



Date	1st February 2023
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SUBJECT	Annual Safeguarding Review
STATUS	Review

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Key's Board with an overview of safeguarding incidents across Key's services over the last year as well as reporting on whether safeguarding training is up to date

Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the contents of this report

Summary

- 3.1 The safeguarding incident reporting process was updated during 2020, to ensure that safeguarding concerns are recorded and signed off by a manager. This provides evidence of the decision making process including where the decision is made not to refer on to statutory services. Each incident needs timely sign off by a manager. A new KPI has been set to monitor performance against this- The % of safeguarding incident reports completed within a 24 hour time scale with a target of 90%- during 2022 97 % of safeguarding concerns met this target. During 2022 the Refuges and Homelessness Schemes have also adopted this way of working. The table below shows the number of safeguarding incidents recorded during 2021. There has been an overall increase of safeguarding concerns this year when compared to last year increasing from 105 to 151. Most of this increase relates to the Emotional Health and Wellbeing contract.

Service Area	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022
January to December			
Emotional Health & Wellbeing	32	19	62
Counselling Commissioned Schools	-	29	28
Drop In	36	50	41
Homeless Schemes	-	5	9
Refuges	-	0	6
DV outreach			4
Other	3	2	1
Total	71	105	151

3.2 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service

Over the last year 62 (44 individuals) safeguarding incident reports have been completed by the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service a significant rise from the 19 the year before. These have been raised for a range of reasons and are shown in the table below:

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Suicidal ideation	14	Sexual Abuse	1
Bullying	9	Physical abuse	12
Neglect	4	Emotional abuse	11
Self-harm	7	Other	30

Of particular note is the rise in incidents relating to suicidal ideation from one last year to 14 (11 young people) this year.

As well as internal management sign off this is also reviewed for each incident by a Deputy Director at Child Action North West and then again at audits with Child Action North West. There is agreement that appropriate actions are being taken to keep children safe including speaking to school safeguarding leads, Child Adolescent and Mental Health Services, Social Workers etc. Key will be involved in a small working group at Child Action North West to see if any further improvements can be made to current working practices.

Schools Counselling

There have been 28 (19 individuals) safeguarding concerns reported in Key's work in schools who have directly commissioned us. The concerns fall into the following areas:

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Suicidal ideation	3	Emotional abuse	3
Neglect	2	Sexual abuse	1
Self-harm	16	Other	5
Physical abuse	0		

The majority (17) of these relate to work in one high school which is a Pupil Referral Unit. The recurrent theme is of young ladies self-harming and for some cases there are recurrent incident reporting forms for an individual.

Of the 5 across Key where we didn't meet the KPI target, 3 where from this area of work and relate to one staff member who worked one day a week for Key. He seemed to have misunderstood the process. He is no longer working for Key.

3.3 Drop In

Drop-in 41 cases (35 individuals)

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Homelessness	29	Emotional Abuse	8
Suicidal ideation	1	Physical Abuse	5
Neglect	1	Other	4
At risk of homelessness			4

For Drop In cases all but one of the cases relates to 16 and 17 year olds who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness, in most cases the other areas of concern such as emotional abuse sit alongside the homelessness/ risk of homelessness. In most cases the young people are referred for CSC assessment or are already open to services. Where this is not the case appropriate reasons for not doing so are recorded for example they have been able to return home or approaching their 18th birthday are safe for now and don't want CSC intervention.

Homelessness Schemes

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Suicidal ideation	4	Emotional abuse	1
Self-harm	2	Sexual Abuse	2
Other	1		

There have been 9 safeguarding alerts over the last year relating to 8 individuals. These alerts are no integrated into Key's systems and timely decision making is evident, all cases have complied with Key's KPI. Most cases have related to suicidal ideation or self-harm and support has been given both within the scheme and where appropriate supporting people to access statutory services such as mental health crisis teams. Social workers have also been updated where relevant. The Emotional Wellbeing Coach is now in post at the young people's schemes and it is hoped that their input will build resilience and support a reduction in mental distress.

3.4 Refuge

There have been 6 safeguarding incident forms competed (3 individuals).

Safeguarding concerns are relatively few in number in this setting with people living in a place of safety.

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Suicidal ideation	4	Family not coping	
Witnessing DV		Physical abuse	
Neglect		Emotional abuse	
Self-harm	1	Other (criminality)	1

Cases are being dealt with appropriately and information is shared with statutory partners as appropriate.

Outreach

There have been 4 safeguarding incident forms completed (4 individuals)

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Suicidal ideation	0	Other	1
Witnessing DV	0	Physical abuse	1
Neglect	0	Emotional abuse	2
Self-harm	0	Bullying	1

Cases have been dealt with appropriately and has involved working with statutory partners.

Other Services

Critical tenancy 1

Reason	Number	Reason	Number
Suicidal ideation		Family not coping	
Witnessing DV		Physical abuse	
Neglect		Emotional abuse	
Other	1		

Training and Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS)

All team members are up to date with their mandatory safeguarding training and all staff have a suitable DBS in place

Conclusion

Work during the year has been positive with strong performance against the new KPI. Further work will take place this year to ensure that safeguarding remains at the forefront of people's minds. A piece of work is underway to ensure all team members have undertaken/ refreshed suicide awareness training so that everyone feels confident if someone shares that they are thinking of taking their own life. Safeguarding will remain high on Key's agenda to ensure that cases are recorded and actioned appropriately.

Impacts and issues

- 4.1 The system ensures that staff receive timely and documented support where they have concerns around safeguarding. This improves the quality of decision making but requires significant management input.
- 4.2 The system is only as good as the people using it. It is important to continue to have conversations at all levels of the organisations to ensure that staff pick up relevant concerns. Key's team are receiving additional safeguarding training to further increase their awareness/ knowledge.

Background information and appendices

5.1

Report lead	
Name	Ursula Patten
Title	Director of Key
Email	ursulap@keycharity.org.uk
Presented by	Ursula Patten