

SOMERSET HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board held in the Taunton Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ, on Thursday 14 November 2019 at 11.00 am

Present: Cllr C Lawrence (Chair), Cllr F Nicholson (Vice-Chair), Dr E Ford (Vice-Chair), Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr J Keen, Cllr R Wyke, J Goodchild, T Grant, Supt M Prior, M Heard, J Wooster, Cllr B Hamilton, J Rimmer, P Hilton

Other Members present: None

Apologies for absence: Cllr Amanda Broom, Cllr Chris Booth, Cllr David Huxtable, Mel Lock, Alex Murray, and Mark Cooke

412. **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no new Declarations of Interest.

413 **Minutes from the meeting held on 26th of September 2019** - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

414 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

415 **Somerset Safeguarding Adults Boards 2018/19 Annual Report-** Agenda Item 5

The Chair invited and welcomed Richard Crompton, Independent Chair of Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board to introduce the report. She thanked him for all his hard work and informed the board that this was his last meeting before stepping down in his role.

Mr Crompton thanked the Chair and informed members this was his sixth year serving as its independent chair, and it had been a great pleasure to see the Safeguarding Board develop over that time. He felt that the partnership had become increasingly effective and it had made a real difference to the lives of those that needed safeguarding and support. It also worked well with partner organisations who work to safeguard adults at risk. He paid tribute to the effective work and support of business managers Nikki Shaw and Stephen Miles.

The purpose of the report was to present the Board's Annual Report for the 2018/19 financial year to the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board. The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) operates as an independently-chaired, multi-agency body under The Care Act 2014. It became statutory from April 2015.

The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board undertook its annual multi-agency organisational self-audit process during the autumn of 2018. In a change to

previous years a new section was added to support the monitoring of learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. It acknowledged that there were inherent weaknesses in any self-audit process and strengthened the auditing process for 2018/19 through the incorporation of a peer challenge element, chaired by the SSAB Independent Chair, that scrutinised the submissions. The results were reviewed by the SSAB's Quality Assurance subgroup, which included representation from Healthwatch, which was followed by the peer challenge day.

There had also been a significant amount of activity in relation to services commissioned within Somerset by external commissioners, following the identification of low levels of confidence in this area. This has included writing to all residential care and nursing care services in Somerset asking for the details of all placements made by external commissioners, and when a face-to-face review had last been completed. This was then followed up by writing to 36 Safeguarding Adults Boards asking them to seek assurance where one or more of their members were responsible for placements that had not been reviewed for two or more years.

Overall confidence in compliance is improving in those areas where development is required are understood and work is taking place; the exception remains where services are commissioned by commissioners external to Somerset however, action is required on a national level to address the broader concerns highlighted by the Mendip House Safeguarding Adults Review.

The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board had begun working on its new strategic plan for 2019-22, which was published in June following feedback from both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee.

The SSAB has continued to promote information about current safeguarding 'hot topics' including areas such as county lines, scamming and modern slavery through both its newsletter and social media in order to raise awareness among both professionals and the public.

The SSAB held its third multi-agency annual conference for safeguarding leads in May 2019. Attendees represented a broad range of organisations from across the health and social care sector. The conference was well received, with feedback on the day indicating that participants felt that it would have a positive impact on their practice.

The Board's Policy and Procedures subgroup has reviewed and enhanced its online guidance and has recently publishing updated guidance on a number of areas including self-neglect. It has also considered guidance developed regionally on allegations against people in a position of trust which it has agreed to adopt.

The SSAB was continuing to pursue the implementation of recommendations from the Mendip House Safeguarding Adults Review. This has included supporting the implementation of a notification process for external commissioners to use when placing in to Somerset, and involvement with wider regional work to agree a single regional approach. The SSAB executive group

was also continuing to seek assurance when people are placed outside of Somerset by local commissioners.

The SSAB's Learning and Development Subgroup has developed an Adult Safeguarding Learning Framework that identifies the safeguarding knowledge that staff working at different levels within organisations should have and continues to routinely consider learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews regionally and nationally.

The Board discussed the report. There were questions about the defining of abuse by and about the lack of training for carers and abuse caused by tactlessness and awareness of patients where they are unable to voice their thoughts. It was also noted there had been a significant drop in numbers reporting abuse and neglect over this year and previous year. 3198 concerns were reported 2018/19. This was a drop of 998 compared to the previous year 2017/18.

Members were told that in previous years reporting cases had increased and it was suspected that the drop in the last year was partly as a result of greater knowledge across agencies and better gatekeeping.

It was highlighted that there were huge numbers of people being cared for by people in the community which were not known to the safeguarding board.

Members were reminded that the SSAB concentrated on direct legislation from Government in order that it was effective.

The Chair thanked Mr Crompton for the report and summed up the importance of exploitation to adults', signs of vulnerability including issues such as county lines, scamming and modern slavery and that it raised this both in the newsletter and social media in order to raise awareness among both professionals and the public.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the following recommendations: -

- **It had reviewed and considered the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board's 2018/19 Annual Report (Appendix A).**
- **Noted the progress highlights during 2018/19 to date**
- **Agreed to continue to promote adult safeguarding across the County Council and in the services that are commissioned**

416 SEND Annual Report Update- Agenda Item 6

The Board received a presentation from the Assistant Director Inclusion Somerset on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) improvement plan. This represents a joint written statement of action agreed between Somerset County Council and Clinical Commissioning Group. It outlines actions for each improvement priority (IP) and also shows how each send improvement priority links to key themes of the Somerset children and young people's plan (CYPP) and SEND strategy.

