

Report for Nottingham City Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Date: 21st November 2024

Title: Nottingham City Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) – 2023/2024 Annual Report

1. Background

Safeguarding Adult Boards in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2014 are required to publish an Annual Report. The legislation sets out who the Reports must be shared with, however it is good practice to share the Report and have a discussion with Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees. Safeguarding adults is everyone's business and by sharing the Report NCSAB is raising awareness of the safeguarding activity taking place in Nottingham City and the areas of focus for 2024/25.

2. Content of the Annual Report

The Nottingham City SAB Annual Report provides an overview of the activity of the Board over the financial year 2023/2024. This includes progress against the Strategic Priorities set out in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, Safeguarding Adults Review activity, annual data published by Adult Social Care and information from SAB member agencies on their safeguarding activity throughout the year. The annual Adult Social Care data is taken from a nationally published data set, and although not the full data necessarily looked at by the Board, it does give some local insight on the safeguarding activity undertaken by the local authority and is utilised internally by Adult Social Care.

The Committee is asked to review the report and identify any areas it would wish further clarity on.

3. Update from Committee Queries from the Annual Report presented for work in 2022/23

The Board presented its 2022/23 Annual Report to Committee in November 2023 at which several requests and comments were raised for consideration. The Board has addressed these below:

3.1 To request sight of the SAB's new resources for partners to support them in raising safeguarding concerns

A range of resources specific to how to raise a concern have been developed and are currently awaiting sign off – we are sharing these with County to ensure a consistent message across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and are currently awaiting County's legal teams sign off. In the meantime, the Board organised

webinars and a multi-agency conference where information on adult safeguarding and how to raise a concern were shared – we are getting the message out at every opportunity and will continue to do so.

3.2 To request to be kept informed of the SAB's oversight of People in Positions of Trust (PIPOT) reporting

This item was discussed immediately after the last Committee at the Quality Assurance sub-group. NHCFT updated on their position with supporting data. They indicated the spike in Quarter 4 was caused by a misinterpretation of the new SAB PiPOT Guidance and had included some things such as medication errors and missed calls being incorrectly reported under PiPOT instead of safeguarding. Work has been carried out to ensure the process is now followed properly, with corresponding data from Quarter 1 2024/25 showing that the spike had reduced to pre-PiPOT guidance levels.

3.3 To request a future progress update on:

- a) How engagement has been increased with under-represented communities and how their feedback on services has been used to improve outcomes; and**
- b) The impact that strengthening the involvement of service users in safeguarding arrangements is having.**

An initial scoping exercise has been undertaken into how other areas have looked at this and how Nottingham City can progress it. A two staged approach is being taken:

1. Undertake a more in-depth data analysis to understand the demographics of those with care and support packages and the corresponding number of S42's (safeguarding concerns and enquiries) undertaken. This will allow us to have a better idea of the community representation of Care Act eligible adults rather than the whole population
2. Once the data work has been completed and any under-represented communities identified, the Training Learning and Improvement sub-group will look at how to engage with these communities and develop resources – this will also form part of the Communication and Engagement Plan. We are particularly focussing on this in the last half of 2024/25.

3.4 To recommend that close partnership working across the system is vital so that victims of domestic abuse do not fall between services, and it should be ensured that:

- a) the service pathways for support are fully clear to the people who need them; and**
- b) all partners are able to signpost people to the right service pathway from wherever in the system they first make contact**

Significant work has taken place from a strategic and operational perspective.

- Strategic governance and oversight is set out below:

The domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) system is described nationally as the Coordinated Community Response (CCR), outlining all the elements that need to work together as a whole system to ensure survivors of domestic abuse, including children as survivors in their own right are supported and perpetrators held to account.

Agencies involved in the CCR include Nottingham City Council (Public Health, Housing, Homelessness, Adults and Children Services), Heath Services (City Care, Nottingham University Hospital Trust, Nottingham Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Integrated Care Board), the Criminal Justice System (Police, Probation, Courts, CPS), Strategic Partnerships (Community Safety Partnership/ DSVVA Local Partnership Board, Children's Safeguarding Partnership, NCSAB and Health and Wellbeing Board), and the Specialist Voluntary and Community DSVVA and violence against women and girls (VAWG) services.

