



## **Dudley Safeguarding Adult's Board**

### **Strategic Plan September 2016 –August 2019**

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## **1. Message from Independent Chair**

This is the first three year strategic plan for Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board (DSAB) and sets out the Board's vision and aims and objectives. It also describes how DSAB will operate and organise itself in order to deliver its aims and objectives in a transparent as well as businesslike manner.

The Board's work is driven by a collective desire to create a culture where abuse or neglect are not tolerated and we recognise that this will be best achieved through a culture of vigilance and awareness.

We are equally as committed to ensuring that adults who are being abused or neglected are able to experience choice and control about the outcomes they want.

The board has an important scrutiny role and will work to understand how safeguarding support and services are delivered in practice, including exploring any barriers to the delivery of effective safeguarding services. Through a range of activity, the board will hold partners to account so we can assure ourselves that safeguarding services are working well.

I have been impressed by the desire to continuously improve services and we will do this to best effect by listening and learning from adults who receive services and I pledge in my role as Independent Chairperson to tirelessly champion and promote the safety, choices and well being of adults with care and support needs who live in Dudley. I am confident that I can continue to rely on the commitment of Board partners to do the same.

Liz Murphy

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 2015 saw the introduction of the Care Act, which for the first time captured a range of social care legislation under a single statutory umbrella. Alongside this came specific guidance relating to the Safeguarding of Adults. For the first time Safeguarding Adults Boards were placed on a statutory footing with associated responsibilities defined within the legislation and guidance.
- 2.2 Whilst the Care Act places specific responsibility on the Local Authority to carry out enquiries (or cause others to) where it suspects an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect, it also requires statutory partners to coordinate activity to protect adults from abuse and neglect. This plan outlines how this ambition is to be realised.

## **3 Board Role and Vision**

- 3.1 As Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board it is our responsibility to lead adult safeguarding arrangements across the borough and to assure ourselves of the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of statutory partner agencies.
- 3.2 The Care Act specifies three core duties, which will underpin our work. We are required to:
  - Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how the Board meet its objectives and how member and partner agencies will contribute
  - Publish an annual report detailing how effective our work has been
  - Commission Safeguarding Adult's Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the stated criteria
- 3.3 This strategic plan in accordance with Care Act guidance will cover how the Board will focus on the prevention of abuse and neglect. It will also emphasise our focus on protection of individuals with care and support needs whilst applying the principles of "Making Safeguarding Personal".
- 3.4 Whilst this strategic plan lays out our medium term vision and the steps needed to deliver the vision, it is equally important that we produce and publish our annual report in 2017. This will enable us to measure our progress and to update the strategic plan in the light of experience. The annual report will therefore set out:
  - Progress over the year to implement the Board's strategy
  - A report from Board members on their individual organisation contribution to implementing the strategy
  - Learning and actions from Safeguarding Adult's Reviews carried out over the previous 12 months and an anonymised account of

reviews both commissioned and underway

**Vision:**

**Dudley citizens, irrespective of age, race, gender, culture, religion, disability or sexual orientation are able to live with their rights protected, in safety, free from abuse and the fear of abuse**

3.5 To this end our focus will therefore be on creating a culture where:

- Abuse is not tolerated
- There is common understanding and belief of what to do when abuse happens and embedding adherence to the principle of 'Making Safeguarding Personal'

3.6 To make this vision a reality the Board takes the view that it is essential that agencies work together to:

- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- Ensure that they safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live;
- Proactively take steps to stop abuse or neglect
- Ensure they have a competent and able workforce
- Raise public awareness recognising the value local communities can play in prevention and early intervention

3.7 We will work to the recognised six safeguarding principles:

- **Empowerment:** people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- **Prevention:** it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality:** the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection:** support and representation for those in greatest need
- **Partnership:** local solutions through services working with their communities – communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
- **Accountability** and transparency in safeguarding practice

#### **4. Strategic Aims and Objectives**

4.1 It is important to be clear about the Boards responsibilities not only by putting in place its strategic plan (a Care Act requirement), but also through ensuring its ongoing development and delivery.

4.2 The Board's primary role is to provide the strategic lead for adult safeguarding arrangements across Dudley and assure itself of the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of all partner agencies.

Essentially therefore the Board is responsible for assuring itself that:

- Local safeguarding arrangements are in place and fully comply with the Care Act 2014 and its associated statutory guidance;
- In accordance with 'Making Safeguarding Personal' practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- There is visible collaborative working with a strong focus on prevention and early intervention
- There is a timely and proportionate response when abuse or neglect has occurred
- Safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in Dudley

