

Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board

Terms of Reference for the Communications and Engagement Sub-group

(DRAFT)

Purpose / Background

The Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory multi-agency group, which is committed to safeguarding adults in Dudley borough from abuse and harm.

Partner organisations in Dudley borough have agreed to work together, to ensure a consistent approach by sharing any relevant information when needed, raising awareness of, and responding to adult abuse as set out in the co-operation duties in the Care Act (2014).

The introduction of The Care Act 2014 from April 2015 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities, NHS, Police and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

The Communications and Engagement Sub-group has been formed to support the Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board by:

- Bringing partners together to develop, implement and evaluate a shared communications strategy and engagement plan.
- Agreeing key safeguarding messages to be communicated through a variety of channels.
- Identifying and championing preventative approaches to keeping people safe.
- Increasing awareness of safeguarding adults in Dudley borough and how to report.
- Promoting involvement of adults at risk, carers and advocates in this work.
- Being innovative on our approach by involving a diverse range of people who work, study, visit, live, shop or worship in our communities.
- Ensuring that messages are shared in appropriate meaningful language.

Key Responsibilities

- **Listening** to people who have been subject to abuse or neglect, and seek assurance that people are able to be supported in the way that they want, are involved in decisions, and can achieve the best outcomes.
- **Assuring** that safeguarding is embedded in communities, raising awareness, promoting wellbeing and preventing abuse and neglect from happening in the first place.
- **Promoting** awareness of what safeguarding is and how to report neglect, harm and abuse.

- **Engaging** in different ways to help protect people with care and support needs at risk of harm and abuse.
- **Monitoring** the communications strategy and engagement plan to ensure real outcomes for local people.
- **Ensuring** that partners in Dudley borough are aware of the need to promote safeguarding awareness and are aware of appropriate training and support.
- **Sharing** a strong commitment to working with partners and communities in Dudley borough.
- **Budget** identifying and agreeing spend.

Reporting Arrangements

- The Sub Group Chair will report to the Executive Group of the Board
- Quarterly: Reporting to Dudley Adult Safeguarding Board
- Annually: Reviewing work plan and contribute to the Dudley Adult Safeguarding Board annual report.

Core Membership

- Dudley Council
- Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
- Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- Healthwatch Dudley
- West Midlands Fire Service
- West Midlands Police
- Voluntary sector representative
- Designated elected member
- Living Well Feeling Safe Partnership

Extended Group Membership

- A reference group of local people / People's Champions with specific knowledge and experience of vulnerability, will be involved to enable safeguarding in Dudley to be less process driven, more person centred and more meaningful.
- The reference group will:
 - Be a sounding board for communications materials.
 - Advise on the appropriateness and language use of key messages.
 - Generate engagement ideas.
 - Support with board recruitment.

Working Arrangements

- To meet at least six times a year with special meetings as required. Meetings will be scheduled to ensure that work feeds into the Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board meetings in a timely manner.