

## Safeguarding Activity – Annual Review (Sept 19)

A summary of progress is provided on safeguarding activity carried out by the council.

### Safeguarding Cases for the Years 2018-2019 & 2019 -2020 (to date)

In 2018/19 the Council dealt with 19 adult safeguarding concerns and 6 child safeguarding concerns. To date in 19/20 the Council has already dealt with 17 adult safeguarding concerns (to end Sept 2019) and 2 child safeguarding concerns. These will have been concerns that required full recording of details using relevant forms and not simply those calls where a caller may have generally been unhappy about a situation and sign posted to services without the need for further intervention. It is interesting to note how child safeguarding concerns have reduced due to the Early help work, schools interventions etc.

| YEAR<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Apr.<br>31 <sup>st</sup> Mar. | Concerns about<br>ADULTS           |                                     |                                    |                                  |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|   | Quarter 1<br>01/04 – 30/06<br>2018 | Quarter 2.<br>01/07 – 30/09<br>2018 | Quarter 3.<br>01/10- 31/12<br>2018 | Quarter 4<br>01/01-31/03<br>2019 |
| 2018 – 2019   | 7                                  | 6                                   | 7                                  | 1                                |
|   | Total: 19                          |                                     |                                    |                                  |
| 2019 - 2020   | Quarter 1<br>01/04 – 30/06<br>2019 | Quarter 2.<br>01/07 – 30/09<br>2019 | Quarter 3.<br>01/10 -31/12<br>2019 | Quarter 4<br>01/01-31/03<br>2020 |
|   | 12                                 | 5                                   | -                                  | -                                |
|   | Total: 17                          |                                     |                                    |                                  |

| YEAR<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Apr.<br>31 <sup>st</sup> Mar | Concerns about<br>CHILDREN          |                                     |                                     |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|  | Quarter 1.<br>01/04 – 30/06<br>2018 | Quarter 2.<br>01/07 – 30/09<br>2018 | Quarter 3.<br>01/10 –<br>31/12 2018 | Quarter 4.<br>01/01-31/03<br>2019 |
| 2018 – 2019  | 1                                   | 0                                   | 4                                   | 1                                 |
|  | Total: 6                            |                                     |                                     |                                   |
| 2019 - 2020  | Quarter 1<br>01/04 – 30/06<br>2019  | Quarter 2.<br>01/07 – 30/09<br>2019 | Quarter 3.<br>01/10 –<br>31/12 2019 | Quarter 4<br>01/01-31/03<br>2020  |
|  | 1                                   | 1                                   | -                                   | -                                 |
|  | Total: 2                            |                                     |                                     |                                   |

Designated Officers (DOs) have seen an increase in the number of suicide threats by adults and this has led to additional training being offered to key staff).

### Safeguarding Policy

The Council's safeguarding policy has been refreshed and the 2019 version provides an update on the latest legislation changes and key duties upon the Council towards safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable adults. Section 11 of the Children Act

2004 places a statutory duty on key organisations to ensure that, in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Similar obligations apply to young people, up to the age of 21, and vulnerable adults. The policy includes new areas of activity such as cuckooing and hoarding and self-neglect. It also lists all key legislation that applies and the Councils approach to the policy.

## **Intranet Updates**

The intranet page on safeguarding was in need of a major overhaul and a number of changes have been implemented including:

- New DO details have been added
- A new poster created and displayed in key locations of the Council building
- Links to key documents including statutory guidance added.
- Newly implemented processes for reporting with newly created reporting forms for internal reporting added (old ones removed).
- This is supported by a new flowchart for managing concerns.
- Clearer instructions on mandatory e-learning produced.
- The method of reporting concerns to KCC has changed and the intranet updated on the operation of a new Front Door service
- Links to the online "Request for Support Form" for referral of child safeguarding concern forms has been added to the intranet.
- Similarly the form for adult safeguarding (Kent Adult Safeguarding Alert Form – KASAF) added.
- Links to the new Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) Arrangements also added.
- New Out of Hours Protocol compiled and uploaded

## **Guide to services**

DOs had asked through the SSG (see below) for a guide to support staff in sign posting to further advice and to guide customers to services available locally. This has been compiled and is now also added to the updates on the intranet. New services providing support to customers experiencing mental ill health, suicidal thoughts and debt problems etc. have been pulled together and added to the guide. Some of the key contact information is also included in Appendix 2 of the refreshed safeguarding policy.

