

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board: 2019/20 Annual Report

Portfolio Holder:

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Purpose of the Report

The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) is a statutory partnership set up to safeguard adults who are at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation. As part of its statutory duties the Board produces an Annual Report setting out the safeguarding concerns it has dealt over the last year, along with the actions it has taken to help keep safe in Oldham. The OSAB 2019/20 Annual Report is attached for consideration and comment by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Executive Summary

The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) brings together a range of organisations and agencies to provide assurance that they are working together to protect and enable adults to live safely. This means helping people to make decisions about the risks they face in their own lives as well as protecting those who lack the capacity to make these decisions.

The Annual Report provides information on the number and type of safeguarding concerns reported in Oldham during 2019/20. The Report also provides an update on the Safeguarding Adult Reviews it has undertaken and what it has done to ensure that the lessons learnt from these reviews have shaped and improved the way services work in Oldham.

During 2019/20 a total of 1580 safeguarding referrals were recorded for residents in Oldham and of these 556 became the subject of a formal safeguarding Enquiry.

In addition, a total of 1543 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were dealt with and closed in 2019/20 which was almost double the number closed in the previous year. This is significant as 48% of the cases were complex as they involved people who lacked capacity to make their own decisions. There was a reported increase in the number of safeguarding concerns relating to self-neglect and domestic violence, with some of the increase coinciding with the Covid-19 lockdown as families found it harder to access services and support.

The Board also has a legal duty to carry out a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) if it believes that someone in Oldham has died of, or experienced, serious abuse or neglect which could have been prevented. In 2019/20 the OSAB conducted five SARs. For each SAR the Board has adopted the recommendations put forward by the independent reviewer and overseen changes to services designed to prevent similar cases happening again.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board are asked to note the OSAB 2019/20 Annual Report.

Appendices

1. The Oldham safeguarding Adults Board 2019/20 Annual Report