

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Key Messages from The OSAB Chair – July 2017

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board met at County Hall in Oxford on 27th June 2017 and the Chair Pam Marsden would like to share the following messages with you:

Presentation/report

The Board received a helpful and informative report from Benedict Leigh, Interim Deputy Director, Joint Commissioning, Oxfordshire County Council. The report was requested because of the ongoing concerns around the fragility of the health and social care market in Oxfordshire. A number of providers have left the market in the past few months, some at very short notice, and this has proved challenging to manage and clearly can present risks to vulnerable adults dependent on care to live safely and with a quality of life. Benedict's report described the work his team are doing to ensure a sustainable market, whilst acknowledging that retention and recruitment across the sector is a long standing issue in many areas in the UK but particularly in Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire County Council pay on average £21.96 per hour to domiciliary care providers, one of the highest rates in the UK. Benedict agreed to come to the next Board with a further report and to bring a report annually thereafter.

Subgroup Report

Terms of reference and questions to be considered by the subgroups were agreed by the Board.

1) Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Board was advised that 2 Safeguarding Adult Reviews have been agreed and authors have been identified for both. The first review report will be available in the autumn and the second review in March 2018. The second review will be undertaken jointly by both adults and children services and will look at a number of suicides by young people leaving care and or who have moved from children to adult services. The review will consider what lessons can be learnt and whether there are any emerging themes. It will take longer, given the complexity hence the date of 2018.

2) Policy and Procedures

The group has developed a policy for the management of allegations against staff since our last meeting. The Board considered this and agreed the policy.

3) Training

The last meeting considered attendance at training and agreed further promotional targeted work at the agencies where attendance has been low or staff have not yet attended. Feedback from those who have attended has been very positive and the Board agreed that further consideration needs to be given on how to evaluate the impact to ensure value for money, better trained staff and ultimately better outcomes for those requiring support.

4) Performance, Information and Quality Assurance

A dataset has been agreed and was presented to the Board at the meeting. A lively discussion took place around the relationship between the number of concerns and the subsequent decision to undertake enquiries, the percentage of which has reduced. The latest figures are that only 25% of

concerns go on to become enquiries. It was agreed by the Board that this is a complex area where there are no easy solutions or conclusions to be drawn. It will however continue to be discussed at future Boards and further work will be undertaken. Data was considered ranging from the increase in the number of concerns to the work of the Fire and Rescue Service, CQC ratings and the work around Making Safeguarding Personal. Members acknowledged that this was a good piece of work and looked forward to receiving further information and analysis in due course.

5) Vulnerable Adults Mortality Panel

Only 7 cases have been considered since the last meeting and to date no themes have emerged. The Board was assured however that if there are any urgent actions required these are taken immediately.

The Annual Report of the Board

The draft report was circulated in advance and a number of changes were agreed by the Board that would now be made. The report will be finalised over the next few weeks and will be circulated. A short document would be prepared for the public.

Domestic Abuse Summit

This was held on 26th June 2017. A survivor of domestic abuse gave her account of the services and support she had been offered, some of which had been good but much of which required a different approach. The meeting confirmed their agreement with the strategy and discussed the pooling of resources and jointly commissioning services to enable a more joined up approach and to make better use of money going forward. Continuing to provide the same was not viable and was not always leading to better outcomes.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch will be carrying out a consultation and engagement role on behalf of the OSAB. They are also working with Adult Social Care on tracking people's pathways to give the service feedback on the user experience.



Pam Marsden
Independent Chair OSAB