Nottingham seeks to coordinate our strategic response to DSVVA/VAWG through the governance structure headed by the Community Safety Partnership / Local Partnership Board.

The Committee is asked to note that Partnerships and Boards across Nottingham City have written a joint letter to the Home Office to raise awareness of the increase in domestic abuse referrals and demand on the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference arrangements.

- Operational response regarding pathways is set out below:

Joint working is taking place at multiple levels to ensure partners are working together to improve operational responses to DSVVA/VAWG; for example the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) – this has been reviewed and a new pilot is underway, the repeat MARAC, the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court, the DVA Integrated Offender Management Team, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Panels, the DHR Assurance and Learning Implementation Group, Sexual Abuse Referral Centres (SARC) for both adults and children, the Perpetrator Programme, and other examples of joint working including on Stalking and Harassment etc.

Each individual service has a referral route for survivors, children and perpetrators and through partnership arrangements and joint working it is hoped that services will identify when they need to work together, refer to other services and coordinate a response to survivors and perpetrators.

Key gateways for survivors to access specialist services are through the 24 hour free phone helpline for women delivered by Juno Women's Aid and the Equation Men & LGBT plus Service helpline.

The Equation website includes a range of referral routes and information for survivors and perpetrators and can provide information to access support.

Equation also promote services through their Campaigns and Communications Group which amplifies messages across Social Media and through their production of posters, information cards and workbooks which are available to all agencies across the city. This group includes the Consent Coalition which promotes information and messages about sexual violence and abuse across the city.

DSVA / VAWG information, campaigns and training 01159605556
www.equation.org.uk

DVA Women survivors: 0808 800 0340 www.junowomensaid.org.uk
helpline@junowomensaid.org.uk

DVA Men and LGBT plus survivors: 0800 9956999 helpline@equation.org.uk

SVA women, men and LGBT plus survivors: 0115 9410440 www.nottssvss.org.uk
dutysupervisor@nottssvss.org.uk

DVA perpetrators: [equation.org.uk/yourchoiceproject/
contact@yourchoiceproject.org.uk](http://equation.org.uk/yourchoiceproject/contact@yourchoiceproject.org.uk)

Nottingham Women's Centre www.nottinghamwomenscentre.com 0115 9411475
reception@nottinghamwomenscentre.com

3.5 To recommend that partners across the system should be as consistent and clear as possible in the ways in which they define categories of vulnerability and abuse, so that communities are supported in identifying potential victims and vulnerable people at risk effectively.

Work has been taking place throughout the year to raise awareness of what constitutes a safeguarding concern. NCSAB also ensures a case study on making safeguarding is shared at the beginning of each Board meeting. We take every opportunity to raise awareness and have this year signed off the Communication and Engagement Plan which also focuses on this.

We are in the process of developing our website to be independent of the local authority – by having this in place we can promote awareness raising campaigns. All SAB agencies are aware of the categories and we are improving our reach with commissioners to work more closely with commissioned services as well. We will continue to work on this.

4. Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust in the context of adult safeguarding

We wanted to share with Committee that we have been working closely with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust seeking assurance on their Improvement Plan post the publication from the recent CQC reports. We have the following in place:

- Received an update and presentation at September SAB meeting

- Hold monthly SAB assurance meeting with County where NHFT provide updates on progress
- Worked with NHFT to pull out key metrics in the overarching plan which specifically relate to safeguarding – update from this will be coming to the Board every 6 months

5. National Adult Safeguarding Awareness Week 18-22nd November 2024

Finally, NCSAB would like to draw the Committees attention to the National Adult Safeguarding Awareness Week (18th to 22nd November 2024). This is a key week where Boards across the country deliver a range of awareness raising webinars and share resources relating to safeguarding adults. In Nottingham City we are doing the same; we will complete the week by spending focused time developing our new 3-year strategic plan in a multi-agency face to face development session. We hope that as Committee Members you have been able to participate in some of our raising awareness events.