

Bath & North East Somerset - Local Safeguarding Adults Board

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR

JUNE 2014



The Board met on June 24th 2014. We were a little down on numbers with some important partners unable to attend but, despite this, we covered a lot of ground. The minutes will be on the B&NES website but below are some of the key messages from the meeting.

- A new sub-regional Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy is being considered by the sub – regional LSAB's; we are pleased to confirm that B&NES, North Somerset and South Glos have approved this to date and wait to hear from Bristol and Somerset. This is really helpful as it means that there is more consistency; the Lead Officers will shortly begin to look at whether it is possible to streamline the safeguarding procedures.
- The Board agreed a policy in information sharing across agencies. This is a complicated area to get right and has taken some time, but this will give us a good foundation for the future. Information sharing has been a problem in a number of cases where things have gone wrong including in B&NES. It will be important to ensure that staff are confident with the protocol if we are to get over some of the barriers to good communication, especially between agencies.
- The annual report on feedback from people who have experienced safeguarding was presented. It was disappointing to see that numbers remain low and have fallen since last year. The good news is that those survey forms that were completed were positive about the support that people had received. The Board wants to see evidence that all people are at the centre of what is happening to them during safeguarding. We would like to use the second phase of Making Safeguarding Personal, a national project, as one means of improving in this area.
- The new safeguarding newsletter has been sent to a wide variety of people, groups and organisations. It is a really good way of bringing safeguarding to the attention of more people and is packed with information. Many thanks to those who have helped to put this together.
- B&NES Council is making some changes to its safeguarding structures. The changes will start to take place from the 1st July and will see the joining together of Children and Adult Safeguarding under a Joint Head. Lesley Hutchinson will hold this post as an interim whilst the structure is finalised and we wish her good luck and congratulations on her new interim role, and thank her for the huge amount of work she has done to support the Board.
- Following a court judgment on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) there has been a very large increase in the number of people subject to this process. The Council is recruiting staff to respond to this but this remains a risky area. The Board asked for

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regular updates on the numbers of people who are not able to be assessed and the potential risk.

Finally, I have decided to step down as independent chair in 2015 after four years. This gives plenty of time to plan for my replacement and to ensure the continued smooth running of the Board.

The next B&NES LSAB is on: Weds 3rd Sept 2014

Robin Cowen, Independent Chair, B&NES LSAB