

## **Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16**

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### **Appendix 'A' refers**

#### **Executive Summary**

This report sets out the Annual Report of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board (LASB) for 2015-16.

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 to include increasing numbers of people who fall into service user groups that are 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 Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended 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 appended to the end of this report 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 business support and coordination 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 a 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 to Adult Social Care Services 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 .....*". Development of a more effective web-site is being progressed and will be published over the coming months.

### **List of Background Papers**

LSAB Annual Report 2015/16, published September 2016 as attached at Appendix A.

This report should be no more than **two** pages in total but may provide links to more detailed information and papers.