

**Devon Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016/17- Covering Report**  
Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

*Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee before taking effect.*

**Recommendation:**

Adult Care & Health Care Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the Annual Report 2016/ 2017 of the Devon Safeguarding Adults Board which summarises some of the work that has taken place in 2016/17. More detailed information about the work of the Board is available on the DSAB website: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/>

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This attached report provides Scrutiny Committee Members with an overview of the Devon Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) Annual Report for 2016/17
- 1.2 The annual report summarises safeguarding activity undertaken throughout 2016/2017 by the Board and its key partners and sets out the progress made against priorities. There is a statutory requirement to present the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board to the local Health & Wellbeing Board. In Devon the report is also presented to Cabinet and to Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 This Annual Report is concise, and has been well received by all partners. It ensures that key messages are portrayed and the report can be delivered and, importantly, understood widely. There is a national trend towards ensuring that such annual reports are reduced in size. Importantly more detailed information is published on the Board's website, including the full Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Report and the accompanying Action Plan for SAR T which was completed in 2016/17.
- 1.4 It is intended that the DSAB Independent Chair will lead a masterclass on safeguarding adults and the work of the Board, prior to the Adult Care & Health Scrutiny Committee on 22 March 2018 (details to follow). At this masterclass there will be a presentation on national trends in safeguarding vulnerable adults, a brief

overview on the legislation which applies to safeguarding and which is monitored by the Board, and an update on delivery of the current DSAB Strategic Plan.

## **2. Background**

2.1.1 DSAB is the strategic lead body for safeguarding for the county of Devon, with an overriding objective to prevent and reduce the risk of significant harm to adults with care and support needs from abuse or other types of exploitation

- Key statutory partners are - DCC, NHS commissioners (CCGs) and the Police with wider representation from other agencies (NHS Providers, Healthwatch, Exeter Prison, Probation and the Community Rehabilitation Company)
- There are 2 key statutory requirements for the Board – to deliver an Annual Report and to ensure that the Board appropriately conducts Safeguarding Adult Reviews

2.1.2 For the purposes of this work, vulnerable adults with care and support needs are defined as:

- people with learning disabilities
- people with physical disabilities
- people with sensory impairment
- people with mental health needs, including dementia
- people who misuse substances or alcohol
- people who are physically or mentally frail

## **2.2 Legislative Context**

2.2.1 The Care Act 2014 requires that local authorities hold the lead responsibilities for safeguarding adults and work in partnership with other agencies as described above. The Local Authority shall appoint an Independent Chair whose role it is to ensure that the Board holds all partners to account for delivering services which safeguard and protect vulnerable adults. The Board acts as the strategic mechanism for ensuring that all partners work together successfully.

2.2.2 As mentioned in 2.1.1 above, there are 2 key statutory requirements for the Safeguarding Adults Board – to deliver an Annual Report and to ensure that the Board appropriately conducts Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs).

2.2.3 SARs – there are 4 underway at present and when these are completed they will be presented to the DSAB. Reports and action plans will be uploaded on the DSAB Website. Learning from SARs is tracked by the Board and reviewed to ensure that actions have been undertaken

## **2.3. A Summary of completed DSAB Work in 2016/17**

- Appointment of a new Independent Chair, new DCC Lead Officer for the Board (Principal Social Worker Commissioning), and a Board Business Manager

- Reviewed and implemented a revised board structure and membership and launched a number of new work streams which will be reflected in the report for 2017/18
- Re-focused Board sub groups by working with Chairs to identify and implement key work streams. There is an improved Safeguarding Adult Review process (with a new SAR Core Group Chair) and SAR T was completed and published on the DSAB website
- Reviewed and updated content across DSAB Website
- Refreshed the Operational Delivery Group which acts as the key delivery arm of the Board
- Developed close working links with Torbay SAB to support partners who work across both Boards
- The Chair has relaunched the Peninsula (Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly Chairs' Network and in 2017 has been key in the development of the South-West Chairs' Network to develop best practice across the region
- New Chairs of Mental Capacity Act sub-group have been appointed and its work plan refreshed to reflect DSAB priorities

Siân Walker  
Independent Chair  
Devon Safeguarding Adults Board

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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