



Gloucestershire
Safeguarding Adults
Board

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report 2020/21

Executive Summary

Foreword: Introduction from Chair

This report covers an unprecedented year during which we were in the midst of the Covid 19 Pandemic, which has raised the profile of adult social care and the importance of Adult Safeguarding to a new level. Whilst the virus has affected all communities, it has had a significant impact on our more vulnerable, including individuals with a learning disability and our older generations, many of whom receive care and support, often in residential and nursing homes, or within their own homes

I would like to offer my condolences on behalf of the Board to all those individuals who have been affected by the pandemic, especially those individuals who have lost loved ones.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, during the past year the Board and its sub groups have continued to operate on a virtual basis; Board members have also participated in many meetings and forums designed to monitor and respond to the impact of the virus, to ensure that the health and well-being of adults with care and support needs is prioritised and that lessons are learnt.

During 2020 we continued to focus and deliver on the final year of the priorities that were set out in our 3-year strategic plan 2018/21, namely: Making Safeguarding Personal, Prevention and Improving Safeguarding Practice and Board Effectiveness.

At the beginning of 2021 we commenced our consultation and engagement with other Boards and partners including the voluntary and community sector, on what our new priorities should be, with a view to establishing a new 3 year strategy. Consultation will be widened during 2021 to include Healthwatch and the wider communities across Gloucestershire.

I would like to pay tribute to all those who have been working tirelessly during the pandemic to keep adults with care and support needs safe. The safeguarding of some of our most vulnerable members of the community remains a key priority for the Board and all its partners.

I have witnessed some great examples of partnership working in Gloucestershire, in which the voluntary and community sectors have played a key role. This puts us in a good place to respond to the ongoing impact of the pandemic that will have a strong influence on the work of the partners well into 2021 and beyond.



Paul Yeatman

**Independent Chair
Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board**

Board Achievements

- ❖ GSAB Roadshows were held in April 2020, a week of morning events, held virtually, shining a light on safeguarding during the COVID-19 pandemic. The particular focus was on the Voluntary and Community Sectors contribution to keeping people safe during this challenging time. Each day had a specific theme; these were Financial Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Disability. These were attended by approximately 400 people across the whole week.
- ❖ Identification of two new tools for the 2021/22 Safeguarding Adults at Risk Self Assessment Audit by partner agencies, including the Voluntary and Community Sector for the first time.
- ❖ Further development of the GSAB Quarterly Report, using Power BI, as the reporting tool.
- ❖ Receiving Multi-Agency High Risk Behaviour referrals, as a result of the High Risk Behaviours Policy.
- ❖ Producing and disseminating four issues of the GSAB Quarterly Newsletter, covering a variety of themes, including one which focused on the content of the GSAB Roadshows, for those unable to attend the events.
- ❖ Undertaking three Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) during the last year, primarily on the theme of complex needs including homelessness, substance misuse, trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- ❖ As an alternative to face to face training, the Safeguarding and MCA level 2 programmes were translated into e-learning and launched in May 2020. Later in the summer, the multi-agency Safeguarding Level 3 training was successfully launched as a remote learning programme and delivered throughout the year.
- ❖ 22,747 Gloucestershire staff and volunteers completed GSAB approved safeguarding training.
- ❖ Establishing stronger links with community groups in Gloucestershire.
- ❖ Updated website – <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/>

Key Issues and Challenges

- ❖ Strategic Plan 2021-24
- ❖ Complex Needs
- ❖ National SAR Analysis
- ❖ COVID-19
- ❖ Voluntary and Community Sector Links

Strategic Plan 2018-21

High-level priorities set out in the Board's Strategic Plan are reflected across five areas:

Priority - Empowerment

We will give individuals relevant and clear information about recognising abuse, how to report it and the choices available.

Priority - Protection and Prevention

We will support people to report signs of abuse and we will respond and take actions to reduce risk and prevent further abuse occurring.

Priority - Proportionality

We will make sure professionals work in the best interests of adults at risk and only get involved as much as needed.

Priority - Partnership

We will have effective multi agency partnership arrangements and information sharing agreements.

Priorities - Leadership, Accountability & Governance

We will ensure that the Board and all partners know what is expected of them and that lines of accountability are clear.

