

# **ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

20 March 2025

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Gary Allen (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Bob Buchan, Ged Hall, Sue Little, and Aaron Roy

Scott Gaiety, Headland Parish Council

### **Also present:**

Councillor M Jorgeson

Adrian Green, Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board

Officers: Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services  
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

### **21. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fiona Cook.

### **22. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **23. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2024**

Received.

## **24. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24** *(Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To present to the Adult and Community Services Based Committee the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services informed the Committee that it is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 that each Local Authority has a Safeguarding Adults Board to promote co-operation and consistency in relation to safeguarding adults. Hartlepool Borough Council discharges this responsibility through the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) along with the other three Tees Local Authorities.. It was a requirement of the Care Act that the Board published an annual report and the report for 2023/24 was attached at Appendix 1. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that one of the key benefits of working on a Teeswide basis enabled the sharing of information and learning across the whole of the Tees area.

The Independent Chair of the TSAB presented the Board's annual report which included the agreed priorities of the Board and detailed updates on what the partnership had achieved together with the continued efforts to improve the safety of people with care and support needs whilst preventing emerging issues across the Tees area. The report included detailed and comprehensive safeguarding data along with the communication and engagement activity undertaken by the Board, including an annual survey. It was noted that the Board provided multi-agency training designed to supplement single agency training provision alongside commissioning additional courses where appropriate.

The key priorities of the TSAB were as follows:

- Joint Working: We will develop a whole system approach to safeguarding adults which is responsive to individuals' needs, views and wishes.
- People: We will ensure the workforce is well trained, supported and equipped to safeguard the most vulnerable people within our communities
- Communication: We will provide accessible and clear information, advice and support that helps people to understand what abuse is, how to prevent abuse from happening, how to seek help and how to engage with the work of the Board.

- Services: Services are commissioned and provided by our partners to meet the individual needs of adults who are most at risk of abuse or neglect.

The report included detailed information on four Safeguarding Adult Review notifications that had been received in 2023/24 from across the Tees area, with three being progressed to Safeguarding Adult Reviews and one deferred pending a review under a different framework: Learning from lives and deaths - people with a learning disability and autistic people.

In response to a question from a Member, the Independent Chair of TSAB indicated that data could be sourced from Cleveland Police on incidents where criminal prosecutions were undertaken as part of the safeguarding adult process.

A lengthy discussion took place on the process for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which was undertaken under The Mental Capacity Act 2005. In relation to the implementation of DoLS in residential care homes, the Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services confirmed that this would be regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), but that the Council worked provided information and advice to care providers on this issue. It was noted that a DoLS was specific to an individual with relevant conditions in place where appropriate and were reviewed at frequent intervals. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services added that support is provided by an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate or Relevant Person's Representative where required.

In response to a number of questions, the Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services confirmed that whistleblowing concerns were followed up and information and lessons learned shared between the Local Authority, Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board and the Care Quality Commission.

It was noted that Safeguarding Champions played a vital role in supporting colleagues and being the voice across their individual organisations. The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services added that Safeguarding Champions were an effective way of involving partners who did not necessarily deal with safeguarding as a core part of their organisation's business, such as retail outlets, community and voluntary sector and banking establishments.

The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services informed Members that the Safe Place Scheme originated in Hartlepool many years ago and was originally aimed at supporting people with learning disabilities. Due to the success of this scheme, it had now been broadened to include people living with dementia and was being looked at for implementation across the Tees Valley.

Members wished to pass on their gratitude to the Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services and the Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services for their continued hard work and commitment to the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs in Hartlepool alongside the TSAB.

### **Decision**

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24 was noted and endorsed.

## **25. Conservation Area Management Plans** *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with the opportunity to consider the appraisal elements of the two Conservation Area Management Plans that were developed with the support of funding from Historic England's Capacity Building Grant Scheme and approved on 7 November 2024. This was in response to an action from Extraordinary Council on 28 November 2024.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services presented the report highlighting that the Conservation Area Management Plans – Appraisal documents were available on the Council's website as part of the agenda documentation as they were too large to be printed or circulated. The report noted that the Committee had previously proposed to introduce a Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) to provide those scrutinising conservation issues with independent views and comments. Previous national planning policy had suggested that these committees should consist 'mainly of people who were not members of the authority and local residential and business interests should be fully represented. In addition, it was suggested that groups such as local historical, civic and amenity societies and local chambers of commerce' should be invited to be involved.

In 2005, a CAAC was established in Hartlepool with the remit of commenting on strategic conservation issues within the borough and further details of this was included in the report. The terms of reference of the reintroduced CAAC, including the membership, was currently being developed and advice was being sought from Historic England on the creation of this type of advisory panel elsewhere. It was the aim to have an Advisory Committee that was co-produced with local community

involvement and would provide context on conservation and risk and the challenges faced within Conservation areas. It was hoped that an initial meeting would be convened early in the new municipal year.

A Ward Member for Seaton suggested that as Seaton does not have a parish council, a representative from Seaton should be sought to be within the membership in the CAAC. In response to a number of questions on the role and remit of the Advisory Committee, the Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services noted that there were a number of legal and policy elements to be upheld within conservation areas and emphasised the importance of working with residents and businesses on a localised basis. In relation to alternative materials, it was hoped that the advisory group would look at gaining more of an understanding around materials as there was limited alternatives available and Members were reassured that Officer advice was always consistent.

The Chair informed Members that a request had been received to reschedule the consideration of this report, however it was noted that the Conservation Area Management Plans that had been previously approved were robust and further discussion on the issues contained within the Plans would be undertaken through the Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

### **Decision**

- (i) The appraisal elements of the Conservation Area Management Plans were considered and noted.
- (ii) The proposal to restart the Conservation Area Advisory Committee was noted.

## **26. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 11.35am

**H MARTIN**

**DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

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