

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Key Messages from the Independent Chair – December 2018

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board met at the King's Centre in Oxford on 19 December 2018 and the Chair Pam Marsden would like to share the following messages with you.

The Board agreed earlier in the year that we would begin each meeting with a case study presentation highlighting the work across the partnership on Making Safeguarding Personal. Unfortunately the member of staff from Oxford City Council who was coming to the Board this time was unwell and so her presentation has had to be postponed until the next meeting in March 2019.

Instead we had a presentation from Mel Pearce, Service Manager Safeguarding Service, on the work undertaken nationally around thresholds for safeguarding investigations ie section 42s. It led to some lively discussion, as the work has highlighted significant variations in professional judgement by practitioners. Work is underway to create clearer guidance nationally and Mel advised the Board that the file audit work and other measures undertaken locally are all helping to promote greater consistency in practitioner's assessment of risk. Mel also confirmed that across the partnership in Oxfordshire the use of consultation services continues to rise whilst the number of concerns referred is continuing to reduce. Section 42s are also reducing but at a lesser rate .She highlighted a number of areas for inclusion in the data set going forward which include for example the CQC data on service quality, and the survey data on safety.

We also had an excellent and informative presentation by Bob Stirling MAPPA Coordinator on the work of MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements). These are the arrangements for sharing information and in some cases managing, through regular meetings, the significant risk posed by serious sexual and violent offenders. A discussion then took place around how some of these individuals exploit vulnerable adults who then become the subject of safeguarding concerns.

Finally we heard from Amy Allen about the Mental Capacity Amendment Bill which is scheduled to come into force in April 2020. It will replace Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards with a new regime called 'Liberty Protection Safeguards " and will apply to all settings and extend to include 16 and 17 year olds. The aim is to streamline the system with swifter access to justice. Clearly it is hoped that the changes will clarify the issues currently being grappled with by practitioners, care providers and the public, post the Cheshire West Judgement 2014. Concern was expressed that the proposed changes may not be as helpful as expected so it is clear we will need to keep a watching brief on this and the impact on safeguarding.

The Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) subgroup reported that since the last Board in September, two cases have been recommended for a SAR and are being progressed. The third case has been recommended for a multi disciplinary Serious Incident investigation.

We also heard from the Training subgroup that they have developed a draft joint Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Training Strategy to be considered at the next Full Board meeting. There have been 22 Safeguarding Training courses this year so far. Courses on Modern Slavery will be available at the end of March 2019. Finally we learnt that the Domestic Abuse training has been progressed and the plan is that the identified champions will be supported to deliver the training from April 19. It will be important as part of our joint agenda with the OSCB that we find ways to assess the effectiveness of this training and the impact on practice.

Following my decision to resign as Chair of the Board it has been agreed that interviews for the recruitment of the new Independent Chair of the OSAB will take place on 19 February 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed this role and how impressed I have been with the quality of the partnership work undertaken around safeguarding across Oxfordshire. I believe we have made significant progress over the last few years, however there is no sense of complacency across the partner agencies and there is a desire to continue to improve services and to ensure vulnerable people are safeguarded.

It is likely I will see you all again in March so will leave my proper goodbye until then. I do hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that you all have a very good 2019!

Future Meetings

The Board will meet again on the 27th March 2019.



Pam Marsden
Independent Chair OSAB