

#### Summary from Dr John Woodhouse (independent Chair)

One of the great benefits of been asked to convene the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adult's Board, is that we have been able to combine the strengths of both Boards. One of these strengths from the children's safeguarding partnership is to extend the Practitioner Forum to include front line staff from both children and adult safeguarding. This means that I and senior officers from the partnerships have had the opportunity to hear about how safeguarding is working at an operational level. This experience is always humbling and very helpful as we hear about the actual issues faced by practitioners. This has led to better communications, the greater integration of all age safeguarding and an understanding that we must work closely with services such as domestic abuse intervention services. The greatest lesson for me remains my realisation that effective safeguarding interventions cannot always undo the psychological trauma suffered by vulnerable people (adults and children) who have been neglected or abused. This is enormously significant because such trauma can negatively impact on a person for the rest of their lives sometimes leading to recurrent abuse. A recent development discussed with, and supported by, the practitioner forum is the introduction of 'contextual safeguarding' (such as how contexts relate to each other and inform people's behaviours). This is a different way of ensuring that vulnerable people are safe, and focuses on wider interventions that prevent people suffering significant harm. I owe my continued thanks to the practitioners who attend and contribute.

One of the most important functions of the Safeguarding Board is to ensure that services continue to learn. Both on a day to day basis but also from things that go wrong and real learning often comes from a terrible incident. One such case resulted from the death of a young man in institutional care in Doncaster. A careful review demonstrated that all parties involved were doing their best for vulnerable people including the person that died. However there were weaknesses in the system that many people could see but could not find a way of resolving. The learning, which used a 'Just Culture' approach led to significant changes. These were driven by service commissioners and regulators with the full support of the institution using a peer support model, not a 'blame and shame' process. I believe that this led to sustainable changes in the way the institution ensures that people are safe. But it also led to changes in the way that the commissioners of services think about their responsibilities and how they can contribute to safety.

#### How have we performed:

**2393** referrals received in 19/20 **44%** of concerns raised from within a persons own home

**59%** felt safer after safeguarding intervention

**1128** Section 42 Enquiries undertaken

**36%** of concerns raised from nursing and residential homes

#### Safeguarding is everyone's business

In order to protect vulnerable people from harm and abuse all organisations and communities need to work together. Safeguarding means 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 any action.

The Boards continues to embed Making Safeguarding Personal and seek assurance that practice is outcome focused. It commissioned Sheffield Hallam University to undertake a 'Temperature Check' across agencies to identify how far MSP is implemented in practice. The report was helpful to review how well organisations have implemented MSP and the 6 principles into practice since the Care Act 2014. A working group of statutory and non-statutory is in place to take forward the recommendation from the report.



## 6 Principles of Safeguarding Adults



**Quality and Performance**– the subgroup continues to focus on quarterly Performance Summary. The Dashboard has been in place over a year and has allowed the subgroup to have a wider view of multi-agency performance. The subgroup will use this data for further analysis and a ‘deeper dive’ to focus on particular areas such as advocacy referrals, feeling safer after safeguarding intervention.

**Review and Learning** – there has been a significant increase in the number of Safeguarding Adults Reviews requests received. During this year 11 requests were received out of which 4 have been approved. Those that do not meet the criteria usually form part of internal reviews such as Serious Incidents Reports. The Board has also published 2 completed reports with one Review undertaken jointly with adults and children.

**Keeping Safe Subgroup** – the joint subgroup has wide participation across statutory adults, children and voluntary sector services. The focus this year has been to development engagements for both safeguarding adults and children. Services share innovative and creative ways they raise awareness of safeguarding with community groups. The Chair has worked with members to open the group to members of the public so that they can hear and contribute directly.

**Joint Safeguarding Workforce Development** – a newly formed subgroup that will develop a multi-agency joint workforce development strategy. It will facilitate regular training needs analysis for multi-agency safeguarding practice, support in delivering a multi-agency safeguarding training programme, and promote common single agency safeguarding training standards and approaches.

### Safeguarding Week 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019

The Awards ceremony at the beginning of Safeguarding Week has become well known and a great celebration of the work children, adults and services are doing to safeguard others and their communities. This year we heard Jody Keegans story of how she and her children survived domestic abuse. It highlighted the need for all services to work to protect families from abuse. Throughout the week services provided presentations, training and delivered leaflets to residents.

### Keeping Safe Event 2019

The annual Keeping Safe event was a festive feast. Guest Speaker, Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police Commissioner, shared details of the newly established South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.

The theme of the Keeping Safe event was Voices and Stories and highlights included Jodie Keegans’ Survivors Story about domestic violence, poems by JB Barrington and a showcase of how local groups are helping to contribute to a safer Doncaster.

There were fantastic discussions with members of the local communities about what information should be included in an update of the Keeping Safe leaflets – their views and voices will be used to influence the development of new Keeping Safe campaign materials.

A local Primary School choir, who joined us midway through the event, sang modern Christmas songs which added a special sparkle and festive feel to an informative and enjoyable day.

The Keeping Safe Forum’s main purpose is to help keep people in Doncaster keep engaged and informed so that they can stay safe and well.

This year our Forum has grown with membership extended to people and professionals who have an active interest in safeguarding children, because we felt there was a crossover of relevant issues and a need for greater awareness. Naturally, this influenced the variety of guest speakers who attended the Forum. We received information from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Voiceability, Victim Support and Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust, to name a few. Special thanks goes to Ian Walker – Gamblers Anonymous who shared his personal journey about struggling with a gambling addiction. He also shared how gambling can affect anyone at any age from school children to older people.

This year the Forum has identified a representative to attend the local Keeping Safe sub-group of Joint Safeguarding Boards to share insight and ideas on local campaigns and development of greater partnership working between organisations who work with adults and children.