



Committee and Date

**Health and Adult Social  
Care Scrutiny Committee**

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Item

Public

## **Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Shropshire Adult Safeguarding Report 2014-15**

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### **Summary**

This report provides context and oversight of the development of Shropshire Adults Safeguarding Board and makes particular reference to the revised statutory obligations under the Care Act

### **Content**

1. Introduction and Local Context
2. The Care Act 2014 and Safeguarding Boards
3. Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board (KASiSB) - Current Position

### **Recommendations**

Scrutiny are requested to:

- Review the progress made to date in implementing the requirements of the Care Act.
- Comment on the strategic action plan of the new Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board
- Confirm and agree date of the receipt of the statutory Annual Report for 2015-16.
- Agree recommendation that in addition to the presentation of the annual Safeguarding report, a mid-year update is presented for scrutiny.

## **1. Introduction and Local Context**

During 2014/15, Shropshire Council continued to work in a joint Safeguarding Board arrangement with Telford & Wrekin Council. This joint arrangement came to an end in March 2015. The Shropshire Adult Safeguarding Board met in shadow form on 27th March 2015 and held its first formal Board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Much work was required by the joint Board to prepare for implementing new statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and for this reason an informal decision was taken by the joint Board to focus on these preparations and not produce an annual report for 2014/15.

This report is now an opportunity to update Scrutiny on the work undertaken so far.

## **2. The Care Act 2014 and Safeguarding Boards**

2.1 The Care Act 2014 (The Act) places a number of statutory duties on local authorities. They are to:

- Set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) (which must conduct a Safeguarding Adult Review when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect or suffers serious harm and agencies could have worked more effectively together)
- Arrange for an independent advocate where appropriate (i.e. when a person has 'substantial difficulty' in being involved in the process and where there is no other appropriate person to represent and support them)
- Co-operate with each of its relevant partners
- Make Enquiries (section 42) or cause others to make enquiries

2.2 The statutory guidance that accompanies the Act further **requires** Safeguarding Boards to:

- Have a strategic role greater than the sum of its operational duties
- Oversee and lead adult safeguarding
- Be interested in a range of matters that prevent abuse or neglect

2.2.1 Additionally, the Board **must** publish:

- A strategic plan each financial year
- An annual report
- Clear policies and processes

### 2.2.2 Annual reports **must**:

- State what SAB and partners have done to implement the strategy
- Provide information about Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)
- State what the SAB has done to implement its finding
- State what the SAB has not acted on and why not
- State how the SAB is monitoring its policies and intentions to deliver its strategic plan
- Be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the local authority, Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, Healthwatch and Chair of the Health and wellbeing Board

### 2.2.3 Strategic plans **must**:

- Set out how it (SAB) will help adults
- State what action each member will take to deliver the strategic plan
- State how SAB will consult with Healthwatch
- Involve the local community

Scrutiny should also note that we are expecting a revised version of the statutory guidance shortly. Officers will advise Scrutiny if any of the above is affected.

## 3. Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board (KASiSB) - Current Position

### 3.1 The Strategic Plan

As a result of a development day held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2105, a series of priorities were identified by the SAB. These priorities were amended as a result of a consultation event held on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The name of the Board was also changed as attendees (particularly adult and carer representatives) thought it was important it reflected the work it did. Scrutiny should note that the name of the Board is now the "Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board". The Strategic Plan is attached at appendix 1.

### 3.2 The Independent Chair

- 3.2.1 An Independent Chair (Ivan Powell) has been funded by Shropshire Council to help ensure the Council as well as other Partners, are held to account for their work to safeguard and protect adults in Shropshire. It should be noted that key partners have agreed to share future costs in relation to future administration and management of the board.

3.2.2 Ivan Powell was a senior Police officer working in West Mercia. He also chairs Herefordshire's Adult Safeguarding Board so is well aware of the challenges faced by each local authority in meeting and anticipating the needs of its population within such rural environments.

### 3.3 Safeguarding Lead

3.3.1 Sarah Hollinshead-Bland took up this role on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. The post supports the Board and helps to ensure its statutory functions are implemented. It also manages the specialist Adult Safeguarding Team. Sarah Hollinshead-Bland re-joins the Council with over fourteen years' experience in the field of Adult Safeguarding.

### 3.4. Policy, Procedure and Practice in Shropshire

#### 3.4.1 *Policy and Procedure*

The Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board are working in accordance with the Pan West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedure. This has been accepted as our overarching Policy but still requires local guidance to be developed in order to explain how safeguarding works operationally in Shropshire. To that end the Board has produced guidance on risk assessment and risk management in the safeguarding process and is consulting on the following guidance documents:

- How the safeguarding process works in Shropshire (this covers everything from when to raise a concern to establishing a safeguarding plan if there is ongoing risk of abuse or neglect)
- Conducting Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- Self-Neglect

#### 3.4.2 *Practice*

An essential part of the development of the Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board was to review our safeguarding practice in Shropshire was reviewed in July 2015. As a result of this, our First Point of Contact team now play a significant part in screening safeguarding concerns as they come in and gathering information to assist the safeguarding team to make decisions about what action should be taken.

There is an emphasis on working with the person affected at the start of the process to understand what they want to happen and what part they play in protecting themselves from abuse or neglect.

Clear processes are now established for receiving concerns, making decisions, planning and undertaking enquiries and evaluating those enquiries to make sure people are safe.

There is also a regular information sharing meeting that enables discussion about providers that cause us the most concern. The purpose of this forum is to prevent business failure at the earliest

opportunity and promote the continuous improvement in the quality of service provision in the county. This meeting is attended by BOTH SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD Clinical Commissioning Group and Care Quality Commission colleagues as well as Telford & Wrekin Council.

Our training programme is currently under review and the awareness session has been revised to align with our practice changes since the Care Act 2014.

### 3.5 Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Board is currently undertaking one Safeguarding Adult Review, concerning a person who sustained significant bruising while in a Shropshire Care Home. We have not been able to identify how the bruising occurred but it is important that we consider what lessons can be learned to prevent harm to others and improve how as a Partnership, we work more effectively together. The outcome of the review will be reported in the Annual Report for 2015-16.

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
Pan West Midlands Policy and Procedure - Care Act (2014) Statutory Guidance <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-statutory-guidance-for-implementation">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-statutory-guidance-for-implementation</a>
Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board Constitution - <a href="http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/media/1978/west-midlands-adult-safeguarding-policy-and-procedures.pdf">http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/media/1978/west-midlands-adult-safeguarding-policy-and-procedures.pdf</a>
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
Lee Chapman – Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)
<b>Local Member</b>
<b>Appendices</b>
Appendix 1 – Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board Strategic Plan



# Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board

## *Strategic Plan*

### 2015 – 18

<b>Team</b>	N/A	<b>Author(s)</b>	Ivan Powell and Sarah Hollinshead-Bland
<b>Document</b>	Strategic Plan		
<b>Date Created</b>	12.11.15 (amended following consultation event)	<b>Address</b>	Ptarmigan House
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- 9. KASiSB Business Plan 2015-16 (*under development*)**



## **1. Foreword from the Independent Chair**

The Care Act and related Guidance came into force in April 2015. This gives definition to the status, role and function of our Safeguarding Adults Board and we have done a great deal of work to understand the changes required of us and have the important elements in place. We are starting from a good position. Whilst the Board is newly established, it has an Independent Chair and has strong commitment from its members, many of whom benefit from their experiences on the joint board with Telford and Wrekin. We also welcome our new members who bring fresh enthusiasm, energy and innovation.

We face new challenges ranging through the inclusion of self-neglect as a category of abuse, the requirement for public involvement in the production of this Strategic Plan, through to changes in Board membership and accountabilities. Some of these we can address and deliver quickly. Others will need commitment and more work during the first year of this strategy and will form a definitive element in years two and three.

The prime focus of the work of the Board is to ensure that safeguarding is consistently understood by anyone engaging with adults who may be at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect and that there is common commitment to improving outcomes for them. This means understanding how to support and empower people at risk of harm, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and other types of harm to resolve the circumstances which put them at risk. We want to develop and facilitate practice which puts the person in control and generates a more person-centred set of responses and outcomes. This includes being confident that effective advocacy services are in place for anyone who may need them at any point during a safeguarding episode. We call this Making Safeguarding Personal.

When things go seriously wrong and people die or are permanently affected by abuse, we have a responsibility to look into this thoroughly by means of a Safeguarding Adult Review. This process seeks to identify and report on learning so that multi-agency practice will improve. Equally important, is our role in promoting good practice and giving our residents confidence that concerns can be expressed and will be responded to effectively.

All working in adult safeguarding have the difficult task of understanding risk, assessing the level of this for the individual concerned and constructing a plan with the person affected to manage this which works for the person and is understood by those around them. This demands sound grasp of the legal basis for the work along with effective listening and communication. This often presents a challenge in a society where there is a pressing tendency to avoid rather than to manage risk. A key task for the Board is to evaluate the quality of risk management in safeguarding in Shropshire and assure all of us that the right balance is being struck.

This Strategy sets our tone and purpose for the coming three years. It is not a fixed document and will be reviewed and developed annually but gives definition to what is important for adult safeguarding in Shropshire and how your Safeguarding Adults Board will work to ensure that everything is being done to prevent abuse and that a timely and proportionate response is made when it occurs.

Ivan Powell  
Independent Chair

## **2. What is Safeguarding?**

The Care Act Statutory Guidance (section 14.7) describes adult safeguarding as “*protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances*”.

