

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Health Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 12<sup>TH</sup> March 2020  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Maureen Noble, Independent Chair, Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership

### Report Title

Safeguarding Adults in Trafford – An Update on the Work of the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (TSSP)

### Summary

This report provides an overview of work to safeguard adults in Trafford. Safeguarding adults is a statutory responsibility under the Care Act (2014) and encompasses a broad range of activities from prevention through to interventions with adults at risk.

Trafford's Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (TSSP) incorporates key agencies from across the Borough who work together to set safeguarding priorities, monitor progress against priorities and coordinate remedial action when necessary. TSSP also:

- Offer training and support to staff in the form of a structured Workforce Development Programme (aligned to our strategic priorities)
- Work across agencies at both an operational and strategic level to deliver high quality safeguarding interventions
- Advise Partners on the strategic direction and interface with Greater Manchester, North West and National bodies in relation to fulfilling our statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

The Statutory Partners in the TSSP are the Local Authority, CCG and Police however, membership also includes non-statutory participation from a wide range of agencies. This report does not attempt to provide detail of the daily work of these agencies in relation to safeguarding activity, but illustrates the range and breadth of work that takes place throughout Trafford to safeguard adults from harm and/or abuse.

Further detailed information on safeguarding in each of the agencies can be accessed through their websites and involvement in other fora and committees. Summaries of safeguarding activity, workforce development, training and reviews [can be found on the TSSP website.](#)

### Recommendation(s)

**That Health Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report.**

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Emma Brown, Jed Pidd  
Extension: 912 4608

**1. Fulfilling Our Responsibilities Under the Care Act (2014) - Scope of the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (TSSP) in relation to Adult Safeguarding**

- 1.1 The Care Act (2014) came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Its introduction was the most significant legislative reform for health and social care services in over 60 years. Prior to the Care Act, the law was complex and reliant on outdated pieces of legislation (for example the National Assistance Act, 1948).
- 1.2 The Care Act placed Safeguarding adults on a statutory footing for the first time. Section 42 of the Act is a duty placed on the Local Authority to undertake or 'cause' others to undertake enquiries where an adult with care and support needs is at risk of or has experienced harm or abuse. The statutory definition of harm or abuse now includes self-neglect & hoarding.
- 1.3 Section 43 of the Care Act requires every Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area. The SAB operates at a strategic level, helping and protecting adults in its area from abuse and neglect through co-ordinating and reviewing a multi-agency approach across all member organisations.
- 1.4 In Trafford, the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (TSSP) fulfils the role of the SAB. The TSSP is an integrated, all-age strategic partnership that also oversees the safeguarding priorities for both children & adults. Until 2017, Trafford had two separate Boards with different Independent Chairs for Adults and Children. It was agreed that merging the two Boards and appointing a single chair would lead to greater coherence across the entire safeguarding agenda and would assist in addressing some of the key thematic safeguarding concerns in Trafford. In addition it was agreed that an integrated Board would bring added benefits in terms of the best use of resources.
- 1.5 Although the Local Authority is responsible for establishing and maintaining a Safeguarding Adults Board, the TSSP is concerned with much more than the safeguarding activity of the Local Authority. It oversees and leads on adult safeguarding across the locality. To do this effectively it must concern itself with a whole range of matters, including but not limited to:

- a. The safety of people/patients in its local health services (commissioned and non-commissioned);
  - b. The quality of local Care and Support services (commissioned and non-commissioned);
  - c. The effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding vulnerable offenders;
  - d. How effectively further education services safeguard adults;
- 1.6 In order to gather intelligence about the whole range of matters the TSSP must concern itself with, it must have representation from all agencies, services users and other interested parties, therefore collaboration and co-operation are key to the effectiveness of the TSSP.

### **1.7 The main objectives of the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership**

The main objective of the Safeguarding Partnership for adults is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:

- a. Have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs);
- b. Are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- c. As a result of their care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

### **1.8 The duties of the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership are;**

- a. Publish an evidence based strategic plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet the above objectives. In Trafford this is known as the Safeguarding Business Plan and will be published in April 2020.
- b. Publish an annual report detailing what the Partnership and each member has done during the year to achieve the above objectives. The report for 2018/19 is being finalised and will be published in February/March 2020.
- c. Conduct any Safeguarding Adults Reviews under Section 44 of the Care Act. Further details of recent Safeguarding Adults Reviews in Trafford are set out later in this report.

