



Mayor and Cabinet

Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Response to Healthier Communities Select Committee - December 2019.

Date: 11 March 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Contributors: Executive Director for Community Services

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of the report is to respond to the questions and recommendations made by the Healthier Communities Select Committee, in respect of promoting the ways in which members of the public can report an adult safeguarding concern.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The engagement and decision-making was delivered within the structure of the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board, which approved a Communication and Engagement Strategy for 2019-20 in June 2019. The consultation on this strategy was conducted between March and June 2019, and includes the use of national best practice guidelines.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Independent Chair (Michael Preston-Shoot) of the LSAB presented the Board's Annual Report to the Healthier Communities Select Committee (HCSC) on 2 December 2019. On the back page of that report is a list of all of the relevant contact details that a member of the public would need to report adult abuse, under the banner "See it, Report it", which is a slogan that is well-used nationally within the adult safeguarding network.
- 1.2. This prompted a debate and a recommendation by Councillors, that a poster with this sort of information should be visible in public places such as libraries and GP Practices across the Borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The recommendation made by the HCSC was accepted by the LSAB as this piece of work had already been planned as part of the delivery of the Board's Communication and Engagement Strategy 2019-20.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. There is no policy context, except that it already fits within the LSAB Communication and Engagement Strategy.

4. Background

- 4.1. This piece of work had already been planned by the Board's Business Unit, but the further development of these sort of publicity materials has been put on hold whilst the project to introduce an adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MaSH) has progressed, which could result in a change to the 'front of house' contact details for the Council. It is hoped these will be confirmed by the end of March 2020 to enable these posters to be rolled out thereafter.

5. Improving awareness of adult abuse and neglect

- 5.1. The LSAB Communication and Engagement Strategy also outlines other methodologies to help improve public awareness in Lewisham. This includes:
- 5.2. E-Bulletins - which are published after every Board meeting.

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- 5.3. Events - four half-day Networking and Safeguarding Champions Events between October 2019 and June 2020 (one in each neighbourhood).
- 5.4. Focus Groups and Forums - to help gather feedback from adults linked to the subject of abuse and neglect, and distribute leaflets.
- 5.5. Leaflet Distribution - linked to events and forums above, which include the relevant safeguarding reporting details (an overall total of 4,000 will be distributed at the four events).
- 5.6. Local Press and Radio - In combination with the Networking and Safeguarding Champions events, which overlap with national key dates. Councillors could help to support this.
- 5.7. Newsletters - published on a quarterly basis via the Board's website.
- 5.8. Safe Place Scheme - locations are venues in the community where people who need extra support can go if they need some help (the scheme is due to be launched by the end of March 2020).
- 5.9. Social Media - Twitter and You Tube are being used to support key campaign dates nationally, promote local pieces of work such as significant events and conferences, and help to build 'the whole community approach' to the prevention of abuse and neglect. Councillors could help to support this also.
- 5.10. Website - central resource hosting all of the Board's documents and training resources.
- 5.11. The Board will also continue to lobby the Department of Health and Social Care to make more use of social media and wider publicity campaigns (including TV) to improve public awareness, in the way the Department for Education has been successful with child safeguarding in the last decade.
- 5.12. The Board is also currently developing a 'Prevention Audit' which will examine the methods currently being used by partners (including the Council), and the effectiveness of these in improving public awareness, which will result in individual and a collective Board level action plan. Type here, Arial size 11]

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. All costs will be met by the LSAB.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. Not directly applicable.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. One of the key objectives of the LSAB Communication and Engagement Strategy is to connect with a wide range of stakeholders and local communities, and in doing so ensure the Board is working in an inclusive manner in line with equalities guidelines and legislation.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. By improving awareness of how to report adult abuse and neglect, this could increase the number of incidents reported to the Police. However, this should be seen as a positive indication that barriers to reporting such incidents are being removed.

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11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. By improving awareness of how to report safeguarding concerns, this may also improve the route to adults accessing help and support, which would fit with the wider health and wellbeing agenda.

12. Background papers

- 12.1. The LSAB Communication and Engagement Strategy can be read here:
https://www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/assets/2/lsab_ce_strategy_2019-20.pdf

13. Glossary

- 13.1. Not applicable.

14. Report author and contact

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