

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **25th September 2019**

Report Subject: **Adults Annual Safeguarding Report 2018-2019.**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr John Mason, Executive Member Social Services**

Report Submitted by: **Damien McCann, Director of Social Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
13.06.2019	18.06.2019	11.09.19			15.07.2019	25.09.19		

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Executive Members with Safeguarding Performance information relating to Adults Services from 1st April 2018 to the 31st March 2019. The information provided will enable Members to identify Safeguarding areas within the Authority which require further development to improve Safeguarding practice and procedures for Adult Services.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 To enable greater focus on the Safeguarding agenda, Corporate Leadership Team and Elected Members agreed for safeguarding information to be reported to a Joint Social Services/Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee after each school term.

2.2 In April 2016 The Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB) became a statutory Board as set out in Part 7 of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014. The Board's purpose is twofold; to protect adults in Gwent becoming "adults at risk" and to protect adults who have been abused or neglected or are at risk of abuse or neglect. They are supported in their work by a number of sub groups that manage core business and other more specific pieces of work which deliver on the strategic priorities set by the Board each year.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 The report has been considered and agreed by the Corporate Leadership Team.

3.2 Option 1

Members are asked to consider the detail contained in the Adult Safeguarding Report 2018/19 and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate comments and or recommendations for amendment to the report.

Option 2

Accept the report as provided.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 places a statutory duty on all local authority's to produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

Risk including Mitigating Actions

The Directorate Risk Register identifies safeguarding as high risk and is therefore monitored as part of the quarterly report of the Director of Social Services via the business planning process for each option. The Directorate Risk Register includes what actions have been taken to mitigate these risks.

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

There are no immediate budgets implications related to this report.

5.2 ***Legal***

There are no legal implications related to this report

5.3 ***Human Resources***

There are no staffing implications related in this report

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information***

Performance and data is provided within the report.

6.2 The number of reports received of an 'adult suspected of being at risk' during the given period was 491. During the same period for the previous year (2017/18) there were a total of 514 referrals received and the year before (2016/17) 520 referrals received. Making an average of 10 per week over the last 3 years.

There is no rationale to explain as to why the final quarter of the year is lower than the other three and is not something that's shown as a trend in other years.

Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the year	
1st April 2018 to 30th June 2018 - 124	
1 st July 2018 to 30 th September 2018 - 137	
1st October 2018 to 31 st December 2018- 132	
1st January 2019 to 31 st March 2019- 98	
	491 for 2018/2019

6.3 The number of referral received within the different categories of abuse or neglect are shown below for 2018/2019. It should be noted that concerns about more than one type of abuse can be reported within the same referral.

Category of Abuse	Gender	Age - 18-64	Age – 64 and over
Physical	Male	21	32
	Female	29	56
Sexual	Male	0	1
	Female	21	6
Emotional/Psychological	Male	29	23
	Female	40	31
Financial	Male	20	15
	Female	21	40
Neglect	Male	18	67
	Female	20	104
Total	Male	88	138
	Female	131	237
	Total	219	375

The most prevalent category of abuse reported is neglect 209 which is the same category as last year with 231 reported.

As in previous years the lowest category of reported abuse is sexual, with 28 allegations reported. Sexual abuse is always the lowest category of abuse and appears to be a trend through all regions.

- 6.4 Referrals of domestic abuse are captured as part of the data return for the Welsh Government, of the above, there were 55 cases of domestic abuse reported with 64 cases reported last year

		Age 18-64	Age – 64 and over
Domestic	Male	4	9
	Female	25	17

Each of the five local authorities have different structures in place to respond to concerns about domestic violence, however GWASB partner agencies are represented on local and regional domestic abuse forums. There are strong links between practitioners in safeguarding and domestic abuse fields of practice and domestic abuse training is available to all agencies across Gwent in a variety of formats.

As discussed in the quarterly reports presented to scrutiny, the increase in domestic abusive situations had placed pressure on the safeguarding team and as a result Social Services made a successful business case to use the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) from Welsh Government to fund 1 support worker for 12 months. The domestic abuse/safeguarding support worker was appointed on a fixed term basis within the Adult Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) hub to undertake initial screening of the safeguarding referrals, primarily in relation to domestic abuse cases. A review of the post evidenced a positive impact on the resources of the

safeguarding team and meeting the requirements within the SSWBW Act 2014 for preventative services. Therefore this post was extended further to March 2020.

