

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

### REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR, TOWN CENTRE, EVENING ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of abuse report (April to September 22)

#### 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 Voluntary sector, Town centre, Evening economy and Community Safety, 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 29th March 2022.

**Safeguarding Statistics**

The number of safeguarding concerns referred via the council’s safeguarding reporting procedure for the date period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 are detailed in the table below:

Referral type	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Child referrals	4	6			10
Adult referrals	9	10			19
<b>Total combined referrals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>			<b>29</b>

Table 1: Safeguarding concerns raised by staff 2022

Miscellaneous	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
	5	3			8

Referrals continue to be received from a wide range of council staff including, customer service officers, housing solutions officers, tenancy sustainment officers, sheltered housing managers, private sector housing officers and members.

The miscellaneous covers referrals that come through mainly the council enquires along with outside agencies such as Wates and Engie. Quarterly meetings take place for updates with the 2 contractors to make sure that we can offer support and advice and any new updates needed.

A quarterly overview of safeguarding referrals is attached at Appendix 1.

**Safeguarding Training**

Level 1 safeguarding training is delivered to staff/members via eLearning or face-to-face sessions (due to current restrictions face-to-face sessions are still being delivered via Microsoft Teams). 2021-22 has seen the development and rollout of safeguarding eLearning modules to staff and members. Through Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board, offering a variety of training levels and conference events around Neglect and Child Sexual Exploitation. Level 1 safeguarding training must be refreshed every 3 years and is delivered as a rolling programme.

Level 2 safeguarding children training is delivered by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) training team. Staffing roles that require this enhanced level of training have been identified and officers requested to complete this training. The training is delivered via Microsoft Teams and 3 officers have attended the training from April-September 2022.

Level 3 safeguarding children training provides subject specific training courses. Appropriate staff are encouraged to attend courses to gain better understanding of the subject area and improve practice; the Partnership Vulnerability Officer has been working with managers to identify relevant safeguarding courses that will support staff in their job role.

Level 4 specialist training i.e. Designated Safeguarding Lead training. This training is specifically for individuals with operational responsibility for receiving concerns about

the safety and welfare of children and young people, and who make decisions about what action needs to be taken. This is to be updated every 2 years.

### **Taxi driver safeguarding training**

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer has continued to work with the licensing team to deliver a safeguarding awareness around Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Modern-day slavery training course for taxi drivers. The safeguarding training course is delivered through Microsoft teams and co-ordinated with the support from the licensing officers. We have now also offered face to face training. Training is run once a month.

### **Suicide prevention training**

Free suicide prevention training is available to staff which is a great opportunity for staff to understand and support clients that they may come across who have suicidally thoughts. This also helps support our suicide policy and processes.

Dates are available to book on courses from October 2022 to March 2023, with more dates set to be released soon.

### **Adult Safeguarding Board**

We are still an active member with information received regarding updates and events.

### **Modern Slavery**

Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation. Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

This is continued within our Partnership below:

Produce a revised Modern Slavery Statement for 2021/22.

Strengthening our approach to tackling modern slavery by:

- Seeking reassurance via current training packages that staff remain up to date and have undergone relevant training
- Identify and train safeguarding champions in each Council service (in progress)
- Working with Service Managers to undertake relevant risk assessments as necessary with suppliers to ensure their understanding and compliance with the Modern Slavery Act where necessary
- Inclusion of Modern Slavery within safeguarding policies
- Attendance at County tactical meetings with Staffordshire Police to identify hotspot areas and emerging trends
- Joint Partnership operations at targeted premises where appropriate
- Information on the Council's webpages on modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism [National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England\)](#)

## **Contextual Safeguarding**

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) continues and is the forum for safeguarding children at risk of exploitation within a partnership arena. MACE meetings take place bi-monthly, the Partnership Vulnerability Officer attends and contributes to this meeting. This helps to strengthen our community safety agenda and also highlights any areas of concern that can be passed onto Street wardens to observe and working along the Police.

We continue our membership the NWG network. NWG is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 14,500 practitioners who disseminate information down through their services, to professionals working on the issue of child exploitation (CE) and trafficking within the UK. They offer support, guidance and raise the profile, provide updates, training, share national developments, influence the development of national and local policy informed by practice.

## **Prevent**

Prevent' is part of the government's overall counter-terrorism strategy which is called CONTEST. The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent strategy has three specific objectives:

1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

All managers have been informed that the training is now available for all staff to access the link below allows access to the training portal.

. <https://www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal>.

## **Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership (TVP)**

The weekly partnership meeting continues to be well attended by representatives from statutory organisations. The partnership provides a joined-up response to vulnerability within the community and endeavours to provide help at the earliest opportunity to improve outcomes for vulnerable people.

Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health) remains a priority for the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership.

We have also added youth ASB cases to the partnership to discuss issues on anti-social behaviour with the representatives and established good links with youth offending team.

The success of the TVP has led to the formation of professionals meeting's allowing more time for cases to be discussed by partners and plan a range of actions that are followed up and reviewed.

## **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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Partnership Vulnerability Officer

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act 2004](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

[Care Act Statutory Guidance](#)

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Safeguarding referral overview