

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR  
COOPERATIVE COUNCIL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND ASB  
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE REPORT  
(MARCH 24- OCTOBER 24)**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the report is to provide a biannual safeguarding update to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. The Committee review the report and raise any questions in relation to the content with the Assistant Director Partnerships in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB, and note report.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### Safeguarding Statistics

The number of safeguarding concerns referred via the council’s safeguarding reporting procedure for the date period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 are detailed in the table below:

Referral type	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Total
Child referrals	1	4	5
Adult referrals	4	7	11
Total combined referrals	5	11	16

Table 1: Safeguarding concerns raised by staff 2024 (Numbers as of time of report 03/10/24)

Miscellaneous	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Total
	3	2	10

Numbers of referrals for quarter 2 have increased this quarter, this may be due to updated training that has been delivered to members along with street scene staff. Further awareness raising on referrals has moved into referrals to Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership (TVP) so the adult/ family will not always hit the threshold for a safeguarding enquiry, but professionals will meet to discuss a plan of action. Increased knowledge and awareness of what constitutes a referral through the delivery of up-to-date inhouse training along with outside agencies has supported this.

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, environmental health, street scene, members. We have also had received safeguarding referrals/ information from contractors and the fire service.

The miscellaneous table covers referrals that come through mainly the council enquires or maybe to gather further information to decipher if it hits the threshold for a referral to be made into safeguarding. We have also continued to work alongside our contracted agencies such as Wates and Engie to support their safeguarding referrals. 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.

### Safeguarding Training

We have continued to deliver the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) core slides for the delivery of level 1 safeguarding training. This helps to update staff/members in line with the updates for Staffordshire.

Staff can access a range of training modules through the SSCP [home page](#) .

Safeguarding training has been delivered to all our street scene, cleaners, operatives and members over the last 6 months.

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

Version: 19 of the Policy is now live on infozone and the astute training has been disseminated to all Staff/ Councillors.

The main update within the policy is the change within the Partnerships team to include the role of the Safer Communities and Homes Manager to the role of Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

## **Tenant Consultative Group Meetings – 10th September 2024**

The purpose of the Tenant Consultative Group is to provide a united voice, representing the views and interests of Tamworth Borough Council's tenants and leaseholders. The group is a non-political consultative group that works closely with Neighbourhood services to discuss and resolve issues and make recommendations for service improvements. This group is consulted on a wide range of tenant related policies, practices and procedures and current issues affecting Tamworth Borough Council and its tenants.

The partnerships and vulnerability officer attended in September to give a safeguarding briefing to tenants and leaseholders.

## **Adult Safeguarding Board**

The council is still an active member with information received regarding updates, training and events.

Stafford Borough Council have taken the main lead to represent all the districts and boroughs at the quarterly meetings. The districts then attend quarterly catch ups.

## **Domestic Abuse (inc Stalking and Harassment)**

Domestic abuse remains a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. The support service through New Era has been commissioned for a further 3 years for the County by the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Crime.

Training is ongoing for relevant staff to refer victims of domestic abuse to services.

As part of the training updates New Era run a wide range of training events for staff to attend throughout the year. [New Era \(Ending Relationship Abuse\) Events - 3 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

The Assistant Director Partnership remains on the County Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Development Board.

Proposed Membership of Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

As part of the commitment to the Social Housing Regulation Act, the Council is in the process of starting the accreditation process. The mission of DAHA is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process and was established in 2014 as a partnership between **Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse** (STADA), **Gentoo** and **Peabody** housing associations.

It is leading specialist domestic abuse organisation supporting housing providers to improve their response to domestic abuse, through our membership model, accreditation framework and training packages.

Our model for a housing response to domestic abuse is nationally recognised as best practice, through the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2022, and is endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England & Wales.

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer along with the new Partnerships Officer will explore options and benefits for the Council to be accredited.

The council also fed back into Domestic Abuse Self-Assessment Peer Review 2nd October 2024.

The event showed lots of good practice and positive discussions/ ideas of how we can work better together to improve the lived experience and outcomes for children who live in households where there is domestic abuse.

The next steps are for all assessments to be sent on to Staffordshire University colleagues to support the needs assessment.

The Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's business team will also be analysing the information from the event alongside the SEFs and pulling together a brief report for safeguarding partners to consider.

## **Community Safety**

Tamworth District Children's Services Networking Partnership Event September 2024.

The event was hosted by Staffordshire County Council children's social care, with the aims to foster collaboration and enhance partnership working within our district.

The highlights of the event include:

- District Model Partnership Working
- Presentations and discussions on our collaborative approach and shared objectives for the benefit of our community.
- Presentations from social care, parents and partner agencies.
- The event gave partners the chance to ask questions, raise awareness of local intelligence around referrals and updates within children's services.

## **Contextual Safeguarding <sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Contextual safeguarding is an approach to safeguarding that recognises that young people may be at risk of significant harm not only within their home environment, but also outside it. The traditional safeguarding

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) 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.

Children who are discussed at MACE can be subject to ASB interventions so this information will link in with the work we do within the ASB Coordination group.

The ASB Engagement officer, commissioned until March 2025 continues to work with schools, Staffordshire County Council safeguarding teams and police for early intervention.

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

The Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership meetings continue to take place on a weekly basis with the Partnership Vulnerability Officer, Safer Communities and Homes Manager and Police supporting the overseeing of the referrals and updates.

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.

This is also linked into meetings to support Anti -Social case reviews previously known as Community Triggers and youth ASB.

As of January 2024 73, cases have been discussed at the TVP meeting.

34 Housing  
4 Anti-Social Behaviour issues  
5 Domestic  
9 Mental health  
9 Vulnerability  
7 Community Safety  
5 Concerns for safety

As of 01/10/24

### **Anti-social behaviour coordination group**

The ASB Coordination group is a weekly TEAMS meeting that links all our partner agencies within and outside the borough to discuss all concerns relating to anti-social behaviour. It also helps support the links established with other partnership meetings and helps the mechanisms in place for actions that have and can be taken.

The meeting is chaired by our Safer Communities and Homes Manager and extended to all agencies within the public and private sectors to share information and to support intervention and signposting of services.

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approach does not consider extra-familial contexts, which has led to cases of abuse and exploitation falling under the radar.

## **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.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The bi-annual report provides information on the actions taken by Tamworth Borough Council in its duty to safeguard children and adults at risk, therefore meeting all duties under the Equality Act.

## **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**

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act 2004](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

[Care Act Statutory Guidance](#)