

St Helens Adult Safeguarding Annual Report 2019/20



ST.HELENS
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Chairs Introduction

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board for 2019-20. The Board, a requirement of the Care Act 2014, is made up of three Statutory Partners; Local Authority, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group & Police, together with a number of key partners, representing a wide range of agencies and community groups.

The Board is led by an Independent Chair. The current Chair was appointed to the Board in December 2019, following the retirement of Tom Wolstencroft. On behalf of the Board and all the Partners, I would like to pay tribute to Tom for his many years of commitment as Chair.

Over the last 12 months the Safeguarding landscape has continued to be complex, presenting many new challenges in addition to those faced day-to-day. Additionally, the final Quarter of the year has been dominated by the COVID crisis and its impact, both nationally and here in St. Helens. Whilst the virus has affected all areas of society, sadly it has had a significant impact on the older, more vulnerable members of our community, some of whom receive care and support, often in Care Homes or Domiciliary Care. Additionally, adults of all ages with complex care and support needs also faced a particular risk. The need for safeguarding has not stopped during these unprecedented times and during this period the Board has continued to work closely with both statutory and wider partners to gain the reassurance that safeguarding issues are addressed effectively and appropriately. Throughout 2019/20 the Board has been focused on ensuring that safeguarding adults has been delivered using the Making Safeguarding Personal approach, underpinned by the 6 Principles of Safeguarding (both set out later in this report).

Although this report is an opportunity to reflect back on our performance over the last years, it is important to say that the Board will continue to ensure that Safeguarding Adults remains a key operational focus for partners, particularly as the COVID crisis moves into 2020 and possibly beyond. And, in the context of the current crisis, on behalf of the Board I would wish to acknowledge the commitment and dedication we have witnessed from front line staff during this demanding period for all partners. The Board would also wish to pay their respect to all those who tragically lost the lives during this crisis.

One of the key roles of the Board is to ensure that partners work together effectively. As Chair I believe firmly in the 'Business Case' that underpins partnership working; that safeguarding issues cannot be addressed in isolation and that effective partnership working is proven to add significant capacity and value to operational delivery. This has been a key area of focus for the Board over the last year and will continue to be so. Where the Board believes that standards of partnership working have contributed to a safeguarding issue, it will ensure that it learns and improves. If necessary, it will undertake a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). Details of the SAR undertaken in here in St Helens are set out later in this Report. What is clear though, is that, as we have moved through 2019/20, the Board,

through its scrutiny and oversight role, has been reassured that there is a good commitment to partnership working; for example, between individual organisations (e.g. Local Authority & CCG working to tackle health inequalities) and between the Board and other key Groups, such as the Children's Partnership & Community Safety Partnership.

Finally, I should like to thank all members of the Board, particularly the Chairs of the sub-Groups, for their professionalism and commitment and also the Safeguarding Unit for their hard work and support.

Ian Cardwell
Independent Chair
St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board

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2. What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

The work of the Board is driven by its vision to promote partnership working by working together to help people feel safe and free from abuse and neglect.

The Government's Statutory Guidance on the Care Act 2014 defines adult safeguarding as:

'Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.'

The Principles of Safeguarding

The Statutory Guidance also sets out the 6 key Principles that underpin Adult Safeguarding, guiding practitioners and giving service users a clear understanding of how services should be delivered in all health and care settings. These Principles are;

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

Proportionality: The 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 safeguarding practice.

Making Safeguarding Personal

One of the biggest developments in Adult Safeguarding over recent years is the Making Safeguarding Personal approach. Making Safeguarding Personal means a person-led and outcome-focused service, which engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

3. St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board – Who are we?

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. The main focus of the Board is to ensure that, in the Borough of St Helens, safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that adults at risk are able to live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

For our purposes an ‘adult at risk’ is a person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The Board is Chaired by an Independent Chair and meets quarterly. The Board and its Sub-Groups have a wide range of responsibilities. Their main functions and responsibilities set out below. The Board provides oversight and scrutiny of organisations and practitioners and seeks reassurances that safeguarding services are delivered effectively and within the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal. It also seeks to raise awareness of safeguarding for practitioners, service users and the wider community.

4. Purpose & Functions of the Board

The overarching purpose of the Board is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:

- assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance;
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused;
- working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect;
- ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred;
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

(Care Act 2014)

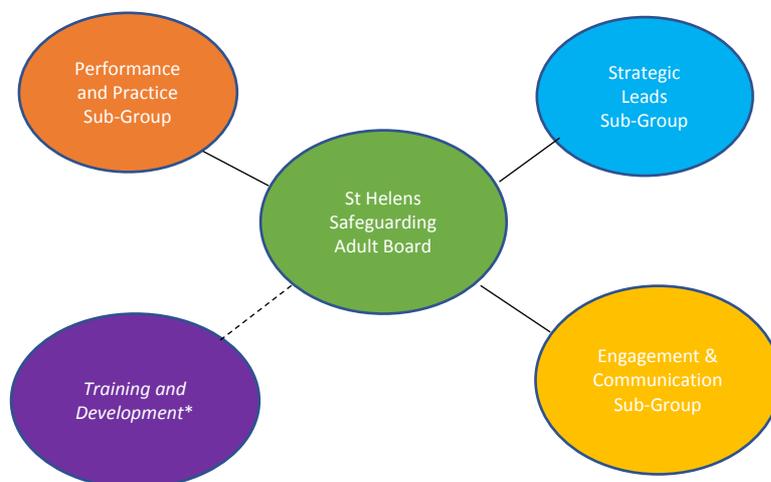
The Board also has a number of statutory responsibilities and functions. These are;

- to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute;
- commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these;
- publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been

(Care Act 2014)

This report is to fulfil the final responsibility set out above, however, it will also make reference to our strategic plans and objectives for the next 3 years period. Additionally, we will also report on any SAR's that have taken place in the period subject to this report.

5. Board Structure



*(*Safeguarding Training & Development is incorporated within the Local Authority T&D arrangements and not a separate Sub-Group)*

Our Sub-Groups

The Strategic Leads Group

The Strategic Leads Group brings together the Boards Statutory Partners and key stakeholders to support and provide strategic leadership to the Board, so that matters of governance and resources are in place to ensure that the Board can carry out its wider functions effectively. In 2019/20 the Strategic Leadership met 5 times.

Performance and Practice Group

The key function of the Performance and Practice Group is to analyse and interrogate safeguarding data and activity to increase the Boards understanding of abuse & neglect. Additionally, the Group also ensures that safeguarding practice is carried out to the highest standards and in accordance with our Safeguarding Adults Policy. In 2020 the group undertook a number of audits focussed on making safeguarding personal, the use of advocacy, safeguarding concerns closed within 5 days and multi-agency adherence to safeguarding procedures.

Engagement & Communications Group

The purpose of this Group is to raise awareness of safeguarding with partners, service users and the wider community through a range of communication and information methods. Over the last 12 months we have used different approaches to engagement and communication to ensure we meet the needs of different communities; for example those who receive care and support under the Care Act; those who do not but, at times, find

themselves at risk of neglect and abuse; and raising awareness of adult safeguarding in the wider community. Examples over the year included working closely with others in an integrated approach to engagement; holding events; and using surveys and questionnaires to get the views of the community. Additionally, the Group took part in National Adult Safeguarding Week, publishing posters for each day with varying safeguarding topics, agencies (Police, Health, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, etc.) and used social network platforms to spread the message. We will continue to build on this important work over the next 12 months.

Training & Development

A key role of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to raise awareness of safeguarding issues to those at risk of abuse & neglect, the wider community and, importantly, members of staff of organisations who work with people at risk. Over the last 12 months, the Training & Development Group has developed and delivered tailored sessions to embed safeguarding across all these key areas. This included:

- 25 Adult safeguarding training sessions took place, the total number of attendees was 422.
- 66 agencies in total attended Adult safeguarding training sessions.
- The first virtual training session has also been completed, feedback was positive and there are more sessions to follow. The training is advertised and accessible.
- Domestic Abuse training was provided to adult social care staff, further domestic abuse training was then commissioned.
- Workshops have taken place for social care staff relating to Making Safeguarding Personal following audits that the Performance and Practice sub-group undertook.

6. Safeguarding Adults Reviews

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is a multi-agency process focused on organisational learning and development. It examines and considers whether or not serious harm could have been predicted and prevented, particularly in relation to the way that organisations work in partnership. The purpose of SAR's is set out in more detail in the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance. The Guidance states that SAR's seek to 'promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again'. SAR's are not designed to hold individuals or organisations to account as other processes exist for that purpose.

The Board is required to report the outcome of any SAR's undertaken and progress against any improvement action plan that results from it. During the year 2019/20, one SAR has

been undertaken in St. Helens. At the time of this report being published, that SAR is ongoing. On completion the outcomes will be presented to the Board.

7. Our Performance: What have we achieved in 2019/20?

Introduction

The Care Act 2014 sets out statutory requirements to collect, report and analyse specific information in relation to Safeguarding Adults. Making Safeguarding Personal is key to ensuring Adults wishes and views are taken into account to identify personal outcomes when conducting Safeguarding Enquiries and Investigations. In this section of the annual report, performance will be reviewed against the objectives set out at the beginning of the year. Initially, the report will focus on 'real life' comments received from those receiving adults safeguarding services. Then the report will then identify each of our 4 Annual Objectives individually and report on what we achieved over the year. The report will also share some case studies to describe how safeguarding enquiries are undertaken and reflect on the impact of those enquiries, through operational staff working with adults at risk. Finally, we will look in more detail at the important facts and figures against which our performance over the year is measured.

Feedback from Service Users

Before we move into the quantitative performance detail, this part of the Report also provides us with an opportunity to highlight some of the things people said about safeguarding services in St. Helens;

'much appreciated with the care being shown to "ordinary" pensioners'.

'It is a wonderful show of St Helens taking care of older residents'.

'It is wonderful that some time is being taken for researching into care for older people when life can be isolated with people being busy coping with every day work and families'.

'Well thought out (such care!)'.

'I asked for some advice, explained the situation to the Enquiry Practitioner from social services, who was great with help and advice. All along this process each department has been professional and helpful. Not only dealing with my brother who is alcoholic (seeking treatment) and my mother who also had dementia. Thank you all'.

'Very understanding to all the people who supported me'.

'Everything is ok now I am happy with help to sort it all good now'.

'I felt listened to and supported by all of the social workers and staff at the safeguarding unit that I spoke to'.

'I recognise that the positive outcome(s) of such interventions are impossible to quantify. I can say that the support of all employed was significant in helping me to get my life back on track'.

Annual Objectives for 2019/20 – how did we do?

At the beginning of the year, the Board agreed a number of annual objectives to be delivered over the course of the year.

In this section, we set out what progress we made in delivering those priorities and objectives. These are set out below, with the progress we have made in delivering them.

Objective 1: Making Safeguarding Personal;

We continued to make progress in adopting the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), so that the 'person-centred' approach is at the heart of how safeguarding adults is delivered in St. Helens. The onset of the COVID pandemic presented significant challenges to operational delivery, but the Board maintained a 'business as usual' approach and all partners agreed that, despite the challenges, the principles of MSP would be maintained. The Board has sought reassurances that this is the case. We recognised that there is still progress to be made, but the Board is satisfied that, despite the current challenges, the principles are still being applied. The Board, however, still believes that further progress needs to be made, and as such, the focus on MSP will continue as an objective for 2020/21

Objective 2: Seek assurance from partners that there is effective leadership, partnership working & governance in place;

A key role of the Board is to have in place effective leadership and governance arrangements to be able to be confident that the scrutiny it undertakes, together with the reassurance - or areas for improvement - that partners highlight to the Board, are robust, accurate and transparent. This year has seen a number of changes within the Safeguarding Adults Board, with the appointment of a new Independent Chair in November 2019, creation of a Head of Safeguarding Post and recruitment of two new coordinators. Just prior to his departure the previous chair had undertaken a comprehensive review of Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) policy and procedures. These changes are currently being implemented.

Additionally, the appointment of the current Chair, provided an opportunity to undertake a full review of the Governance arrangement and Partnership contribution, which underpin the Boards functions. The meeting structure was overhauled and refined to ensure there was greater clarity around accountability and clearer links about how the Sub-Groups reported to the Board and the Boards relationship with other Partnerships and Groups, including the Community Safety Partnership and the Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

Objective 3: Ensuring all services have appropriate systems & processes in place;

Over the last 12 months there have been significant changes in the staff and organisation of the safeguarding adults' arrangements in St Helens, particularly within the Council, due to changes of staff at senior level as well as the reorganisation of resources. These changes have provided a new 'energy' to the provision of safeguarding service for adults. Alongside the review of Governance described above, the changes at operational level have significantly improved the reporting and investigative systems and processes for safeguarding concerns. It has also meant a clearer relationship between partners themselves. These system improvements have built on the other significant change in St. Helens, the integration of Health and Council resources to improve health and well-being arrangements locally.

Objective 4: Ensure that partners are equipped to respond appropriately.

During 2019/20 the Board focused on ensuring that our partners had the right training and awareness to be able to effectively equip partners and staff to deliver safeguarding services effectively. Earlier in this report we set out the critical role of both the Training & Development and the Engagement & Communications Sub-Group plays in this regard. This work is supported by the work done by Partners' own organisations. We have made significant progress in this area over the last 12 months and will continue to focus on this area moving forward. Below is a diagram that sets out the range and diversity of Partners the Board has engaged with in order to provide training and development opportunities;

Local Authority	Colliers Croft	PSS Shared Lives
NWBH	CCG	Personal Assistants
Able Support	Eclipse Training	Making Space
Adamstan House	Elm Tree House	Macintyre
Alternative Futures Group	Elizabeth Court	Leonard Cheshire
Brown Edge House	Extra Care	Lifeways Community Care
Cedric House	Hand in Hand home care	Junction Dental Practice
Chrysalis Centre	Healthwatch	Torus
Pilkington Family Trust	Prospect House	Quantum Training
Rainbow Care	Santa Monica	Second to None
Service Users	Sherdley Manor	STHK
St Helens Adult and Young Carers Centre	SOS home care	Tabeth care
Unite healthcare	Wargrave House	YMCA
Police		

Partners receiving training & development from St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board 2019/20

Case Studies – Safeguarding Adults in Action

This section identifies the work Safeguarding Adults partners have facilitated over the last 12 months, demonstrating the wider diversity of activity involved in delivering services to safeguard adults:

St. Helens Chamber of Commerce

Among its many approaches to addressing Safeguarding issues, the St Helens Chamber of Commerce provides personal development sessions on exploitation. Following one such session, Learner A approached a Safeguarding Officer, to report a worry at home. The disclosure raised concerns of the possibility of Criminal exploitation.

Learner A had a close family member who was in prison and was coercing the Learner to obtain resources to help smuggle drugs into the prison. Following advice and support from the Chamber Safeguarding Officer, Learner A agreed to go to the police who took action to protect the individual. Ongoing support was provided by the Chamber Safeguarding Team and an action plan was put in place.

Learner A was also a carer for a family member. The stress caused meant Learner A was suffering from anxiety and has been self-harming. The Chamber team made a referral to CAMHS.

Learner A was subsequently successfully discharged from CAHMS support and the Chamber Safeguarding Team and Mental Health Advisors have been providing ongoing support.

Throughout Lockdown period, ongoing support has been continued to Learner A and family members, including checking welfare and supporting any concerns for safety as the family member in Prison continued to make contact, despite an injunction. The Chambers Safeguarding Team continues to work in partnership with other services to remove the risk of exploitation

St. Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

During 2019/20 the whole health economy has faced huge challenges due to COVID-19 and Health providers within the Borough have responded to that challenge. Here in St Helens, a key part of that response is delivered through our CCG, which has a statutory duty to ensure that NHS commissioned services discharge their safeguarding adults responsibilities effectively.

The CCG ensures that provider organisations deliver a comprehensive service to safeguard adults at risk, including advice, training and supervision. Additionally, providers must have up to date, comprehensive policies and procedures in place, to raise awareness of abuse and neglect and to share knowledge of how to respond to safeguarding concerns.

St Helens CCG monitors training compliance and safeguarding activity against a range of key performance indicators to ensure that commissioned services are actively engaged in safeguarding adults work across the Borough. This work is underpinned by a wide ranging governance framework, which makes sure that safeguarding is at the heart of all provider organisations, from executive level through to the operational practice of all staff.

As a key statutory partner, St Helens CCG is an active member of the Board, holding

provider organisations to account and Chairing the critical Practice and Performance sub-group as well as the Safeguarding Health Forum, so that, here in St Helens, we are ready to respond to national and local safeguarding issues.

Collaborative working is key to safeguarding adults in St Helens and over the last 12 months those strong partnership arrangements have helped our local CCG and its partners to protect those individuals who are most at risk.

St. Helens Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR)

The LeDeR Programme supported local areas to carry out a comprehensive review in the unfortunate event of the death of someone with learning disabilities, so that we can ensure we identify any possible learning from the circumstances to improve our services. St Helens CCG leads the review process into the deaths of people with learning disabilities aged over 4 years.

Nationally, there have been significant challenges to the LeDeR programme, largely driven by limited resources available to undertake reviews and the low number of people trained in LeDeR methodology, leading to a national backlog of cases. In order to ensure St Helen's fulfils its obligations to do this, resources were refocused, and a new Lead Reviewer was appointed. Initially facing a local backlog of 17 outstanding reviews, in 2019/20 the team completed 27 reviews, overcoming the backlog and bringing St Helens well within NHS England timescales. This is a significant achievement that will continue to benefit our community.

Looking forward, the CCG has now established our Local LeDeR Steering Group, to oversee the LeDeR work programme and develop local improvements. Demonstrating the power of partnership working, we are now in a position to implement a system-wide approach to improving the health and social care experience of patients with learning disabilities. Plans are in place to create a Learning Disability Stakeholder Forum to drive improvement in the quality of health and social care service delivery for people with learning disabilities and to help to reduce inequalities through working collaboratively, embedding learning and identifying key recommendations for improvement.

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (STHK)

Over the last year, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust provided a full range of acute and intermediate healthcare services across our sites at St Helens, Whiston and Newton hospitals. The Trust has over 7000 staff in its employment.

This year the Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children teams have co located to be better equipped to promote the developing 'Think Family' agenda, which provides a more holistic view of the challenges facing adult at risk of abuse and neglect. Training is a significant focus for the safeguarding teams, ensuring staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise safeguarding and take appropriate action. During 2019/20, the team actively engaged in work with adjoining partnership Boards to promote

the safeguarding adults' agenda on a local and regional basis, ensuring that best practice is captured and implemented from a wide range of sources.

