Welcome to the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Inter-Agency Partnership Board’s first newsletter! It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce you to the Board and its work in relation to the protection of adults in Durham.

Following the introduction of the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adults Boards have booked onto a statutory footing. The main objective of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to ensure partners together and in partnership can demonstrate they are making Durham a safer place.

- Jane Geraghty, Independent Chair

Our Vision

We will support adults at risk of harm to prevent abuse happening; when it does occur, we will act swiftly to achieve good outcomes.

Meet the

Heidi Gibson – Board Business Manager
Elaine McClelland – Training & Development Officer
Rachel Senior – SAB Clerical Support Officer
Jennifer Bland – Administrative Assistant

Our Priorities

The SAB Inter-Agency Partnership have developed a 3 year strategic plan from 2015 – 2018. A refresh of the plan took place in March 2016. It outlines our strategic priorities and the work agreed for the Board and its working groups.

✓ Performance Framework
✓ Care Act/Legislative Compliance
✓ Prevention
✓ User/Carer Voice
✓ Awareness
✓ Partnership Engagement
✓ Learning Lessons and Improvement

Our Strategic Plan can be accessed on our website

Training Needs

At the March 2016 SAB Development Session, the need to ensure that training is valuable and informative to professionals, staff and volunteers was highlighted. We launched a Training Needs Survey to all of our partners, wider stakeholders and registered providers to cascade across the wider workforce. We are keen to steer away from the term ‘mandatory training’ and develop and provide training that is more meaningful for all roles.

The County Durham Safeguarding Adults Inter-Agency Partnership Board is the mechanism for overseeing the effectiveness of the arrangements to keep vulnerable adults safe from abuse and neglect in our communities.

One aim of the Board is to continually monitor and improve upon practice across a range of organisations and settings. The survey will establish the learning needs in relation to safeguarding adults.

The survey has since closed and we have received over 400 respondents. The Board will receive an analysis report of findings. It is hoped that this will give us a valuable insight into the impact of current training and inform our future training strategy and programmes.

Information on training courses available can be found on our website. If you have a specific training requirement, please contact the Board Business Unit.
Lay Members

Lay Members bring an impartial and independent layer to the work of the Board. They act as a ‘critical friend’ to the Board offering a wider view and understanding of local communities.

The Safeguarding Adults Board has, for some time had an established Lay Member, Susan Harrison. Susan has extensive experience working with HM Courts and Tribunals, where she worked for 36 years. During this time she was heavily involved in managing, creating, roll out and embedding of a national assurance programme. Susan also has experience working within the mental health trust. Susan has knowledge and understanding of the Care Act principles and requirements as well as personal experience of the safeguarding process and uses all of her experience to support her role within the Safeguarding Adults Board to promote the views of service users and carers.

We have recently appointed two new Lay Members to the Board, Christopher Cunnington-Shore and Jean Meredith. Christopher Cunnington-Shore is a dedicated and professional individual with significant commercial experience in the NHS and has considerable experience of leading change in strategic and commercial developments, contracting, procurement and supply at Board level across the NHS and formerly with the Department of Health. Chris is very passionate about the patient’s journey and has lived in County Durham for almost 30 years. Chris’s local and national knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Board moving forward.

Jean Meredith has an extensive employment history in services supporting vulnerable people and groups having worked in Social Services Departments and for the Mental Health Act Commission and the Mental Health Review Tribunal Services. Her professional experiences are complimented by a long history of voluntary work in County Durham which enables her to contribute local knowledge to the Board’s partnership as it strives to ensure safeguarding is personal, preventable and accountable.

Female Genital Mutilation

As of 31st October 2015, the Serious Crime Act introduced a new duty on professionals, including teachers, healthcare professionals and social workers to report known cases of FGM involving victims under 18 (or under 25 when in transition) to the Police.

Any incidence involving an Adult with Care and Support needs should be referred through Adult Protection processes SCD tel. 03000 267979 for immediate risk, the police 999. For further information, please visit the: statutory multi-agency guidance on FGM.

User/Carer Reference Group

Partners have recently met to look at user/carer voice and engagement, as identified as a strategic priority (User/Carer Voice). It has been agreed to establish a user/carer reference group to look at user/carer engagement, Making Safeguarding Personal, including safeguarding outcomes and wider engagement.

This group will build and strengthen newly formed links with the local Healthwatch and ensure predominantly that key partners are included in the group, including the voluntary sector as well as involving DCC’s Learning Disability Parliament Team.

PREVENT

The PREVENT Strategy was first published in 2011 as part of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy – CONTEST. A PREVENT duty has since been introduced.

Vulnerable adults are at risk of being radicalised and the partnership is looking at this strategy to reduce the risk to our service users and communities.

Training on PREVENT is available by visiting the website here.

More information can be found on the PREVENT Duty here.

Durham Safeguarding Adults Inter-Agency Partnership Board

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