

# **Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report Summary 2016/17**



**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S  
BUSINESS**

## *Foreword : Introduction from Chair*

I am pleased to present the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) 2016/17 Annual Report.

The report contains details of how safeguarding has been promoted and developed throughout Gloucestershire, through the work of the Board and its sub groups, which are populated by senior representatives from our statutory partners, along with other agencies including representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

It outlines the comprehensive programme of work of the Board, undertaken over the past twelve months, and shows how partners have worked together to achieve its objectives and implement its 3-year Strategic Plan 2015-18. Details of the work and outcomes that have been achieved are provided in this report and it is essential that the work undertaken over the past year is recognised and celebrated.

I am pleased to say that Gloucestershire has a strong and committed Board, and that Board and sub group members have continued to demonstrate their continued support for the work of the Board and for the principles and values which underpin safeguarding adults with care and support needs.

As I have stated previously, it is my responsibility to support and encourage partners and agencies in Gloucestershire to work collaboratively for the benefit of adults with care and support needs and bring about continual improvement. It's also part of my role to hold agencies to account, ensuring that individually, they do what they say they are going to do, and that collectively, agencies are working together to address issues surrounding abuse and neglect.

This year has seen a number of key developments and improvements being put in place in order to enhance safeguarding or minimise the risk of harm to adults with care and support needs.

These include:

- Enhancing and updating our GSAB Website
- Delivering our first Roadshows – themed on Self-Neglect, Learning from SARs and Modern Slavery (these will now become an annual event)
- Establishing closer links with the Voluntary and Community Sector, Gloucester Diocese and Age UK Gloucestershire
- Continued production of our Quarterly Mental Capacity Act and Safeguarding Newsletters for practitioners
- Publication of Hoarding Guidance and a Framework for Responding to Organisational failure, and
- Delivery of training for General Practitioners and Dentists.

Like other Boards, over the past 12 months we have seen a rise in the number of cases being referred for consideration of a Safeguarding Adults Review under section 44 of the Care Act 2014. These are detailed later in the report. In terms of reviews under this section, the Care Act 2014 defines what must also be included within an annual report:

- the findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (Safeguarding Adults Reviews) which have concluded in that year (whether or not they began in that year),
- the reviews arranged by it under section 44 which are ongoing at the end of that year (whether or not they began in that year),
- what it has done during that year to implement the findings of reviews arranged by it under that section, and
- where it decides during that year not to implement a finding of a review arranged by it under that section, the reasons for its decision.

As Independent Chair I am constantly seeking to make improvements in the way we deliver safeguarding adults work in Gloucestershire and ensure that we are always learning how we can be more effective. As a result of this we are about to take part in a thematic review of Safeguarding Adults Reviews across the South West region, in order to benchmark ourselves and establish best practice.

During the final year of our 3-year strategy the Board and its partners will seek to establish a new Communication and Engagement Sub Group along with a Service User Engagement Forum. This is in order to ensure that we can effectively engage with the public of Gloucestershire and front line practitioners in all our agencies. It is also ensure that the voice of individuals with care and support needs is heard, thereby directly contributing to continuous improvements in adult safeguarding in Gloucestershire. We will also embrace the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal in order to ensure that the wishes and views of service users are respected and are central to their experience of safeguarding.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the commitment of all our partners, who once again have delivered a great deal in the past 12 months, and who continue to contribute to improving the way we all work together to protect adults with care and support needs from the risk or experience of abuse. I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of all front line practitioners who work in the field of safeguarding adults with care and support needs, including the public and voluntary and community sectors.

As we commence the final year of our 3-year strategic plan, the Board is enthusiastic and committed to taking this agenda forward with the continued support of all its partners, remembering importantly that “safeguarding is everyone’s business”.



Paul Yeatman  
**Independent Chair, Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board**

# Strategic Plan 2015-18

The Board's Strategic Plan is set for a 3 year period in the light of the recommendation of the Care Act Guidance, which recommends that Safeguarding Adults Boards set a strategic plan for the next 3 – 5 years. The high-level priorities set out in the Board's Strategic Plan are reflected across these 5 areas:

## **Empowerment**

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

## **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.

## **Proportionality**

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

## **Partnership**

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

## **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.

# 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)**

- 2getherNHSFT has continued to improve the take up of training for safeguarding adults with a 'Think Family' approach.
- Staff working within adult teams have also received improved access to internal safeguarding supervision via the Trust's Safeguarding Team.
- In line with the Board's objectives, 2gether has specifically shared learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and from Multi Agency and Single Agency (internal) Audits

## **Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT)**

- Safe, harm free care, delivering the best care for everyone and promoting positive patient and carer experience are the vision of our Trust. Safeguarding is reflected in our Trust Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- We have an agreed annual programme of safeguarding communications and activities aimed at raising awareness for our patients, carers, our public and our staff. This has included Domestic Abuse awareness, Home Fire Safety, and awareness of self-neglect.

