

# Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

## Annual Report 2014/15 & Strategic Plan 2015/18

### Summary



**Safeguarding is Everyone's Business**

## **Foreword : Introduction from Chair**

Welcome to our annual report. This is my first annual report having taken up the role of Independent Chair in June 2014 and it is my responsibility to support continual improvement in the work of all agencies responsible for safeguarding 'adults at risk' in Gloucestershire.

It is important to remember that the Safeguarding Adults Board does not deliver operational services and is not solely responsible for all safeguarding arrangements in Gloucestershire. The Board's role is to exercise oversight and assurance in respect of safeguarding arrangements, some of which may be developed and led by others.

The Safeguarding Board itself is made up of senior managers from a wide range of partners and agencies, including the voluntary and community sector. As in previous years, attendance at the Board has been high.

The past year has been a real challenge for the Board members and in particular the statutory partners, who have had to make significant budget savings. Despite this, commitment to safeguarding adults remains high and I am grateful to colleagues for the work they put into the Board.

This next year is a very significant year for safeguarding adults. For the first time safeguarding adults is based on a legal framework from 1st April 2015 and all councils are required to have a Safeguarding Adults Board. Gloucestershire has had a Safeguarding Adults Board since 2009 and is therefore well placed to implement the new Care Act in relation to safeguarding adults. The Board will be working hard to make sure that the Care Act principles are central to how we work.

The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15 outlines the work of the Board over the last twelve months and how partner agencies have worked together to improve the safety of adults at risk of abuse. The report contains details of how safeguarding has been promoted and developed over the last year through the Board and its sub-groups. The report also describes how the Board intends to continue this in the future.

It is well recognised that safeguarding is complex and challenging work, and is never more so than when an individual dies or is seriously harmed through abuse or neglect.

In the past 12 months we have undertaken and completed two Safeguarding Adult Reviews, with a third to be completed this year. The circumstances leading to these reviews have a devastating impact on the lives of the victims and their families, as well as the carers and professionals involved. They are never taken lightly by any organisation or professional involved in the case. The learning from the reviews is now being progressed and implemented.

Over the last 12 months we have seen a number of developments and improvements being put in place in order to enhance safeguarding or to minimise the risk of harm to adults at risk. These include:

- Significant work towards the revised Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures document.
- Establishment of a Fire Safety Development Group.
- A framework for the resolution of professional disagreements in working relationships for the safety of adults at risk.
- A joint safeguarding communication campaign calendar covering adults and children.
- A joint working protocol between Healthwatch Gloucestershire and the Board.
- Safeguarding Adults Team membership of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

As outlined in this report we have seen improvements which have made a significant contribution to safeguarding, but all Boards face a number of challenges as we move forward. Many of these are being actively addressed or are in the process of being implemented, whereas the impact of others is simply unknown.

These include: continuing austerity, potential increases in demand, maintaining quality at the same time as putting the person at the centre of the process, the inclusion of self-neglect within the Care Act and engaging and consulting with the wider community.

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board is not complacent about the work ahead and is committed to seeking continuous improvement and learning. We will work in a supportive and collaborative way, challenging ourselves in order to assess our effectiveness in safeguarding adults at risk in Gloucestershire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Yeatman".

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

# Strategic Plan 2015-18

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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.

**Empowerment** - to give individuals relevant and clear information about recognising abuse, how to report it and the choices available, and to listen to the voice of people who have experienced the safeguarding process.

**Protection and Prevention** - support people to report signs of abuse and we will respond and take actions to reduce risk and prevent further abuse occurring. We will ensure our workforce and wider community have the appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence to protect vulnerable people.

**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 GSAB 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)

- A review and refresh of Trust safeguarding dashboards.
- Improved focus on increasing access and quality of safeguarding training.
- Maintaining a high level of organisational focus on safeguarding within the organisation via the Trust's safeguarding committee, quarterly board reports, newsletters and intranet pages.

## Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT)

- Continued improvements to patient and carer experience for our patients with Dementia, Learning Disability and patients with vision and hearing impairment.
- Safeguarding trends are monitored, reported and actions implemented.
- An updated Trust Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards action plan has been developed.

## Gloucestershire Constabulary

- A restructure of intelligence capability and increased analytical capacity to enable us to maintain an overview in relation to vulnerable adults.
- The Constabulary mapping system has been used to record the locations of Care Homes to assist in the response to vulnerable adults.
- Staff made fully aware of the Care Act 2014 and the implications for them in terms of the statutory responsibility to identify vulnerable adults, share information and investigate offences.
- Police and Crime Commissioner agreed a financial contribution to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board.

## Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust (GCSNHST)

- Adult and children's safeguarding teams have been brought together under a Head of Safeguarding and new post of Specialist Nurse Safeguarding Adults.
- The existing Safeguarding Adults Committee has been reviewed and is now called the Strategic Safeguarding Operational Group with increased members.
- A commitment to training and education despite continued pressure on our services.

## Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG)

- The GCCG has committed to contribute financially to the GSAB budget on an annual basis.
- There is now a funded representative from Health to work as a researcher in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- GCCG works closely with the LA and CQC to ensure that any safeguarding alerts raised in relation to care homes in Gloucestershire are robustly investigated.

## Board Achievements

- Working with colleagues locally and nationally to revise the Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures.
- Refreshing the Workforce Development Strategy to deliver both a generic and bespoke training programme.
- Establishing a Fire Safety Development Sub- Group.
- Working alongside our colleagues in children's services delivering a joint Communication Summit.
- A further achievement for the Board over the last 12 months is that Specialist Adult Safeguarding Practitioners joined the Gloucestershire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in January 2015.

## What do the GSAB Sub-Groups Do?

- Workforce Development (training).
- Quality Assurance (checking standards).
- Communications (telling people about safeguarding).
- Safeguarding Adults Reviews (learning from practice).
- Policy and Procedures (guidance for staff).
- Fire Safety Development Group (safeguarding adults who are at significant risk of fires).

## Key Issues and Challenges

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The Board's main challenges for the next couple of years will be to meet the increasing demand and to continue to ensure high quality of practice which focuses on improving people's safety and wellbeing and the realisation of the outcomes they want.



## Safeguarding Adult Reviews

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During 2013/14 the Board revised its approach to conducting Serious Case Reviews in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014, renaming them Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The sub-group discusses which type of review would be proportionate to the case and will promote effective learning and improvement action, with a view to preventing future deaths or serious harm occurring.

In the past 12 months two reviews have been completed and a further one commenced early in 2015. The circumstances leading to these reviews have a devastating impact on the lives of the victims and their families, as well as the carers and professionals involved. They are never taken lightly by any organisation or professional involved in the case. The learning from the reviews is now being progressed and implemented.

## Safeguarding Activity

This year, 2901 calls were made to the new safeguarding adults advice line for staff and the number of concerns reported to the County Council's Adult Help Desk was 3,854 of which 1,353 full safeguarding investigations were progressed.

This does not mean that there is more harm happening, it means that more people are telling us they are being harmed and fewer people are keeping it a secret.

Of the 3852 safeguarding concerns reported, 202 had the involvement of Gloucestershire Police. 89 of these 202 led to further enquiries and 63 of them were investigated as a criminal matter and included the following actions:

- ❖ Taken into custody
- ❖ Disclosure and Barring Service Referral
- ❖ Charges dropped at victim's request
- ❖ Domestic Violence Protection Order
- ❖ Formal and Informal Cautions
- ❖ Arrested and bailed – pending court appearances
- ❖ Pending Crown Prosecution Service decision
- ❖ Restorative Justice
- ❖ Police Information Notice – to raise awareness of risk with relevant people

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