

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board

Summary Minutes

Meeting held on **Wednesday 20 May 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 6 May 2020

This Board meeting followed an Extraordinary NSAB meeting held with the three statutory safeguarding adults partners. At the Extraordinary NSAB meeting assurance was provided around statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and a decision was made to hold future Board meetings as normal but virtually.

Covid-19 related themes

NSAB members considered a paper which outlined the increased risks and vulnerabilities at this time. Some of the key areas that were highlighted were: domestic abuse; self-neglect; poverty; and exploitation. It was agreed that the information should be circulated with professionals to ensure that clarity on increases risks at this time and to ensure that concerns continue to be reported via safeguarding adults referral pathways. Further work is being done to collate information on preventative support and services which would compliment this.

Agency updates and intelligence

Agencies advised of any changes in staffing and structures. It was also reflected that there was a lot of good practice happening at the current time. For example NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG had arranged for banners to be posted at testing stations with key safeguarding and domestic abuse messages. Attempts would be made to try and collate the good practice and ensure it was shared and included in the NSAB Annual Report 2020-21.

Communications

The NSAB discussed the importance of communicating with the public about safeguarding adults at this time, given the reduction in professional face-to-face contact with adults at risk. NSAB members were asked to: discuss this with Communications Specialists/Teams where these exist; follow the NSAB Twitter account - @newcastle_sab - and encourage other people to do so; share existing content on social media; create your own content linked to your own services; ensure key messages are circulated to staff, including those who do not have a direct role working with adults with care and support needs; identify opportunities for safeguarding adults information to be added into existing communications e.g. leaflet drops, newsletters, webpages; sharing the NSAB posters and leaflets which are available in hard copy or digitally.

Sub-Committee updates

NSAB sub-committee meetings had been cancelled in March and April 2020 but will go ahead virtually going forwards. The cancelled Safeguarding Adults Review Committee has been re-arranged. The Learning and Development Committee meet next week, and a key focus of the meeting will be seeking assurance on how safeguarding adults training will be delivered whilst social-distancing restrictions make face-to-face delivery challenging.

Review of NSAB Strategic Annual Plan

The Strategic Annual Plan for 2020-21 was reviewed in light of Covid-19. Actions were amended or added. Some of the key additions included: providing guidance on Making Safeguarding Personal approaches that do not require face-to-face contact; consideration of Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Human Rights case law linked to Covid-19; and consideration of homelessness and safeguarding adults guidance in light of Covid-19.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22 July 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>