



Report to Policy Committee

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Author/Lead Officer of Report:

Dawn Bassinder, Chief Social Work Officer

Report of: Strategic Director Adult Wellbeing and Care

Report to: Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

Date of Decision: 20th November 2023

Subject: Adult Safeguarding Annual Report

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 2313				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>				

Purpose of Report:

This report provides the Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report for endorsement by Committee.

The Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership (SASP) is a strategic, multi-agency partnership that brings together statutory and non-statutory organisations to actively promote effective working relationships between different agencies and professionals to address the issue of abuse and harm. The Safeguarding Adults Executive leads and holds individual agencies to account, to ensure adults in Sheffield are supported and protected from abuse and neglect.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:

1. Notes the Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report.

Background Papers:

- Appendix 1 – Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report
- Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Lead Officer to complete: -		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Laura Foster
		Legal: Patrick Chisholm
		Equalities & Consultation: Ed Sexton
		Climate: Dawn Bassinder
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Alexis Chappell</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Councillor Angela Argenzio</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Dawn Bassinder	Job Title: Chief Social Work Officer
	Date: 12th October 2023	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- 1.2 Safeguarding means protecting people's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Statutory safeguarding applies to adults with care and support needs who may not be able to protect themselves. It can also include neglect, domestic violence, modern slavery, organisational or discriminatory abuse.
- 1.3 The Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership (SASP) is a strategic, multi-agency partnership that brings together statutory and non-statutory organisations to actively promote effective working relationships between different agencies and professionals to address the issue of abuse and harm. The Safeguarding Adults Executive leads and holds individual agencies to account, to ensure adults in Sheffield are supported and protected from abuse and neglect.
- 1.4 The SASP's overall purpose is to make sure that people in Sheffield, particularly those with care and support needs are protected from harm, abuse, and neglect. This is a challenging task, but we are clear that by working in partnership with the community, carers, and those who receive services, we can make a difference to the well-being and safety of people across Sheffield.
- 1.5 SASP is required under the Care Act 2014 to produce a Safeguarding Adults Annual Report each year. The report should say what we have done during the last year to protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Sheffield and how the year's objectives have been achieved.
- 1.6 The report includes an overview of the structure and membership of the partnership, data relating to safeguarding over the last financial year and examples of how partners have worked to achieve the partnerships 5 strategic priorities.
- 1.7 This annual report covers the 12 months from April 2022 to March 2023 and provides an update and information on significant activity and developments for Adult Safeguarding in Sheffield.
- 1.8 The annual report demonstrates that partners have faced significant challenges during the year and there is still much to address. However, there has also been significant innovation, and safeguarding has been maintained as a priority.
- 1.9 Notwithstanding all the current challenges, the Independent Scrutineer notes that they have seen a real commitment to partners working together, and the willingness to address the need for change. They have seen some great examples of innovation, with Sheffield at the leading edge locally and contributing nationally to emerging policy on interventions that support vulnerable adults and families.

- 1.10 The independent Scrutineer noted their appreciation to all for the work and persistence in sustaining effective safeguarding in Sheffield.
- 1.11 As a partner of the Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership, the Council is committed to delivering a robust Safeguarding response which both prevents abuse and protects people from harm, abuse, and neglect. A key part of this has been the development of an Adult Multi-Agency Screening Hub as a way of joining up local services to enable swift and responsive decision making in response to concerns about Adult's Safety. This is featured in the report.
- 1.12 In addition, the Adult Health and Care Policy Committee has oversight of the Adult Safeguarding Delivery Plan of which a six-monthly update is provided to the Committee and the Partnership for assurance. As part of this, a Council wide review of safeguarding is being undertaken to inform our learning and provide recommendations which enable the Council to have safeguarding as everyone's responsibility and ensure the supports are in place to achieve this.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 The Safeguarding Annual Report contributes to delivery upon the Safe and Well and Effective and Efficient Adult Social Care outcomes as set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy Living the Life You Want to Live.
- 2.2 The report also supports a broad range of strategic objectives for the Council and City, and is aligned with existing policies and commitments, including: -
- *The Council Delivery Plan and Our Sheffield: [One Year Plan](#).*
 - *Adult Care Strategy – Living the Life You Want to Live.*
 - ADASS [Making Safeguarding Personal](#) and using Strengths-based approaches to social care.
 - Adult Care and Wellbeing Safeguarding Delivery Plan and Strategic Direction.
 - *Unison Ethical Care Charter¹³: signed up to by SCC in 2017¹⁴, the Charter 'establishes a minimum baseline for the safety, quality and dignity of care'.*

