

Title:	Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report 2016/17
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Report of:	Marie Seaton
Lead contacts:	Nicolette Barry – Safeguarding Board Manager

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the work of the Buckinghamshire Adult Safeguarding Board through the achievements highlighted in the Annual Report 2016/17.

2. Summary of main issues

2.1 The Care Act 2014 gave definition to the status, role and function of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB). It includes a statutory responsibility to produce an Annual Report highlighting the work of the Board over the past year.

2.2 The Annual Report shows that 2016/17 was a year of significant change and development. A great deal of work has been done during the year to implement changes and ensure important elements are in place to enable the BSAB to meet its statutory responsibilities. At the beginning of 2016, the BSAB provided a springboard for further development: partnership arrangements were well established and an external Peer Review provided an opportunity to focus on areas for developments to ensure effective work relating to safeguarding adults. It is the strong commitment from its Board members and the effective work of operational staff across the agencies that has ensured progress has been made to safeguard adults in the County.

2.3 The Board had undergone major staff changes in 2016/17 with a new Independent Chair, Board Manager and Administrator. This provided an opportunity to get “Back to Basics” and the Away Day in November 2016 focused on the governance arrangements and priorities for the BSAB looking at the membership of the Board, the subgroups and the structure of the Board. The outcome of the Away Day was that Board membership was streamlined into the main funding members, with some additional members attending on an ad hoc basis; subgroups were reduced from nine to 4; SAFE the service user and carer group was revitalised; Terms of Reference were revised and standards introduced to enable smooth functioning of the Board.

2.4 The revised governance arrangements and a clear focus on key priorities meant that new challenges-ranging from the inclusion of self-neglect and modern slavery as

categories of abuse through to the requirement for public involvement in the production of the Strategic Plan- could be delivered more effectively. The Annual Report indicates some of these priorities have been address and delivered. For example, we have an active SAFE the service user and carer subgroup which changed from a subgroup to a Forum. This enabled members of the group to attend the other subgroups and to have a real impact therefore on policies and the work of the Board. Others will need longer term commitment and more work to meaningfully engage with communities around the development of the Strategic Plan.

2.5 The prime focus of the work of the Board is to ensure that safeguarding is consistently understood by anyone engaging with adults who may be at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect and that there is common commitment to improving outcomes for them. This means understanding how to support and empower people at risk of harm and anti-social behaviour to resolve the circumstances which put them at risk. There has been a strong commitment to develop and facilitate practice which puts the person in control (Making Safeguarding Personal) and generates a more person-centred set of responses and outcomes.

2.6 When things go seriously wrong, the BSAB has a responsibility to look into this thoroughly with a Safeguarding Adults Review reporting the findings and learning so that practice will improve. During 2016/17 the Board also undertook two Safeguarding Adult Reviews which were presented to the Board in August 2017. The Action Plans of which are currently being implemented by the Board. Equally important, is the Board's role in promoting good practice and giving local residents proper confidence that concerns can be expressed and will be responded to effectively.

2.7 All working in adult safeguarding have the difficult task of understanding risk, assessing the level of this for the individual concerned and constructing a plan to manage this which works for the person and is understood by those around them. This demands sound grasp of the legal basis for their work along with effective listening and communication. This often presents a challenge in a society where there is a pressing tendency to avoid rather than to manage risk. A key task for the Board has been to evaluate the quality of risk management in safeguarding in Buckinghamshire and be assured that the right balance is being struck. To facilitate this work the Board endorsed a new 'Threshold Framework' during 2017.

2.8 Over 2016/17 work was also undertaken to develop the Joint Protocol between the statutory board's which has led to work being undertaken across the boards, particularly in relation to Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery and Transitions. The BSAB has collaborated with the Local Children's Safeguarding Board around these joint priorities to embed the 'Think Family' approach. The collaborative approach and connectivity between the work of the Boards was strengthen through the commitment of the leadership across the whole system of Buckinghamshire to taking forward joint priorities.

2.9 The Board also worked during 2016/17 to meet the outcomes defined in the Business Plan, including the development and implementation of a Communication Strategy. This led to a more streamlined and up-to-date website and new posters and publications.

2.10 The Board continues to receive a performance report, which provides data about safeguarding activity in Buckinghamshire. This report is under continuous development with the aim of providing intelligence that can inform priorities, planning and decision-making. As part of implementing 'Making Safeguarding Personal' the Board will see evidence of increasing engagement and involvement of those individuals who experience safeguarding. The performance analysis also shows whether the Board is delivering against its priorities.

2.11 By getting 'Back to Basics' the Board is now in a much better position to move forward on initiatives outlined in the Business Plan. The BSAB completed many of the actions identified in its previous three year strategic business plan. This has helped to provide a strong foundation to shape and inform the refreshed BSAB Strategic Business Plan for April 2018 onwards.

Recommendation for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

To note and endorse the BSAB Annual Report 2016/17

Background documents:

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report 2016/17