St. Helens Council Safeguarding Team

As well as managing day to day operational demands, the team developed a virtual training approach and has combined the Level 1 and Level 2 training into a Safeguarding Briefing. As a result of this years' work, the first virtual training session for Level 3 is due in September 2020.

Additionally, in response to the COVID outbreak, the team implemented the St Helens Multi-Agency Response to Domestic Abuse to support those members of the community who face significant challenges in this unprecedented time. The Team delivered a number of critical areas of work to support the Boards work. This included;

St Helens Multi-Agency Safeguarding Escalation and Dispute Resolution Procedures (Jan 20).
Safeguarding Adults Internal Audit (LA).

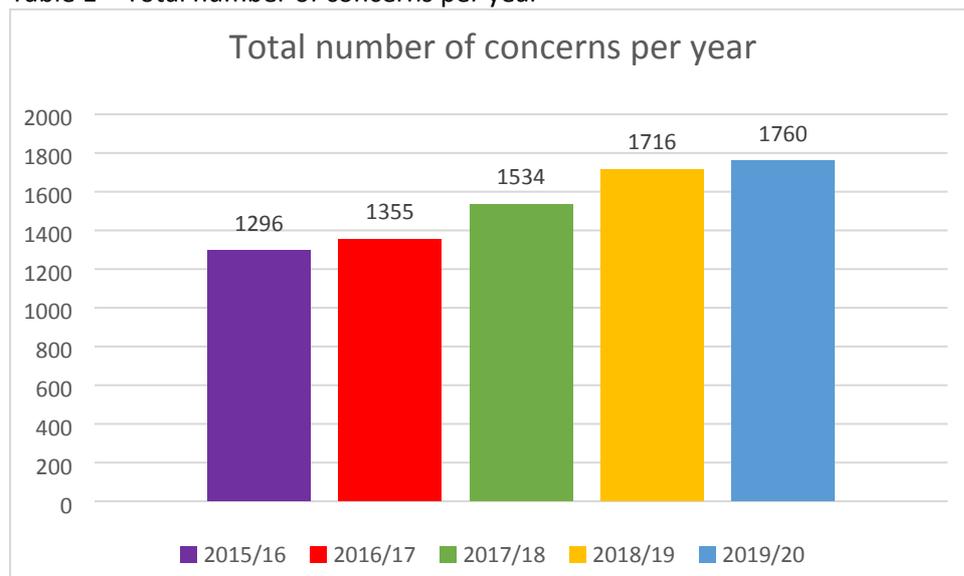
Safeguarding Adults Protocol – Pressure Ulcers and the Interface with the Safeguarding Adults Enquiry.

Safeguarding Adult Board – Safeguarding Adult Review Procedures.

Performance & Activity Information

The following table show the number of referrals to the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults team each year from 2015 to 2020.

Table 1 – Total number of concerns per year



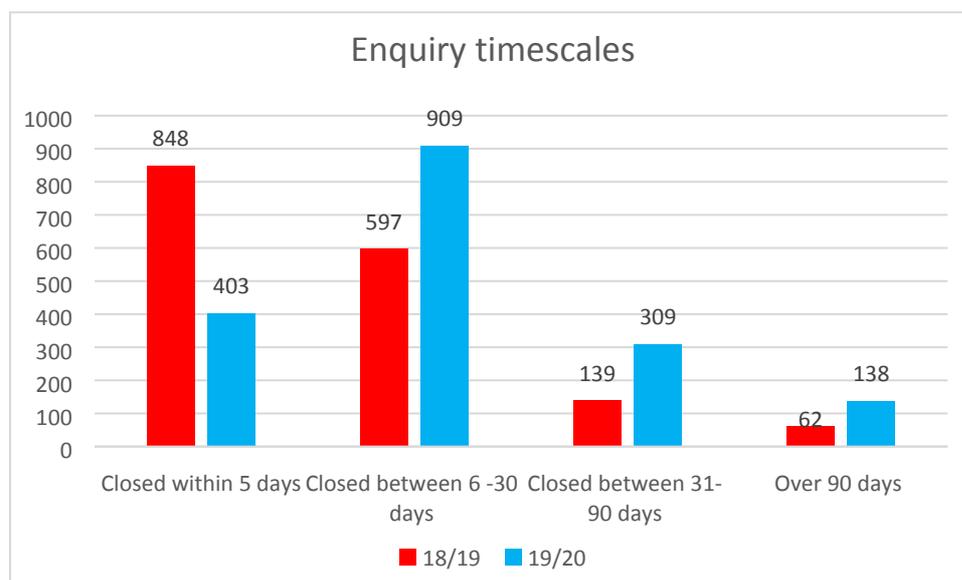
Over the past 5 years there has been a steady increase in referrals to the Safeguarding Adults Unit. However, during the last 12 months this seems to have levelled out significantly. During this year there has been some targeted safeguarding training. Some of

the targeted training focused on the Police VPRF 1 referrals, this was to ensure referrals to the safeguarding unit were appropriate. There was a focus on Domestic Abuse, MARAC and MERIT. Regular training is also provided to ensure partners are able to identify what is 'abuse' and when and how to make a safeguarding referral.

There has been specific training in relation to Domestic Abuse and the impact on victims. MARAC/MERIT training has been made mandatory for social workers to ensure increased awareness and appropriate risk assessment of potential victims of domestic abuse. The training as not only raised awareness in relation to domestic abuse it has also identified what action can be taken to support victims.

Table 2 – Enquiry timescales

The table below shows the number of safeguarding referrals closed within specific timeframes.



The Safeguarding Adult Unit also collects performance data on Enquiry Timescales, initial enquiry (fact finding) should be closed within 30 days of receiving a referral, if the referral does not need to progress to a full enquiry. If the referral does progress to a full enquiry then the safeguarding investigation has a 90 day timeframe.

71% of safeguarding concerns closed were closed following initial fact-finding enquiries and 29% of safeguarding concerns progressed to a full enquiry.

The percentage of cases closed within 30 days has decreased from 88% to 75% within the same reporting period last year. However as identified in the table above the main reduction in the closures are within the first 5 days of receipt of the referral. This reflects the current change in practice to ensure that Making Safeguarding Personal is embedded in practice and that advice, guidance and signposting is being provided for all referrals prior to closure.

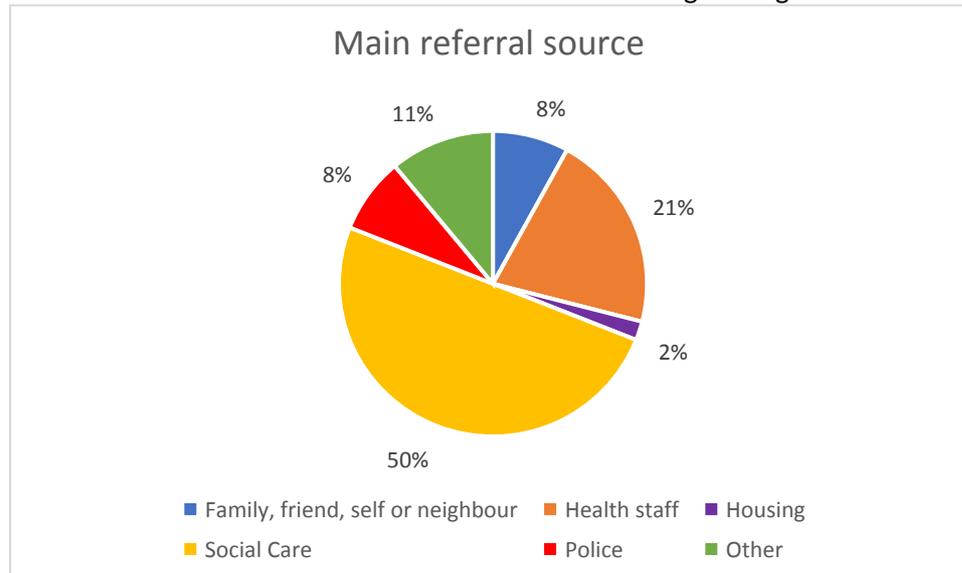
Due to the increase in the number of referrals this has created an increase in the workload for the safeguarding coordinators. Although there was a decrease in the number of

referrals closed within the 30 days there has been a significant increase 170 cases closed between the 30 and 90 days.

Cases with a closure timescale of 90 days plus include cases where disciplinary or criminal investigations need to be undertaken and some out of borough concerns.

Table 3 – Source of Referral 2019/20

The chart below shows the source of referral to the Safeguarding Adults Unit.

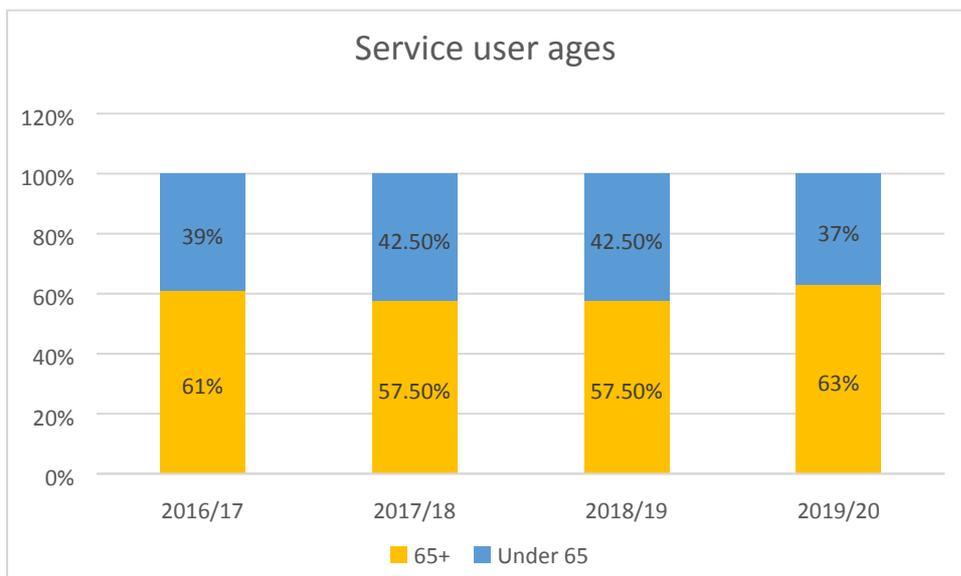
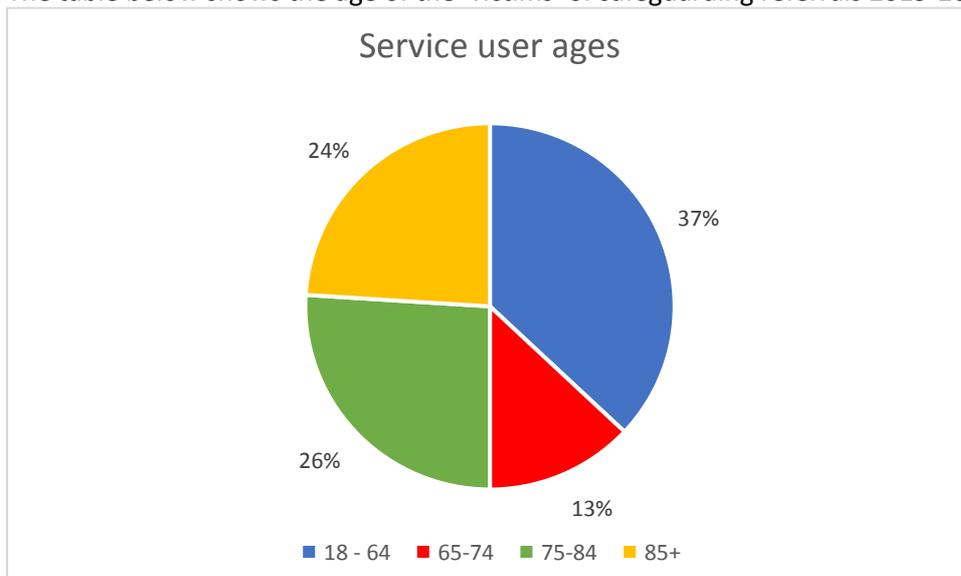


The main referral source for safeguarding concerns remains social care staff, social care staff include staff from the Local Authority, care homes, domiciliary care agencies, supporting living services, etc.

Other sources of referral include, for example, other partner agencies, voluntary agencies, bank staff, shop staff and taxi drivers and the percentage has increased by 3% since the previous report of 2018/219. This is a result of awareness raising and training. Percentage of concerns received from the police has decreased by 13% since the previous reporting year following a targeted training approach.

Table 4 – Service User Age

The table below shows the age of the ‘victims’ of safeguarding referrals 2019-20.



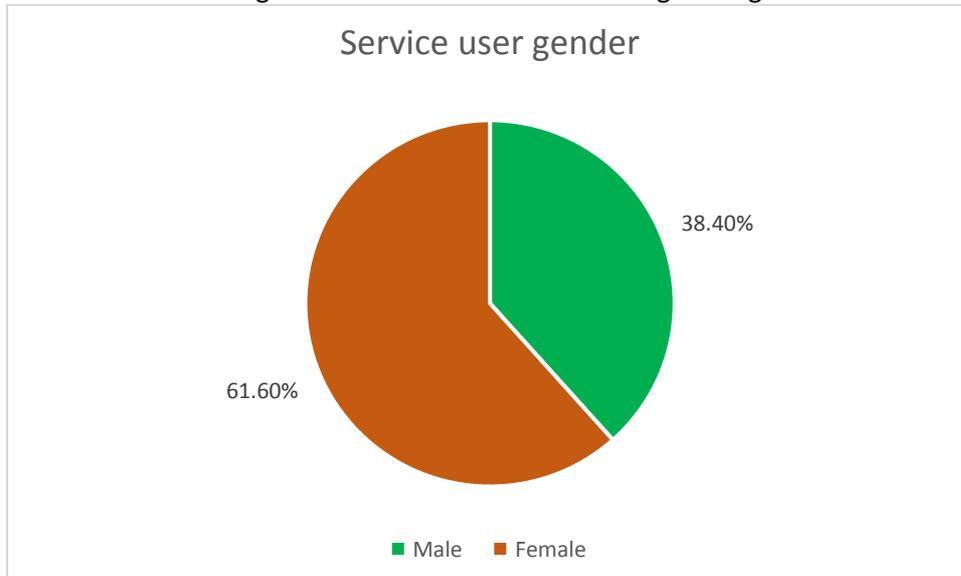
The table above is comparison of the victims age from 16/17 to 19/20.

The ages between 18-64 have the highest number of referrals, this year has shown an increase of 5.5% of people over the age of 65 being subject to abuse. Despite that 65 - 74 year olds have the lowest number of referrals for safeguarding at just 13%.

Over a quarter of the referrals to safeguarding of for people over the age of 85.

Table 5 – Gender

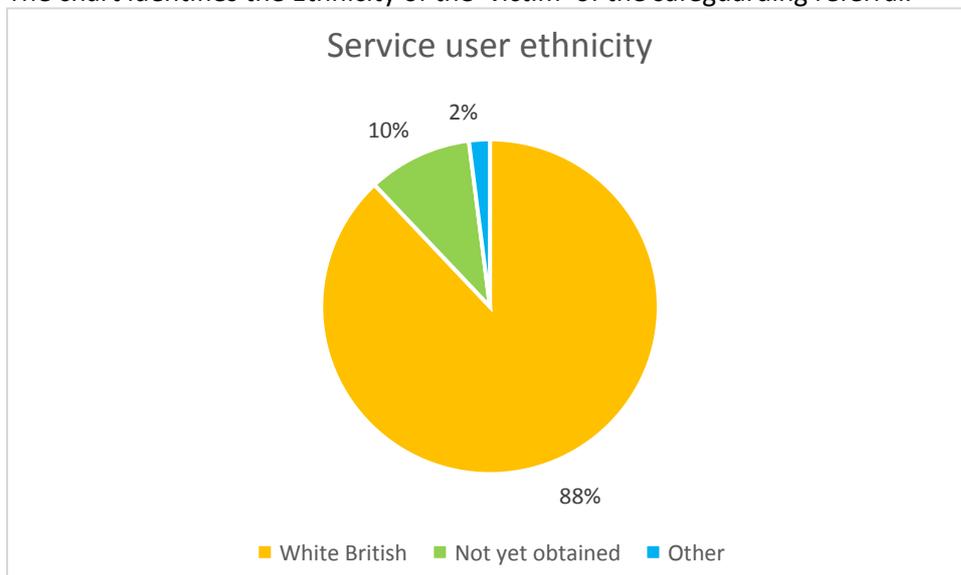
The chart shows the gender of victims referred to safeguarding.



Almost 62% of the referrals identify a female as the victim. These figures have remained consistent for the past 5 years of reporting.

Table 6 – Ethnicity

The chart identifies the Ethnicity of the 'victim' of the safeguarding referral.



Figures are consistent with previous years. 12% of safeguarding referrals made represent Black Asian Minority Ethnic people and due to numbers involved this could not be shown as a percentage figure. Therefore, the numbers have been broken down and are as follows:

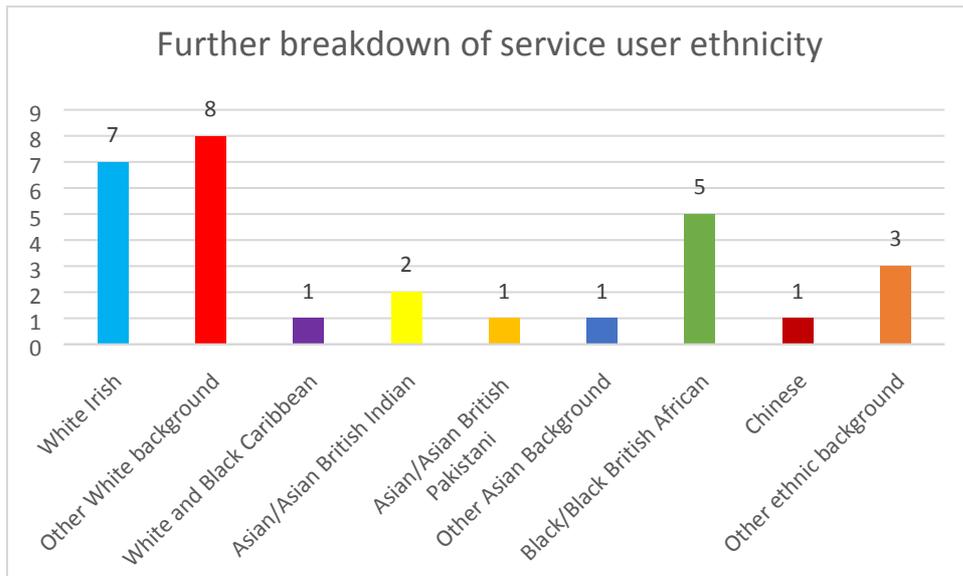
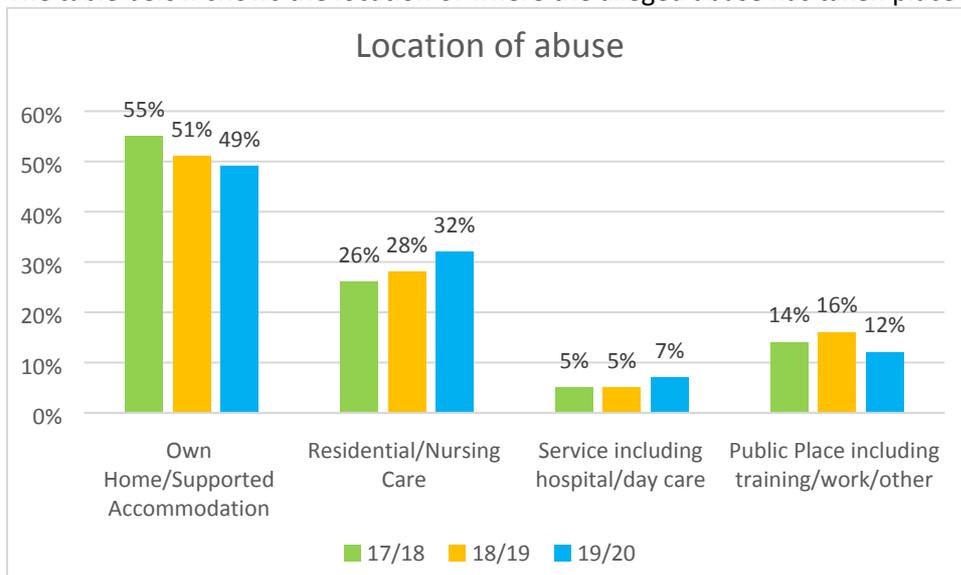


Table 7 – Location of Abuse

The table below shows the location of where the alleged abuse has taken place

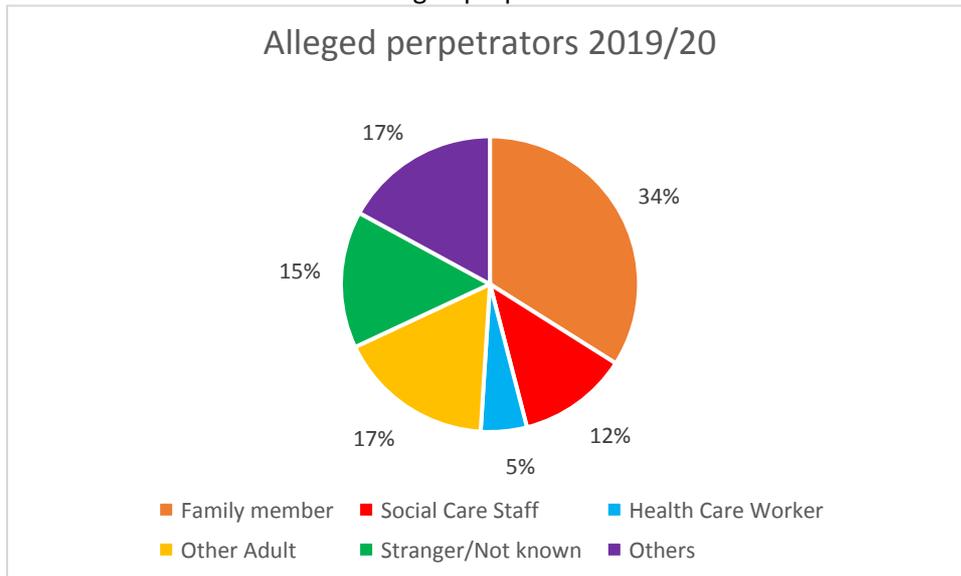


The percentage of abuse occurring in the persons own home and in a public place has fallen slightly each year and risen slightly in residential and nursing care. However, over the last 12 months this equates to only 2% decrease.

The Local Authority continue to facilitate safeguarding training to care provider across the board, the SAB believes this reflects why there has been an increase in referrals from those care providers.

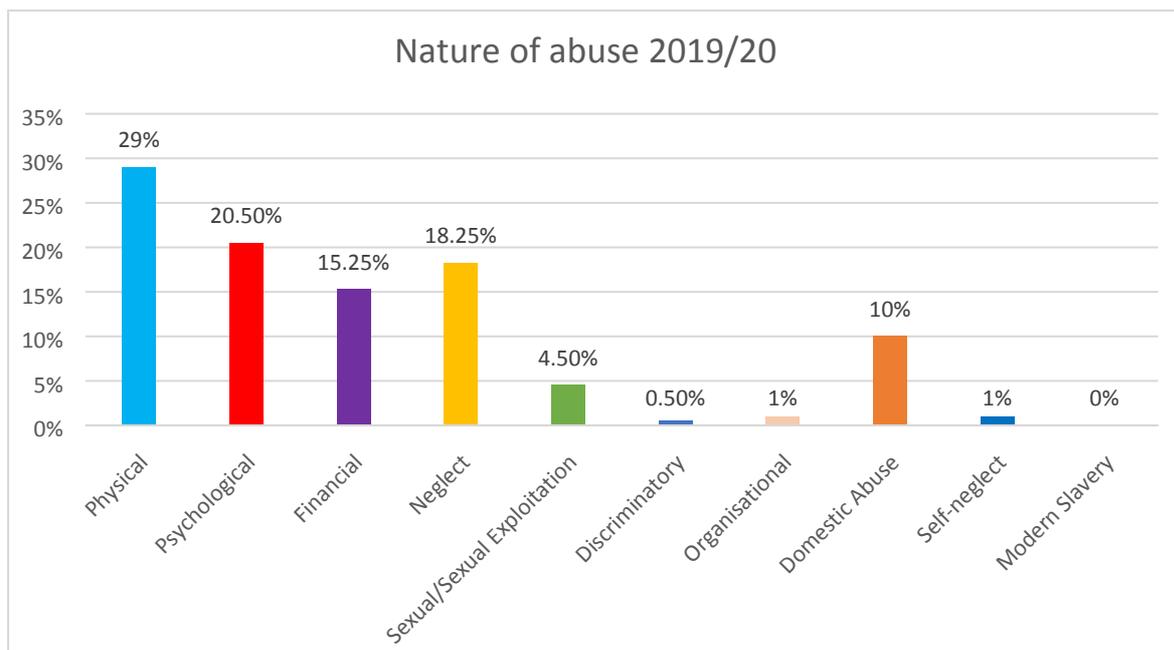
Table 8 – Perpetrators 2019/2020

The table below identifies the alleged perpetrators.



