

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Select Committee	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	29th July 2015	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	LGA Adult Safeguarding Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Attachment 1 LGA Adult Safeguarding Peer Review Report Attachment 2 Peer Review Report Action Plan		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 A Peer Review team visited B&NES Council and Local Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB) in March 2015. The LSAB and Council Officers seek to share the Peer Review teams' findings with the Health and Wellbeing Committee and also the corresponding Action Plan which was approved by the LSAB in June 2015.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Proposal 1: Consider the Peer Review Report and corresponding Action Plan and highlight any additional areas the Committee would like to add to the Plan.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 None

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Council has statutory responsibility for ensuring adults with care and support needs are safeguarded effectively (Care Act 2014)
- 4.2 Since April 2015 LSABs have been placed on a statutory footing and the Council is responsible for facilitating the LSAB and ensuring multi-agency partners work effectively together to safeguard adults at risk of abuse. The other key statutory partners on the LSAB are health and the Police – both of which are named in the Care Act 2014 guidance.

- 4.3 Given the above statutory responsibility the Peer Review Report and Action Plan are presented to the Health and Wellbeing Committee for consideration.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Association of Directors for Adult Social Services (ADASS) are responsible for implementing a Sector Led Improvement Programme which is designed to support Local Authorities in delivering adult social care policy. This programme is supported by the Local Government Association (LGA). One of the mechanisms for implementing the Improvement Programme is the participation in a Peer Reviews (sometimes also called Peer Challenge).

'A peer review is designed to help an authority and its partners assess current achievements, areas for development and capacity to change. The peer review is not an inspection. Instead it offers a supportive approach, undertaken by friends – albeit 'critical friends'. It aims to help an organisation identify its current strengths, as much as what it needs to improve. But it should also provide it with a basis for further improvement.'
(p 3 of Attachment 1 – The Report)

- 5.2 A Peer Review team consists of the following members, an LGA representative, a Director of Adult Services, an Assistant Director of Adult Services (or equivalent) and a Lead Member. The Review team which visited B&NES was made up of the following:

Stephen Chandler, Director for Adult Services, Shropshire Council

Fran Leddra, Strategic Lead, Safeguarding, Complex Care and Social Work, Thurrock Borough Council

Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Sutton
Kay Burkett, Challenge Manager, Local Government Association

- 5.3 The South West ADASS members agreed that Peer Reviews would take place over three days. The initial agreement across the South West was for all Local Authorities to identify specific areas in their adult safeguarding system they would like reviewed and to that end a specific safeguarding adult review framework was agreed. Towards the end of Review timetable some South West Local Authorities agreed to change the area they wanted their Peer Review to focus on, however in B&NES we agreed to continue with the adult safeguarding system.

- 5.2 The scope for the B&NES Review was discussed with the LSAB. Together the LSAB and Council agreed the following scope:

- Is it clear and understood by all where accountability for safeguarding adults sits?
- How do the individuals/bodies/organisations with accountability for safeguarding adults get assurance and provide upwards assurance?
- Are these assurance mechanisms and processes robust, providing genuine *assurance* rather than *reassurance*?
- Is the safeguarding adults system/arrangement future proofed in terms of the Care Act 2014

5.3 In addition to the local scope the Peer Review team also consider the following areas as set out in the safeguarding adult review framework:

- (1) Leadership, Strategy and Commissioning
- (2) Outcomes for and the experiences of people who use services
- (3) Service Delivery and Effective Practice, Performance, Resource Management
- (4) Working together – Safeguarding Adults Board

5.4 The Peer Review team met approximately 60 internal and external stakeholders during their three day visit (23th – 25th March 2015).

5.5 On the third day the ‘team’ set out their findings which included areas of strength, areas for further consideration and recommendations for change / improvement. The attached report (Attachment 1) is the formal report received from the Peer Review team.

5.6 Four key recommendations were made as set out on page 13 of the report:

- (1) Progress at pace the implementation of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)
- (2) The Quality Assurance, Audit and Performance Management Sub Group – in line with MSP, could develop more qualitative ways of auditing safeguarding
- (3) Revise the two day decision rule in relation to MSP
- (4) Consider how you reaffirm the citizen at the centre of everything you do

5.7 In response to the recommendations above and to other areas highlighted in the report for consideration, the Council has developed an action plan (Attachment 2) which was approved by the LSAB at its meeting in June 2015.

5.8 The Council and LSAB found the Peer Review a useful mechanism to help with identifying future improvements to be made.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Committee to consider the actions outlined in the Action Plan to enable the continued improvement of the adult safeguarding system.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 LSAB members and all internal and external stakeholders involved in the Peer Review.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

9.2 The LSAB has also approved its own Risk Register.

Contact person	Lesley Hutchinson, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	