

## Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

# Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board: 2020/21 Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2021-2024

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

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### **Purpose of the Report**

The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) is a statutory partnership set up to safeguard adults at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation. As part of its statutory duties the Board is required to produce an Annual Report setting out the safeguarding concerns it has dealt over the last year, as well as a Strategic Plan setting out future ambitions and actions to help keep people safe in Oldham. The purpose of this report is to share the Board's agreed 2020/21 Annual Report and 2021-24 Strategic Plan with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board for their consideration.

### **Background**

Over the last eighteen months The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) has introduced a series of measures designed to remodel adult safeguarding arrangements across Oldham. The new arrangements are designed to strengthen and improve multi-agency working through a combination of new safeguarding structures, greater alignment with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and integrating safeguarding structures across Community Health and Social Care.

The role of the OSAB is to assure itself that organisations and agencies across Oldham 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 Board has three main statutory duties which are to:

- Produce a **Strategic Plan** setting out the changes the Board wants to achieve and how organisations will work together.
- Publish an **Annual Report** setting out the safeguarding concerns it has dealt with in the last year as well as plans to keep people safe in the future.

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- Undertake a **Safeguarding Adult Review** in line with Section 44 of the Care Act where it believes someone has experienced harm as a result of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

### **Reflecting on the last year: 2020/21 Annual Report**

The Board's 2020/21 Annual Report provides information on the number and type of safeguarding concerns reported in Oldham along with the actions taken to adopt learning from the Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Central to this has been the collection and sharing of firsthand experiences by adults 'at risk' and family members who have experience of safeguarding issues and services in Oldham.

In summary, a total of 2038 safeguarding referrals were made in 2020/21 and of these referrals 408 became the subject of a formal safeguarding Enquiry. The data shows that the number of referrals has doubled in the last two years. This may be due to a combination of improvements in the recording of data, Covid-19 campaigns designed to encourage people to report safeguarding concerns as well as lockdown restrictions which have seen an increase in reports of domestic abuse and financial abuse. However, whilst the number of overall referrals has increased, the number of serious safeguarding enquiries remains relatively consistent over the last four years.

A total of 9 Safeguarding Adult Reviews were completed in 2020/21 which is consistent with the previous year. The main types of abuse involve self-neglect, acts of omission and domestic abuse which can include psychological abuse, violence, physical abuse and financial abuse.

### **Looking Forward: 2021-2024 Strategic Plan**

The Board's Strategic Plan has been shaped by the government's new legislative programme, learning from Covid 19 and the correlation between Oldham's demographic profile and local safeguarding trends. Factors such as levels of poverty, the numbers of people living with mental health issues, homelessness and alcohol related deaths disproportionately impact on adults with care and support needs and are key factors within Oldham's Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

As a result, the Strategy sets out a challenging programme of work, designed to prevent and reduce future safeguarding incidents and implement an effective 'all age' safeguarding offer. This work will take place within far-reaching changes proposed in the Health and Care Bill, including the creation of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), new legislative requirements within the Mental Health Act White Paper and the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards. The strategy recognises that changes of this scale and complexity need integration that looks beyond the NHS and social care to fully involve the wider statutory, voluntary and community sector as equal contributors.

The strategy is designed to focus on action and the 2021/22 Annual Plan on a Page (page 5) sets out the Board's work programme for the current year. This one-page summary is being actively promoted and shared across agencies to highlight the aims of the Board and promote the wide range of resources and information available through the Board's website and fortnightly joint children's and adults safeguarding bulletins.

### **Recommendation**

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider and comment on the Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board 2019/20 Annual Report and 2021-24 Strategic Plan.

### **Appendices**

1. The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board 2019/20 Annual Report
2. The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board Three Year Strategy 2021-2024
3. The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan on a Page 2021/22