



Gloucestershire
Safeguarding Adults
Board

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report 2018/19

Executive Summary

Foreword: Introduction from Chair

Once again it is my pleasure to introduce you to this year's Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) Annual Report 2018/19.

Whilst safeguarding adults is a lead duty of the local authority, the responsibility for identifying, investigating and responding to concerns regarding abuse lies with staff across all organisations. This means that all agencies must share a common understanding of what constitutes abuse, how to respond to any concerns, how to help prevent abuse in the first place wherever possible, and to know what their responsibilities are.

Safeguarding adults with care and support needs has some real challenges. On the one hand we are all living longer, which is good news, but on the other hand many more individuals are living alone and are out of sight, which increases their level of risk of abuse or neglect by others. Also, many more individuals are now living with complex health conditions, which again raises their level of risk.

This means we collectively have to become smarter in raising awareness across our communities of what constitutes abuse and neglect, and making sure that everyone knows what to do if they experience abuse, if they witness it, or they become aware of someone who they suspect is being abused or neglected. The community and voluntary sector, which extends across all areas of our county, plays a key role in the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

Last year we highlighted that we had seen an increase in referrals from individuals who were deemed to have capacity and were engaging in risky behaviour, posing a real challenge to agencies. Many of these individuals had experienced adverse childhood experiences and had been removed from their families to live in a care setting.

During 2018/19 we held a joint workshop with our colleagues from the Safeguarding Children Board in order to explore the issue further, and we began looking at a comprehensive, multi-agency, person-centred response in order to meet this group's needs. There is no easy solution and work will continue in this area over the next 12 months, and will include the establishment of a Board sub group which focuses on safeguarding during the transition from childhood to adulthood.

The newly formed Service User Co-Production Sub Group in 2018 was a key development for us, with its aim of ensuring the voice of individuals from across our diverse communities with care and support needs is heard. This group continues to meet regularly and in the next quarter we will review what we have achieved in order to ensure that we are being effective in giving a voice to those that matter.

Paul Yeatman

Independent Chair
Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

Board Achievements

- ❖ Holding six roadshows on the theme of domestic abuse, in four locations across Gloucestershire. This included presentations from Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS), the County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Strategic Coordinator, the Mental Capacity Act Governance Manager and Gloucestershire Constabulary.
- ❖ A Board Development Event for Board members looking at the new Strategic Plan and learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARS).
- ❖ Completion of a partner agency Making Safeguarding Personal benchmarking exercise.
- ❖ Ongoing work to develop the quarterly report, to improve performance data reporting and include multi-agency data.
- ❖ Holding a joint GSAB/GSCB Transition Event for professionals. It looked at how Children/teenagers transition into adults, to ensure they receive the services and support needed. It gave professionals the opportunity to share their experiences and put forward ideas for improved working.
- ❖ Working with the University of Sussex and seven other local authorities to identify best practice in embedding learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews. This has included engaging with front line staff to ascertain the impact and effectiveness of our current process.
- ❖ Production of a High Risk Behaviors Policy and updated Elected Members' Guidance.
- ❖ A timetable of themed events, including Staying Safe and Domestic Abuse at the Co-Production and Service User Engagement Group at Inclusion Gloucestershire Hubs.
- ❖ 13,533 Gloucestershire staff and volunteers completed GSAB approved safeguarding training.
- ❖ Establishing stronger links with community groups in Gloucestershire.
- ❖ Updated website – <http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/>

Key Issues and Challenges

- ❖ Service User Engagement
- ❖ Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and other Learning Events
- ❖ High Risk Individuals
- ❖ Board Quarterly Performance Report

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 Adults Reviews (SARs)

GSAB has commissioned one SAR and one local Learning Review. A further SAR is taking place out of county where GSAB involvement has been for oversight and information. Nationally, there is an emerging theme relating to out of county placements, commissioner oversight, confidence in appropriate case management and management of risk.

Significant action outcomes for 2018/19 include:

- A 'Transitions Event' facilitated jointly between GSAB and GSCB. This work was initiated following two SAR referrals that did not meet the statutory threshold for a SAR. The combined learning and workshop event (held in March 2019) identified a significant cohort of high risk young people where there is vulnerability and potential risk of harm. Further work will take place, including a Transitions Thematic Review.
- Jointly progressing the priorities of the South West Thematic Review.
- SAR Tracker is active and seeks to provide a systematic management process for review of SARs and their recommendations.

Planning for 2019

- A new Transitions Thematic Review will be undertaken, bringing together the learning from several similar cases on a 'transitions' theme.
- The new SAR Tracker will be instrumental in improving future oversight and analysis of all the SARs undertaken. The advantages will include being able to reflect on previous SAR learning, actions taken and learning methodology; this should better govern decision making in all aspects of SARs.
- The SAR sub group welcomes the GSAB Strategic Plan, which will connect the work of all GSAB sub groups.

Safeguarding Activity

Calls to the Safeguarding Adults Team Advice Line, where professionals can call to discuss a case and receive advice on whether or not to raise a safeguarding concern remain high, with **4119** calls. The number of Safeguarding concerns raised on behalf of adults at risk was **2077**, when this is added to the number of advice line calls it makes a total of **6196** contacts with the team.

Of the **2077** concerns, **1048** went on to become Section 42 enquiries and **67** became 'Other' enquiries, making a total of **1115**. '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.

175 of the safeguarding concerns reported to the Adult Helpdesk were made by Gloucestershire Police, an increase from **162** last year. Of these **76** led to enquiries.

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.

2gether NHS Foundation Trust (2getherNHSFT)

- Funding secured for another permanent post within the Safeguarding Team
- Focused on Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence, MAPPA and Prevent as themes to promote preventative practice
- Now delivering level 3 safeguarding training jointly with GCC.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT)

- Implemented the Nursing Assessment and Accreditation Scheme, NAAS. This is a National programme which assesses and rates the quality and safety of care
- Implemented a Trust specific clinical practice guide to support our teams in relation to Safeguarding Adults at Risk and Pressure Ulcers
- Held joint awareness events with GCC Trading Standards Team, to highlight scams awareness and give guidance on the help and support available

Gloucestershire Constabulary

- Relocation of the MASH to Shire Hall has been completed and it is functioning effectively and safely
- Vulnerability Identification Screening Tool (VIST) continues to evolve to ensure we meet the needs of our community and keep vulnerable people safe from harm.
- Successful bids were made to the Policing Crime Commissioner, providing significant financial investment in the MASH and Adults at Risk business areas.

Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust (GCSNHST)

- An internal Trust Safeguarding Advice Line commenced in November 2018, allowing colleagues to seek advice and guidance from the safeguarding team
- Opportunity for staff working with adults to arrange individual or team supervision
- The adult and child safeguarding teams from GCS and 2gether Trust are now co-located and planning further integration

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG)

- Worked with Inclusion Gloucestershire to produce a short video 'Was Not Brought'. This film aims to raise awareness of the difficulties some individuals with a learning disability have in accessing medical services
- Reviewed and assured that all NHS contracts with the CCG clearly describe the legislative requirements of Safeguarding on local service providers
- An update of the GCCG's Strategy for Safeguarding Adults and Children has been published to reflect the CCG strategic Safeguarding priorities