

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY - PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

22 November 2017

SAFEGUARDING SUB GROUP

1. Purpose of the Report

To update the People Improvement and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the safeguarding sub-group.

2. Information

The People Improvement and Scrutiny Committee agreed in 2013 to have a sub-group on safeguarding and for this to be a standing item. The sub-group was re-confirmed in July 2017 following the change of administration and Members were appointed. This reflects the importance Members place on safeguarding and the desire to provide effect challenge and support to Cabinet, officers and partners.

The sub-group scrutinises the work of the Authority against the priorities as laid out in the Council Plan and work of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards.

The sub-group has met twice in the last two months. Members have received a briefing on the recent Serious Case Review (ADS14) from officers in Children Services. Members learnt about the response the authority has made to the recommendations of the review, and the proactive work which has been undertaken through an action plan. Members also were briefed on adult safeguarding and the important work of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adult Board.

Further work will be undertaken by the sub-group, including updates on child sexual exploitation. The meeting notes are in appendix one.

3. Considerations (to be specified individually where appropriate)

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Officer's Recommendations

To note the work undertaken by the safeguarding sub group.

Councillor Judith Twigg

Chairman – Improvement and Scrutiny Committee People

I & S – People Committee, Safeguarding Sub Group

Meeting Notes 11/10/2017

Present:

- Cllr's Twigg, Fox, Chilton, Illiffe and Frudd
- David Rose (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer)
- Amanda Ratcliffe (Children's Services)
- Jane Lakin (Children's Services)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Charles.

2. Serious Case Review (ADS14)

Members noted the findings and action plan from the Serious Case Review ADS14 and the recommendations from the review report (which was circulated and provides more detail):

Action Plan recommendations and learnings:

- The work from the action plan has been in existence since 2014, therefore a lot of the recommendations are being implemented.
- A lot of the RAG ratings are positive, therefore.
- National and local learnings have also helped to develop the work on the recommendations.

Parents assessments:

- One of the learnings is personality disorders of the parents were not explored.
- Now it is a requirement to use the approach 'Think Family'.
- There is revised guidance for drug testing, now shown to be in a risk assessment.
- Another issue was CAMHS didn't link the adult to the child. This is now remedied.

- Health visitors also should share information with CAMHS and vice-versa.
- The review also highlighted the need to take into account the father's experiences, issues and concerns.
- The action plan provides the requirement for fathers to be adequately consulted, supported and assessed in the care of the child.

Housing:

- Improvements have been put in place with housing providers – resources have been put into training so they can house people appropriately.
- This can be based on evidence of drug/alcohol abuse etc...

Supervision/training/models of practice:

- One of the most improvements was in this area.
- A new operating model has been implemented across Early Help etc...called "Stronger Family, Safer Children".
- Social Worker are encouraged to challenge and be more inquisitive in their interactions.
- Additionally, the reflective supervision highlights observations made by the Social Worker and allows for these to be shared.
- This ensures that the focus is not just in one area. For example, in the case of ADS14, the focus was mainly on the Domestic Violence issues.
- Members noted the use of unannounced visits and raised the issue over ensuring that Social Workers can speak to parents/children in private.
- Members also noted the implementation of the CPIS system which will allow for greater information sharing between the Council (Frameworki) and hospitals.
- Any child who is returning to a carer where there have been safeguarding concerns should have a Child Protection Plan rather than Child in Need Plan, running parallel to the Supervision order for at least the first six months.

3. Future lines of enquiry

- Working group members agreed to look at the following areas:

- Child Sexual Exploitation update and how children who turn adult at 18 are supported
- Briefing on adult safeguarding

I & S – People Committee, Safeguarding Sub Group

Meeting Notes 13/11/2017

Present:

- Cllr's Twigg, Fox, Chilton and Illiffe
- David Rose (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer)
- Jill Ryalls (Adult Care)
- Andy Searle (Independent Chair, DSAB)

4. Apologies for absence

Cllr Charles and Frudd.