The place where the alleged abuse occurred can be seen in the table below. The majority of referrals were where the allegation of abuse occurred in the persons own home. The alleged perpetrators in these cases could be paid carers going into the home or friends and family. The number of allegations in a care setting is 28 including a health establishment - this could be residential, nursing or respite care and again the alleged perpetrators could be paid carers, family and/or other service users.

Place alleged abuse or neglect occurred	Total
Own Home	62
Community	5
Care Home Setting	24
Health Setting	4
Total	95

The persons alleged responsible for the abuse are broken down in the table below. Paid employees being alleged perpetrators for 51 of those that progressed through the safeguarding process and 20 referrals being a relative or friend as the alleged perpetrator. To progress the referral consent is needed from the alleged victim, but that consent can be overridden when a paid employee is the alleged perpetrator. In the domestic abuse referrals a high proportion of alleged victims do not consent to the referral progressing through safeguarding. These referrals are submitted to the police for them to make a decision on how to proceed

Person alleged responsible	Total
Paid Employee	51
Relative / Friend	20
Volunteer / Unpaid employee	0
Other service user	5
Other	19
Total	95

Of the referrals received, 66 progressed to an investigation. 6 of those being a criminal investigation and 60 non-criminal investigations. This is less than last year where there were 12 criminal investigations and 75 non-criminal investigations.

6	Number of criminal investigations that concluded during the year	6
7	Number of non-criminal investigations that concluded during the year	60
Total investigations		66

6.5 The referrals received are from a variety of sources, as listed in the table below. The majority of the referrals were submitted from provider agencies with the local authority as the second highest referrer. There were no self-referrals during the year, which has identified the possibility that awareness raising for safeguarding is needed with those using the services and the public in general which is a trend repeated across the region.

Source of Referral	Total
Self-reported	3
Relative / friend	23
Local authority	73
Police	18
Local health board	35
Independent hospital	0
Ambulance service	3
Care regulator	2
Provider agency	233
Probation	0
Third sector	18
Advocate	1
Other	82
Total	491

6.6 **Updates on the achievements and progress on the strategic development plans during 2018/2019 and beyond:**

- During 2018/2019 Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Safeguarding Boards have made significant progress on updating the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures to ensure they reflect the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Handling Individual Cases, the Welsh Government guidance that accompanies the Act. The first stage of the consultation has been completed and the new procedures are due to be issued later in the year.
- Safeguarding in Partnership Development Day was held in October 2018 by the Regional Board and was well attended by a variety of stakeholders and partners to raise awareness of safeguarding including varying examples of

supporting individuals to tackle alleged abuse from carers, relatives and people in the community

- Protocols and procedures including creation of an adult's version of responding to professional allegations; a neglect guidance and toolkit; and a multi-agency pressure management flowchart to inform professionals of the process has been completed and issued.
- Engagement and communication including development of a new website, Participation and Engagement Strategy, a task group has also been set up, and promotional materials agreed and used at safeguarding week in November 2018.
- Learning and development including piloting a new Quality Assurance and Evaluation process, delivery of multi- agency training, a task and finish group has been set up to agree the aims and objectives for Supporting Victims of Financial Abuse training, the group is also considering training for E-safety for adults, Modern Day Slavery, Falls and Skin Management, Advocacy and Risky Behaviours for 2019/2020.

6.7 *Expected outcome for the public*

Quarterly reporting provides the public with the opportunity to view progress of the Directorate and ensure accountability.

6.8 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 looks to build and strengthen on existing arrangements by involving service users, carers and other key partners where possible in helping shape and influence future design of services.

6.9 *Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)*

The Gwent wide Adult Safeguarding Board has developed a new partnership agreement between local authorities and agency partners including Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Wales Probation Trust, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations which sets out a clear and shared vision to ensure all adults in Gwent are safeguarded effectively through partnership working and community engagement.

6.10 *Preventative focus*

Providing this report and the level of detailed safeguarding information to the Joint Safeguarding Committee enables Members to ensure risks are identified and acted on.

6.11 *Collaboration / partnership working*

It is a very important that GwASB does not work in isolation and having strong working relationships with the South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (SEWSCB) and the Domestic Violence Board will be essential.

6.12 *Integration(across service areas)*

The development of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the Departmental safeguarding leads meetings helps ensure all departments within the Authority are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and are kept updated with any issues trends within safeguarding.

6.13 ***EqIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***
Not applicable.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The performance of the department is monitored throughout the financial year from April to March and reported to Social Services Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Committee.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

The following hyperlink provides further details on the governance and Structure: www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk .