

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board

Summary Minutes

Meeting held on **Wednesday 22 July 2020**, 1-3.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Please note these are not full minutes. They are intended to provide an overview of discussions and decisions. Due to the confidential nature of some of the items discussed, it is not possible to publically share full minutes.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) is the multi-agency partnership responsible for ensuring that adults at risk in Newcastle are safeguarded and protected.

Extraordinary NSAB Meeting 1 July 2020

This Board held their second, extraordinary NSAB meeting with the three statutory safeguarding adults partners. It was agreed that the extraordinary NSAB meetings would be stood down unless any NSAB member felt it was necessary for them to reconvene.

Criminal exploitation and serious violence update

NSAB members received a presentation from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), which included details of their Response Strategy. NSAB members were keen to highlight the needs of adults with care and support needs within this. A draft Criminal Exploitation and Serious Violence Strategy for Newcastle had been circulated for comment which follows on from cross-partnership work on this issue. The Board heard about a new post which had been funded by the VRU to work within the Sexual Exploitation Hubs which would build on the knowledge and experience of working with adult victims of sexual exploitation and apply this to other forms of criminal exploitation. The post would have a key role around awareness raising.

Covid-19 and safeguarding adults

An update was provided from the Operational Leads group who had continued to meet due to Covid-19. Partners report operating as close to business-as-usual as possible and that safeguarding adults activity remains high. Relevant case law, linked to the Mental Capacity Act, was also highlighted.

NSAB Performance Scorecard and Safeguarding Adults Collection Return 2018-19

NSAB received the end of year position in relation to multi-agency safeguarding activity. This included data which has been submitted nationally to NHS Digital as part of the Safeguarding Adults Collection. The volume of safeguarding adults concerns, section 42 enquiries and other enquiries remains at a consistent level when compared to the previous three years. The Board considered a reduction in conversion rate from concern to section 42 enquiry and the impact that the addition of the MASH triage had on meeting subsequent timescales in the safeguarding adults process. There was also discussion about support and representation for people who would have a substantial difficulty in participating in the safeguarding adults process.

Safeguarding Adults Learning and Development

The Learning and Development Committee provided information on how safeguarding adults training was being delivered during lockdown. Face-to-face training had been suspended and e-learning and workbooks were primarily being used. Virtual equivalents of face-to-face sessions are being planned. A survey had been sent out asking people about their experiences of safeguarding adults training throughout the course of the pandemic – respondents were generally able to access some form of training and were positive about online/virtual options.

Newcastle's approach to supporting care homes

The NSAB received a presentation from Ang Jamson, Head of Integrated Services, about the support that is being provided to care homes during Covid-19. Collaborative Newcastle Care Home Group is a partnership between Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Gateshead CCG, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust and care homes. The group provides strategic leadership, direction and assurance on delivery of Enhanced Health in Care Homes Model. The partnership had been invaluable during Covid-19 in supporting care homes during these challenging times. Some of the key areas of work included: workforce, training, communication, market management, quality and safety. NSAB members were assured of the arrangements that were in place.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23 September 2020, 1pm - 3.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

For more information about Safeguarding Adults, and the work of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board, please visit:
<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/safeguarding-and-abuse/safeguarding-information-professionals/newcastle-safeguarding-adults-board>