

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

7 January, 2016

Summary of Matters Considered at the Board

Report of the Chair, Councillor Sandars

The Scrutiny Board met on 7 January, 2016. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cmis5/>

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report 2014/15

Sandwell's Safeguarding Board Business Manager and Lead Director for Adult Safeguarding presented to the board the Annual Report 2014/15.

Due to the implementation of the Care Act 2014 each local authority has a statutory duty to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board to include representatives from the local authority, the NHS and the police. All partners should meet quarterly to develop shared plans for safeguarding. In addition a safeguarding plan and report were required to be published annually and be publically accessible.

The identified safeguarding priorities for 2014/2015 included:

- Protect and Prevent;
- Quality & Assurance;
- Learning & Development;
- Making Safeguarding Personal;
- Data Analysis (local and regional).

Although the Care Act 2015 has removed the time scales which relate to referrals, safeguarding has continued to complete a high number of enquiries within an impressive timeframe. Current data, within the last three months, shows that 63% of enquiries are completed within 20 working days. 98% of cases were discussed within 5 working days.

The Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board is to make improvements to its website, as currently there are no facilities to direct members of the public to Sandwell MBC's main website where abuse can be reported. In addition minutes of meetings will also to be added at a future point.

Representatives of the Safeguarding Adults Board were invited to speak at a future Sandwell Healthwatch meeting of theirs in order to further engage members of the public and raise awareness of safeguarding. All parties agreed that awareness of what safeguarding actually means needs to be raised in the borough.

Relationships between agencies are reported as being positive with no data sharing barriers found as yet. The operational team was located next to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, which gave it ready access to police and medical advisers.

The Scrutiny Board was reassured by the Lead Director for Adult Safeguarding Board that informal care providers were able to access training programmes and support through them.

Personalised care will be focused upon over the next twelve months. There was a need for professionals to work closely with vulnerable adults to take their thoughts, needs and wishes into account holistically. The service has moved on from simply 'doing things to people', and this required real adult conversations between professionals and service users.

In future the Safeguarding Board hoped to receive data in relation to near misses and never events related to abuse. It intends to work alongside the Clinical Commissioning Group to gain access to this information; the aim being that the occurrences of these instances are reduced.

Councillor Paul Sandars
Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board