

# LSAB Strategic Plan: 2015-18

## BACKGROUND

### Our Board

The West Cheshire Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) is a multi-agency partnership committee, co-ordinated by Cheshire West and Chester Council, which provides strategic leadership for adult safeguarding across the borough. We have an independent Chair and our remit is to agree objectives, set priorities and co-ordinate the strategic development of adult safeguarding.

Our members include core members, as identified through legislation and NHS guidance, and associate members who are invited onto the Board in order to enhance multi-agency working, as follows:

#### Independent Chair

#### Core members

- Cheshire West and Chester Council (*including senior representation from Adult Social Care, Safeguarding, Prevention and Wellbeing, Public Health, Children's Services, Children's Safeguarding and Housing*)
- West Cheshire CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Vale Royal CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Cheshire Police

#### Associate members

- Age UK
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership
- Cheshire Fire
- National Probation Service Cheshire
- Countess of Chester Hospital
- North West Ambulance Service
- East Cheshire NHS Trust
- Mid Cheshire Hospital Trust
- Healthwatch

## Our purpose and responsibilities

The Board acts as a forum for agreeing how agencies should co-operate to safeguard adults at risk and ensure that local arrangements work effectively to bring about positive outcomes for local people. We are responsible for ensuring that the systems in place locally to protect people at risk are proportionate, balanced and responsive, that lessons are learned by way of safeguarding adult reviews in cases where there have been poor outcomes, and that awareness is raised in respect of abuse and what can be done about it.

### *The Care Act*

In accordance with the new Care Act 2015 and its Statutory Guidance, we will:

- ✚ Publish our Strategic Plan each financial year, setting out how we will protect adults in our borough and what each of our Board members will do to deliver our objectives
- ✚ Decide when a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is necessary, arrange for its conduct and, if we so decide, implement the findings
- ✚ Publish an Annual Report, detailing what we have done during the year and reporting on the findings of any SARs, referencing any ongoing reviews
- ✚ Ensure that information is shared between partners appropriately, efficiently and without fear, with the protection of adults at risk of abuse or neglect the paramount consideration
- ✚ Continue to put people's wishes at the heart of our safeguarding processes. In the words of Lord Justice Munby: *"What good is it making someone safer if it merely makes them miserable?"*
- ✚ Work to the six principles of safeguarding
  - *Empowerment* Ensuring that decisions are driven by the adult at risk
  - *Prevention* Taking action before harm occurs
  - *Proportionality* Responding in the most proportionate way possible
  - *Protection* Securing support and representation for those most in need
  - *Partnerships* Working with our communities to promote local solutions
  - *Accountability* Being accountable and transparent in delivering safeguarding
- ✚ Ensure that a Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager (DASM) is appointed to each core member of the Board, with responsibility for the management and oversight of individual complex cases and co-ordination where allegations or concerns are raised about a person
- ✚ Seek and monitor the views of those who have been through an adult safeguarding enquiry through the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) to better understand the experience of those going through the process

## LOCAL CONTEXT

According to the 2011 Census, the **population** of West Cheshire is estimated at 329,608. Of those:

- 255,273 are over the age of 20
- 61,100 over 65, and
- 28,318 over 75 years old

Owing to a long term health problem or disability, the **day-to-day activities** of

- 31,897 people (10% of the population) are limited a little, and for
- 29,098 of people (9% of the population) they are limited a lot

A significant number of people across our borough - 37,121 in total - are providing **unpaid care** to family members, friends, neighbours or others due to long term physical or mental ill-health, disability or problems relating to old age

- 21,941 between 1 and 19 hours a week
- 4,723 between 20 and 49 hours a week, and
- 8,457 more than 50 hours a week

and there are 3,372 people in 'communal establishments' - defined as managed (or supervised) residential accommodation, which may or may not involve nursing care

With the population of West Cheshire forecast to increase to around 365,700 by 2032, and within the older age groups in particular - a 60% increase in over 65s and the number of over 85s to more than double - the need for care and support across our borough will almost certainly increase. Dementia diagnoses alone are forecast to increase locally by 30% over the next decade. Given that the subject of a safeguarding concern need not necessarily be receiving any formal care or support services, it is not unlikely that the number of suspected abuse cases will grow at a similar rate.

## ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### What is it?

It is important that we do not limit our view of what constitutes abuse or neglect, as they can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered. However, the Care Act Statutory Guidance provides an illustrative guide to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern:

- Physical abuse, such as hitting, pushing or locking someone in a room
- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse, such as bullying, taunting or humiliating someone
- Domestic violence
- Sexual abuse, such as inappropriate touching or a forced sexual act
- Psychological abuse
- Financial or material abuse, such as misusing, withholding or taking someone's money
- Discriminatory abuse, including against someone's age, gender, disability or religious beliefs
- Neglect and acts of omission, such as not providing necessary food, care or medicine

Some instances of abuse will constitute a criminal offence which may lead to criminal proceedings, and appropriate intervention must take this into account. In all cases, we will ensure that priority is given to protecting the safety and care of the adult(s) at risk. As appropriate, action will be co-ordinated with the police and other relevant authorities.

### Who does it affect?

Abuse can happen anywhere and be carried out by anyone. This might be family, friends, neighbours, paid staff, volunteers, carers, other service users or even complete strangers.

These adults may be, for example

- Frail due to age, ill health, physical disability, cognitive impairment or a combination of these
- Have a learning disability
- Have mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- Have a long-term illness/condition
- Users of substances or alcohol
- Unable to demonstrate the capacity to make a decision and is in need of care and support

This list is not exhaustive.

### When should we intervene?

The new Care Act 2015 states that the main objective of a Local Safeguarding Adults Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners work to protect adults in its area who:

- (a) have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs),
- (b) are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- (c) as a result of those needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk or the experience of abuse or neglect

In effect, this means that regardless of whether the local authority is providing any services, we must follow up any concerns about either actual or suspected adult abuse.

### How will we do it?

#### Vision

To make the lives of our vulnerable adults safer and happier

Our Vision will be delivered through 6 **Priorities**, which are aligned to the principles of safeguarding:

- **Empowerment**  
We will Make Safeguarding Personal, put people at the centre of the system and ensure that decisions are driven by the adult at risk
- **Prevention**  
We will communicate as effectively as possible with front-line staff, the community and between Board members to raise awareness of safeguarding issues, promote the available steps and ensure that they are taken before harm occurs
- **Proportionality**  
We will engage the most proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to risks presented, as outlined within our Policies and Procedures
- **Protection**  
We will work closely with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board on vulnerable groups, involving issues such as radicalisation, sexual exploitation, street activity and transition; and ensure that we secure support and representation for those most in need
- **Partnerships**  
We will work with our residents to promote local solutions, and check, challenge and intervene in wider safeguarding issues in the community
- **Accountability**  
We will establish clear and high standards and be accountable and transparent in delivering effective safeguarding

As the strategic lead for adult safeguarding across the borough, we recognise that the most effective way to safeguard adults at risk is for a wide range of partner organisations to work together on both prevention and investigation activities. We will adapt and develop to take account of growing national interest in adult protection - even more so following the introduction of the Care Act - and evolving best practice.

Our Board members have agreed to raise awareness in their respective organisations to ensure that their own staff who have responsibility for the care and support of adults at risk in West Cheshire work towards the early identification and prevention of abuse, and the promotion of all working practices that seek to minimise the risk of abuse and neglect.

All partners are committed to the principles and objectives contained within this Strategy document and recognise their responsibilities - and accountability - for meeting legal requirements, national guidance and the adoption of best practice in relation to safeguarding adults.

### IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

