

## Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### 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 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

### **Safeguarding Statistics**

This year statistics for January to March 2019 saw an increase in the total number of referrals from the previous year, from 10 to 13 in total where the number of concerns were raised through the Council's reporting procedure, 13 safeguarding concerns were in relation to adults and 6 related to children.

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

The safeguarding policy has been updated and is now accessible for all staff and visitors on the staff internet and TBC website

### **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 safeguarding sessions have taken place for Staff and Councilors to attend which will continue to be a rolling programme.

Face to face sessions delivered to TBC staff 20 attended and it was delivered by Children and Families Safeguarding Officer. Face to face sessions delivered to 13 Councilors by the Children and Families Safeguarding Officer at present with further training to go out in April and May

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

Two taxi driver safeguarding training sessions for refresher training for taxi drivers are in place 1 took place on 31<sup>st</sup> January of which 20 attended the session. With a further session scheduled to take place 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. 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.

### **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 the board's 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)

### **Adult Safeguarding Board (SSASPB)**

SSASPB Tier 2 Individual Organisation audit tool

This is the second time that we have completed this audit which assists the SSASPB to meet its Care Act requirements.....

Under the Care Act 2014 the SSASPB has to:

- i) Establish how it will hold partner agencies to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements and also
- ii) Determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit.

The audit tool is to be completed every other year and the responses forwarded to the Families First performance support resource so that a composite report may be produced for consideration at the June Executive sub-group and the July Board meeting.

The findings of the bi-annual peer review will be forwarded to the Executive sub-group and Board as above.

**Explanation of the RAG rating:**

The audit tool has 5 themed groups of standards i.e.

- Leadership, management and governance
- Safe recruitment and Persons in Positions of Trust (PiPOT) management
- Policy and Procedure
- Training and workforce development
- Practice n/a to TBC

The person completing the tool will consider each standard and write the evidence that can be produced to support compliance with the standard selecting a RAG rating commensurate with the level of compliance. Where the RAG rating is anything other than Green, details of the improvement plan must be provided in the box on the right (see below). If it is believed that there can never be evidence to support a Green rating the reasons for this assertion must be included in the same box.

Evidence to support that the organisation completely meets ideal service / standard  Green	Nearly meets ideal service / standard, and clear improvement plan  Amber	Does not meet ideal service / standard and no clear improvement plan  Red	Work to be done to achieve ideal service / standard
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Please see appendix A

**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.

**Relevant checks when using 3<sup>rd</sup> parties through Arts and Events**

Effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place despite this being included within the contract monitoring requirements in Pentana . All policies are now uploaded to the system for outdoor events with the Children and Families Safeguarding reviewing the safeguarding policies, we are currently in the process of update information to future customers about safeguarding by either asking that they

supply their own safeguarding policy or that they provide a written safeguarding statement and process along with using the TBC safeguarding handbook.

### **Suicide Procedure/Guidance**

Stafford Borough Council has provided how to deal with threats of suicide from members of the public in a guidance and procedure document for colleagues. We have decided that this is something we would like to adopt in Tamworth and will be looking at making the necessary changes so it fits within our teams here.

## **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

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