

**SUNDERLAND SHADOW
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

14 September 2012

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD – BUSINESS PLAN

Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing & Adult Services

Background

The Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is the partnership body with collective responsibility for ensuring that vulnerable individuals are protected from abuse. The multi agency partnership is chaired by an Independent Chair with membership drawn from the Council, NHS partners, the Police Authority, Probation, providers of services and representatives of user interest groups.

A significant requirement of the work of SSAB is to agree its business plan and associated delivery plan.

As safeguarding adults is seen as a key component of any approach to Health & Well Being it is felt prudent to seek views from the HWBB on the draft business plan.

Context

The Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) Business Plan is the strategic document that identifies how Safeguarding Adults work will be delivered within Sunderland by the collective working together of the key partner agencies within the City. The Plan sets out how the SSAB will meet its strategic aims and will be regularly monitored and reviewed as part of the SSAB Business monitoring process.

The fundamental purpose of the Plan is to drive forward the work of Safeguarding Adults during the coming years and to inform all partner agencies and the public about the work undertaken by the SSAB to make Sunderland a safer place for vulnerable people.

The Business Plan will assist the SSAB to support, monitor and review the contribution made by agencies, both individually and collectively, in order to fulfil their safeguarding duties.

Key Outline of the Business Plan

The Key Aims of the SSAB are to

- 1. Develop and deliver a shared vision for safeguarding adults** firmly rooted in the wider vision for Sunderland and the promotion of individual human rights, dignity and respect

2. **Develop and maintain strong links with relevant partnerships across the City** and ensure the inclusion of safeguarding adults in their strategies and business plans
3. **Promote the active involvement of services users, their carers, their families and their advocates** and adopt an inclusive approach to secure wider community understanding, awareness and feedback on safeguarding adults arrangements
4. **Oversee and monitor operational safeguarding adults activity** and ensure the production of timely and accurate performance and safeguarding information
5. **Secure citywide consistency in safeguarding** and ensure all staff and stakeholders know and use policies and procedures effectively
6. **Secure effective operational engagement and integration** through robust governance arrangements and continued Board development and growth
7. **Promote a learning culture around safeguarding** by supporting and participating in Serious Case Reviews, through shared learning, by learning and contributing to relevant national policy and research, through the dissemination of information, advice, feedback, reviews, research, best practice in prevention and learning through joint quality assurance processes.

For each of the aims a series of key actions have been developed which are set out in the main body of the plan.

In addition SSAB has agreed to adopt the following key principles in delivering its aims.

- The provision of strong , effective Leadership
- Support communications, collaboration, innovation and raising awareness
- Embrace partnership working
- Promote quality, performance and 'learning lessons'
- Develop and implement training and workforce development
- Prevent and respond to abuse
- Develop and implement robust governance arrangements

The past year has set down significant challenges for Safeguarding Adult arrangements in Sunderland. Continued high volumes of referrals, the completion of its first adult Serious Case Review , and reviewing the way in which safeguarding is managed have all placed significant pressures on statutory and third sector partners . All this comes at a time when all stakeholders are faced with challenging resource constraints which potentially impact on the resources available to be deployed on important issues like safeguarding.

With this in mind partners have become more focussed on providing more effective and efficient ways of providing safeguarding services. Whilst there is still 'road testing' to be completed, a new set of thresholds have been developed to ensure that those most in need of safeguarding assistance are able to access such help. The Board is also currently reviewing its manner of operation to ensure it gains maximum impact from the contributions of all the partners. Such work is not taking place in isolation – but alongside colleagues in children's safeguarding to explore whether there are potential efficiencies to be gained by either the two systems working closer together or indeed undertaking some activities in a joined up manner. This all makes the 2012/13 Business Plan a significant piece of work.

Recommendations

The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is therefore recommended to:

- Receive a presentation from the Independent Chair of the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board
- Agree that the formal sign off and subsequent monitoring of progress against the business plan is undertaken by the Adults Partnership Board in its advisory capacity to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