## **3. A Local Strategy**

Whilst the production of a strategic plan is a statutory requirement (Care Act Guidance, section 14.107) a local strategy is key to supporting our aim to work with Shropshire people and with partners to ensure that adults with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse or neglect are:

- living as safely as they can
- fully involved in the safeguarding process and the development of any ongoing safeguarding plan if required.
- receiving effectively co-ordinated services

Since the publication of ‘No Secrets’ in 2000, we have worked to promote an understanding and actions that “safeguarding is everybody’s business”. The development of this strategy marks a commitment for a shared vision and actions that will keep adults at risk safe and protected from abuse and neglect.

## **4. Background**

The Care Act 2014 provides the legal framework for adult safeguarding, setting out the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners. It places a duty on Local Authorities to establish Safeguarding Adults Boards and also stipulates local authorities’ responsibilities, and those with whom they work, to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

The role of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and protect adults in its area by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does and each Board may do anything which appears to it, to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective.

The Care Act Guidance details the statutory requirement to have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and that the Board has three primary functions:

- It must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective, and what the members will do to achieve these objectives. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the Local Healthwatch organisation.
- It must publish an annual report detailing what the Board has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews or any on-going reviews.
- It must conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review.

Additionally, the Care Act specifies core membership for the Board and suggests wider membership is desirable. There is clarity about the formal delivery and oversight of the Boards objectives through strategic and business planning. The Board has responsibility for setting the vision for safeguarding locally and ensuring delivery of this Strategic Plan along with its annual update.

The Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire (KASiSB) has previously been a joint board with colleagues in Telford and Wrekin Council. This has provided a good foundation upon which to move forwards. KASiSB members have been involved in a development day which has helped shape the board structure, membership and its strategic priorities in this document.

## **5. The Vision for Shropshire**

“Shropshire is a place where adults with care and support needs as well as children live a life free from abuse or neglect”.

## **6. Our “Business as Usual Activity”**

Shropshire recognises that safeguarding adults is not just about reacting when abuse has been identified but it is very important to prevent abuse from happening in the first instance. Safeguarding is a range of activity and the development of a culture that promotes good practice and caring within services. The person at the centre of the concern should feel safe in their homes and in their communities.

The following areas are identified as business as usual activities for the KASiSB. They should be reflected in the structure of the Board and its business plan:

- a. assurance and challenge
- b. ensure the effective undertaking safeguarding enquires (including section 42 enquires which we have to do if a person has care and support needs and they are experiencing or are at risk of abuse).
- c. undertaking safeguarding adult reviews and changing practice as a result of what we learn from them
- d. audit and performance (including identifying trends from our communities and using our experience to constantly improve what we do)

## **7. Our Strategic Priorities**

In addition to our business as usual activity, to deliver our vision we have identified the following priority areas to work on over the next three years:

- a) preventing abuse from occurring – we need to do this for three main reasons:
  - o to develop a culture of caring for others
  - o to stop harm from happening to people
  - o to minimise the impact of dealing with abuse on our services
- b) Making Safeguarding Personal and implementing personalisation – personalisation means giving people as much control as possible over their lives. The KASiSB needs to be confident that this practice is embedded in all services. The Board also needs to be confident that when a safeguarding concern has been raised, the person affected is part of all decisions that are made.
- c) public and workforce awareness of their responsibility to safeguard people and report concerns if necessary – the public and the workforce are essential if we want to stop abuse happening in the first instance and respond effectively if it has happened. Everyone needs to understand their responsibility at all stages.
- d) establishing effective working relationships with other strategic Partnerships – The Shropshire Safeguarding Board should not work in isolation. In order to be effective and achieve as wide a reach as possible, other strategic partnerships need to be clear about their role in Safeguarding adults with care and support needs from abuse.

## **8. KASiSB Resources 2015-16**

Still under development.

## **9. KASiSB Business Plan 2015-16**

This section sets out in detail how our strategic priorities will be met. Each sub-group will be expected to develop a business plan that clearly demonstrates how the Board priorities will be met. The KASiSB Board's performance dataset, audit programme and other associated learning and improvement activity will enable the KASiSB to evaluate the impact of its priorities. The priorities and the impact of the plan will be reported in the KASiSB Annual Report.

It is to be recognised that this is a starting point for much of the work that lies ahead, and some of the priorities will need to be developed further as additional statutory guidance is issued and reviews of the Business Plan are completed. There will be an increasing requirement going forwards to scrutinise individual agency performance, which will then be reported upon in future KASiSB Annual Reports.

## Business Plan Template

KASiSB meeting name:

Year: 2015/16

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What do we need to do?	Why do we need to do it?	What difference will it make?	Who is responsible for making it happen?	When will it be done by?	Letter/no. of KASiS strategic priority

