

## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 18 April 2024**

### **Development of the Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Review the new multi-agency arrangements for adult safeguarding and the development of an adults' MASH.

#### **Local Member Interest:**

N/A

#### **Report of the Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care.**

### **Summary**

#### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

1. We are asking for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the new multi-agency arrangements for adult safeguarding and the development of an adults' MASH.

### **Report**

#### **Background**

2. The Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team has been based within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) since 2011. The MASH was originally set up as joint arrangement for both children and adults by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council, along with police, the NHS, and more latterly the probation service.
3. There have been a number of reviews and changes to the way the MASH functioned, with a significant review precipitated by the decision by Stoke on Trent City Council's children's services to leave the MASH in 2019.

This review was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as improvement to adults' safeguarding procedures.

4. In February 2023 it was agreed that there would be separate MASH arrangements for Staffordshire and for Stoke on Trent and for children and adults. The Police have separated their children's and adults' safeguarding functions and structures.

### **New Arrangements**

5. Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team will remain co-located with Staffordshire Police at Lindum House as part of a Staffordshire adults' MASH. This also remains the base for Staffordshire children's MASH. This will ensure that links between adults' and children's social care are maintained.
6. The Adult Safeguarding Enquiry Team (ASET) who are responsible for completing high risk enquiries and jointly with Staffordshire Police will also be moving to Lindum House from their current base of Staffordshire Police Headquarters. This will mean that all specialist adult safeguarding functions for adult social care and the Police will be co-located.
7. There will be two dedicated Staffordshire adults' MASH police sergeants who will link with the police adult investigation team. This will ensure that adult safeguarding is accorded sufficient priority and resources and that there are contingencies in place against any absences from the policing team.
8. We will continue to use the Information Sharing Log (ISL) to share information between partners and will still be able to request information from children's social care and NHS colleagues through this system. This also gives an audit trail as to what information has been shared between partners.
9. Joint training will be completed to improve knowledge, understanding and skills of social care, police, and other colleagues. This will upskill staff and help to develop multi-agency relationships.
10. Moving forward we will be able to engage and bring in other services, such as housing, drug and alcohol services that are relevant to adult safeguarding.

### **Governance**

11. An Adult MASH Strategic Group has been established to monitor the effectiveness of the arrangements. Performance will be monitored, and

future developments discussed. Outcomes of multi-agency audits will also be fed into this group and any areas of risk identified and actions agreed to address these.

12. Within the Council performance will be monitored through the Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Quality and Performance group. The timeliness of response to safeguarding concerns is also reported to corporate Senior Leadership Team monthly and Cabinet quarterly. We would be happy to provide performance updates and further reviews of the new arrangements to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

13. Encourage good health wellbeing, resilience, and independence.

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

14. N/A

### **Community Impact**

15. N/A

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

16. N/A

### **Contact Details**

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