The majority of alleged perpetrators 34% are family members. 'Social care' relates any staff in care. The number of social care staff who are perpetrators has gradually decreased from 22.5% in 2015/16 to 12% in 2019/20. This could indicate that increased training and awareness of abuse has led to an improvement in good practice within residential/nursing settings.

Table 9 – Nature of Abuse 2019/20



There are many referrals that shows there has been multiple abuse. The majority of the referrals identify physical abuse as the main cause for concern – 29%. This is followed by psychological abuse. Domestic abuse accounts for 10% of the referrals, however physical and psychological abuse will also be a factor. Therefore, a number of the concerns received have numerous types of abuse reported.

Neglect covers 18.25% of the referrals, however it does not distinguish the neglect in some cases is as a result of 'self-neglect', this is an area that requires improvement for reporting purposes.

Financial Information

St Helens Council has continued to provide substantial finance for the management of the Board and associated administrative costs of the Board and Sub-Groups. The total contribution of the Council is £247,710. There are additional financial contributions from St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group and Merseyside Police. Wider Partners contribute by actively engaging with and supporting the Board to achieve its Priorities and Objectives.

The table below shows the contributions for the Adult Safeguarding Unit

Agency	Contribution
St Helens CCG	£25,000
Merseyside Police	£19,890
Better Care Funding	£22,000
St Helens Council	£225,710
Total Costs	£292,600

The majority of the spend £279,076 is on staffing costs, there are currently 6 members of staff within the Safeguarding Team. Other costs include equipment and supplies and costs of promoting the service.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD SUMMARY OF PARTNER REPRESENTATION 2019/20

PARTNERS		June 2019	Sept 2019	Dec 2019	Mar 2020	% of Possible Meetings
	Independent Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
COUNCIL	St Helens Council, Director of Adult Social Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
	St Helens Council, Care Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
	St Helens Council, Safeguarding Adults Unit	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
	Cabinet Member	✓	✓	x	✓	75
POLICE	Merseyside Police	✓	✓	✓	x	75
HEALTH	St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
	Healthwatch St Helens	x	x	✓	x	25
NHS TRUSTS	North West Boroughs Health	x	✓	✓	x	50
	St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
HOUSING	Helena Partnerships	✓	✓	x	✓	75
FIRE AND RESCUE	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	✓	✓	✓	x	75
REGISTERED CHARITIES	St Helens Deafness Resource Centre	✓	x	x	✓	50
	Age UK Mid Mersey	x	x	x	x	0
	St Helens Carers Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
OTHER	St Helens Chamber	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
	St Helens College	✓	x	✓	✓	75

Looking ahead – 3-year Strategic Priorities and 1-year Objectives

This year we have undertaken a review of our governance and scrutiny procedures following a period of significant change and re-organisation, to ensure the Board is equipped to deliver its statutory and local commitments and to add value to partnership working to safeguard adults through effective oversight and scrutiny. Additionally, the COVID crisis resulted in the need for the Board to seek reassurance that Safeguarding Adults was the main priority during this unprecedented time. In addition to providing support and guidance, it provided governance and challenge to members at this critical time in our history. All partners face considerable challenges and will continue to do so as we move through 2020 and beyond.

It is important to add that, in setting revised Strategic Priorities (as required by the Care Act), the key aspects of the previous year's priorities have been incorporated into the new priorities, so that good practice, learning and ongoing work is not 'lost' going forward.

As a result of that work and consultation with key partners, it is proposed that the revised Strategic Priorities now form a comprehensive framework that captures all the key functions of the Board, focusing on three areas of equal importance; effective operational delivery; good governance; and active communication & community engagement.

The Boards proposed Strategic Priorities for 2020/23 are:

Priority 1: To deliver positive outcomes for those using our services

Ensuring Safeguarding services are delivered effectively and professionally, with Making Safeguarding Personal at the heart of how those services are delivered.

Priority 2: To enhance our governance, systems and processes to support effective safeguarding services

Ensuring that there are effective governance, scrutiny and business processes in place to ensure that the safety and well-being of adults who are subject to, or at risk of, abuse and neglect are at the heart of Board members' own organisational priorities. This includes ensuring that the findings from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other key areas of Practice improvement are implemented.

Priority 3: To provide excellent standards of partnership working and to effectively engage with our community to build awareness and confidence in our safeguarding services

We will promote safeguarding adults in the community by listening to their concerns and raising awareness & well-being to prevent neglect and abuse, with a particular focus on diverse, isolated and under-represented communities. This includes working with other key Groups, Boards, Committees and Partners, including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, to build effective partnerships. Additionally, we will deliver training and development in areas where awareness and understanding needs to be improved.

The next 12 months – Annual Objectives 2020/21

In order to deliver these priorities, a number of Annual Objectives are proposed to ensure we move towards delivering our Strategic Priorities. These are;

Objective 1: Ensuring the delivery of Safeguarding for adults at risk of neglect or abuse in either a Post-COVID or continuing-COVID environment.

Objective 2: Making sure the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal are at the heart of operational delivery to support adults at risk to achieve the outcomes they wish.

Objective 3: Implement the key learning and development required from the ongoing Safeguarding Adults Review, particularly in relation to ensuring that future Reviews are conducted effectively.

Objective 4: Continue to improve Communication and Community Engagement in relation to Safeguarding Adults.

**Safeguarding is
everyone's business.**

**If someone knows that abuse
or neglect is happening
they must act upon that knowledge,
not wait to be asked for information**

Care Act Guidance section 14.185(updated October 2018)