

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 11 July 2024

Report of the Executive Director of Adult Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contacts for further information:

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Brief Summary

The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2023/24 provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adults Board in Lancashire over the last year.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Consider the contents of the report.
- (ii) Comment on any key issues and consider the implications of these in the conduct of council business.
- (iii) Support publication of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2023/24.

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 Board is required to produce and publish an Annual Report which reflects on safeguarding practice and issues in the area. The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24 is set out at Appendix 'A' and will be published on the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board website following consideration by Cabinet.

The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24 provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adults Board in Lancashire over the last year.

The report contains an overview by Stephen Chapman as Independent Chair for Lancashire, which reflects a period of change for the Board. The report reflects challenges faced across the partnership in 2023/24, at a time when demand increased, and agencies continued to do their very best for the residents of Lancashire.

Within the report is evidence of Lancashire's commitment to keeping people safe, and free from abuse and neglect across the County. Key partners including the local authority, Lancashire Constabulary and the Integrated Care Board (health) have all provided information on activity in their organisations, and how they have supported the priorities of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Key achievements identified from partners in the report include a number of commissioned projects supporting practice improvements on Self Neglect, resident safety in care settings and how partners listen to vulnerable adults in Lancashire through its Safeguarding Voices work.

The report supports activity completed in the first year of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan (2023-2026) and clear priorities have been set up to 2026 with identified outcomes for the partnership.

Information regarding safeguarding activity in the local authority and an overview of the published Safeguarding Adult Reviews is also included. Key themes from notifications received this year continue to be around self-neglect; mental capacity assessments; mental health; resident harm and care needs.

Sub-Group activity has undergone changes during this year following an effectiveness review and is focused on clear priorities in two Lancashire based Sub-Groups and a pan-Lancashire Sub-Group looking at the Safeguarding Adult Review process. This has included development work on the website, communications, learning, assurance, data development, and work to improve the management of safeguarding notifications.

Resources to support the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board went through a restructure in late 2023, and a new business unit was established from January 2024. This ensures that support is focused in each place based area, and finance



available to support activity to support safeguarding adults is now clearly defined and managed through the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification, it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24.

Consultations

All Board Partner Agencies have been consulted during the preparation of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24. The report reflects comments made and includes information directly provided by the agencies.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

The report sets out the development of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan (2023-2026), which is to be reviewed annually, and reported through future annual reports covering the safeguarding priorities for residents in Lancashire, including (but not exclusive to):

- Focused learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- Compliance with Statutory Duties
- User and carer engagement
- Raising awareness in communities
- Board operation
- Prevention
- To identify good practice and areas for improvement
- Transitions - children to adults

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. Inspection of the constituent member organisations will look at statutory compliance of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board and engagement with it and between partners.

Financial

The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board's Joint Partnership Business Unit and activity is financed from multi-agency contributions. For the year 2023/24, support for the Board is structured to fall within available resources.



Risk management

This report reflects the activity of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board for 2023/24. Areas of improvement have been identified for activity in 2024/25. Future annual reports will be focused on providing evidence and progress on strategic aims by all partner organisations and the Safeguarding Adults Board. The risks are set out in the report and monitored by the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Equality and Cohesion

All partners in the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board have responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and are all required to give "due regard" to the three general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty which are to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other conduct which is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity for groups with protected characteristics including increasing their participation in public life.
- Fostering good relations between groups who share protected characteristics and those who do not share them.

As the work of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board supports activities associated with the Care Act, it is likely to disproportionately impact those with the age and disability protected characteristics but will also impact people with other protected characteristics. It is anticipated that learning identified in the Annual Report and the actions which flow from this should have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics.

Any deficits in service are likely to impact more significantly on those living in areas of high deprivation. The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board conducts impact assessments when it invokes new or reviews existing policies, and changes to delivery impacts are assessed on multi-agency basis with statutory partners.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