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 A crucial element in the successful prevention of abuse is the increased involvement in people receiving, and staff directly delivering care, in the development of all key parts of the plan. Throughout the sector, we know that involving and coproducing these makes them more likely to be successful.
- 3.2 To deliver upon that ambition, there is a dedicated customer forum through the Safeguarding Board in place and a focus on Making Safeguarding Personal throughout the Annual Report.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

4.1.1 As a Public Authority, we have legal requirements under the Equality Act 2010, collectively referred to as the 'general duties to promote equality'. Section 149(1) contains the Public Sector Equality Duty, under which public authorities must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

1. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is connected to protected characteristics and prohibited by or under this Act;
2. advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
3. foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

4.1.2 The proposal described in this report is consistent with those requirements. It aims to develop a more efficient and person-centred approach and, as referenced in the Consultation section above, to ensure citizens' voices and experiences help to inform and develop the processes.

4.1.3 The nature and purpose of Adult Care means that people sharing the protected characteristics of Age and/or Disability will be directly impacted by the proposals. However, the safeguarding remit means that people sharing certain other protected characteristics (e.g., Sex, Race, Sexual Orientation) may also be particularly affected.

4.1.4 The updated Equalities Impact Assessment is at Appendix 2.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 The Annual Report sets out the budget available to the Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Partnership. There are no financial implications.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The core purpose of adult health and social care support is to help people to achieve the outcomes that matter to them in their life. The Care Act 2014 sets the Council's statutory power to direct the provision that:

- promotes wellbeing
- prevents the need for care and support
- protects adults from abuse and neglect (safeguarding)
- promotes health and care integration
- provides information and advice
- promotes diversity and quality.

4.3.2

Beyond the Act itself the obligations on Local Authorities are further set out in the Care Act statutory guidance issued by the government. By virtue of section 78 of the Act, Local Authorities must act within that guidance.

4.3.3

The Care Act Statutory Guidance at paragraph 4.52 requires Local Authorities to:

“... have in place published strategies that include plans that show how their legislative duties, corporate plans, analysis of local needs and requirements (integrated with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy), thorough engagement with people, carers and families, market and supply analysis, market structuring and interventions, resource allocations and procurement and contract management activities translate (now and in future) into appropriate high quality services that deliver identified outcomes for the people in their area and address any identified gaps”.

4.3.4

The Annual report supports the Authority in meeting its statutory obligations in relation to Safeguarding.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 There are no direct climate implications associated with approving this report. However, Sheffield City Council – and its [10 Point Plan for Climate Action](#) – is a partner in the Safeguarding Board.

4.4.2 We are committed to working with partners aligned with our Net Zero 2030 ambition and where specific procurement/commissioning exercises take place related to safeguarding provision we will aim to consider providers approach and performance in terms of managing the climate impacts of the services they provide. This would be done via more detailed CIAs for specific procurements.

4.4.3 To support a multi-agency approach to Climate Action in relation to Safeguarding, the Safeguarding Partnership Board has been asked to consider a collective response and in particular role of the Board and partner organisations in delivering upon the 10 Point Plan.

4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 There are no specific other implications for this report. Any recommendations or activity from the detailed workplans of the strategy will consider potential implications as part of the usual organisational processes as required.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 This is an update on previously endorsed delivery plan in line with recommendations approved at Committee. No alternatives options are available due to this.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 An endorsed Annual Report gives the public assurance that the Partnership is delivering upon its commitment to protect people from abuse and harm. It will also provide greater accountability and transparency of how will do this.
- 6.2 Asking for the Annual report to be considered at Strategy and Resources Committee will keep the Committee, wider stakeholders, and the public the ability to support increased awareness and understanding of Safeguarding.

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