SAFEGUARDING 2022/3

The ICB, along with the Police and Local Authority are the three statutory partners for adult and children’s safeguarding. The partnership approach is pivotal to achieving effective safeguarding – which is delivered in a fully integrated arrangement which reflects the ICS model as articulated in the recent Hewitt Report. For the ICB our partnership with NHS Trusts in ensuring people are safeguarded in health services is pivotal. The governance arrangements continue to be overseen by the independent chairs for Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire and NHSE consistently rate the safeguarding arrangements as “mature.”

In the last year we have focused upon enhancing the safeguarding dashboards that are produced by our NHS Trusts. These provide detailed evidence around key activity to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs. There have been considerable developments in ensuring that workforce training is robust, that specialist safeguarding supervision is taking place and audits are helping demonstrate improvements such as how the Mental Capacity Act is used to both empower and protect people.

The ICB has worked as part of both locality statutory safeguarding partnership on several key priority areas including: Domestic Abuse – Safer communities/crime – Child Exploitation – Self neglect – Channel which oversees work with vulnerable people to prevent them getting involved in extremism.

Within children’s safeguarding the Independent Inquiry Telford Child Sexual Exploitation (IITCSE) was published in July 2022 and the ICB is working with all partners to implement the recommendations in full via a dedicated health subgroup, led by the Director of Quality and Safety/Deputy Chief Nursing. This includes a Primary Care self-assessment audit.

Last year this report identified two overarching areas of activity; [1] preparation for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards – the ICS continue to lead the system wide implementation group and ensured a coordinated response to the draft Code. All partners are producing action plans to aid preparations whilst we await the delayed Government response to the consultation and confirmation of resources. [2] There has been a comprehensive audit of the ICB’s safeguarding activity, including a re-audit of safeguarding. All actions are now closed, and evidence of full compliance is in place.

A key feature of the safeguarding work this year has been a series of quality assurance visits. These have highlighted some good work and how vital priorities in the following areas are being addressed:

* MCA and DOLS compliance
* Person centred engagement when safeguarding adults and children.
* Supporting children at risk of exploitation
* Working with the Police when there are concerns about a person’s welfare.
* Ensuring staff are receiving training, support and supervision.

Some of the priorities for next year include:

* Work to prepare for the Liberty Protection Safeguards
* Support for those who may be experiencing domestic abuse.
* Working with children at risk of exploitation
* The new partnership duty to better understand and reduce serious violence.

There are also plans in place to strengthen the resource within the children’s safeguarding team.