

Division(s):

CABINET – 20 NOVEMBER 2018

OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Report by Director for Adult Services

Introduction

1. The OSAB is required to report annually on the work of the Board and of its partners, assessing the position of the partnerships in relation to the safeguarding adults at risk within Oxfordshire.
2. The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board has made great strides in the last year in bringing together partners to better protect adults in Oxfordshire. The report covers the period 2017-18.

Exempt Information

3. There is no exempt information.

Key Findings

4. When there are known or suspected incidents of abuse or neglect, where the person has a care and support need and is unable to protect themselves, professionals are required to raise a safeguarding concern with the Local Authority. This is the duty laid out in The Care Act 2014, with further information on abuse, neglect and self-neglect being laid out in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance (www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance).
5. There were 6639 safeguarding concerns raised by organisations in 2017-18. This is a decrease in concerns as compared to 2016-17 (7201 concerns). This also represents the first time in 6 years that concerns have not increased by 25% or more.
6. This change in numbers is thought to be as a result of several pieces of work undertaken by the Board and its partners, outlined below.
7. Firstly, the Board is offering face-to-face training for professionals. Over 1,200 professionals undertook training in 2017-18 from across nearly all partner agencies. Those that did not send workers were able to satisfy the Board that their staff had been adequately trained in Safeguarding using internal training resources.

8. Secondly, the Board pulled together a large group of service providers to review and update the thresholds document. This document is used to describe the situations in which an issue should be reported to the Local Authority, who ultimately have safeguarding responsibility under the Care Act 2014. The coproduction of the document has received very positive feedback from service providers and has led to three other Safeguarding Boards requesting to use our thresholds document as well as the Care Quality Commission using it as a good practice example across the region.
9. Thirdly, the Local Authority set up a consultation service, which is heavily promoted by the Safeguarding Board in all its communications and training. This allows people to discuss a concern before raising it via the website so they can seek assurance that the issue does meet the thresholds criteria mentioned above.
10. Training for Councillors covering both Childrens and Adults Safeguarding was delivered on 11th October 2018. An updated briefing for Councillors (County, District, Parish, etc) is being produced to ensure the message is continuing to get out there to the general public.

Financial and Staff Implications

11. None

Equalities Implications

12. None

RECOMMENDATION

13. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**

- (a) Note that the adult safeguarding partnership is working across Oxfordshire and that work undertaken by the Board and its partners has resulted in a 9% decrease in safeguarding concerns being referred into the Local Authority, reversing a six-year trend of an annual 30% increase in concerns year-on-year.
- (b) Note the priorities within the report (pages 24 & 25) around service user and community engagement, improving multi-agency working, monitoring key issues and early help strategies & initiatives for 2018-19.

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