

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board
Summary Minutes
Thursday 17th January 2019 – 13:30–16:30
Court Room, Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles' Square,
Northampton NN1 1DE
Chair – Tim Bishop

The Independent Chair welcomed all present. Introductions were made and apologies were noted.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th October 2018 were agreed as true and accurate.

The action log was reviewed and updated by members accordingly.

National reports regarding vulnerable women living on the streets and the Home Office report on their approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults were highlighted.

Assistant Director for Northamptonshire Adult Social Services, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), updated members on NCC's current financial position, which he said had stabilised across both the Council and Adult Social Care. The process for managing safeguarding notifications, the Customer Service Centre and the impact on the Safeguarding Adults Team (including recruitment and retention) was discussed. Assurance was given that NCC had undertaken a number of actions to address concerns and it was hoped that the review of the Target Operating Model would help to address ongoing issues.

The Interim Chief Executive of South Northamptonshire Council provided members with an update on the development of the two Unitary Councils, and advised members that the government consultation was open and that stakeholders were encouraged to respond. A Shadow Council would be in place from July 2019 with an expectation that the two unitary councils would be operational from April 2020. Members agreed their recommendation was that there should be one Safeguarding Adults Board across the two Councils.

Members agreed to the Independent Chair's proposal to reduce the size of the Board to allow for a more robust strategic focus, and the implementation of a Delivery Board to support the activities against the Board's Strategic Plan.

Members were asked to review the Strategic Plan 2018-20 in readiness for the NSAB Development Day on 14th March.

Members welcomed and agreed to support the development of a Hoarding Framework which would be led by Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service.

The Chief Housing Officer for Kettering Borough Council and the Head of Housing and Wellbeing for Northampton Borough Council presented a report on the known deaths of homeless people in the county. It was stressed that the status 'Homelessness' was used for a variety of housing situations including sofa surfing, temporary accommodation, housing shelters etc., and not necessarily rough sleeping. The Board was told that homelessness had increased over the last 2 years as a result of the poor housing market, soaring private sector rental charges and a "broken housing system". Members were advised that there were a number of services in place for those who chose to sleep rough including the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and 4 night shelters in Corby, Kettering, Northampton and Rushden). 300 people had accessed the night shelter in Northampton over the last year and many had been supported to move into sheltered accommodation.

The Board emphasised that it needed to be made aware of the deaths of homeless people and consideration should be given as to whether a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) should be undertaken.

Assistant Director for Northamptonshire Adult Social Services, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), advised that key partners had met in December to discuss the prospect of developing an Adult MASH. In the first instance, it had been agreed that members would visit Leicestershire and Dudley to observe their MASH arrangements.

The House of Lords have reviewed the draft legislation in respect of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which is being replaced by Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). In the meantime, there continues to be a backlog of assessments in the country as well as in the county.

A proposed new format of the data scorecard was presented and agreed by members. The new format includes specific key performance indicators and hot topics for partner agencies.

A 2018-19 budget update was provided, together with the draft budget for 2019-20.

Report updates from the Independent Chair, Business Manager and Sub Group Chairs were taken.