

Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report: 2020-21

Covering Report to People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 March 2022

Brief Summary

This report is being presented to the committee prior to publication of the Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report. All partner agencies have been consulted with and contributed to the content of the report.

The draft Annual Report is attached at Appendix 'A'

Recommendation

People Overview and Scrutiny is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report
- (ii) Comment on any key issues and consider the implications for the conduct of council business

Background Information

The Care Act requires that in every local authority administrative area there must be a Safeguarding Adults Board. Key local agencies are represented on the Board at a senior level, but the Board has an Independent Chair.

The Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to produce and publish an annual report which reflects on safeguarding practice and issues in the area. The draft Annual Report which covers the period from April 2020 to end of March 2021 is attached at Appendix 'A'. The Annual Report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adult Board in Blackburn with Darwen over the last year.

During this reporting period the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the way in which many agencies who are part of the Adults Board have worked. The Department of Health acknowledged this last year and to alleviate additional pressures associated with producing the report, permitted the Adults Boards to produce condensed reports during this reporting period. Blackburn with Darwen partners felt it was important to have one and acknowledge the work that had been undertaken.

The report begins with contextual information drawn from Public Health data. The data highlights the complexity of the population in Blackburn with Darwen and seeks to set out what we know about the vulnerability of the people in terms of safeguarding, what we know about the quality of safeguarding activity in local services, and how the Board has sought to make a positive impact on services.

Agencies that are responsible for safeguarding and protecting our most vulnerable adults have been able to maintain their services and our thoughts and gratitude with those professionals that have worked on the front line.

Adult Services, in Blackburn with Darwen, supported by the Council have continued to work hard to protect and support people. During the Covid- 19 pandemic the Lancashire Resilience Forum agencies ensured that there was an efficient system of maintaining contact with elderly and 'shielded' residents and an efficient system to ensure food deliveries were made to those that needed them.

All Statutory work of the Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Adult Board continued during the pandemic with Board meetings held. The business unit has continued to operate during the pandemic to ensure the functions of the Board have been fulfilled.

The Executive Board has continued to meet and has been chaired by Mr Stephen Ashley and includes the three Safeguarding Adult Boards across Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire.

All Board partner agencies have been consulted during the preparation of the Annual Report. The report reflects comments made and includes information directly provided by the agencies. This report is currently in draft form and is out for comments and feedback from agencies.