

# **OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD – 5 NOVEMBER 2015**

## **Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adult Board (OSAB) Peer Review – Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Health and Well Being Board about the Peer Review undertaken during June 2015, in relation to the Oxfordshire Adult Safeguarding Board (OSAB).

### **Context**

The Local Government Association set out a new approach in 2011 following the changes to the nationally imposed inspection and assessment regime (under the Care Quality Commission) to a new system referred to as "Sector Led Improvement".

This approach has received high levels of support as Councils have endorsed the key principles, in that they see themselves as responsible for, their own performance and improvement, working with partners as part of a whole system to deliver services and ensure there is transparency and accountability locally.

In Adult Social Care Sector Led improvement has been implemented to oversee and improve standards, and are a key aspect of driving forward both strategic and operational improvements. It is therefore critical that in order to take maximum advantage of the opportunity.

The local authority can choose both the area for review and the scope of that review. By the very nature of the review it is expected that an area is selected where there can be significant opportunity for service improvement, where there are proven challenges and where it would be difficult for a single agency to effect the necessary change alone.

### **Oxfordshire Peer Review**

As part of the South East Directors of Adult Social Services (SE ADASS) sector led improvement initiative, Oxfordshire requested a Peer Review of the Oxfordshire Adults Safeguarding Board (OSAB). The review is intended to support Adult Social Care and partners to improve the services and performance, whilst not straying into regulatory territory.

The OSAB was selected for a number of reasons:

- Safeguarding Adult Boards became a statutory requirement in the Care Act 2014 for implementation in April 2015.
- Whilst OSAB had been in place for a number of years it was widely recognised that it would benefit from a review of its overall leadership and governance and to test whether it was Care Act compliant.
- It was also recognised that there were a number of shortcomings and capacity issues as a consequence of the lack of a Business Manager for a significant period.
- A formal review would assist in whole partnership change given that the responsibilities are broader than those for Adult Social Care alone.

- The review would give all partners and governing bodies a clear mandate and roadmap for change.

Discussion also took place with other local authorities who had selected their Safeguarding Adult Board for a Peer Review, who confirmed that the review had been a key catalyst for change, in generating a common ownership of the new agenda and in galvanising all partners to renew their energies and responsibilities in relation to the Board and the delivery of its core functions.

In addition the Board and Adult Social Care had instituted a number of changes over the spring and summer 2015, during the time of the Peer Review, in order to ensure that there was sufficient capacity for change, so that the Board would be in a position to take a robust strategic leadership role in relation to safeguarding locally, and deliver the anticipated actions from the review to ensure Care Act compliance.

These included:

- The appointment of a new chair.
- The development of a joint Safeguarding Business Unit for adults and children.
- The appointment of a new Business Manager.
- The appointment of a new post of Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships Manager to work across the adult and children's boards.

The outcome of the review was broadly in line with expectations and gives a clear mandate to all partners to take a strong leadership role and implement the key actions from the review, as well as repositioning the Board at the heart of the partnership geography for safeguarding adults with care and support needs in Oxfordshire.

## **Recommendation**

To note the Action Plan currently being implemented as a result of the Recommendations.