## **2. Priorities for the TSSP – 2020-2022**

The Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership priorities were reviewed in May 2019. An independent facilitator with relevant all age strategic safeguarding experience was employed to enable strategic partners to develop and reframe achievable core priorities in accordance with our resource base. The priorities agreed are as follows:

- **Neglect (including self-neglect):**

As a safeguarding partnership we will develop standardized approaches, which all partner's will utilise to identify and respond to child and adult neglect

- **Exploitation**

Develop systems and services that protect children, young people and adults at risk of being exploited (all forms of exploitation) and ensure that victims are well supported

- **Prevention and Early Help**

Develop interventions through a range of cohesive and coordinated universal and specialist services, to be provided at the earliest opportunity to ensure that needs are met.

- **Domestic Violence and Abuse**

Work to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on the population of Trafford by developing and implementing a sustainable system wide approach to prevention, early intervention, response and support.

- **Embedding safeguarding arrangements**

Develop opportunities to communicate and engage with those that use and work in our services to ensure that safeguarding systems are robust and effective. Ensure strong and effective leadership for safeguarding in Trafford.

The Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership 'plan on a page' is being finalised and will be published in April 2020.

### **3. Examples of safeguarding activity over the past 12 months**

#### **3.1 Staff Training/Workforce Development**

Safeguarding forms part of the day to day business of Trafford's workforce. The Partnership recognises the importance of providing support and expertise to our practitioners, which enables them to share skills and experiences and learn from each other.

Since the merge of the Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards in April 2018, a number of our courses which historically focused on children now include adult safeguarding. This has widened our audience significantly and has promoted networking between colleagues who previously had not come in to contact with each other

The Partnership have established a training pool which already includes 31 practitioners who provide training across Trafford. These practitioners are highly

qualified and experienced in their profession which in turn ensures the learning offer is of high quality.

In line with the priorities agreed by TSSP we have developed training on the following priorities relating to adult safeguarding:

Domestic Abuse – With the support of colleagues from Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust [now Manchester Foundation Trust], and full-day Domestic Abuse Workshop has been developed. Participant feedback shows they have a better understanding of Domestic Abuse as a result of attending training, as well as an increased level of confidence in accessing support services available in Trafford and supporting victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse.

Safeguarding Adults Basic Awareness - A basic awareness workshop on safeguarding adults was also developed last year with 39 professionals attending this from both statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sectors. This included exploring the various forms of adult neglect including self-neglect. Training was also provided to members in Summer 2019.

In addition to the above, the following 3 courses were offered in 2018-2019, which are aimed at both safeguarding adults and children:

- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Female Genital Mutilation Awareness
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

### **3.2 Adult Safeguarding Weeks of Action**

The National Self-Neglect week of Action (11th-15th November 2019) was the opportunity we used to launch the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy. This policy, written as a collaboration between our partners; provides over-arching guidance to practitioners across the partnership about what to do when there are issues and concerns about self-neglect and hoarding.

It enables our staff to recognise characteristics, provides guidance on legislative powers, gives advice and guidance about assessing and managing risk, and lastly provides links to the relevant units within the partnership that deal with self-neglect and hoarding.

The policy also contains a 'Tool-kit', which has proved invaluable to first responders in this complex area of practice. We promoted our activity via accessible media options such as a Youtube video and our updated and more user friendly web-site.

The national Week of Action is complemented by a Self-Neglect Conference taking place on the 25th February 2020 for which 70 delegates are already registered. Places are still available and can be accessed via the TSSP website.

The second week of action (18th-22nd November 2019) supported the 'Greater Manchester safeguarding Adult Awareness Week' an initiative promoted by GM Safeguarding Boards.

We arranged for Deputy Mayor Beverly Hughes to open the Awareness week on behalf of GM as the Lead for Domestic Abuse in Greater Manchester.

Again this was supported by the Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership website and involved themed days where learning events. The topics covered were:

- Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking: training session
- Self-Neglect and Hoarding: Training including new multi-agency policy updates.
- Domestic Abuse including the role of the St. Mary's Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC): Training and SARC Q&A
- Safeguarding Adult's Reviews, a facilitated session using our Trafford cases to enable delegates to draw out relevant practitioner based learning from a real case
- Human Rights Session; Training in relation to the relevant pieces of legislation that protects and provides powers to support vulnerable adults

### **3.3 Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARS)**

As outlined earlier the TSSP must arrange for a review of a safeguarding case relating to an individual if;

- a. The person has died and the Safeguarding Adult Board suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not the Local Authority had been alerted to the abuse or neglect prior to death); or
- b. The person is alive but the Safeguarding Adult Board knows or suspects that they have experienced serious abuse or neglect; and
- c. There is a reasonable cause for concern about how the Safeguarding Adult Board, its members or other persons involved worked together to safeguard the adult.

Over the past 12 months, four Safeguarding Adults Review reports have been published concerning five individuals, a further report has been commissioned and remains at the investigation /reporting stage.

