

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 October 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Adult Safeguarding		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

### Summary:

To report on the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board and invite comment from Members of the Committee.

### Recommendation(s):

- (1) That the report be noted.

### Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To keep the Committee informed of developments regarding the safeguarding of adults. Safeguarding falls under the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as referred to in Chapter 6 of the Council's Constitution.

### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None. Failing to report on adult safeguarding would not be fulfilling the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

### What will it cost and how will it be financed?

#### (A) Revenue Costs

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a revenue budget with core funding of £0.040M and anticipated partner contributions from CCG and Merseyside Police of £0.030M.

#### (B) Capital Costs

None

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> The work of the Adult Safeguarding Board will be undertaken within existing resources.</p>									
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b> Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 refers to Safeguarding Adult Reviews.</p>									
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.</p>									
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b></p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. In the event of any climate emergency implications arising in the future as a result of safeguarding of Adults, these will be contained in reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.</p>		Have a positive impact	No	Have a neutral impact	Yes	Have a negative impact	No	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
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**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: Reference to the approval and monitoring of recommendations will contribute towards protecting vulnerable members of Sefton’s communities</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Reference to the approval and monitoring of recommendations will contribute towards protecting vulnerable members of Sefton’s communities</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: Reference to the approval and monitoring of recommendations will contribute towards protecting vulnerable members of Sefton’s communities</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.</p>

Cleaner Greener None directly applicable to this report.
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**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health has been consulted in the preparation of the report.

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6566/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4767/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**(B) External Consultations**

Partner organisations associated with adult safeguarding include Liverpool, Knowsley and Wirral Local Authorities.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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**Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

**1. Introduction/Background**

1.1 The Care Act statutory guidance defines adult safeguarding as: protecting and adults right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the risk or abuse or risk of it.

**1.2 The Care Act 2014 clearly states the 6 principles of safeguarding:**

- Empowerment – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions
- Prevention- act before it occurs
- Proportionality – least intrusive response
- Protection- support and represent those in greatest need
- Partnership -local solutions through services in the community and in awareness
- Accountability- accountability and transparency in practice

## **2. Strategic Developments**

- 2.1 Since 2016 Sefton Council have delivered their Care Act 2014 statutory responsibilities to operate a Safeguarding Adults Board by partnership arrangements with other Local Authorities across the LCR which includes Liverpool, Knowsley and Wirral under the creation of a Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board. This partnership ceased in part on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and Sefton has a newly established Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 2.2 Sefton Adult Social Care remain members of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group, as do all previous local authority and statutory organisations on the LCR footprint, providing stability and standardisation in assessment of submissions and agreement in approval of s44 of the Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adult Reviews. A Safeguarding Adults Review is a multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what agencies could have done differently to prevent harm or death occurs as a result of neglect or abuse.
- 2.3 Sefton will also be an active member of the soon to be created Liverpool City Region Learning Group which will identify learning and cascade it across the larger regional footprint.
- 2.4 Sefton have established their local Safeguarding Adults Board and Sub Groups and work plans for Board and Sub Groups developed building on local priorities.
- 2.5 The Board is actively seeking an Independent Chair to provide the appropriate level of scrutiny to its performance and are hopeful that they will make an appointment shortly.
- 2.6 Partner organisations have shown enthusiasm at re-kindling the links of working together at Board level, to have the assurance that adults with care and support needs across Sefton receive a quality service. Developments have been made around strengthening links into securing the voice of the service user, with conversations underway with Healthwatch as to how best this can be achieved.

## **3. Operational Safeguarding**

- 3.1 Social workers have the responsibility for conducting Section 42 Enquiries when a concern has been raised.
- 3.2 A training needs analysis, focused on adult safeguarding, has enabled training needs of all staff to be clearly identified and a training programme is currently being implemented to meet requirements and ensure social workers are

competent to carry out safeguarding enquiries. Alongside, in recognition of various learning styles, we have identified on-the-job opportunities to enable staff to develop skills in the workplace. We recognise the importance of embedding quality audit into performance triangulating information gathered into collaborative planning of services to meet evolving needs of the communities.

- 3.3 A focussed Audit Schedule will deliver strong governance and direction to the evolving requirements from the Safeguarding Hub to underpin the strengthening of skills and service delivery across all safeguarding interventions.

#### **4. Performance**

- 4.1 During the pandemic Sefton witnessed a decline in the number of concerns raised into the Department. Safeguarding people throughout the pandemic has remained a high priority and as we the world adapts to living with Covid 19 and care homes re-open their doors to visitors we see a steady increase in the number of concerns raised back to pre-pandemic numbers. Over this period Adult Social Care has:

- Embedded a process of managing whole service or organisational concerns. This has engendered close working relationships with the Care Quality Commission who frequently raise concerns to the Council in order that the proven process can enable satisfactory outcomes achieved in a timely manner.
- Engaged the services of specialist teams, both within the Council with the Occupational Therapy Team and Drugs and Alcohol Social Workers playing an active role within enquiries and health colleagues with the Medication Management Team promptly assisting to resolve concerns raised.
- Adult Social Care have Quality Monitoring Officers who work, on a daily basis with safeguarding both reacting to the concerns raised and also undertaking preventative works with providers to reduce the risk to adults with care and support needs.

- 4.2 Significant developments have been achieved in partnership working with colleagues working in both Communities and Adult Social Care, particularly in the area of domestic abuse. Safeguarding information from Adult Social Care will actively contribute to Domestic Homicide Reports and information collated by domestic abuse colleagues contributes to the Safeguarding Adults Review process.

#### **5. Summary**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Safeguarding Board Annual Report will come to Overview and Scrutiny for noting and comment alongside the local Sefton Safeguarding Strategy and performance reporting. ASC propose that performance is reported on a six-monthly basis but will take the view of the Committee to establish the diary dates.