

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategy

Introduction

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) is a partnership of organisations that aims to safeguard vulnerable adults who are aged 18 years and over. It agrees policies and strategies to strengthen partnership working, helping us to increase our capacity to prevent abuse and neglect whilst promoting the safeguarding interests of vulnerable adults.

RBSAB Members

The Board has membership from the following statutory and voluntary sectors:

- Rochdale Borough Council (RBC)
- Greater Manchester Police (Rochdale Division)
- NHS Heywood Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS HMR CCG)
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (PAHT)
- Greater Manchester Police (Rochdale Division)
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS)
- National Probation Service
- The Cheshire & Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company Limited
- Rochdale and District Mind
- Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH)
- Link4Life
- Healthwatch
- Elected Member representation
- Lay Member

Representatives commit their agency involvement to the Board through the Board's membership agreement.

What does the Board do?

The work of the board is governed by the following principles:

- **Empowerment** - presumption of person led decisions and informed consent
- **Prevention** - it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** - proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** - support and representation for those in greatest need
- **Partnership** - local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
- **Accountability** - accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

The Board aims:

- To work together to promote the prevention and protection of adults at risk of abuse by making sound strategic decisions and ensure that effective systems and processes are in place.
- To determine and implement policy, ensure training is appropriate and monitor performance in Safeguarding.
- To ensure that the continued development of services empower and support people to make their own choices and that interventions are proportionate and the least intrusive response to the risk presented.
- To coordinate good practice and learning and to raise awareness of Safeguarding to the general public to create a safer community for all.
- To be accountable and transparent by making the function and work of the Board accessible to all.
- For Board Members to give assurance that the organisation that they represent is held accountable to the Board for all matters relating to safeguarding adults and to recommend ways to implement necessary changes within their organisation.

What legislation does the Board operate under?

The Care Act 2014 received Royal Assent in May 2014 and came into effect on 1st April 2015. It sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Care Act statutory guidance was published in October 2014.

The Act says that the Safeguarding Adult Board must:

- include the local authority, the NHS and the police, who should meet regularly to discuss and act upon local safeguarding issues;
- develop shared plans for safeguarding, working with local people to decide how best to protect adults in vulnerable situations;
- publish a safeguarding plan and report to the public annually on its progress, so that different organisations can make sure they are working together in the best way.

The Act also requires local authorities to make enquires, or cause others to make enquiries, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect in their area and to find out what, if any, action may be needed.

This applies whether or not the authority is actually providing any care and support services to that adult.

The enquiry may lead to a number of outcomes, depending on the circumstances, including prosecution if abuse or neglect is proven. In other cases, the risk of abuse may be tackled, but the adult may have other care and support needs which require different services, and may lead to a needs assessment or review of an existing care and support plan. The Care Act guidance gives clear direction that all safeguarding enquiries must be person led and outcome focussed in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

The Act says that Safeguarding Adult Boards must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review in some circumstances – for instance, if an adult with care and support needs dies as a result of abuse or neglect and there is concern about how one of the members of the Safeguarding Adult Board acted. The Reviews are about learning lessons for the future and will make sure Boards get the full picture of what went wrong, so that all organisations involved can improve as a result.

The Act states that the local authority must arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a Safeguarding Enquiry or a Safeguarding Adult Review, if they need help to understand and take part in the enquiry or review and to express their views, wishes, or feelings.

It is important that organisations share information related to abuse or neglect with Safeguarding Adult Boards. Not doing so could prevent them from being able to tackle problems quickly and learn lessons to prevent them happening again. The Act is therefore clear that if a Safeguarding Adult Board requests information from an organisation or individual who is likely to have information which is relevant to the Board's functions, they must share what they know with the Safeguarding Adult Board. This is so any problems can be tackled quickly, and lessons can be learnt to prevent them happening again in the future.

Strategic priorities

Strategic priorities identified are:

PRIORITY 1: Complete a Board Review, ensuring an effective and efficient structure.

PRIORITY 2: Effectively communicate the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults with care & support needs.

PRIORITY 3: Ensure that agencies consistently demonstrate high quality practice against policies, procedures and guidance which promote good outcomes.

PRIORITY 4: Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of agency and RBSAB safeguarding arrangements.

Strategic outcomes

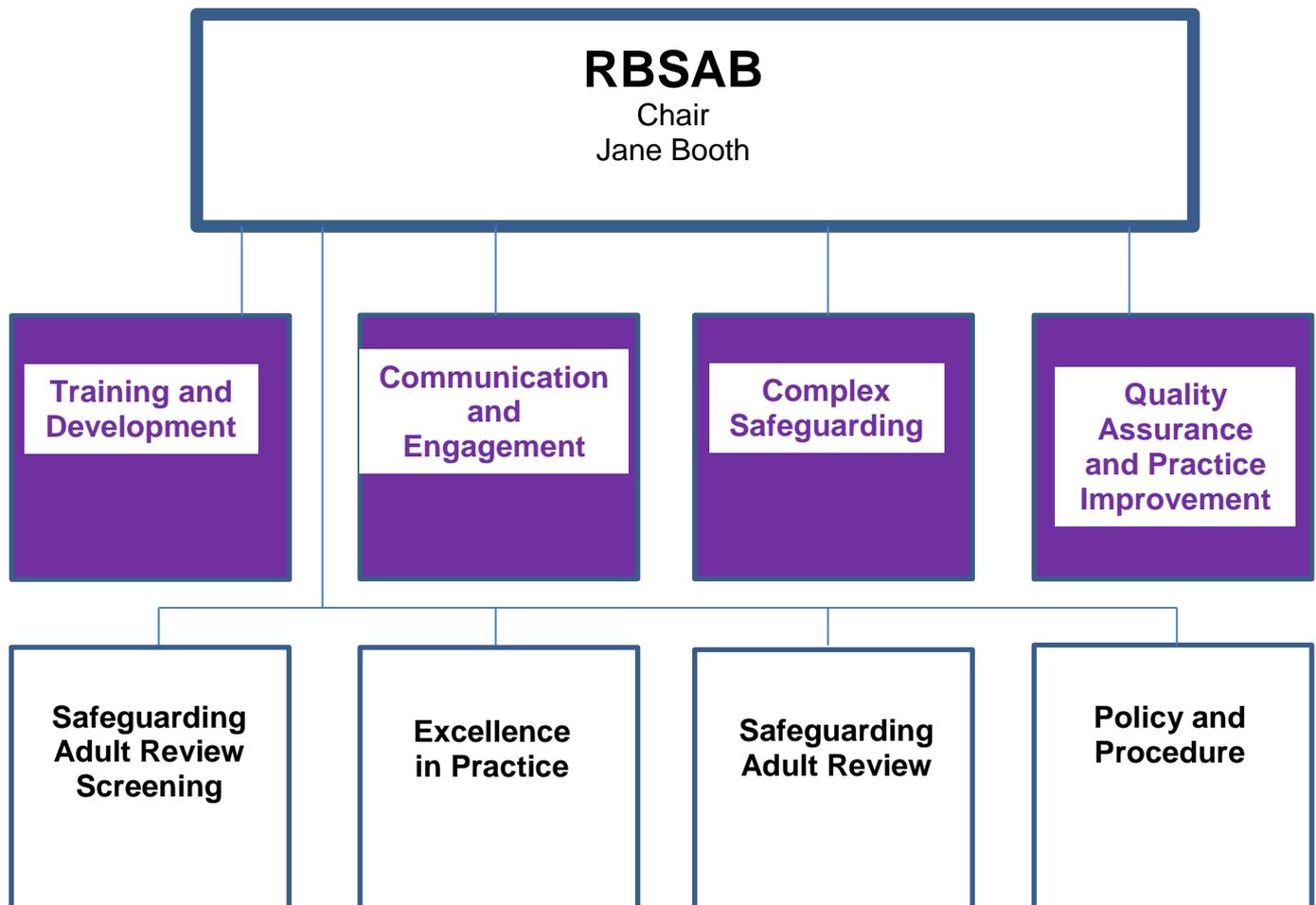
Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board agreed six outcomes as part of their 2016 – 2018 strategy it wishes to achieve:

1. Abuse of people who have or may be in need of care and support services is prevented wherever possible.

2. People in Rochdale understand what Adult Safeguarding is all about:
 - a. Communication
 - b. Awareness-raising
 - c. How to make alerts
3. Adults at risk are protected from harm in a way that respects their individual circumstances
4. Staff and volunteers have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and put them into practice.
5. Partnerships work together and are held to account.
6. We will listen to others to improve continually

Sub-groups

The work towards the priorities will be undertaken by the Board's sub-groups. The Board has eight sub-groups, some of which are joint groups with the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children's Board.



 = Joint sub group (with the Children's Safeguarding Board)

Training sub group

The Training & Development Sub Group:

- *Develop and deliver a multi-agency safeguarding training plan*
- *Set standards for single agency child protection/ adult safeguarding training*
- *Maintain and support a pool of multi-agency trainers*
- *Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults.*

Excellence in Practice sub group

The purpose of the Excellence in Practice Sub Group is to receive thematic strategies/plans, developments (statutory/practice) and provide a challenge and support role within the context of the respective operational delivery and impact of the respective plan/strategy. In addition the EPSG will promote the use 'good practice' tools to support the raising of standards and practice undertaken with respective organisations.

Safeguarding Adult Review Screening sub group

The Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Screening sub group meets whenever a referral is received for a SAR to be considered. The group meets to review the agency reports and decide whether the criteria for a Review has been met, and advise the Chair of the Board of their recommendation.

Safeguarding Adult Review sub group

To ensure that, at a strategic level on behalf of the RBSAB, organisational lessons are learnt, and changes are instituted, from the review of serious cases of adult abuse in order to prevent and reduce abuse of adults and to identify lessons that can be applied to future cases.

Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement sub group

The Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Sub group (QAPI) will operate under delegated authority from the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Boards to:-

- *monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and Board partners both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults*
- *report this to the Boards, who can then in turn provide advice on ways to improve performance and quality.*

In order to fulfil the RBSCB's statutory function under regulation 5 Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 the QAPI subgroup will use data to:

- *Assess the effectiveness of interventions being provided to children their families, and adults ;*
- *Assess whether Board partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in Chapter 2 of Working together to safeguard Children 2015 (see section 6); and the Care Act 2014*

Quality assure practice, including joint audits of case files involving practitioners, identifying lessons to be learned.

Communication and Engagement sub group

The purpose of the group is:

- *To receive thematic strategies and action plans, providing a challenge and support role within the context of communication, engagement and impact.*
- *Develop and deliver a communication and engagement strategy on behalf of both Boards that seeks the view/opinion of service users, children, young people and their families/carers and professionals in respect of business priorities*
- *Develop and deliver effective engagement with third sector, local communities and faith groups to increase knowledge of safeguarding children and adults and safer working practices*

Complex Safeguarding sub group

The Complex Safeguarding subgroup is to receive thematic strategies/plans, developments (statutory/practice) and provide a challenge and support role within the context of the respective operational delivery in the following work streams and provide reassurance to both Boards:

- *Child sexual exploitation*
- *Missing from home, care and education*
- *Radicalisation*
- *Female genital mutilation*
- *Modern slavery*
- *Extremism*
- *Gangs & violence*

The strategies will reflect local needs.

Policy and Procedure sub group

The Policy and procedure sub group ensures that the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures are accurate, regularly updated, and relevant and meet legislative requirements, and to ensure they promote good practice across all partner agencies.