The seven priority areas for improvement identified by Somerset County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group are:

- Governance arrangements in place in Somerset are not effective in holding leaders to account sufficiently to improve outcomes for children and young people with send.
- There is currently limited joint planning and commissioning of services, between education, health and care, to meet the needs of those with send.
- There is inconsistent application of Somerset's strategy for identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people at the SEN support stage across the partnership.
- A need to strengthen the local offer from providers to address the inconsistency of experience reported by families.
- The time it takes to issue Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and the variable quality of these plans, the fact that these plans do not consistently capture a child or young person's needs and aspirations and that EHC plans are not able to be used as a valuable tool to support the planning and implementation of education, health and care provision to lead to better lived experiences for the child and their families.
- Weaknesses in our approach to supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people with send who face challenges in relation to their social, emotional and mental health.
- Weaknesses in the identification, assessment, diagnosis and support of those children and young people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Progress in delivery of improvement and impact of the plan will be tracked using the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each improvement priority. It was noted that some of the improvements planned were dependent on the successful delivery of connecting projects across schools, the CCG and SCC and these are outlined in Annex 2.

Progress in improvement will be monitored and reported through the quarterly SEND Improvement Board (SEND IB), which will report to the Health & Wellbeing board through the new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.

The Board discussed the presentation. There was a question about the defining where the baseline position is and the starting point to be able to recognise the progress of the plan over the 15months. The board members were informed the detailed business action plan would be made available to members. The Director of Children Services highlighted that the governance arrangements for the joint programmes of work were clear and effective across partners although the system was challenged across the country as the 2014 act was not delivering what is provisionally set out to do. A point was raised that different governments departments had different approaches in this area which also made it difficult for all the organisations involved.

It was agreed that working effectively with partner agencies was critical.

The Chair summarised this item and acknowledged the self-assessment had outlined the 7 priorities and they were clear She recognised that staff development was essential and there was a high level of exclusions. Members

were informed that the issue of high number of exclusions was going to the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee tomorrow and the recommendation was for a task and finish group to be set up to look at this further and it was hoped this would be approved.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board considered the report and agreed to support the delivery of the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan as set out in Appendix A.

417 **Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy-** Agenda Item 7

The Chair invited Health Promotion Manager for Mental Health Louise Finnis and Strategic Manager for Public Health Louise Woolway to introduce the report.

The Board Considered the Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

An update on the cross-sector Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy as a follow up to the presentation to the Board in May 2019, and an introduction to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes an outline of a system wide Mental Health and Wellbeing delivery framework for adults, children and young people.

The key messages for the Board are:

- Approving the further development and endorsement of the strategy and its use to inform commissioning and service planning across the health and care system.
- The strategy takes a system wide approach recognising the importance of promotion and prevention as well as the delivery of effective treatment services.
- The vision, themes and aspirations are based on best evidence, national drivers and good practice.
- The framework for delivery will be widely shared and discussed with partners across many statutory, voluntary and third sector organisations
- The Prevention Concordat provides an approach to strengthen and develop a public mental health informed approach to prevention.
- The approach takes into account the wider determinants of health and will help to reduce health inequalities across Somerset.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy takes a life course approach and promotes an empowerment and independence agenda. The aim of the strategy recognises the work that needs to be done to address inequalities and to ensure work is carried out not only at an individual level but also creates community and structural changes. The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health squarely focuses on prevention and recognition of the wider social determinates of health. The strategy intends to create a thriving population throughout Somerset.

This report is requesting approval to proceed with the further development and consultation on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health action plan. Both items will then return to the Board for approval.

The Board discussed the report and recognises Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. There were questions asked about how to understand the boundaries to be able to make steps forward. The overall Audit of the Facilities and what the take up is on it.

The point was raised how the Statistics are great and how the public is going to be encouraged and about the challenges of cross references between the SEND and mental health rather than being separate reports.

The board members were informed by Health Promotion Manager for mental health and suicide prevention that she had recently attended a Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) alliance group and how they explained the mapping of services of where and what there are and having the clear understanding and looking at the gaps between the Statutory and Voluntary officer. The point was stated about the discussions around the 12 neighbourhoods to be framed and that 5 ways to wellbeing is a really good step forward and if this approach was taken it would be a greater effect.

The Chair recognises the plan on a page but has asked for it to be adapted over another page as some members are finding it difficult to read. We need to understand more about the community and what they have got available as there are some useful resources that we can use. We have got Exmoor National Park and Quantock hills to go for lovely walks.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the following recommendations: -

- **The outline proposal of Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its development and adoption across key partners**
- **To proceed with developing a Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Action Plan to develop a mental health promotion cross sector approach which will then lead to the Health and Wellbeing Board becoming signatories to the consensus statement**

418 Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan - Agenda Item 8

It was reported that the workforce update report will be from the sustainability transformation plan instead of Fit for my future.

To discuss any items for the work programme. To assist the discussion, attached is the Board's current work programme.

419 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 9

There were no other items of business.

(The meeting ended at 12.52)

CHAIR