

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO-HOLDER:

DATE: 28th May 2019

REPORT OF: Rebecca Hewitt

SUBJECT: Safeguarding

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to note this report.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the work delivered in relation to Safeguarding.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff who have direct or indirect contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults in the course of their work, or who have access to information about them, have a responsibility to protect them from abuse and neglect. The phrase '*children, young people and vulnerable adults*' refers to:

- Anyone under the age of 18 years;
- Someone who is over the age of 18 who is, or may be in need of community care services by reasons of mental health or other disability, age or illness and is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

2.2 The following legislation relates to Safeguarding and the role of District Councils.

- The Care Act 2014
- The Children Act 2004, specifically Section 11
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Terrorism Act 2000

2.3 Rebecca Hewitt is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Barry Seager is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and they manage the safeguarding

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case load for the Authority. Some cases are initially managed within specific services such as Housing and liaison takes place with Safeguarding team.

- 2.4 Human Resources has a role in ensuring Teignbridge is compliant with certain legislation and guidance. This relates to ensuring that staff have the required level of Safeguarding training and that those staff who are required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check have done so. There is also a link to Human Resources if there is a safeguarding concern for a member of our staff.
- 2.5 Across Teignbridge departments there are a number of individual officers who have been assigned as Safeguarding Ambassadors for their service. They have been given some additional training in key risk areas such as Child protection, mental health/capacity and dementia, Prevent, modern slavery, domestic violence and abuse and exploitation. The role of that Ambassador is to notice a concern, check the facts and then share with the Safeguarding Team and a manager in their own service.

3. AUDIT

- 3.1 In August 2018 Teignbridge Internal Audit completed a review of the Safeguarding Service over 2017 – 18. The report concluded that based on the findings of the review, the processes in place to manage safeguarding were generally sound and the key risks well managed. The audit assurance opinion was therefore classed as good.
- 3.2 A detailed Observations and Recommendations Summary was produced and recommendations and actions have been agreed with relevant managers and are being addressed.

4. CASE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The service offers guidance to all departments on cases but also manage the more complex cases. This may mean gathering information and passing referrals onto other agencies such as Social Care or the Police. 45 cases were managed in 2017, 33 in 2018 and 12 so far in 2019.
- 4.2 The initial referral into the team comes from a variety of sources but the most common are from Revenue and Benefits, Housing, Environmental Health and from external calls where members of the public are concerned about someone's welfare.
- 4.3 Cases are often complex and can involve a number of internal and external services. The types of concern raised include risk of suicide, someone being neglected, mental health concerns, domestic abuse and exploitation.

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5. INTERVENTION WORK

- 5.1 Concern was raised over the cases that were being referred due to risk of suicide. Work was undertaken with the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to raise awareness of suicide and promote suicide prevention. The CSP commissioned Action to Prevent Suicide to deliver a number of Suicide Intervention sessions for partner agencies. 345 attended the briefings from a total of 82 different agencies and 86 Teignbridge staff. SafeTALK suicide alertness session sessions were also delivered in partnership with the CSP and Rotary Club and 78 attended the training.
- 5.2 Teignbridge led work across Devon to produce a Safeguarding toolkit for those planning to hold events. Its aim is to get organisers to consider any safeguarding risks and encourage them to take action to reduce that risk.

6. EXTERNAL LINKS

- 6.1 Rebecca Hewitt is a member of the Devon Safeguarding Officers Group. This group meets quarterly and is made up of the Designated Safeguarding Lead for each local authority. This group also acts as a liaison point for the Devon Childrens and Families Partnership and the Devon Adult Safeguarding Board.

7. GROUPS TO BE CONSULTED

None

8. WITNESSES TO BE CALLED

None

9. TIME-SCALE

To be reviewed annually by Overview and Scrutiny.

10.0 CONCLUSION

This report summarises the work of the Safeguarding Team over the past twelve months.

Rebecca Hewitt
Community Safety and Safeguarding
Manager

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	Rebecca Hewitt 01626 215873
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	N
Key Decision	N
In Forward Plan	N
In O&S Work Programme	Y
Community Impact Assessment attached:	Y / N N/A