

Adult Safeguarding Review Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Reason for review

Bracknell Forest People Safeguarding Board has been in place since 2019. A decision was made by the Executive Director in consultation with partners to implement an all-age safeguarding board based on a Bracknell Forest footprint. This development was in line with the development of the new People Directorate.

An independent chair was recruited to chair the Board for 18 months, at which point there was an intention to review the effectiveness and format of the board. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that this review was not undertaken, and it was agreed that continuity and maintaining the progress of the board through the pandemic should be the priority.

We now wish to undertake a review of Safeguarding Board arrangements to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach, the impact of the board, and identify opportunities for further improvement. In particular, we wish to ensure that the Board is keeping adults safe.

Objectives/scope

The review aims to:

1. Review the impact and effectiveness of the Board – the extent to which it is meeting strategic priorities and keeping residents safe
2. Ensure that the Board is meeting all statutory functions relating to adults' legislation, including the Care Act 2012 and Making Safeguarding Personal
3. Evaluate the impact of having a combined board with an all-age focus – considering any unintended consequences
4. Review current subgroup arrangements, considering scope effectiveness and impact of these
5. Review policies, procedures and reporting processes ensuring these are adequate and effective
6. Review the input and impact of partners, both statutory and wider, and consider whether engagement is proportionate and impactful

The review will do this by (not an exhaustive list):

- undertaking a desktop review of policies, procedures, minutes, annual reports, plans and strategy
- reviewing relevant KPIs for insights into demand and delivery requirements
- customer journey mapping of the current processes and identifying the client's emotional journey through these services
- reviewing published reports, standards and other publications to identify best practice or operational models that should be in place

Delivery methods:

- interviewing key internal and external colleagues regarding governance, roles and resources
- reviewing good practice in other local authorities
- reporting and analysis with assurance and recommendation for development

Demonstrating impact

The review aims to analyse evidence to ensure systems in place to safeguard adults in Bracknell Forest are effective. The review will also look at different options to assure ourselves the current arrangement is best at keeping people safe. This scrutiny will ensure providers and commissioners hear the voice of practitioners in adult safeguarding.

Successful outcomes include:

- strengthening existing good relationships internally and externally
- influencing partners to deliver improvements
- increasing Councillor knowledge of adult safeguarding systems
- delivering effective, transparent scrutiny that engages practitioners and commissioners

Council theme:

- Caring for you and your family
- Value for money

Council team:

- Adult Social Care

Review due:

- February 2023

Proposed by:

- Work programme

Equality Impact Assessment

There is potential for this review to impact safeguarding arrangements for adults in Bracknell Forest. A full Equality Impact will be undertaken to ensure the impact of any recommendations are identified and that mitigations are in place.

Financial and legal implications

This review seeks to engage and influence commissioners and practitioners. It is not anticipated there will be any legal or financial implications for Bracknell Forest Council arising from the recommendations. However, any implications for the council will be fully addressed in the review report.

Climate change implications

Supporting residents in need in the community means that formal facilities do not need to be built, operated and maintained, reducing the demand on energy and other resources.