

TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REGULATORY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE REPORT

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to provide a biannual safeguarding update to the Health and 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 a 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 4th April 2019.

Safeguarding Statistics

The number of safeguarding concerns referred via the council's safeguarding reporting procedure for the date period 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2019 are as follows:

Children referrals 13

Adult referrals 19

Referrals continue to be received from a wide range of council staff including, customer services advisers, housing officers and street wardens.

For the quarterly safeguarding referral overview please see Appendix 1.

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSSCB)

The new working arrangements for the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board came into effect on the 1st April 2019. As a result of the new working arrangements the District Council Safeguarding Subgroup will no longer sit as a sub group under the Board. The link to the board will now be through the newly formed District Council's Partnership Group. The first meeting of the partnership group took place on the 17th July 2019. Tamworth Borough Council's Partnership Manager and Partnership Vulnerability Officer will attend future quarterly meetings.

Further information in relation to the new working arrangements of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board are available via the link in the background papers section of this report.

Staffordshire and Stoke –on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB)

The SSASPB Manager and Staffordshire County Council Adult Safeguarding Manager delivered a safeguarding workshop for frontline staff on the 21st August. The session covered the referral process for adults at risk who are suffering harm or abuse. The session enabled constructive and helpful discussion around alternative options to consider when dealing with referrals that do not meet the threshold for adult safeguarding.

Safeguarding Training

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer and Partnership Support Officer are currently undertaking a review of safeguarding training for staff. The review will look at specific job roles within the council and consider the level of additional safeguarding training required to support staff in those job roles. All staff can access a wide range of face-to-face safeguarding training free of charge from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board. The Partnership Vulnerability Officer will advise managers of the training that staff can access and monitor attendance going forward.

A safeguarding workshop was delivered to members by the Partnership Vulnerability Officer on the 27th June 2019.

Refresher safeguarding for taxi driver training continues to be delivered by the Partnership Support Officer, alongside safeguarding training for new taxi drivers.

The Partnership Officer continues to deliver a number of key safety messages to primary school children. Presentations on the following topics are offered to schools: internet safety, alcohol awareness, anti-bullying, littering, anti-social behaviour, road safety, safer strangers and streetwise. Uptake from Tamworth primary schools is excellent.

An online safety awareness event, organised by Tamworth Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Ankerside Shopping Centre and O2, took place on the 29th of October 2019. Tamworth Borough Council's Partnership Officer shared important safety advice and raised awareness of potential online dangers. Leaflets and wristbands were given out and children were given advice on how to keep themselves safe online, and who to speak to if they were faced with online bullying.

Current work streams

Modern Day Slavery

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer and the Partnership Support Officer completed the Hope for Justice one day train the trainer modern day slavery session. The officers are currently reviewing the modern day slavery eLearning training package to roll out to all staff and identifying members of staff that will require face to face training because of their job role. The current Level 1 safeguarding training session delivered to staff covers modern day slavery within its content.

Domestic Abuse Forum

Tamworth Borough Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council and Lichfield District Council partnership officers have agreed to review the current domestic abuse forum arrangements. A task and finish group have met and reviewed the terms of reference, action plan and group membership. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for the 6th November. The chairing of meetings and the meeting venue will rotate between the three councils.

Domestic Abuse Workplace Champions

The Partnership Officer has completed domestic abuse workplace champion training. The Assistant Director - Partnerships will progress embedding the domestic abuse champion role within the organisation, liaising with the Corporate Management Team, Head of HR & Organisational Development and members going forward.

Vulnerable Adolescent Multi-agency Panels (VAMAP)

Vulnerable Adolescent Multi-agency Panel meetings will replace the existing Child Sexual Exploitation Panel meetings. The remit of the panel will now be much wider and not solely focused on child sexual exploitation. The panel will consider other forms of exploitation that can place children and young people at risk.

The panel will adopt a contextual safeguarding approach, this new approach has been developed over the past six years to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents.

Contextual safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the

different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer will attend the VAMAP meetings; the first meeting will take place on the 27th November 2019.

Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership

The Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership continues to coordinate a multiagency approach to addressing vulnerability within the Tamworth community. The meeting is now jointly chaired by the Partnership Vulnerability Officer and the Tamworth Police Harm Reduction Sergeant. The meeting is well attended by representatives from key statutory agencies.

Grant Funding

The Council continues to provide grant funding through a number of funding streams that supports the work of third sector organisations and enables them to provide early help support to children, families and vulnerable people. These local organisations can intervene early when difficulties begin to arise and prevent difficulties from escalating; prevention is a key principle of safeguarding.

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 IMPLICATIONS

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 children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. 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 statutory guidance recognises and reinforces that organisations make a significant contribution to adult safeguarding.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board new working arrangements](#)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Quarterly safeguarding referral overview

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