Safeguarding Adults Boards and Multiple Exclusion Homelessness:
the challenges of leadership and governance

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Care Act 2014, Section 43 – Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) as statutory partnerships

- Must have one for a Local Authority area

- Core statutory membership of Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group (health) and Police

- Other agencies are members as appropriate; but representatives must be skilled and knowledgeable

- A SAB must seek to achieve its objective* by coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.

- A SAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective*.

*main objective to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements help protect adults in its area who meet the Care Act 2014 criteria for safeguarding

Care Act 2014, Section 43 continued

- Publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet its main objective (core duty)

- Publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its objective and what it and each member has done to implement its strategy (core duty)

- Conduct any Safeguarding Adults Reviews in accordance with Section 44 of the Act and arrange for its conduct and implement the findings (core duty)

- The SAB can require information from an organisation or individual relevant to its functions

Emerging SAB focus on people experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness*

- National Surveys and SAB Chairs Network reports show safeguarding and homelessness emerging as an issue between 2017-2019

- Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews

- Longstanding local priority regarding rough sleeping

- Homelessness mortality reviews and links to safeguarding adults reviews

- Responding to the Rough Sleeping Strategy (2018)

- Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic

* (Mason et al, 2018)

Collaborative partnership and transformational leadership

- Partnership – one of the six safeguarding principles

- Leadership at all levels – distributive / dispersed leadership

- Collaboration and co-operation essential

- Transformative leadership needed to address challenges and achieve outcomes

- Engagement, consultation, co-production with experts by experience

- Political leadership for safeguarding adults experiencing homelessness

- Safeguarding Adults Board Chairs as 'process catalysts'

What is governance?

- 'how organisations direct and control what they do'

- 'structures and processes designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equality and inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation'

- 'the process by whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources and guarantee the reaslisation of human rights,.. with due regard to the rule of law'

Safeguarding governance – mechanisms that can deliver leadership and support change

Safeguarding governance - core functions include:

- to hold organisations and leaders to account for delivering the strategic objectives of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

- To provide oversight on delivering priorities for improvement and learning (and monitoring impact)

SAB governance mechanisms include:

- SAB Annual Report and strategic plan – processes of presenting to key local leaders, Boards and Members (which includes SAR related activities)

- Setting standards and issuing guidance

- Developing and operating quality assurance systems

- Developing and issuing strategies, policies and procedures

- Arrange for peer review and self audit

Governance – partnerships and systems that can deliver leadership and support change

- Which Partnership lead on homelessness and safeguarding?

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Community Safety Partnership
- Safeguarding Adults Board
- Homelessness Reduction Board

Some key questions for Safeguarding Adults Boards*

- How are you holding agencies and the multiagency partnership to account for policy and practice in the field of adult safeguarding and multiple exclusion homelessness?

- Are there gaps in policies, procedures and protocols that need to be filled?

- How have lessons from audits and Safeguarding Adults Reviews, completed locally or elsewhere, informed practice and service development?

- What examples of positive practice can you share?

*(Preston-Shoot, 2020)

References

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