



# Newsletter: December 2018

## Message from the Chair

It has come to that time of year to reflect on our achievements and successes over the last 12 months and to look to the future. I know that as partners of the Safeguarding Adults Board in Birmingham, together we are stronger and we still remain committed to ensuring that no one is subject to harm or abuse, and for those that are subject to abuse, the necessary support and care is in place.

2018 has been a busy year for us all. As Chair of the Board I reviewed the membership and have extended this with Forward Carers now joining us to ensure we hear carers voices. In addition, we have supported two corporate strategy launches, these being the Homelessness Prevention Strategy as well as Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy for the city.

We have reviewed and updated our governance and scrutiny processes and have now begun the work of learning from the assurance statements we have received from partners, this piece of work is being undertaken by a group of staff and citizens jointly. A first for the Board.

And the most recent success is the publication of our Annual Report and our new Operating Agreement 2018. Both can be found on our website.

Most important of all this year has been our joint partnership work with all of you to raise awareness of safeguarding 'being everyone's business' and reaching out to as many organisations and citizens as possible.

There is more news in this newsletter which I am sure you will find of interest, in the meantime; I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support and wish each and every one of you a peaceful Christmas break and a happy new year and I look forward to continuing our work of protecting vulnerable adults in the city in 2019.

**Cherry Dale**

**BSAB Independent Chair**

## **Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Update**

The Board came together on 11<sup>th</sup> December for a very informative meeting which posed a raised a number of challenging issues for the Board to address. These included;

- Hearing from citizens who have experienced financial abuse – how this affected their confidence and lives – but more importantly how they managed to overcome the abuse they suffered;
- An update from HM Prisons on their recent unannounced inspection which took place at the start of August and its outcomes and subsequent improvement plans;
- An update report from our Chair of the Scrutiny and Governance group which provided details about number of assurance statements received, plans for checking the contents of these statements and the risks already highlighted within the assurance statements for consideration;
- A feedback report from the 'Tackling Sexual Exploitation' conference held in Newcastle upon Tyne in November presented by David Gray and Yvonne Coleman. This discussion highlighted some of the lessons learnt from the similar incident that had taken place in Rotherham and also the learning from Newcastle as they had recently faced a similar situation;
- And finally amongst other items discussed; the Board received a progress report from Ruth O'Leary on the Safeguarding Adult Review work that has taken place in recent weeks.

### **Partnership Meeting**

Our Partnership meeting also took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December; the main focus of this event was to begin the discussion on our future strategic plan for 2019 –2021. Over 125 representatives from different organisations including BSAB partners, faith organisations and local community workers attended the conference to share their insight, views and expertise.

All of the information is being collated together in order to plan the priorities for partnership working in Birmingham for the future.

With thanks to all of those who attended, the meeting was very useful in beginning the thinking about the work of the Board, this work will progress and further information about our next steps will be shared in the New Year.

## **Safeguarding Adult Review - update**

The last newsletter had a detailed update from the team who support SARs, so below is just a little update to make sure everyone is kept abreast of our work to date.

In line with the Making Safeguarding Principles (MSP) we have ensured that our new paperwork captures the principles and also embeds clearly the 6 safeguarding principles of:

- Empowerment,
- Protection,
- Accountability,
- Preventative,
- Partnership and
- Proportionality.

David Gray is supporting the West Midlands representing Birmingham. As part of his work, he will be working with a national group of safeguarding leads to cascade information about the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) SAR Library Repository. The Library is a growing work in progress and it is supported by Research in Practice for Adults (Ripfa) and when fully up and running will include information about SARs undertaken.

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## **Co-production in BSAB**

The plans for asking citizens to work in partnership with us have moved on since the last newsletter. Following a call for volunteers in the city, we were overwhelmed with the response with over 25 citizens expressing an interest! The team have agreed that a group of 5 citizens with the right experience would be ideal to assist us with a scrutiny and governance work, so are planning their next steps to make it happen.

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## **Raising awareness**

### **Birmingham Adult Safeguarding Week – November 2019**

We ran a complete week of social media activity around the week to highlight all different types of abuse which people may experience. In addition, we attended a conference which was jointly ran between ourselves and trading standards to highlight the risks of financial abuse and what to do about it – either as a member of staff should you suspect someone is being abused or as a member of the community.

### **Carers Rights Day – 30<sup>th</sup> November**

The team attended the Carers Rights day organised by Forward Carers to share details and raise awareness of safeguarding adults with this hidden community. Their attendance was very well received and they spoke to over 100 carers during the course of the day and a

number of professionals who all welcomed the promotional materials which they took away to share within their organisations.

### **Forced Marriage Campaign Launch by the Home Office**

The Home Secretary Sajid Javid launched their campaign against forced marriage at the end of November. More details about the campaign including their twitter feed and promotional materials in all languages can be found here:

<https://twitter.com/ukhomeoffice/status/1068421877272440833>

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### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **BSAB Board Meeting**

The next full Board meeting will take place in March 2019. More details will follow in the New Year.

BSAB Partnership Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February – The Probation Service will feature as one of our main items and will be in attendance to update us on their work with the community to support Vulnerable Adults. Booking details will be shared in 2019.

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### **Contact us**

We are keen for you to contribute and make a contribution on any of the content in this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with our safeguarding team at:

[\*\*BSABsupportteam@birmingham.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:BSABsupportteam@birmingham.gov.uk)