5. Briefing on Adult Safeguarding

Members received a briefing, including the DSAB Annual Report and latest newsletter on adult safeguarding. Members noted the following:

The Care Act 2014:

- The Care Act 2014 has consolidated the duties of the Local Authority and its multi-agency partners to Safeguard Adults.
- It has defined clearly those Safeguarding duties within Section 42 through to Section 46 together with a clear eligibility definition, the need to respond to concerns and have rigorous procedures for doing this.
- The Care Act eligibility for an adult to be subject of a Safeguarding response by the Local Authority and its partners is outlined as:-
 - has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
 - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
 - as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

- The Care Act has widened the Safeguarding responsibilities of the Local Authority and its partners to include Modern Slavery, Prevent, Domestic Violence Self Neglect amongst the more widely recognised physical abuse; sexual abuse; financial abuse; institutional abuse; emotional abuse.
- Members noted the impact of this upon front line staff and departments has been to increase the pressure on front line staff and the workload within Adult Care has seen a significant increase of Safeguarding referrals for social workers and additional officer time on strategic and operational responses across the agencies.
- In the last year, there has been around 3,000 referrals into Adult Care. The Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Framework allows people who have concerns to refer.
- There is a need for robust planning, prioritising and assurance frameworks to keep local people safe which some are still in development and are a response to trends and issues being identified across the County.
- Local authorities have new safeguarding duties. They must:
 - lead a multi-agency local adult safeguarding system that seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens.
 - make enquiries, or request others to make them, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect and they need to find out what action may be needed .
 - establish Safeguarding Adults Boards, including the local authority, NHS and police, which will develop, share and implement a joint safeguarding strategy.
 - carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews when someone with care and support needs dies as a result of neglect or abuse and there is a concern that the local authority or its partners could have done more to protect them.
 - arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or review, if required. Adult Care have commissioned a new service with a clear specification to support our responsibilities with Derbyshire MIND and staff are aware of how to access the service.

The Board:

- Derbyshire County Council has had a Safeguarding Board pre the Care Act 2014 with all of the now statutory partners and attendance from a wide section of interested parties including the voluntary sector.
- The Board has had an Independent Chair for a number of years that has been funded by the Local Authority since its inception. The Board has a number of Sub Groups and has commitment from a number of partners to meet the outcomes within the Strategic Plan.
- The biggest challenge for the SAB is its funding or lack of funding from the three statutory partners and is out of kilter from other SAB's across the East Midlands and nationally.
- There are discussions about a national funding framework which would be welcomed by ourselves in Derbyshire. The Board has only recently in the last 14 months appointed a Project Officer and there are processes in place to appoint a Business Services officer to support the Board Project officer.
- The Board has a Safeguarding Adults Review Sub Group which is chaired by Roger Miller Service Director and has sponsored a number of Serious Incident Learning reviews over the last three years. There is a noticeable increase in referrals to the SAR Sub Group over the last 12 months which is assuring in that our partners are now mindful of multi-agency partnerships and opportunities for learning across the communities of Derbyshire.
- Members noted that there are currently two reviews. One is highly complex and is a multi-agency review.
- Any relevant person or organisation must provide information to Safeguarding Adults Boards as requested. To date we do not have partners who have refused to provide information although this is an area where we do have to work hard to ensure organisations provide information in a timely manner.
- The other major cultural change that was introduced within the Care Act for all front- line staff was a concept of personalising responses to

individuals who maybe the subject of a Section 42 enquiry which is referred to as 'Making Safeguarding Personal' [MSP].

- The principles of MSP are to put the individual at the centre of any investigation and for the work to be undertaken at the pace of the individual. This does present us with a risk as individual front-line staff are unsure of where there professional curiosity should end and an individual's human rights are being challenged.
- This is an emerging national picture for all Local Authorities and it is an area that we in Derbyshire Adult Care are going to be doing some probing and developing further practice guidance for staff.
- There is a feeling nationally that Local Authorities are failing in their duty to protect by not pursuing causes to enquire where the individuals are in a critically risky situation and are not pursuing protection plans on the basis an individual may have the mental capacity to make unwise decisions.
- Members also noted the links with other partner agencies, such as the NHS and Police. The latter do provide some contributions to the Board's budget. However, Health, unlike other areas, do not make contributions.
- Members noted the DSAB quarterly newsletter, which provides updates on initiatives and increases awareness of who to contact if have a safeguarding concern.

Action

- **All Members to receive the DSAB newsletter and for them to share with interested parties locally, for example Parish/Town Councils, local groups and organisations.**