The following SARs have been published on the TSSP website **Please note names are changed to protect the individual's identity.**

- Susan and Ann (12<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

Ann was the sole carer for Susan in their home. Susan was highly vulnerable in terms of her mental and physical capacity and received all of her care from Ann. Police were called to their home address prior to Ann's death, and were sighted on the difficulties Ann was experiencing in providing that care. This case emphasized the importance of sharing accurate and timely information between the Police and Adult Social Care and directly led to new and improved ways of evaluating risk in our

vulnerable adults, and managing that risk on a daily basis. GMP are developing a Safeguarding Adults Policy based on this learning.

- Ryan (11th July 2019)

Ryan was a man in care with significant care and support needs in relation to his physical & mental health and associated learning difficulties. He was looked after in supported accommodation by a commissioned service who balanced Ryan's need for independence with his daily care. His care package involved the use of a technological solution that informed his carers of his epilepsy condition. Ryan's death was deemed by the Coroner to be of natural causes, however this tragic event taught the Partnership about the appropriate use of technology, also the policy, practice and safeguards required to ensure that there is the necessary back up in place in the event that the technology deployed doesn't operate as required.

- John (29<sup>th</sup> May 2019)

John is an adult with learning disabilities looked after in residential semi supported accommodation provided by a Trafford commissioned service. John had a series of hospital admissions over a relatively short period of time. It was the nature of his discharges from hospital that gave rise to this SAR enquiry. We learnt from John's case that hospital discharges from acute settings across the region, (to which Trafford patients may be sent), were inadequate for John. We learnt that the complexities of his discharge as a man with LD, and the extent to which he needed support and help from numerous agencies, did not adequately take place.

This meant that John quickly returned to acute settings following repeated falls upon discharge. We have used our findings to seek assurances from hospitals that they will revisit training on the Mental Capacity Act, and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, that specifically in relation to discharge of people with a Learning Disability, they always consider the use of advocates and the use of patient's passports in these complex discharges.

- Mrs. Green (11<sup>th</sup> July 2019)

Mrs. Green was an elderly lady who was looked after in a Trafford residential nursing home. Mrs. Green had progressive mental and physical health care needs, when she was well enough to make her own decisions she had chosen to sleep in her chair. As her conditions progressed she became very vulnerable to pressure ulcers, these were exacerbated by sleeping in a chair, and were eventually contributory to her death. The continued care of Mrs. Green in this manner was in accordance with her family's wishes but against the Tissue Viability Nurses (TVN) advice.

We learnt from this case that Nursing Homes need to understand the role of the family in relation to their views on decisions about the health needs of their loved ones. This includes a consideration of whether they are acting as a Court Appointed Lasting Power of Attorney (Health & Welfare/Financial) or Deputy.

There was also learning about the importance of using guidance in the Mental Capacity Act in decision making. The review highlighted other important aspects of clinical decision making.

#### **4 Further Developments**

#### **4.1 Development of an Adult Safeguarding Hub, consultation ongoing.**

This ongoing work intends to replace the existing single agency Adult Front Door with a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. This co-located safeguarding hub will deal with Complex Safeguarding cases and non-safeguarding/less complex safeguarding enquiries will be dealt with directly by the adult Neighborhood teams. The formal consultation period closed on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and Union consultation is currently being obtained before formal outcome publication.

#### **4.2 Improved collaboration and information sharing with HM Coroner**

These improvements have been driven by the large number of requests received from HM Coroner for staff to attend Coroner's Court.

Consultation with HM Coroner at the latter end of 2019, resulted in an established a set of guidelines for the processing of such requests and a more transparent approach to the writing of witness statements to enable critical questions of relevance to the Coroner being anticipated prior to submission of the statement to the Coroner's Office. Enquiry.

#### **4.3 Moving Towards a Digital Front Door in Adult Safeguarding**

This project is planned to go live on the 1st February 2020., The necessary IT interface, public engagement and education will support and enhance the customer experience and provide an opportunity for feedback on the experience of Safeguarding. The launch will represent a significant step in enhanced public participation and engagement in access to adult services.

#### **4.5 Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)**

A continued area of uncertainty for Adult Care are the amendments to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), which are part of the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

Work is ongoing to develop a new scheme were all young people and adults who lack capacity to make decisions will be supported in making decisions about their care. It is likely that this scheme will go live in Spring 2020.

The Local Authority are experts in this complex area of law and will therefore lead on the implementation project in collaboration with all of our partners.

### **5 Summary**

Work to safeguard adults in Trafford has been significantly strengthened over the past year. Joint working across agencies and supporting professionals through ongoing workforce development and training, together with a continuing focus on

innovation and managing ever changing demand and needs remains a priority for Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership.