

Committee: **Joint Education and Learning and Social Services (Safeguarding) Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **23rd March 2020**

Report Subject: **Adult Safeguarding Report 1st July to 31st December 2019**

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

Report Submitted by: **Andrew Day, Adults Service Manager for Development, Commissioning and Safeguarding and Sarah Jones, Adults Safeguarding Manager**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| 28.02.2020 | 03.03.2020 | 09.03.20 | | | 23.03.2020 | 22.04.20 | | |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Members with Safeguarding Performance information relating to Adult Services from 1st July 2019 to the 31st December 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 Adult Safeguarding Report and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate comments and or recommendations for amendment to the report before consideration at Executive Committee.

Option 2

Accept the report as provided and recommend for the Executive Committee to consider the report.

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 authorities 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)*

We have received confirmation from Welsh Government and the RPB that the support worker post funded through the Integrated Care Funding (ICF) has been approved for a further 12 months from the 1ST April 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*

There are no human resources implications attached to 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 286. During the same period for the previous year (2019/20) there were a total of 269 referrals received. This evidences that the figures are fairly static year on year.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the first quarter of 2019/2020 | 286 |
| 1 st July 2019 to 30 th September 2019 – 161 | |
| 1 st October 2019 to 31 st December 2019 – 125 | |

6.3 The number of referral received within the different categories of abuse or neglect are shown below for July 1st 2019 – 31st Dec 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 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Age – 65 and over 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Age 18-64 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 | Age – 65 and over 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Physical | Male | 6 | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| | Female | 12 | 18 | 12 | 18 |
| | Transgender | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual | Male | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Female | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Emotional/Psychological | Male | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| | Female | 8 | 6 | 10 | 12 |
| | Transgender | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Financial | Male | 8 | 0 | 8 | 3 |
| | Female | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| Neglect | Male | 16 | 27 | 6 | 18 |
| | Female | 14 | 34 | 7 | 24 |
| | Transgender | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | Male | 32 | 39 | 20 | 23 |
| | Female | 31 | 59 | 27 | 54 |
| | Transgender | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Total | 63 | 98 | 48 | 77 |

Quarters 2 and 3 are 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.

| | | Age 18-64 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Age – 65 and over 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Age 18-64 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 | Age – 65 and over 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 |
|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Domestic | Male | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| | Female | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 |

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.

The place where the alleged abuse occurred can be seen in the table below. The majority of referrals were split between the alleged abuse taking place in the persons own home The alleged perpetrators in these cases could be paid carers going into the home or friends and family or within a care setting including a 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 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Total 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 |
|--|--|--|
| Own Home | 61 | 62 |
| Community | 6 | 2 |
| Care Home Setting | 79 | 43 |
| Health Setting | 4 | 3 |
| Other | 11 | 15 |
| Total | 161 | 125 |

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. During the 2nd quarter we received a high volume of Care home referrals (79 in total) with one nursing home submitting 31 in relation to system errors in the ordering and recording of medication for residents. As a result of this a systems audit was undertaken by health which led to improvements being implemented by the Care home around their current operating and IT systems. Following a joint investigation of the 31 referrals received there was no significant harm to the residents and they had all received their correct medication.

The persons alleged responsible for the abuse are broken down in the table below. Paid employees being alleged perpetrators for 65 in quarter 2 and 10 in quarter 3 and 22 being a relative or friend in quarter 2 and 16 in quarter 3. 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 quarters 2 and 3, of the 26 referrals received 18 were inappropriate, 1 case was closed with no further action and 7 remain open cases.

| Person alleged responsible | Total 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Total 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 |
|---|--|--|
| Paid Employee | 65 | 10 |
| Relative / Friend | 22 | 16 |
| Volunteer / Unpaid employee | 0 | 0 |
| Other service user | 10 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 3 |
| Unknown – no specific individual identified on the duty to report due to the nature of the service settings i.e. unwitnessed fall by a service user | 63 | 86 |
| Total | 161 | 125 |

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 01/07/19 – 30/09/19 | Total 01/10/19 – 31/12/19 |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Self-reported | 4 | 0 |
| Relative / friend | 2 | 1 |
| Local authority | 41 | 31 |
| Police | 1 | 4 |
| Local health board | 9 | 19 |
| Independent hospital | 1 | 0 |
| Ambulance service | 2 | 3 |
| Care regulator | 1 | 1 |
| Provider agency | 86 | 48 |
| Probation | 1 | 0 |
| Third sector | 7 | 10 |
| Advocate | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 6 | 8 |
| Total | 161 | 125 |

6.6 **Updates on the achievements and progress on the strategic development plans during 2019/2020 and beyond:**

- The All Wales New Safeguarding procedures were launched in November 2019
- Development of training resources and to revise the current documentation to support implementation of the new Safeguarding Procedures has commenced

and an Independent Provider has been commissioned to deliver training in the New Year.

- In response to the follow up review of the corporate arrangements for safeguarding by Wales Audit Office (WAO) which was presented to Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on the 12th February 2020 a working group has been set up and action plan developed to address the recommendations required. A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

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 ***EqlA (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 .

REF: