

## Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Report of the Children & Families Safeguarding Officer

#### **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the report is to provide a biannual safeguarding update to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Members:**

**Review the report and raise any questions in relation to the content with the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health, and thereafter endorse.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Tamworth Borough Council has a legal responsibility to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect policy and procedure provides the framework for safeguarding, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to safeguard children and adults at risk.

Safeguarding is integrated into the day-to-day operations of the Council. The Council responds to all safeguarding concerns raised in line with the safeguarding procedure. Reporting of concerns is fundamental in ensuring that children and adults at risk receive the necessary support to safeguard and promote their welfare.

The following information provides an overview of the number of safeguarding referrals received and an update on the safeguarding work that has taken place since the last update provided to the Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.

### **Safeguarding Statistics**

The end of year statistics for 2016/17 saw a slight increase in the total number of referrals from the previous year, in total 75 concerns were raised through the Council's reporting procedure, 43 safeguarding concerns were in relation to adults and 32 related to children (See Appendix 1).

### **Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy and Procedure**

The safeguarding policy was recently updated to reflect a change in personnel and the definition of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Going forward, and in line with the review of the generic district councils' safeguarding policy by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board Policies & Procedures Subgroup, a full review of the safeguarding policy has taken place and been endorsed by both boards.

### **Safeguarding Training**

A rolling programme of safeguarding training is in place, Level 1 safeguarding training must be refreshed every three years. A number of service specific safeguarding workshops have taken place for housing staff and community safety staff.

Two of these sessions were co-delivered with the Staffordshire County Council Adult Safeguarding Training Manager.

#### 2016-2017 Level 1 training statistics

Face to face sessions delivered to TBC staff by Children and Families Safeguarding Officer

Quarter 1 training session – 35 attendees  
Quarter 2 training session – 18 attendees  
Quarter 3 training sessions – 12 attendees  
Quarter 4 training sessions – 20 attendees

Further training is scheduled to take place in January 2018 for CMT.

### **Taxi Driver Training delivered by Children and Families Safeguarding Officer**

Three taxi driver safeguarding training sessions for new drivers have been scheduled to take place for 2017/18. The licensing team is responsible for booking drivers and passenger assistants on to sessions and the training is delivered by the Children and Families Safeguarding Officer. We have also produced a taxi guidance leaflet that will complement the training but can also refresh on what was highlighted at the training.

Also along with this new safeguarding posters and coasters will be printed for staff to know who to contact for support, advice and to make referrals.

### **Community and Voluntary Sector Training**

Two safeguarding sessions have been delivered to Homestart volunteers in July. Support has also been offered to a number of voluntary groups in relation to developing their safeguarding policies and procedures.

The Arts and Events Manager, Partnership Funding Officer, Community Sports Manager and the Children and Families Safeguarding Officer met with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in July to discuss strengthening safeguarding arrangements when working with arts and performance groups and voluntary sector grant funded groups.

The meeting was very positive and resulted in the development of a safeguarding pack that will be provided to all relevant groups.

### **Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) and Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Board (SSASPB)**

The District Council Safeguarding Subgroup continues to meet quarterly, sharing good practice and delivering against the business plan. Matters raised at Board level that impact on District Councils are discussed within this forum. The Council received feedback on the Section 11 audit submission and provided clarity to the Board in relation to three sub standards.

### **Section 11 Audit**

The safeguarding board has decided that next year will be a peer audit process to which Tamworth will be joined up with Litchfield to look at our process around section 11 compliance.

During 2016/17 we undertook a 3 sub standards Section 11 audit, so a Peer Section 11 audit is due for this year. The board is trying something different this year and asking partner agencies to **send a representative from their organisation** to a one day event to share the progress made against the standards and what impact the actions taken have had on children young people and their families during facilitated discussions. This day will have a particular focus on neglect and the toxic trio, one of the Boards' two priorities and discussions will evaluate the evidence provided by agencies and provide challenge where appropriate.

The SSASPB have requested district councils to provide assurance in relation to safeguarding standards in the Staffordshire adult safeguarding audit. There is not a statutory duty on district councils to complete this audit; however it has been agreed that completing the audit strengthens safeguarding arrangements at a district level and provides assurance to the Board that district councils are meeting their adult safeguarding requirements.

The Council has supported the work of the SSCB in relation to a serious case review by completing an individual management review report. The Children and Families Safeguarding Officer has attended a number of panel meetings in relation to the review. Learning from the review will be disseminated via safeguarding training. Any recommendations will be actioned.