## **Training**

Ongoing training opportunities are flagged to key staff. This includes induction training, reminders to staff to complete mandatory e-learning and other relevant opportunities that are available to support staff. In January 2019 staff were invited to attend suicide awareness training and throughout this financial year suicide awareness training sessions provided centrally via KSCB and MIND have been promoted. These cover awareness of both adult and children's / young people's issues and staff have been encouraged to attend. On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Customer Service Officers and the Civic Wardens were provided training on the new Front door service and how to handle safeguarding concerns as there had been a significant turnover of staff since the last training session.

## **Out of Hours protocol**

Where safeguarding concerns are received at the end of the working day a procedure has been agreed with the Lifeline Service to enable concerns to be handed over for them to continue to complete any required processes / referrals that maybe needed. Some of the Lifeline team are now DOs and are undergoing training. The Out of Hours protocol is on the intranet informing all staff what they need to do when concerns arise after 4.30pm and

how all the relevant information should be handed over to the Lifeline team. Similarly there is guidance on what lifeline need to do until the next working day. This has enabled lifeline to receive additional information and guidance on sign posting.

## **Audits**

For the first time this year in an audit was carried out of the work done to address adult safeguarding following a request to all Districts by the Kent and Medway Adult Safeguarding Board (KMASB). A return was submitted outlining the Council's response to safeguarding and our response to KMASB's priorities:

Priority 1 – Prevention - We will deliver a preventative approach in all that we do.

Priority 2 – Awareness - We will improve awareness of adults at risk and safeguarding within, and across, our partner agencies and communities.

Priority 3 – Quality - We will quality assure our work, learn from experience and consequently improve our practice.

This audit is now required to be carried out on an annual basis. On the latest return the self-neglect and hoarding policy that FHDC were the leading authority, now adopted county wide, was highlighted as well as other good practice.

On a 2 yearly basis agencies including District Councils are required to complete a comprehensive s11 Audit. In the form of a self-assessment this document is assessed by the Kent Safeguarding Children's Board (KSCB) representatives. In May 2018 the Council largely achieved full or partial compliance with a few elements requiring action and these are now completed (e.g. updating the policy and intranet with changed DO details). This audit will be required to be carried out again in spring 2020.

## **Safeguarding Steering Group**

The Council's steering group consisting of DOs and other reps of the Council act as an advisory board and support safeguarding functions which includes compiling evidence for the s11 Audit and agreeing on best ways of dealing with referrals and managing information around concerns etc.

## **District Leads Safeguarding meetings**

The Council is represented on a number of key safeguarding groups including a Kent – wide meeting chaired by the C/E of Maidstone Borough Council who is also the C/E rep for all Districts on the current KSCB board. The group deal with national safeguarding issues, legislative requirements and local practice and are run by the KSCB. The KSCB arrangements are changing following the Wood review and subsequent legislative changes and these are reflected in the refreshed 2019 policy. The Kent Safeguarding Children Multi Agency Arrangements (KSCMP) are being put in place replacing the KSCB. These give Police, Health and KCC equal responsibility for safeguarding with District Councils being Relevant Authorities. A new link has been created for access to relevant information [www.kscmp.org.uk](http://www.kscmp.org.uk)

## **Multiagency work**

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and through the Community Safety Unit (CSU) carry out ongoing interventions around all aspects of safeguarding at a multiagency level. The Safeguarding sub group of the CSP for example have run Domestic Abuse conferences and projects, supported adult safeguarding week and recently ran a Mental Health Conference and a Youth Conference tackling all aspects of exploitation. The CSU has dealt with cuckooing, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery referrals and other

initiatives. The Police and Crime Commissioner funding is also used to support vulnerability and the same is the case or the funding allocated to projects by the Districts' Local Children's Partnership Group that is managed by KCC.

### **Member Training**

Members have safeguarding training as part of their induction following elections and in 2019 this was scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019. In June 2018 members of OSC at the time received a specialist one off input on PREVENT by the County PREVENT lead, following an OSC meeting that had earlier looked at safeguarding. The invitation to receive another input was given and this can be arranged around the trainer's availability.