## **Gloucestershire Constabulary**

- The electronic risk assessment, called the Vulnerability Identification Screening Tool (VIST), is now operational and has made the recording and sharing of relevant information more efficient with partners.
- The reporting of public protection offences of all types continues to increase and the police have again increased the resources in the Police Central Referral Unit, which coordinates information with partner agencies.

## **Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust (GCSNHSFT)**

- The children and adults elements of the safeguarding team within Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust (GCS) continue to work more collaboratively in line with our 'think family' approach.
- GCS has also played a key role in developing the Mental Capacity Act "Train-the-Trainer" programme and has been instrumental in the production of resources to highlight issues around self-neglect and hoarding

## **Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG)**

- The GCCG has welcomed the appointment of the Named GP (commenced June 2016). This Specialist GP role ensures Gloucestershire GPs are supported to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities for both Adults and Children.
- GCCG began a GP Adult Safeguarding forum in December 2016, welcoming 35 GP Leads from across the County. The agenda covered the Mental Capacity Act awareness, PREVENT (Counter Terrorism Awareness Raising), Anti-Slavery / Human Trafficking brief. The forum is initially planned as a bi-annual event.

## Board Achievements

---

- ❖ Establishing links with VCS, Diocese, AgeUK Gloucestershire
- ❖ Self-Neglect poster Campaign carried out
- ❖ 2 Road shows held – key themes around Self-Neglect, Learning from SARs and Modern Slavery
- ❖ SCIE SAR training event held for Board Members
- ❖ Partner agency self assessment audit carried out
- ❖ Easy Read versions of Multi Agency Policy & Procedures and public facing documents
- ❖ Launch of new data collection tool to incorporate MSP outcomes
- ❖ Publication of Hoarding Guidance and Framework for Responding to Organisational Failure
- ❖ Development of SAR briefing paper for agencies to evidence shared learning
- ❖ Induction pack for Board Members produced

## What does the GSAB Management Committee Do?

---

The role of the Management Committee is to effectively manage the Board's business, co-ordinating the work programme and overseeing key business functions on behalf of the Board.

- Monitoring and reviewing safeguarding adults performance in Gloucestershire and providing an analysis of performance through quarterly reports to the GSAB;
- Implementing lessons learned from Safeguarding Adults Reviews;
- Receiving minutes from the Board and undertaking actions arising from the minutes as required;

During 2016/17 the Management Committee met quarterly and worked to a standard agenda which included oversight and updates to the Risk Register. A function of the Management Committee is also to review any reports that will be presented at Board meetings.

## GSAB Outcome & Performance Self-Assessment Audit

A key part of this year's work was looking at the further development of the self-assessment framework for partners, to understand the progress their organisations are making in safeguarding adults. All partners completed this assessment and they were collated for the board. Assurance on the ability of members to safeguard adults was good overall and areas for future work were highlighted.

These areas include:

- Community engagement
- Embedding the Mental Capacity Act
- Learning from audits and SARs
- Improving delivery to minority groups

## Safeguarding Adult Reviews

For these SARs, reports were commissioned with an accompanying action plan. The oversight of the delivery of these actions is undertaken by the SAR sub-group. As part of our evolving developments, different methodologies were used matched to each specific case.

During 2016/17 five reviews were carried out. 4 have been concluded with the fifth due to be published some time in May 2017. The full reports can be found on the GSAB website at:

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/>

5 referrals were also considered. 3 did not meet the SAR criteria and 2 are pending further information before a decision can be made regarding holding a review.

# Key Issues & Challenges for the coming year

## Making Safeguarding Personal

I feel safe and in control

I am given all the support I need to help me to make my own decisions where I can

- The ADASS Temperature Check, carried out in November 2016 to review progress on MSP found that, while Local Authorities feel they are well on track in terms of delivering person-centred approaches to safeguarding enquiries, this has yet to be translated into action by other partners. This is therefore a key priority for the coming year.

## Service User engagement

- In the next 12 months it will be a priority for the Board to find ways to increase the engagement of people with care and support needs in the work of the Board. Our aim is to set up a forum for people who use services to seek their views and input into the safeguarding process.

## Social Isolation

I am asked my opinion if people around me think I am at risk

- Two of the SARs carried out this year ('KH' and 'Ted') featured social isolation as a major contributory factor to what happened to the individuals. Their social isolation was self-imposed, in that they both withdrew from their communities and were unwilling to engage with services. Both of them had the capacity to make this decision.
- Self-imposed social isolation appears to be on the rise, and it is often a factor in cases where adults are self-neglecting - this is a complex issue, however it will be a priority for the Board in the coming year to build links with the VCS to look at the part they can play in the preventive agenda.

Click this link to view the full [Annual Report](#)