

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 April 2022

Report of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Brief Summary

This report is being presented to Cabinet, prior to publication of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2020-21.

The draft Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2020-21 is set out at Appendix 'A'.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report.
- (ii) Comment on any key issues and consider the implications of these in the conduct of council business.

Detail

The Care Act 2014 requires that, in every Local Authority administrative area, there must be a Safeguarding Adults Board. Key local agencies are represented on the Board at a senior level, but the Board has an Independent Chair.

The Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to produce and publish an Annual Report which reflects on safeguarding practice and issues in the area. The draft Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2020-21, which covers the period from April 2020 to the end of March 2021, is set out at Appendix 'A'. The Annual Report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adults Board in Lancashire over the last year.

During this reporting period, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the way in which many agencies who are part of the Safeguarding Adults Board have worked. The Department of Health acknowledged this last year and, to alleviate additional pressures associated with producing the report, permitted the Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce condensed reports during this reporting period. Lancashire Safeguarding Partners felt it was important to have an Annual Report and acknowledge the work that had been undertaken.

Agencies that are responsible for safeguarding and protecting our most vulnerable adults have been able to maintain their services, and our thoughts and gratitude are with those professionals that have worked on the front line.

Key achievements identified in the report include raising Domestic Abuse Awareness during the Covid-19 pandemic and specific operations by Lancashire Constabulary aimed at preventing adult abuse: Operation Provide, Operation Jackal and Operation Wolf. There has been an ongoing commitment to improve the multi-agency response to high-risk Domestic Abuse. Work has been undertaken with regard to Trauma Informed Approach which has been incorporated into Lancashire Constabulary Learning and Development and media campaigns through the Lancashire Resilience Forum and Pan-Lancashire multi-agency networks e.g. No Excuse for Abuse; Fraud and Vulnerable Adults with Action Fraud.

The 8 Clinical Commissioning Groups across the Lancashire and South Cumbria footprint were awarded the Health Service Journal award for NHS Safeguarding Initiative, in recognition of the work undertaken to develop a new safeguarding model. The approach has created a single voice for Health Partners in key issues and has produced stronger governance arrangements. The Covid-19 response has been a major challenge for all of the Health and Social Care services. Health Partners have focused on supporting and enabling a multi-agency response to many of the challenges this has created for our vulnerable population. This has included reviewing the system assurance models, adopting a more robust reactive safeguarding offer, and working closely with Local Authority Partners on patient safety issues. Specifically, support into care homes and the wider regulated care market and support in outbreak management has been supported by the Clinical Commissioning Groups Safeguarding teams. There has been extensive work around the Mental Capacity Act, which has included the development of Mental Capacity Act grab sheets and guidance for vaccinations, as well as significant work in preparing for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards. There is now an NHS Health Learning Forum which is focussed on new ways of embedding learning, adopting a positive risk management approach, and recognising the need to learn from positive practice as well as from incidents and reviews.

For Lancashire County Council, a whole system safeguarding redesign project resulted in a comprehensive proposal for a new model to providing a 'One Service' safeguarding approach, removing functional and geographical barriers to improve service delivery. During the Covid-19 pandemic, safeguarding alerts in respect of domestic abuse increased and the safeguarding service directed increased resources to ensure that risk was mitigated. From late 2019 and throughout 2020, care homes in Lancashire who were experiencing the most extreme difficulties arising from the pandemic were supported 7 days a week, sometimes with twice daily meetings, using a multi-disciplinary approach with health and social care professionals coming together to support Providers. This included infection prevention and control advice, and practical assistance to respond to their challenging, often changing needs and circumstances. In addition, supply staff were recruited from the Lancashire Temporary Staffing Agency to cover gaps in care home rotas so that the needs of residents continued to be met.

Adult Services in Lancashire, supported by the county council have continued to work hard to protect and support people. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the agencies that form the Lancashire Resilience Forum ensured that there was an efficient system of maintaining contact with the elderly and 'shielded' residents, and an efficient system to ensure food deliveries were made to those that needed them.

All statutory work of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board continued during the pandemic, with Board meetings being held virtually and Safeguarding Adult Reviews continuing to be undertaken. The Joint Partnership Business Unit has continued to operate during the pandemic, to ensure the functions of the Board have been fulfilled.

The Adult Executive Board, comprising of Senior Executive Leads from Statutory Partners has continued to meet. The Board is chaired by Mr Stephen Ashley and includes the three Safeguarding Adults Boards across Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.

Consultations

All Board Partner Agencies have been consulted during the preparation of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21. The report reflects comments made and includes information directly provided by the Agencies. The Annual Report is currently in draft form and is currently out for consultation and feedback from Agencies.

Implications:

While there is evidence of good practice, significant challenges remain in ensuring services that provide safeguards for vulnerable adults are sufficiently resourced to meet demand on a timely basis.

Risk management

The risks are as set out in the report and monitored by the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Boards.

Legal

Failure to meet the statutory requirements in the provision of services could increase the risk of harm. It would also impact on the reputation of the council and partner agencies.

Equality and Cohesion

Any deficits in service are likely to impact more significantly on those living in areas of high deprivation.

Financial

The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board's Joint Partnership Business Unit and activity is financed from multi-agency contributions. For the year 2020/21, support for the Board is structured to fall within available resources.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A