

Safeguarding Adults Boards and Prisons/Approved Premises

Purpose

This 10 point guidance is intended as quick reference guide for Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards in their work with prisons and approved premises. Whilst prisons and approved premises fall outside of the legal responsibilities of SABs, the purpose of this guidance is to encourage active and ongoing engagement between SABs and prisons. It draws on previous work led by Greenwich SAB on behalf of the London Region. More detail can be found in references listed at the end of this document, including good practice examples from SABs.

Introduction

The primary responsibility for prisoner welfare rests with the prison Governor or the HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). Under the Care Act 2014, prisons and approved premises have responsibility for safeguarding prisoners with needs of care and support. Prison governors and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) may ask for advice from the Local Authority when faced with a safeguarding issue that they are finding particularly challenging.

The National Offender Management Service PSI 16/2015 on Adult Safeguarding within Prisons was issued in 2015. The aim of this policy is to ensure that all adult prisoners (aged 18 or over) are protected from abuse and neglect. It describes the processes that prisons must put in place to ensure that prisoners receive a level of protection that is equivalent to that provided to adults in the community with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect. **It encourages Governors to engage with local authority Safeguarding Adults Boards.**

Prisons and approved premises fall outside of the legal responsibilities of Safeguarding Adults Boards. However, the Care Act statutory guidance (chapter 17) states prison and probation staff should be invited to join Safeguarding Adult Boards so that SABs “can act as a forum for members to exchange advice and expertise to assist prison and probation staff in ensuring that all people in custodial settings are safeguarded”.

Safeguarding Adults Boards can also seek assurance from the local authority regarding their legal obligations. Local Authorities should follow the safeguarding policies and procedures of custodial settings in their area and work with prison and approved premises staff to ensure that all people in custodial settings are safeguarded. Local Authority and care provider staff must understand what to do where they have a concern about abuse and neglect of an adult in custody.

10 key points for effective collaboration between SABs and prisons:

1. Engage with prison governors and agree a representative to attend the board – Governor/Deputy Governor/Safer Custody Lead etc.
2. Understand how people in prison are provided with healthcare, how care and support needs are assessed, how care is commissioned and provided and monitor and discuss these arrangements at the Board, identifying any issues
3. Engage with the regional HMPPS Lead (Health & Wellbeing and Social Care)
4. Support the development of memorandum of understanding/good practice guidance, on areas such as transfers for hospital care.
5. Collaborate on the development and implementation of robust multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures that ensure a level of protection for prisoners equivalent to that provided in the community.
6. Engage with colleagues in the children's partnership regarding overlapping issues e.g., children visiting adults in prison
7. Make SAB agendas relevant for prisons – ask prisons to present the findings from inspection reports
8. Collaborate to develop training materials to support prisons
9. Include prisons in contributing to and participating in Annual Conferences, safeguarding adults month etc.
10. Ensure prisons are referenced in the Annual Report

References:

<https://www.iowsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Guidance-on-Safeguarding-in-Prisons-and-Approved-Premises.pdf>

<https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/assets/documents/NSAB-FRAMEWK-for-SG-in-PRISONAPPROVED-PREMISESDRAFT-FINAL-4-v2.pdf>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f21d7d6d3bf71b17facd6c/psi-16-2015-adult-safeguarding-in-prisons.pdf>

<https://www.surreysab.org.uk/professionals/ssab-policies-and-procedures/#accordion-irypj0>