

OPEN

BRIEFING REPORT

Adults Health and Integration Committee

22nd January 2024

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022 - 2023

**Report of: Helen Charlesworth May – Executive Director, Adults,
Health and Integration**

Report Reference No: AH/30/2023-24

Purpose of Report

- 1 The Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory duty to produce and publish an Annual Report under the Care Act 2014. The purpose of SAB Annual Report is to demonstrate how well statutory and voluntary organisations have worked together to protect Adults at Risk from abuse, harm, and exploitation. This briefing report serves to highlight key information, but respectfully requests the reader to view the full Safeguarding Adults Board Report for 2022- 2023.
- 2 One of the key ambitions of the Council is to be an organisation that cares about and empowers people. In a similar way the Safeguarding Adults Boards functions and activities mirror the Councils priorities and are based on the principles of Empowerment, Prevention, Protection, Partnership, Proportionality and Accountability.
- 3 Whilst the Safeguarding Annual Report evidences the work of organisations, it should be remembered that behind every statistic lies a unique safeguarding concern, and an individual adult at risk who has been affected by abuse or neglect. Therefore, the Annual Report is a reminder that Safeguarding is Everyone's Business, and that everyone has a part to play to keep individuals and families safe, and to build resilience in our communities.

Executive Summary

- 4 The Safeguarding Annual Report describes the role, structure, and governance of the Safeguarding Board. In 2022 we were pleased to welcome Kevin Bennett as the Independent Chair and Kevin has provided excellent leadership during the last 12 months. The 3-year strategy was also updated this year and reflects the vision, aims and objectives for the Board going forward from 2022 to 2025 respectively.
- 5 All Partners were asked to complete a Single Agency Report to provide assurance to the Board about how they are upholding Safeguarding activity in their own organisations and implementing learning from local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The Single Agency Reports have been collated and reflected in the Safeguarding Boards Annual Report too.
- 6 The Annual Report provides insight into Safeguarding Data, but also how each Board Meeting focusses on a relevant theme. During 2022, many organisations were still recovering from the impact of COVID, and the Annual Report includes how the Board focussed on the impact of COVID on Safeguarding, how organisations supported refugees coming to live in Cheshire East, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and how people are being kept safe despite the ongoing health and social care pressures across the system.
- 7 The Annual Report highlights the importance of Learning, Development and Training. During 2022, in collaboration with the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, we have extended safeguarding training to taxi drivers operating in Cheshire East, provided enhanced safeguarding training to Care Home Managers completing investigations and worked with Domestic Abuse Services to provide bespoke training to cover Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse. The Board also facilitated daily events during Adult Safeguarding Week in November 2022.
- 8 Finally, the Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory function to commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews, when an adult at risk, has died because of abuse or neglect and there is an opportunity to see how agencies could work in a better way together. The SAR relating to JANE is contained within this Annual Report and can also be viewed on the Safeguarding Adults Board Website: www.stopadultabuse.org

Background

- 9 Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 requires every Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board. The SAB operates at a strategic

level, helping and protecting adults in its area from abuse and neglect through coordinating and reviewing a multi-agency approach across all member organisations.

- 10 The purpose of the Board is PREVENTATIVE in contributing to the development of safe cultures, systems, and process; is REACTIVE, in facilitating Safeguarding Adult Reviews; is DEVELOPMENTAL in sharing learning from SARs and national initiatives and is COLLABORATIVE by adopting a whole-systems approach to safeguarding, providing leadership and coordination.
- 11 In its work the Board must: Follow legislation and associated statutory guidance, work in partnership to improve wellbeing and safety of adults at risk, champion the safeguarding agenda across the Borough, participate in national developments and best practice, develop a local strategy, commission safeguarding adults' reviews, and embed the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal.
- 12 The Safeguarding Board recognises that it is accountable to the residents of Cheshire East, and it is important that Members are provided with an Annual Report to evidence how the functions are being implemented. Equally the Board played a key role in the Peer Challenge Event in March 2023, and is preparing for the Care Quality Commission Inspection.

Briefing Information

- 13 In the 2021 – 2022 Safeguarding Annual Report the number of Safeguarding Concerns submitted to Adult Social Care was 5039. In 2022- 2023 this number increased to 5475. Although not every safeguarding concern is progressed to a Section 42 Enquiry, it should be noted the significant increase since before COVID. This is a national trend. Most safeguarding concerns are submitted by Care Providers, followed by the Police and external professionals. The most prevalent type of abuse remains as Neglect or Act of Omission, Physical Abuse and Emotional/psychological abuse.
- 14 It should be noted that the Local Authority is the Lead Agency in instigating Section 42 Enquiries. The purpose of a Section 42 Enquiry is to understand the circumstances around the incident of abuse and to highlight and implement learning.
- 15 As the Safeguarding Board have commissioned several statutory and discretionary safeguarding reviews, several key themes are emerging. The national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews also highlights emerging issues, which include the importance of Information Sharing,

Multi Agency Working, Professional Curiosity, legal literacy, trauma informed practice and recognising and responding to Carer Stress.

- 16 The Safeguarding Board has an overarching Action Plan in response to the recommendations from local SARs and individual partner agencies are responsible for sharing the learning within their own organisations. Tools and resources have been provided by the Safeguarding Board to assist in these areas. For example, Adult Social Care have used Bimonthly Safeguarding Practice Manager Meetings to focus on the learning and emerging themes from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
- 17 The work of the Service User Group needs to be recognised and celebrated. The Peer Review Team praised the contribution and impact of the Service User Group to the work of the Board, demonstrating an inclusive and collaborative approach, ensuring that the voices of Service Users are heard.
- 18 Some of the important Safeguarding issues span a range of Partnership Boards. Therefore, it should be noted the linkages between the Domestic Abuse Partnership, Safer Cheshire East Partnership, and the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership, when tackling issues such as Domestic and Serious Violence Duties, Modern Slavery and Exploitation and supporting people who may be susceptible to radicalisation.
- 19 Finally, the whilst the Safeguarding Adults Board holds a strategic function, it is Frontline Officers and Managers who are dealing with complex safeguarding issues daily, often with competing demands and resources. The emotional impact of engaging with an individual who has been abused or neglected, should never be underestimated. And the risks associated with some cases can be high. Therefore, it is important that our staff are given appropriate support and guidance and tools to enable them to be effective.

Implications

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 20 The Safeguarding Annual Report demonstrates how Cheshire East is upholding the Statutory Safeguarding duties as laid down by the Care Act 2014.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 21 There are no financial implications of this report. The Boards funding includes the capacity to fund one Safeguarding Adults Review per year, any subsequent statutory reviews should be funded by the respective partner agencies.

Policy

- 22 The Policy implications as they relate to the Corporate Plan [Corporate Plan](#) are as follows:

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| An open and enabling organisation | A council which empowers and cares about people The SAB upholds the duty to prevent and protect people from harm and abuse or neglect. | A thriving and sustainable place |
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 23 Not applicable.

Human Resources

- 24 There are no Human Resource implications for this report.

Risk Management

- 25 The Safeguarding Board holds its own Risk Register which is reviewed regularly. The Statutory Partners are the Local Authority, Police and NHS. The SAB chair ensures that all agencies are fully engaged in the partnership.

Rural Communities

- 26 There are no implications for rural communities in the report.
- 27 The Report has highlighted some overarching safeguarding themes which may impact on children and young people and how the Partnership Boards need to continue to work together to tackle them.

Public Health

- 28 There are no specific recommendations for Public Health.

Access to Information

Contact Officer:

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
2022 – 2023