

Committee: **The Leader and Members of the Executive Committee**
Date of meeting: **18th December 2019**
Report Subject: **Adults Safeguarding Report 1st April to 30th June 2019.**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr John Mason, Executive Member Social Services & Cllr Clive Meredith, Executive Member Education**

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)
18.09.2019	01.10.2019	02.12.19			02.12.2019	18.12.19		

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 2019 to the 30th June 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 Social Services Leadership team and the Corporate Leadership Team.

3.2 **Option 1**

Members are asked to consider the detail contained in the Adults Safeguarding Report 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 and is reviewed on a regular basis.
- 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***
- At this point in time, no continuation for the support worker post funded through the Integrated Care Funding (ICF) has been approved by the RPB or Welsh Government past 31st March 2020, therefore robust exit strategies have been built into the initial bid should funding cease from 2020
- 5.2 ***Legal***
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.
- 5.3 ***Human Resources***
- The ICF support worker post is due to cease on the 31st March 2020, discussions are underway to secure funding beyond April 2020, however, exit and business planning arrangements are in place to ensure we continue to meet our statutory obligations.
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 118. During the same period for the previous year (2018/19) there were a total of 124 referrals received and the year before (2017/18) 127 referrals received. This evidences that the figures are fairly static year on year.

<p>Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the first quarter of 2019/2020</p> <p>1st April 2019 to 30th June 2019 - 118</p>	<p>118</p>
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6.3 The number of referral received within the different categories of abuse or neglect are shown below for April 1st – June 30th 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	6	1
	Female	9	12
Sexual	Male	1	0
	Female	5	1
Emotional/Psychological	Male	6	4
	Female	10	17
Financial	Male	6	3
	Female	3	8
Neglect	Male	6	4
	Female	8	28
Total	Male	25	12
	Female	35	66
	Total	60	78

The first quarter of the year is showing a similar trend to the previous year where neglect is the most prevalent category and sexual abuse the least prevalent.

6.4 Referrals of domestic abuse are captured as part of the data return for the Welsh Government, of the above, there were 17 cases of domestic abuse reported within the same quarter last year 18/19

		Age 18-64	Age – 64 and over
Domestic	Male	1	2
	Female	10	9

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 and is well attended by all agencies across Gwent in a variety of formats.

As discussed previously 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 by intervening at an early stage and preventing incidents escalating resulting in alternative measures being put in place due to increased risks. Therefore this post has been extended further to 31st March 2020 and discussions are under way for securing funding beyond this date.

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 41 including an health environment - 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	57
Community	18
Care Home Setting	41
Health Setting	2
Total	118

Safeguarding is an important part of the commissioning function and requires a substantial resource commitment from the Commissioning Team who provide crucial information in respect of commissioned services and providers which contributes to informed decision making in relation to safeguarding cases. A member of the Commissioning Team attends every strategy meeting held for commissioned services to offer advice, guidance and perspective. The Contracts and Commissioning Team Manager and the three Contract Monitoring Officers are all fully trained non-criminal investigators and undertake investigations independently or jointly with colleagues depending on the complexity and size of the investigation, or, with health colleagues if there are nursing issues involved. Whether referrals progress to strategy meetings and/or investigation, or are closed down as inappropriate safeguarding referrals, there is very often some preliminary investigation work and/or recommendations / performance issues with providers to be acted upon and followed up by the Commissioning Team.

The persons alleged responsible for the abuse are broken down in the table below. Paid employees being alleged perpetrators for 28 and 33 being a relative or friend. 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 cases a high proportion of alleged victims do not consent to the referral progressing through safeguarding. These referrals are submitted to the Police for further action. During this quarter 1 case has been presented to the Police and is awaiting consideration for criminal proceedings- This is consistent with the data in quarter 1 of 2018/2019.

Person alleged responsible	Total
Paid Employee	28
Relative / Friend	33
Volunteer / Unpaid employee	0
Other service user	10
Other	4
Unknown – no specific individual identified on the duty to report due to the nature of the service settings i.e. service user falls	43
Total	118

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.

Source of Referral	Total
Self-reported	0
Relative / friend	2
Local authority	18
Police	3
Local health board	19
Independent hospital	0
Ambulance service	3
Care regulator	0
Provider agency	51
Probation	0
Third sector	13
Advocate	0
Other	9
Total	118

6.6 **Updates on the achievements and progress on the strategic development plans during 2019/2020 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 launched during safeguarding week 11-14th November 2019.

- Development of training resources to support implementation of the new Safeguarding Procedures is underway and a representative from Blaenau Gwent will be attending an event on 26th September with the supplier who is developing the resources.
- Engagement and communication including development of a new website, Participation and Engagement Strategy, a task group has also been set up and is ongoing.
- Learning and development including piloting a new Quality Assurance and Evaluation process, 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.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

The following hyperlink provides further details on the governance and

Structure: www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk .