

TUESDAY 28TH MARCH 2023

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

Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of abuse report (October 22 - March 23)

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 18th October 2022.

Safeguarding Statistics

The number of safeguarding concerns referred via the council's safeguarding reporting procedure for the date period 1st October 2022 to 28th February 2023 are detailed in the table below:

Referral type	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Child referrals	4	6	5	4	19
Adult referrals	9	10	8	7	34
Total combined referrals	13	16	13	11	53

Table 1: Safeguarding concerns raised by staff 2022/23

Miscellaneous	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
	5	3	0	0	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.

The Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy

Version 18 of the policy has been updated to reflect changes in legislation and has been added to astute for all staff / members to be aware of the updated document.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training continues within the organisation where staff members will be accessing training courses on offer from Staffordshire Children's Safeguarding Board.

Level 1 safeguarding training is delivered to staff/members via eLearning or face-to-face sessions.

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 due to attending Child Protection conferences have been identified and requested to complete this training. The training is delivered via Microsoft Teams.

Level 3 safeguarding children training provides subject specific training courses. For different areas of safeguarding and vulnerability.

Appropriate staff are encouraged to attend courses to gain better understanding of the subject area and improve practice. Level 3 also now covers 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. There have been 124 drivers who have attend the sessions since January 2022. Training will be continued for updates and new drivers bimonthly.

Suicide prevention training

The free suicide prevention training has been made available to all staff to attend along with a 20-minute briefing.

This has been 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.

Adult Safeguarding Board

The Partnerships and Vulnerability Officer recently attended Trauma Informed Practice in Adult Safeguarding, which highlighted concerns around self-neglect/ mental health and the associated behaviours around adults who access services with these conditions. Also, we have been informed that in response to a Safeguarding Adult Review referral the Adult Safeguarding Board is looking at doing something on the practical application of mental capacity legislation in the next 6 months.

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.

The new Partnerships Community & Cohesion Officer coming into post this will play a vital role in supporting the work we do around Modern Slavery and Prevent.

Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

This supports Tamworth's Corporate and Partnership Community Safety Plan with the following:

Production of a revised Modern Slavery Statement for 2022/23 by September 2023.

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 \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/nrm-guidance-adult-2020.pdf)

Contextual Safeguarding

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) continues and is the forum for safeguarding children at risk of criminal 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 Housing, Community wardens and the Partnerships Enforcement Officer.

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 This includes the threat from Islamist, Extreme Right Wing and Left Wing, Anarchist and Single Issue 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.

The Prevent agenda sets across of work streams that the Council continue to work in partnership with Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police and the Counter Terrorism Unit

There have been no identified concerns reported by Tamworth Borough Council staff which may require referral of a young person at risk of radicalisation to the Prevent Channel panel.

Prevent self assessment toolkit has been completed and reported to the County PREVENT board.

Daily Briefings

We have brought back the daily briefings to take place on a Monday and Thursday morning for partners to share concerns over the last 48hrs and to request any information regarding concerns around safety and vulnerability.

This has been a useful way for all agencies who attend to update case files and share information appropriately as needed.

This has also help support the TVP (Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership) and the anti-social behaviour coordination group meetings.

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 continue to lead to the formation of professional's 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

Jackie Hodgkinson
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