

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board: 2020/21 Annual Report and Strategic Plan

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

Contact: Dr. Henri Giller, Independent Chair, Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board and Mark Warren, Managing Director Health & Adult Social Care Community Services, Oldham Council / Northern Care Alliance

Report Author: Julie Farley, Business Manager, Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board.

Ext. 6401 (Mobile: 07809 514922)

Date: 7th October 2021

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. It must also produce a Strategic Plan setting out its future safeguarding ambitions and the multi-agency actions required to help keep people safe in Oldham.

The purpose of this report is to share the Board's 2020/21 Annual Report and 2021-24 Strategic Plan with members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board for their consideration.

Background

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.

Over the last eighteen months 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 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.
- Undertake a **Safeguarding Adult Review** in line with Section 44 of the Care Act where it believes someone has experienced significant harm or death as a direct result of abuse, neglect or exploitation, and which could have been prevented.

Key Achievements in 2020/21

Over the last year the Board has led a significant programme of work. It has actively responded to new and increasing safeguarding trends that emerged during and after Covid lockdown and strengthened processes for reporting and reviewing serious safeguarding incidents.

Other initiatives have included the launch of the Board's new website and social media presence; creating an annual programme of public safeguarding campaigns; publication of learning, training and information resources; and a new fortnightly safeguarding bulletin produced jointly with the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Despite the challenges of Covid lockdown the Board achieved its ambition of setting up processes to listen to and capture the lived experience of adults in safeguarding situations. These stories help agencies understand what it feels like to be on the receiving end of services and are vital to improve services and prevent future safeguarding incidents in Oldham.

2020/21 Annual Report: safeguarding data

As well as reporting on the work of the Board the Annual Report provides a summary of Oldham's safeguarding data. In 2020/21 a total of 2038 safeguarding referrals were made and of these referrals 408 became the subject of a formal Safeguarding Enquiry. The data shows that the number of safeguarding referrals has doubled in the last two years. This increase may be due to a combination of improvements in the recording of data, public 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.

The Covid pandemic highlighted the need for real time data and greater understanding of adult safeguarding data. As a result, a key priority for the coming year will be the creation of a Partnership Data Dashboard designed to provide more detailed intelligence from a wider range of providers. This insight will enable the Board to respond in a timely way to new and changing safeguarding trends and actively address the under reporting of safeguarding incidents by agencies. It will also inform the public campaigns and practitioner training to ensure the early identification and prevention of safeguarding incidents. A new system for collecting and analysing partnership data is one of the Board's key priorities for 2021/22.

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 2020/21 the OSAB conducted a total of 9 SARs which is consistent with the number completed in the previous year. The main types of abuse involved self-neglect, acts of omission and domestic abuse which can include psychological abuse, violence, physical abuse and financial abuse. For each SAR the Board has adopted the review's recommendations which are designed to improve the way agencies work together and prevent similar cases happening again.

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, whilst implementing 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.

To ensure the strategy is accessible to front line practitioners it includes a 2021/22 Plan on a Page (page 5) that 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, safeguarding campaigns and fortnightly safeguarding bulletins.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board are asked to note the OSAB 2020/21 Annual Report and 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

Appendices

1. The Oldham safeguarding Adults Board 2020/21 Annual Report
2. The Oldham safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2021-2024
3. The Oldham safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan on a Page 2021/22