

## Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

27<sup>th</sup> November 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 Assistant Director – Partnerships 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### **Safeguarding Statistics**

This year statistics for January to September 2018 saw an increase in the total number of referrals from the previous year, 53 concerns were raised through the Council's reporting procedure, 43 safeguarding concerns were in relation to adults and 10 related to children.

Figures attached as Appendix 1.

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

The safeguarding policy is in the process to be updated in regards to changes within the organisation, along with the new changes in working together 2018 and the new formation for Children's Safeguarding Boards. The policy will also update on the new criminal exploitation for children known as County line's and peer on peer abuse.

### **Safeguarding Training**

A rolling programme of safeguarding training is in place, Level 1 safeguarding training was updated through the on line e-learning package which all staff have to complete and must be refreshed every three years. A number of service specific safeguarding workshops have taken place for housing staff and community safety staff, along with the Children and Families Safeguarding officer attending staff briefings to update on the Safeguarding processes within the Council and meeting to discuss any concerns with the Safeguarding officer.

Face to face sessions delivered to TBC staff by Children and Families Safeguarding Officer at present is 14 with further training to go out to Estates Cleaners/Caretakers and Street Scene employees in November.

There is also an opportunity for Wates to take up this opportunity.

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

Two taxi driver safeguarding training sessions for new drivers have taken place with a further two sessions scheduled to take place 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018. 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.

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

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

### **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 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.

Along with supplying information for the annual report in regards to the safeguarding actions we put in place within the Council that support the boards main priorities for 2018-2021

- Children who are vulnerable to sexual abuse;
- Children who are experiencing neglect as a result of parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and parental mental ill health (when all 3 exist together this is known as the toxic trio and are viewed as indicators of increased harm to children)

### **Section 11 Audit**

The safeguarding board has decided that at present this will be looked into the next financial area due to changes with the board structures.

During 2018 we undertook exercises around the board's priorities that will form as part of the Section 11 audit.

The board did 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 priorities and what impact the actions taken have had on children young people and their families during facilitated discussions. Discussions will evaluate the evidence provided by agencies and provide challenge where appropriate.

This review helped also to shape the information for the board's annual review.

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.

### **Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Board**

Districts/ boroughs have recently had the opportunity to meet and discuss safeguarding concerns and thresholds with the Board manger and Tamworth lead to understanding the referral process for adult social care, as this has caused some issues when making referrals into the relevant teams. This was a great opportunity to discuss issues around capacity along with self-neglect to help support staff in regards to who and when to make a referral.

Relevant frontline staff will be given update information to ensure best practice is included in all Council processes and procedures.

### **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 and follows up any actions at the weekly TVP meeting.

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

The Staffordshire Multi-agency CSE Panels continues with quarterly meetings held at Lichfield District Council 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.

- 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 who can be deployed to assist professionals and agencies in tackling CSE.

The Council is also now a member of the NWG network formerly The National Working Group for sexually exploited children and young people. This is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 14,500 practitioners who disseminate information to professionals working on issues of child sexual exploitation and trafficking within the UK.

### **Modern Slavery**

The Council has provided information in leaflet form in regards to modern slavery as it is key that we understand all potential modern slavery risks related to Council business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring there is no slavery or human trafficking in our business or supply chains.

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 imposes a legal duty on organisations which supply goods and/or services from or to the UK and have a global turnover above £36 Million, to publish a modern slavery and human trafficking statement each year.

A revised Modern Slavery and Transparency statement for 2018/19 has been produced by the AD Partnerships, agreed by CMT and will be endorsed by the Audit and Governance Committee in February 2019 before recommendation to Cabinet and publication on the Tamworth Borough Council website.

### **Communications**

Safeguarding posters will be updated and printed for staff to know who to contact for support, advice and to make referrals.

## **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, Jackie Hodgkinson

## **Appendices**

None at this time