public and professionals.* Development of a more effective web-site will be progressed in the coming year.

Consultations

The LSAB has consulted with all partner organisations in the preparation for the Annual Report.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

There are no additional direct implications for finance or human resource management further to those already provided by LCC and partner agencies for LSAB purposes.

Risk management

All partner agencies need to be fully engaged with services and support to safeguard adults in order that they are happy, healthy and safe from harm.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Lancashire Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2014/15	July 2106	Victoria Gibson/01772 538352

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A