4.3 To ensure the Board can deliver its responsibilities we will focus on addressing a number of key areas:

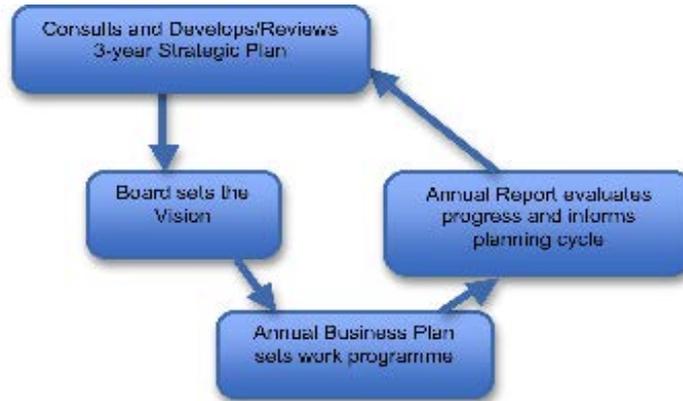
- We will put in place strong and clear governance and accountability arrangements
- We will work to an annual work programme and this will be supported through an effective infrastructure
- We will work effectively in partnership with other key strategic partnerships – notably the Children Safeguarding Board, Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board
- We will maintain our strategic and assurance roles as a primary focus

4.4 We will concern ourselves with the welfare of those who are most vulnerable by nature of disability or ill health. We will learn from safeguarding enquiries and maintain a strong emphasis on the prevention of abuse, neglect and self-neglect. Our focus will be on:

- The safety of people who use community health services, hospitals and mental health services
- The safety of adults with care and support needs who reside in supported housing and other social housing
- Effective and problem solving interventions with adults who self-neglect, for whatever reason
- The quality and safety of local domiciliary care services and residential care settings commissioned by Local Authority and NHS

## **5. Planning Cycle**

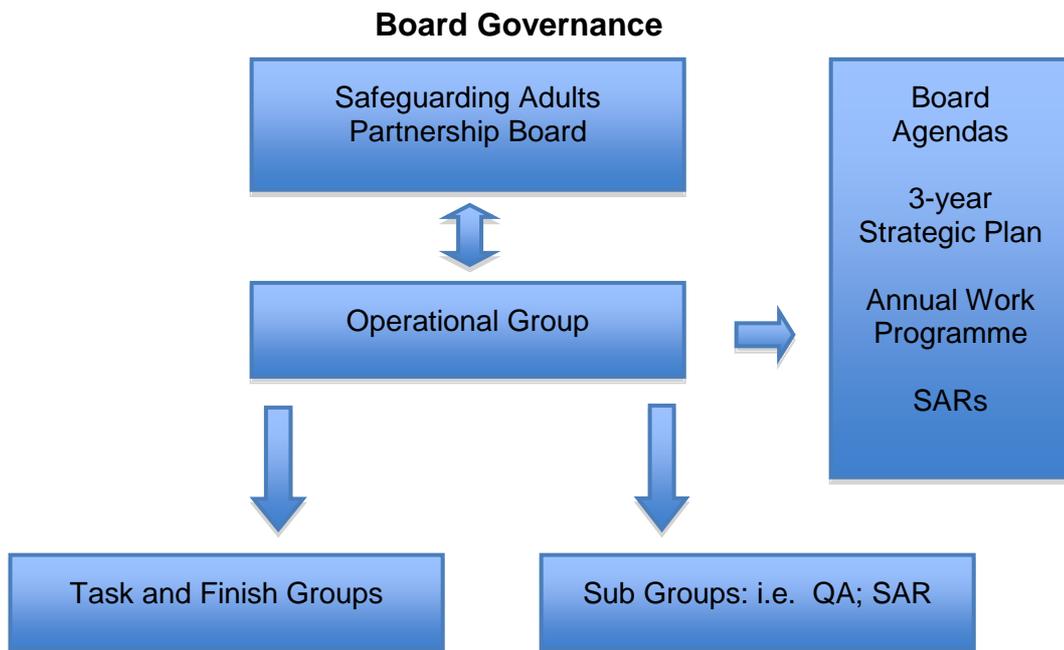
5.2 The Board has responsibility for setting the vision and ensuring the delivery of an annually updated 3-year plan. We will link this closely with the annual report, which will evaluate progress, and set in place the following years work programme. This will be done within the context of achieving the Board's stated ambitions for Dudley.



5.3 As we roll the plan forward annually we will engage and consult with our local Healthwatch and the local community. This will include advocacy groups, disability groups and relevant voluntary organisations. We will also consult with other local strategic partnerships (Children Safeguarding Board, Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board)

## 6. Governance

- 6.1 It is important to be clear about governance arrangements. This is both in terms of the Board's accountability and the arrangements put in place to deliver our objectives.
- 6.2 We are expected to call partners to account for their approach to safeguarding adults. For example, whilst we are required to take responsibility for commissioning Safeguarding Adult's Reviews but not other respects a commissioner of services, we would want assurance statutory partners are commissioning safe services and that have taken the necessary and proportionate action whenever necessary.
- 6.3 We will put in place a strong governance structure and establish an Executive Group to support the work of the Board. This group will consist of chairs of the sub-groups, the Independent Chair, Third Sector parties and Lay Members.
- 6.4 Partners will play a full and effective role and fully support the sub-groups and task and finish groups – both in terms of membership and chairing.
- 6.5 The Strategic Plan and annual report will be public documents and will be formally presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and relevant Boards across the partnership.
- 6.6 We also want to ensure wider public accountability and will engage with forums representing those with physical impairments, learning disability, mental health needs and older people.