### **Update on work streams and current areas of work**

The strengthening of safeguarding arrangements at Anker Valley football pitches has been completed; new application forms with additional safeguarding requirements have been uploaded to the website.

### **Small Business Development**

The Children and Families Safeguarding Officer has worked alongside the Economic Development Team to incorporate safeguarding information into small business development grant applications. Startup businesses working with children or adults with care and support needs must have robust safeguarding measures in place if they are to be considered for funding.

### **Wates**

A meeting took place in May with Wates to discuss safeguarding requirements in relation to delivery of service. Wates have an identified safeguarding lead responsible for dealing with any concerns raised and delivering appropriate safeguarding training to operatives. It has been agreed going forward that regular safeguarding meetings will take place. At present we are looking at updating the current Help Something's Not Right concerns cards.

### **Licensing Trade**

In conjunction with the licensing and graphics team a safeguarding children awareness leaflet for the licensed trade has been produced. The content includes information on recognising and responding to Child Sexual Exploitation concerns. The leaflet will be distributed to all licensed premises alongside the SSASPB safeguarding adults leaflet.

### **Winter Night Shelter Project**

The Children and Families Safeguarding Officer is currently working to support local churches with the Winter Night Shelter Project. A meeting with the newly appointed night shelter coordinator will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. This meeting will provide an opportunity to offer support and assistance to the project in relation to safeguarding arrangements.

### **Multi-Agency Partnership Working**

To effectively safeguard children and adults at risk from abuse and neglect appropriate sharing of information is paramount. Multi-agency partnership working arrangements in Tamworth continue to develop and strengthen. The Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership continues to be well supported by key agencies. The Children and Families Safeguarding Officer attends and records the minutes at the weekly TVP meeting.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation Panel meetings**

The Staffordshire Multi-agency CSE Panels continue to grow and develop with the help and support offered by partner agencies and practitioners across the county. Relevant information from the TVP is shared with the CSE panel and action in relation to disruption is carried out by the Community Safety Partnership. The Council has also become a member of NWG (formerly The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People)

- Providing support and guidance to practitioners at an operational level.
- Assisting local authorities, police forces, local safeguarding boards and other organisations with strategic planning and responses to CSE.
- Supporting professionals via a resources library, containing a wide range of tools aimed at addressing CSE.
- Operating an out-of-hours helpline for professionals who require immediate assistance.
- Developing a register of skills and knowledge consisting of practitioners and agencies that can be deployed to assist professionals and agencies in tackling CSE.
- Helping agencies to 'operationalise' recommendations from reviews, inspections and operations.

### **Outdoor Market**

Working with the Head of Community Safety and representatives from LSD Promotions the Children & Families Safeguarding Officer is reviewing and strengthening safeguarding requirements in relation to the outdoor market.

A session will take place for market stall operators and stall holders on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **Modern Slavery**

The Children & Families Safeguarding Officer alongside the Solicitor to the Council is currently undertaking a piece of work in relation to Modern Slavery. It is essential that we understand all potential modern slavery risks related to Council business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our business, or in our supply chains. A Modern Slavery and Transparency Statement has been produced and has been published on Tamworth Borough Council website. A copy of the statement is attached to this report (see Appendix 2) [https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/misc\\_docs/Modern-Slavery-Statement-for-Website.docx](https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/misc_docs/Modern-Slavery-Statement-for-Website.docx)

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

This report is prepared at the request of the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health, the only option apart from producing the report, would be to not produce a report.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. The cost of training and materials will be met from existing budgets.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

The Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy has been risk assessed and no significant risks exist. From a legal perspective the authority is meeting its expectations and requirements in relation to vulnerable children and adults at risk.

## **SUSTAINABILITY OPTIONS**

The policy and staff in this important service will continue to operate locally and in conjunction with partners to sustain the levels of support, training and guidance required.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Tamworth Borough Council has both a legal and moral duty to protect vulnerable children and adults at risk from harm. The Children Act 1989 and 2004 along with the associated government statutory guidance sets out our legal responsibilities for protecting children. The Care Act 2014 along with associated government statutory guidance recognises and reinforces that organisations make a significant contribution to adult safeguarding.

Where a member of staff has concerns that a child or an adult with care and support needs, is at risk of, or is suffering abuse or neglect they must report these concerns.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

Children & Families Safeguarding Officer, Stephanie Ivey and Jackie Hodgkinson

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Key performance indicator information – number of safeguarding referrals raised through the safeguarding process

Appendix 2 Draft Modern slavery statement