

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager's Blog

October 2017

Mapping Adult Safeguarding for Norfolk

The blog is back. The eagle eyed of you will have noticed a bit of a gap since the last blog in July. August and September have seen a number of big pieces of work all completed in quick succession – the awareness week (including a conference attended by 230 delegates from 90 organisations), publication of the annual report and the board development day, which looks at a new strategic plan - more of which later.

After a couple of days walking in the Peak District (which I would highly recommend) and the car packed ready to go, I was studying the map for the return journey route. This is a journey I have made a good number of times before, but I can never remember whether it's better to go around Mansfield to pick up the A1 at Newark or around Nottingham, Grantham, the A52 to the A17?

Once I was safely on the 'joyous' A17 / A47 back into Norfolk I was thinking about maps as a tool to get from A to B. According to nationalgeographic.org website, a map *'is a symbolic representation of selected characteristics of a place, usually drawn on a flat surface. Maps present information about the world in a simple, visual way'*.

This is useful way to think about Norfolk Safeguarding Adults board's (NSAB) strategy plan – a document which sets out the map of important safeguarding issues and how these are going to be addressed (the direction of travel). In fact having a strategic plan is one of the must-dos for a safeguarding adults board (SAB). It should *'address both short and longer-term actions and it must set out how it will help adults in its area and what actions each member of the SAB will take to deliver the strategic plan and protect better'* (14.152 statutory guidance).

The strategic plan has two main purposes. It must:

- 1) set out the actions required by the SAB and each of its member agencies to implement the strategy, including timetables and
- 2) inform the local community and all interested parties, including practitioners, about the work programme of the SAB (this work being, how

the SAB will seek to prevent abuse and neglect and how it will help and protect people with care and support needs at risk of abuse and neglect)

Norfolk's current plan used as its framework the six principles as set out in the Care Act statutory guidance. And while it might not be on the top of everyone's reading list, it is a document which informs everything we do and perhaps needs to be read and critiqued more widely by partners.

Much of the recent NSAB development day was spent thinking, talking and generating ideas needed to create our new strategy plan (or roadmap). Not forgetting that the essence of [a good] strategy is choosing what not to do, the key points for NSAB's next strategic plan are:

- ❖ the need to take a greater leadership role for safeguarding adults across the 'system' and prioritise issues, which would enable subgroups to understand the key areas of work to focus on
- ❖ the need to make greater use of intelligence and research (these were recurring themes across the day). For example, the development of 'heat maps' was mentioned to help identify emerging risks (such as financial scamming or hate crime) and to enable those particular geographical areas and communities to be focused on.
- ❖ It was suggested also that the adult board works closely with the children's board since there are many overlaps; it would cut out some duplication and many of those who sit on children's subgroups/panels also sit in adults' groups too.

What next? A small Task and Finish group is to meet and pull together this material into a new draft which will include a range of suggested priorities, including:

- ❖ Strengthening data collection and analysis to understand demand and communities in order to direct responses
- ❖ Social inclusion & isolation (route to a number of vulnerabilities)
- ❖ Building our response to adult abuse around
 - prevention (stopping abuse from happening) *proactive work across the partnerships and agencies before abuse occurs*
 - managing abuse concerns

how do agencies respond and manage safeguarding concerns, the day-to-day work of safeguarding adults / support agencies' safeguarding work

- responding to abuse concerns
how do we learn and improve from managing cases of abuse

- ❖ 'Building the foundations' – a review of structure / governance to strengthen accountability of partners, partnership responsibilities including learning from SARs, 'Setting the Scene' – collating data/stats to show landscape leading to a clear strategy & operational plan to deliver

I will let you know when our new plan is published.

Walter Lloyd-Smith

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

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