



Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod, Executive Director for Adult Care and Community Wellbeing

Report to:	Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 July 2021
Subject:	Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board: Role and Function during Covid-19 Pandemic, Strategic Plan update and Team Around the Adult

Summary

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) is presenting today an update on its role and functions during the pandemic; a refresh of its Strategic Plan for 2021 including their assurance process; and an overview on the current position of the Team Around the Adult programme.

These documents are both for information only and are supported by a brief presentation facilitated by Heather Roach the Independent Chair of the LSAB and Justin Hackney, Assistant Director, Specialist Adult Services and Safeguarding, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing.

Actions Requested

- (1) To note and consider the information presented on the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board.
- (2) To consider the timing of future reports from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding adults Board.

1. Background

Throughout the pandemic and the impact it has had on the population and organisations, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) has maintained its focus on adult safeguarding, whilst supporting its partners through very difficult times.

2. LSAB During Covid-19 Pandemic

In the very early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic the LSAB, after discussions with its Executive Board, agreed to temporarily stand down to allow three keys things to happen:

- some of the LSAB staff had been asked to support the county emergency centre thus taking them away from their LSAB role;
- all partners agencies where focused on the impact of Covid-19 on their organisation and it was felt that stepping down the LSAB was one area they would not have to be (temporarily) concerned about; and
- the board gathered local, national and regional information around the impact Covid-19 was having on adult safeguarding.

In the first few weeks the Executive Board agreed that:

- a fortnightly Covid-19 specific Executive Board meeting would be held to discuss safeguarding within key agencies during the current difficult times;
- the full Executive Board meetings would continue on a quarterly basis to ensure the statutory requirements of the Board continued to be fulfilled; and
- a specific Covid-19 risk register would be created by the LSAB focusing on the impact Covid-19 was having or may have, on adult safeguarding, which combined with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) and Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (Domestic Abuse Core Priority Group) provided a basis for discussion with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and ensured that safeguarding was a key focus.

Throughout 2020 and into 2021 the fortnightly and then monthly Covid-19 Executive Board continued with a focus on the LSAB Covid-19 risk register and feedback from strategic partners on their current status. These continued along with the normal quarterly Executive Boards and are continuing while the impact of reduced restrictions and/or new variants is fully understood.

Data across the country were collected by the Local Government Association throughout the pandemic to create a national picture of the impact. Locally, our data have mirrored the national trends seeing an overall increase in safeguarding concerns being reported in the last twelve months. The key points to report are that numbers of reported concerns decreased along with each lock-down, the complexity of safeguarding concerns has increased and the most prevalent reports of abuse have been domestic abuse, self-neglect and psychological abuse.

3. LSAB Strategy 2021/22

Members may remember that the Board presented previously its updated three year strategy back in October 2020 which was due to end in 2021.

During 2021 and after discussion with the Executive Board it was agreed to roll over the final year of the current strategy, picking up some of the objectives that had not been met due to Covid-19 and adding some that have arisen because of Covid-19.

4. Assurance Process

Continuing on from the rollover of the final year of the strategy, the Board has set out a new assurance process to support the review of future strategies and identify possible new pieces of work as a result of Covid-19. The new areas added to the assurance process include:

- strategic assurance event (Sept 2021), where agencies will be asked to present some specific safeguarding data, identifying any areas of concern or future focus; and
- operational assurance event (Nov 2021), designed to identify areas of good practice across agencies or areas of concern .

5. Team Around the Adult

The Team Around the Adult (TAA) is a key element of the LSAB's Prevention and Early intervention strategy and is there to support people with complex needs who may not meet thresholds for safeguarding enquiries. It was developed following recommendations from a former Safeguarding Adult Review.

Usually this is where a more creative approach is required in order to reach out to people in the community and 'go to them', particularly if they do not wish to engage with services.

It will involve the appointment of a Lead Professional, who will usually be the key worker. They will:

- engage with the individual,
- promote multi-agency working,
- utilise a shared IT system,

This may be through a case discussion or consultation and further details can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/lsab/6>

The TAA programme now has two co-ordinators in post who attend all Vulnerable Adult Panels or equivalent across the seven districts and an evaluation of the project will be carried out by Lincoln University later in 2021.

Supporting this programme and other work, a Prevention and Early Intervention Sub-Group has been formed and at the first meeting, held on the 20th of May 2021, governance arrangements, an initial action plan and membership was agreed.

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by David Culy, who can be contacted on 01522 555111 or david.culy@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank