

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board
Summary Minutes
Wednesday 13th May – 13:00 – 14:00
Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft Teams
Chair: Tim Bishop

The Independent Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and apologies were noted.

The minutes of the meeting held 28th January 2020 were agreed as a true reflection of the discussions held.

The action log was reviewed and updated accordingly.

The 2020-21 budget was discussed but not agreed.

The NSAB Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 and a number of Policies and Procedures including Self-Neglect Guidance and the Inter-Agency Procedure were ratified by members.

The three statutory partners provided assurance that safeguarding measures have remained in place during the Covid-19 emergency.

Members discussed the increase of domestic abuse and mental health incidents reported to Police during the crisis. The local authority Chief Executives continue to meet weekly to discuss domestic abuse and review any issues in the county. However, within Health, an increase in disclosures has not been experienced. Northamptonshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group is arranging to put up posters to raise awareness of domestic abuse at Covid-19 testing sites.

Northamptonshire Adult Social Services confirmed they are still working fully under the Care Act and have not implemented any of the easements, and that they are maintaining their responsibility for safeguarding and S42 enquiries.

There has been an increased level of governance and support provided to care homes and hospitals in respect of discharging patients.

The number of Covid-19 tests carried out in the county has increased over the last 3 weeks.

Care Homes are able to dial into a 'Resilience and Care Home Cell' which is operating 7 days a week for additional support. Assurance was given that all outbreaks of Covid-19 and deaths were being reported.

Members discussed issues regarding care homes who may be unable to manage during this time, some homes have refused to take patients who were untested/tested positive for Covid-19 upon discharge from hospital.

There is an expectation that there will be an increase in Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals during this time.

In terms of the 'Community Resilience Cell' for the shielded group, thousands of volunteers have applied to help meet the needs of the vulnerable, which are mainly older adults.

All rough sleepers (apart from a very few rough sleepers who are still being supported), have left the streets, and have been housed in hotels. Work is continuing across the county to sustain accommodation once the Covid-19 emergency has ceased.

Although the local May elections were cancelled, the two new unitary councils will still be in place from 1st April 2021.

A press release on the redesigned 'Future Northants' programme has been issued, and meetings will be held to discuss how services will be set up safely and legally from 1st April 2021.

Partnership working between Health and local authorities has accelerated in respect of Community Hubs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chair informed members that regular discussions with statutory partners will be put in place to discuss working in the 'new normal' and the role of the Board.