
Briefing to Health Scrutiny

Date: 15th November 2018

For Discussion

Subject:

Elected Member Safeguarding Training

Sign-off:

Merlin Joseph – Interim Director of Children’s Services (30 October 2018)

Report of:

Ed Francis – Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Partnerships

Portfolio holder:

Cllr Amanda Chadderton

Lisa Morris – Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) manager

Summary of the issue:

Following a Task and Finish review of safeguarding training for elected members in early 2018 a new member training package was developed which brought together an overview of safeguarding of children and adults and Prevent. To date three, two hour, sessions have been delivered and evaluated.

A further review of the input to members has been requested in order to explore how the current safeguarding input can be expanded, both in terms of duration but also with regards the content to ensure it is better tailored to the scenarios experienced by members.

In order to begin this review the Health Scrutiny is being requested to approve an information gathering exercise to identify the safeguarding concerns that they are presented with in carrying out their function.

Recommendations to Health Scrutiny:

1. That the panel supports a follow up review of member safeguarding training.
2. That members be asked to consider the safeguarding scenarios that they are presented with and to provide this information to the LSCB training subgroup for consideration.
3. That the evaluations of the new training package and the outcome of the information gathering exercise be presenting to the Member Training Working Group.
4. That consideration is given to separating the current safeguarding input into individual sessions for members, giving priority for each within the member’s training calendar.

1. Report details

Following a request from Cllr McLaren to review the existing safeguarding training for elected members a small task and finish group was established in January 2018. The group considered the existing safeguarding input in relation to both children and adults against the training requirements and time capacity for members.

As a result of the group and in line with an overall review of member training a new safeguarding input for members was developed. It was agreed that the input would provide an overview of safeguarding issues to support members in their role and that any additional, more specialist training, would be accessed via the Local Safeguarding Children Board's comprehensive multi-agency training calendar.

(https://www.oldham.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/training/31/lscb_training_calendar)

Members of the group acknowledged the limited capacity within both children and adult safeguarding boards to deliver extensive, bespoke training to members and furthermore agreed that attending multi-agency training would be beneficial, allowing them to develop a wider knowledge and understanding of partner agency's roles within safeguarding.

The new session combines an overview of children and adult safeguarding along with an input relating to Prevent. It is delivered by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Partnerships for Children's Services, Assistant Director for Joint Commissioning and Safeguarding for Oldham Cares and the Assistant Director for Communities and Early Intervention.

To date three sessions have been delivered and approximately 35 elected members have attended. Of the evaluations received following the training, the majority have indicated that the training was both useful and relevant. Several attendees however fed back that the range of topics covered in what is a two hour session limited the opportunity for more in depth consideration and those members who have attended previous training and so already knew some of the 'basics' would have liked to be able to focus more on each particular topic.

Feedback also indicates that the training needs to be more tailored to the safeguarding concerns that are being raised specifically with members by their constituents or issues that emerge as they discharge their duties.

In order to respond to this it is suggested that members be surveyed in order to gain a better understanding of the safeguarding scenarios that they are being presented with. Upon receipt the scenarios can be considered by the LSCB training subgroup and recommendations made in relation to the format and content of the Member's input.

In order to allow each element of the current input to be explored fully it may be advisable that safeguarding children and adults and the presentation on Prevent be separated out into individual training sessions. This would need to be considered within the member's training calendar and attendance at each session would need to be considered mandatory.

By supporting Members to have a greater understanding of the safeguarding issues facing those Oldham residents at risk and the referral pathways for support and intervention, it will allow for more effective and timely responses to concerns raised, and greater scrutiny of current provision.