GSAB Sub Groups

Safeguarding Adults Reviews – Learning from practice

Policy and Procedures – Guidance for staff

Workforce Development – Training

Communication and Engagement – Telling people about safeguarding

Fire Safety Development – Identifying fire risk

Quality Assurance – Checking standards

Safeguarding Activity

The number of Safeguarding concerns raised on behalf of adults at risk was **2416**. Of the **2416** concerns, **687** went on to become Section 42 enquiries and **70** became 'Other' enquiries, making a total of **757**. 'Other' relates to enquiries that have not met the criteria for a statutory enquiry, however some form of safeguarding enquiry is deemed to be required, for example, the person is at risk of abuse and has support needs, but not care needs. Data covers the period 1st April 2020 to 18th March 2021, due to a change in IT systems.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

For the year 2020/21, GSAB commissioned one new SAR (JK); this is a joint review with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership. An Alcohol Related Deaths Audit has also been undertaken.

2020/21 Priorities update

NC 'Nick' – Referred for a SAR following the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR). NC was a gentleman with complex health conditions, including a learning disability, and receiving care, treatment and support from health and care organisations. NC died in early 2018, aged 58, from malnutrition related to gut insufficiency, after a relatively short period of declining health. The report has been published 9th April 2021 and the recommendations disseminated and are being progressed.

SWOP (Sex Workers Outreach Project) 'Five Women' – Referred from the Nelson Trust, this SAR highlights the deaths of five women over a period of two years. At the time of their deaths, all women were engaging with services, with a common theme for each as abuse and trauma suffered at an early age. This thematic review aims to better understand how the county can work to support similar vulnerable groups. The initial draft report is expected in July 2021; it will be published in early autumn.

PH 'Peter' – Referred from Cheltenham Borough Council, this SAR is about a homeless man who died (in 2019) in Cheltenham town centre. PH had been rough sleeping prior to his death; he had mental health issues and was known to both statutory and voluntary agencies. The draft report has been received and is currently being considered by the SAR sub group prior to planning publication.

Warrington SAB commissioned a statutory review (LD) in 2017. Referred by family members, this young person died whilst receiving inpatient psychiatric care outside of Gloucestershire. The report has been published, with two recommendations relevant to Gloucestershire. These are being tracked and their progress monitored.

Planning for 2021/22:

- The learning from the three completed SARs will be disseminated and taken forward during the coming year (NC 'Nick', SWOP 'Five Women' and PH 'Peter').
- The findings of the Alcohol Related Deaths Audit will be shared with relevant agencies.
- The JK Joint SAR will be completed, with the emerging themes disseminated.
- The Gloucestershire recommendations from the Warrington SAB commissioned 'LD' SAR will be progressed.

The full SAR reports can be found on the GSAB website at: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/>

Partnership Achievements

There have been a number of achievements both individually by partners and collectively over the last year which have led to a reduction in the risk of harm.

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHC)

- Throughout the pandemic, the Trust safeguarding team has continued to function as a priority service, albeit with adaptations in place to work around restrictions and lockdowns
- Since November 2020, training has resumed using a virtual platform. The feedback for level 3 adult safeguarding has been favourable although some staff find receiving training through virtual platforms challenging.
- The team have continued to support the MARAC information sharing process putting additional resource in when needed

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT)

- Staff have raised concerns on 2,178 occasions related to abuse, neglect or self-neglect in patients aged 18 years and older
- Safeguarding risk assessments are now embedded as part of the routine ward admission processes
- Following an intensive virtual teaching schedule during summer 2020 staff are more attuned to Mental Capacity being time and decision-specific

Gloucestershire Constabulary

- Over the past year we have seen a significant increase (nearly 100%) in the numbers of risk assessment tools submitted for Adults at Risk (AAR).
- A new marker was created in December 2020 in order to improve recognition and response of Adults at Risk at first point of contact. This marker ensures those that come into contact with the vulnerable individuals take appropriate safeguarding action
- We have appointed an additional MASH Decision Maker taking our total now to three

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG)

- CCG staff led the initiative for support telephone calls to shielded and clinically vulnerable patient groups. With colleagues achieving circa 10,000 calls, the CCG Safeguarding Team ensured sufficient support through safeguarding training provision and domestic abuse awareness.
- CCG End of Life Group brought together relevant partners to discuss and address the needs of the staff and areas dealing with the increased deaths of people due to COVID-19.
- GCCG has provided Adult Safeguarding Level 3 single agency training to Primary Care Networks. Funding an accredited GSAB trainer and Zoom platform, feedback is very positive and uptake is good.