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**Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board**

**Consultation Strategy 2020-21**

**What do we want to find out?**

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) want to find out the views of key user groups and the wider public in relation to NSAB priorities for 2020-2021. The Board want to develop an understanding of what areas people think we should focus on when developing our 2020-21 Strategic Annual Plan.

**What options do we have for consultation?**

The Board recognises that a variety of methods of consultation will have to be deployed and these methods will be dependent on the consultation audience. The NSAB have access to numerous client groups and forums through the multi-agency partnership. We aim to offer face to face meetings with these key stakeholders during which we can explore the work of the Board and talk to people about the areas they think we need to focus on.

The Board also intend to use the Newcastle City Council public engagement tool “Let’s Talk” to facilitate engagement with the wider public. This mechanism should enable the Board to consult with individuals who may not otherwise have been provided with the opportunity to help shape strategic priorities for the NSAB.

**What are the constraints on what we can do?**

The NSAB Strategic Annual Plan 2020-21 is due to be formally signed off at the March 2020 meeting of the NSAB. By this point Board members need to be confident that the priorities contained within the plan are reflective of the views of key stakeholder groups and the wider public.

**Why do we want to find it out?**

The Care Act sets out the below duty for the Board to consult with the community in developing this plan.

“It must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the local Healthwatch organisation. The plan should be evidence based and make use of all available evidence and intelligence from partners to form and develop its plan.”

In addition to the statutory duty to consult, Board members understand that the Strategic Annual Plan is going to work most effectively if it is reflective of the views of key stakeholder groups and the wider public. Safeguarding adults is everyone’s responsibility and public engagement in shaping strategic priorities will enable the NSAB to promote awareness of the mechanisms in place to support adults who may be at risk of abuse.

**What do we already know?**

From the consultation exercises undertaken previously by the Board we understand that levels of awareness in relation to safeguarding adults is generally low. People tend to be unfamiliar with the options available for support if they are concerned that either themselves or a member of their family or community is at risk of abuse or neglect. With this in mind, the consultation exercises also need to explain what safeguarding adults is and the role of the multi-agency partnership. Consultation exercises therefore provide an opportunity to raise awareness.

**Who do we need to ask?**

The Care Act (2014) states that we need to engage and consult with the local community in preparing our SAP. Local community groups that should be engaged in the process should include:

* advocacy groups
* disability groups and relevant voluntary organisations
* other Boards and partnerships, especially those without representation on the SAB.

Through the multi-agency partnership the Board have access to numerous stakeholder groups who would be able to participate in the consultation process. In particular, these groups include people with a learning disability, mental health needs, older people and people with a physical disability or sensory impairment. However, as well as these groups the NSAB will also look to host broader public engagement which will be facilitate by the Let’s Talk tool and in particular the survey element contained within this tool.

The NSAB has developed three questions which will form the core question set of the consultation.

1. What are the top three priorities you think the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board should be concentrating on next year?
2. What are your main concerns about safeguarding adults in Newcastle?
3. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about keeping adults at risk safe in Newcastle?

**What’s the best way to ask them?**

The method of consultation will be dependent on the needs of the consultation audience. The NSAB has developed a set of resources which can be used to help facilitate this consultation, including an Easy Read Guide to safeguarding adults. The broader public consultation will require utilisation of the Let’s Talk Newcastle survey.

**How are we going to tell people about it?**

We aim to offer face to face meetings with key client groups and forums across multi agency partners, during which we can explore the work of the Board and talk to people about the areas they think we need to focus on.

We aim to advertise the Let’s Talk survey via a link on the Newcastle City Council Facebook page. This link will also be circulated to multi agency partners to share via their social media platforms.

Stakeholder groups and members of the community can be kept up to date more generally with the work of the Board via summary minutes of each Board meeting which are published on the website and via the NSAB 2018-19 annual report which is a public document.

**What are we going to do with what we find out?**

The NSAB will use the information learnt via the consultation to shape the Boards key strategic priorities for 2020-2021. The consultation will also act as an indicator of the general level of public familiarity with safeguarding adults and the role and existence of the Safeguarding Adults Board. Findings may need to influence the Board’s communication strategy for 2020-21.

**Safeguarding within the consultation**

If any safeguarding concerns arise during the course of the consultation, or through information supplied by members of the public during the consultation process then these concerns will be raised via the NSAB multi-agency policy and procedures. This will be made clear to participants prior to the commencement of the consultation. Information shared by participants will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998), the Data Protection Act (2018) and General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).