## 7. Resourcing

- 7.1 The Board is a formal strategic partnership and resourcing of the Board and its work is a partnership responsibility. This is separate to partners individual safeguarding responsibilities. Resourcing the work of the Board can be through financial contribution and as well as in kind by providing human resource input.
- 7.2 The main areas requiring partner support and investment are:
- The review and implementation of local policies and procedures
  - Board Professional and secretarial support
  - Supporting task-and-finish and sub-groups
  - Capacity for multi-agency training and development
  - Quality and Assurance through the preparation and analysis of data provided by all partners
  - Funding of the Independent Chair
  - Costs associating with commissioning Safeguarding Adults Reviews

## 8. Engagement, Consultation and Communication

- 8.1 To function effectively our Board must focus on its core responsibilities and oversee the implementation of the strategic plan and annual work programme. However to do this we also have to recognise the overlaps and links to other strategic bodies, and work in partnership to ensure that safeguarding is coherent and consistent across all areas of responsibility



8.2 We also will facilitate engagement and communication with the public and the wider range of groups with legitimate interest in and ability to contribute to the work of the Board.

These will include:

- The public and local community groups
- People with care and support needs
- Carers
- Local forums and reference groups representing carers and those who use services
- Service providers
- Services such as, environmental health, trading standards and financial services

8.3 Through working collaboratively we will agree on planned work with local multi-agency strategic partnerships and others to address the prevention agenda in areas such as:

- Bullying, harassment and hate crime
- Domestic homicide and domestic abuse
- 'Prevent' initiatives

- Modern slavery and trafficking
- Antisocial behaviour
- Scams, doorstep and other organised crime Financial theft and fraud
- Sexual exploitation

## **9. Delivering the Work Programme**

- 9.1 The annual work programme has been developed following a Board Development Day and is based on the learning and findings that came through that exercise. The Board is committed to driving the recommended improvements and these are reflected in the work programme.
- 9.2 The Board will receive regular progress reports and this programme will be overseen by the Board and updated annually in accordance with the planning cycle (see section 5)

## Appendix 1

### Dudley Safeguarding Board Constitution

Please see link to Constitution on Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board website.

<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/adult/safeguarding-adults-board/publications/>

## Appendix 2



### Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board

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#### Terms of Reference for the Executive Group

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Executive Group is to govern the work programmes and effectiveness of Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board sub-groups as they progress the development priorities within its strategic plan.

##### **Key Responsibilities**

- Coordinate the development and implementation of objectives and priorities outlined in the strategic plan
- Report to the DSAB at each of their meetings on the progress of the work undertaken by the sub-groups to progress the Boards Strategic Plan.
- Drive the development of good practice in safeguarding adults work
- Monitor and review the work programme and advise the Board where timescales are not achieved with a rationale for revision of timescales if required.
- Support and challenge lead partners for effective delivery of agreed actions.
- Sub-group Chairs to contribute to the development of the Annual Report by submitting a report to the Independent Chair by the end of May each year on the work of the group during the previous year.
- Establish sub groups, task and finish groups and public engagement arrangements, as appropriate
- Promote effective community engagement with safeguarding adults work and ensure that the voice of citizens is heard
- To approve new and revised policies and procedures on behalf of the board.
- To respond to government consultations
- To advise the Board of any resource implications arising from the outputs from task and finish groups
- Carry out any other tasks with DSAB may require.

##### **Reporting Arrangements**

The group is accountable to the DSAB.

##### **Core Membership**

Chair – Liz Murphy, Independent Chair of Safeguarding Board  
Anne Harris – Head of Adult Safeguarding, DMBC  
Jayne Emery – Healthwatch Dudley  
Pam Smith – Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust  
Debbie Cooper – Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust

Jane Atkinson – Dudley CCG

Mark Burnell – West Midlands Police

Members of the community will inform the work of the group through the Communication and Engagement sub group.

### **Extended Group Membership**

To ensure appropriate representation across agencies, members from other organisations will be invited as appropriate if not already represented by sub-group chairs.

### **Working Arrangements**

The Executive Group will meet prior to every DSAB meeting. The group will have delegated authority from the DSAB to take necessary actions where insufficient assurance is presented without requiring a full board meeting. The group will monitor its performance against these terms of reference annually, evaluating the achievements of the sub-group responsibilities.

### **Management of the Group**

The group will be chaired by the Safeguard Board Independent Chair, Liz Murphy.

### **Minutes distribution**

The minutes of the meeting will be distributed within 14 working days of the meeting.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Dudley Safeguarding Adult board Business Plan**

Please see link to Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board website – the business plan is included in the Annual Report 2015/16

<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/adult/safeguarding-adults-board/publications/>