

## **Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board**

### **Key Messages from the Independent Chair – March 2018**

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board met at County Hall in Oxford on 14 March 2018 and the Chair Pam Marsden would like to share the following messages with you:

We began the meeting by considering the outcome of a Safeguarding Adult Review. The report was presented by the author, Martin Bradshaw and concerned Adult C, who died tragically in an explosion in his home. The Report and its recommendations were agreed by the Board and will be published in April. The Report concluded that whether an accident or not, it was highly unlikely it could have been predicted or prevented. It was acknowledged in the Board discussion that this case would attract significant media and public attention and that media statements should be agreed jointly across the partnerships. Martin was thanked for his report and the clarity he brought to the discussion.

The Board also received a report from Trading Standards presented by Jodie Kerman. The report highlighted the scale and impact of financial abuse, in particular on older people (65% of victims are 75 and over) through scams, doorstep crime and high-pressure sales. Victims in many cases are vulnerable through loneliness and social isolation. Learning disability and issues more generally around mental capacity can also lead to further vulnerability as criminals target those identified in this way. Trading Standards working alongside TVP have identified links with criminals involved in Modern Day Slavery. The Board heard that the team have investigated and prosecuted a large number of individuals and will continue to do so. Clearly tackling this form of abuse supports our joint agenda around safeguarding and promoting independence. Jodie and the team were thanked by the Board for their multi-agency work in this area.

A report was provided to the Board by Catherine Sage, Oxford Health NHS FT (OH) on the impact of the Police and Crime Act, in particular focussing on the use of Section 135 and Section 136. Interestingly, although early days, the increase predicted in the use of these sections has not materialised. This is partly attributed to the significant amount of work undertaken to prepare for the new legislation.

The report did however highlight the national shortage of specialist placements for young people. OH will be increasing its hospital-based Place of Safety provision from 2 to 3 and are working with MIND to pilot a Safe Haven service in Oxford to provide a viable alternative to the use of S136 or hospital Emergency Department attendance. The Board was assured that PIQA will continue to monitor and will ensure any emerging concerns will be flagged.

#### **Standing items**

#### **Subgroup update**

The Board was advised that there were no decisions to be made in relation to any of the subgroups. However, the Board was asked to note the updated threshold document which is now on the website. There have been no new SARs since the last Board. There have been 6 training courses including the first Leader/Manager course. Performance information indicates that the number of concerns referred has stabilised for the first time for 6 years, reversing the trend of a year on year increase. Clearly this will need careful monitoring and some further analysis to understand the implications.

## **Service User and Community Engagement**

Healthwatch will continue to meet with people who have experienced a safeguarding issue. At the moment, however, this has not given us the quantity or quality of feedback we require. A further discussion took place around using the Coproduction team in the Council to gather this feedback. The ultimate aim would be to ensure service user voices are reflected at the Board and that we are assured our priorities as a Board have been shaped by service users and community engagement. The Board agreed that a communications sub-group should be set up to look at this and to consider our communications more widely. It was also noted that OU will soon have a community outreach post and that it would be helpful to work closely on these issues.

## **Making Safeguarding Personal**

There will be 3 workshops planned over the coming months for all partners and the content will be based on the guidance published for care providers and commissioners by the LGA. This is a really important agenda and the Board acknowledged the need to ensure good attendance.

## **Annual Report of the OSAB**

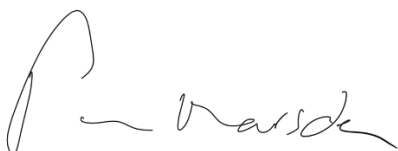
The Board considered alternative annual reports from other areas and welcomed, through the discussion that followed, some suggested changes for this year's report. It was noted that the report should be able to be read and understood by anyone. We should also be able to show evidence of community awareness of adult abuse and neglect and be able to reflect what adults who have experienced the process say, and whether their outcomes have been realised. Board Members agreed any future report should also be more concise and accessible. They agreed to share more case examples and have more detail on the work of the subgroups and less on single agency contributions. Data should also be confined to what the data is actually telling us. It was noted that a professional design service would be required.

## **Individual Agency Update**

Karen Fuller reported to the Board that successful prosecutions had taken place in relation to staff at Winterbrook Care Home. This had been the result of close partnership working between Adult Social Care, CQC and TVP. It was agreed that this would be an excellent example of the case studies required for the OSAB annual report.

## **Future Meetings**

The Board will meet again on the 27th June 2018. In the meantime there will be a Board business planning session at the beginning of May to review the work plan and the priorities agreed.



Pam Marsden  
Independent Chair OSAB