

08 October 2020

**Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership  
Annual Report 2019-20  
Covering Brief for: Devon Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Purpose of agenda item:**

It is a statutory requirement for the Annual Report 2019-20 of the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP) to be presented to the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board is requested to note the Annual Report which summarises the work that has taken place during 2019-20.

More detailed information about the work of the Partnership is available on the DSAP website: <https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/>

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 I am proud to be introducing my fifth Annual Report as the Independent Chair of the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP). This report, giving information on the work carried out in the year leading up to the end of March 2020, is brought to you as part of our duty under the Care Act 2014 which requires each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to publish an annual report.
- 1.2 The full annual report summarises safeguarding activity undertaken throughout 2019-20 by the Partnership and sets out the progress made against the strategic priorities. In Devon the report is also presented to Cabinet and to Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 As in previous years, we have attempted to ensure that the 2019-20 Annual Report is accessible and provides a level of information to enable readers to fully understand the work of the partnership. The report contains information on the multi-agency partner achievements during the year; it also sets out what we achieved against the DSAP strategic priorities for the year in question. The Annual Report is published on the DSAP website along with full details of all those Safeguarding Adult Reviews which we have published during the year 2019 - 2020.
- 1.4 Work is currently underway to produce easy read versions of the annual report and this is being completed in partnership with our Community Reference Subgroup, administered by Living Options. Once complete, these versions will be widely shared and published on our website.

## **2. Safeguarding Adults Partnership - Background**

- 2.1. The DSAP is the strategic lead body for safeguarding, 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 harm or exploitation.
- 2.2.1 Statutory partners are – Devon County Council (DCC), Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Devon & Cornwall Police, with wider representation from other partner agencies (Devon Partnership Trust, the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, University of Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust; North Devon District Hospital, Torbay Hospital, Public Health, Healthwatch Devon, Living Options, Exeter Prison, the National Probation Service, the Care Quality Commission and Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service)

## **3. Legislative Context**

- 3.1 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 Safeguarding Board holds all partners to account for delivering services which safeguard and protect vulnerable adults. The DSAP acts as the strategic mechanism for ensuring that all partners work together successfully.
- 3.2 The Care Act 2014 sets out that there are 3 key statutory requirements for the Partnership:
  - To deliver and publish an Annual Report
  - To ensure that the Partnership appropriately conducts Safeguarding Adult Reviews
  - To develop and publish a strategic plan
- 3.3 Adult safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014 apply to an adult, aged 18 or over, who:
  - has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
  - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
  - as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Care and support is the mixture of practical, financial and emotional support for adults who need extra help to manage their lives and be independent - including older people, people with a disability or long-term illness, people with mental health problems, and carers.

- 3.4 Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) – We are currently commissioning 10 SARs which, when completed, will be presented to the DSAP. If a decision is made for a

SAR to be published, it will be uploaded on the DSAP Website, after approval by the Board.

In 2019/ 2020 the DSAP agreed 2 SARs – the Atlas Care Homes SAR and SAR Charles. The former took considerable resources as the abuse highlighted in the Crown Court Case was so complex and required input by many organisations outside Devon. Both of these are highlighted in the Annual Report with the full SARs published on the DSAP Website. Two SARs agreed by the Board in the previous reporting year, were actually published in 2019/ 2020 and these are also available on the website and are known as SAR Rita and SAR Sally. These were presented with last year's annual report.

#### **4. Strategic Priorities 2019-20**

4.1 Each year DSAP sets out key priorities that it will focus on in the next year to ensure that adults at risk of harm, abuse and/or are vulnerable are safeguarded to reduce the risk of harm or abuse. These priorities are agreed by all Board members.

For 2019/20, these priorities were (and we have included some of the achievements with each one):

- **Finding the right solution at the right time for the most at-risk people:**
  - Designed and implemented a Creative Solutions Forum
  - Worked with the Safer Devon Partnership to use the 'Preventing Exploitation Toolkit' across partnerships
  - Embedded the Making Safeguarding Personal framework
  - Developed a Multi-Agency framework for managing risk
  - Developed a 'People in Positions of Trust' protocol
  - Conducted a 'Deep Dive audit' into safeguarding practice using qualitative and quantitative data
  - Produced 'The Voice of the Adult Feedback Form'
- **Increasing public awareness of Safeguarding:**
  - Designed a 'Public Awareness Campaign' (to now be delivered post-Covid)
  - Regularly updated and reviewed our DSAP website content
- **Improving the experience of children transitioning (moving) to adult services, working together to ensure they remain safe:**
  - Plans have been put in place to work in partnership with DCFP as part of a Strategic Partnership Agreement and work continues
- **Improving Staff legal Literacy**
  - We undertook a review of Mental Capacity Act (MCA) content for Level 1 MCA Training
  - A Task & Finish Group is in place to produce guidance material on legal literacy

#### **5. Summary and Moving Forward**

5.1 The period covered by the report ends at 31 March 2020. We acknowledge the impact of Covid-19, towards the end of the year in question and also that

challenging times remain. These challenges have led organisations to restructure the way they organise their services, though it is impressive that despite these additional pressures, all partners to the Board have continued to work effectively together and to respond when being held to account by the DSAP. Partners have shown continuous commitment to our key strategic areas and this will be reported within the next Annual Report.

- 5.2 Importantly our engagement with people who use services through the Community Reference Group continues to evidence increasing awareness of safeguarding issues and supports the partnership to communicate better to raise safeguarding awareness amongst the wider public.
- 5.3 Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of the Partnership and its sub-groups. The effective work of the sub-groups reflected in this annual report is a massive commitment by those involved which contributes to continuously improving services.

Siân Walker  
Independent Chair  
Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership