



<b>Date</b>	<b>7th February 2024</b>
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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Annual Safeguarding Review
<b>STATUS</b>	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-

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Year 2020</b>	<b>Year 2021</b>	<b>Year 2022</b>	<b>Year 2023</b>
January to December				
Emotional Health & Wellbeing	32	19	62	81
Counselling Commissioned Schools	-	29	28	7
Drop In	36	50	41	44
Homeless Schemes	-	5	9	11
Refuges	-	0	6	3
DV outreach			4	0
Other	3	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>149</b>

The % of safeguarding incident reports completed within a 24 hour time scale have a target of 90%. During 2023 98.7 % of safeguarding concerns met this target. The table above shows the number of safeguarding incidents recorded during 2023 with comparisons to previous years. There has been a slight reduction in safeguarding concerns this year when compared to last year decreasing from 151 to 149.

### 3.2 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service

Over the last year 81 (70 individuals) safeguarding incident reports have been completed by the Emotional Health and Wellbeing team, there has been a sustained increase in alerts year on year in this service. Rises are seen specifically in suicidal ideation and self harm. Further work is taking place as a partnership to consider best practice in safety planning for self harm and an agreed approach to safety planning for suicidal ideation is already in place.

Reason	Number		Reason	Number	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Suicidal ideation	14	24	Sexual Abuse	1	3
Bullying	9	7	Physical abuse	12	11
Neglect	4	2	Emotional abuse	11	12
Self-harm	7	22	Other	30	30

#### Schools Counselling

There have been 7 (6 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	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Suicidal ideation	3	5	Emotional abuse	3	0
Neglect	2	0	Sexual abuse	1	0
Self-harm	16	3	Other	5	2
Physical abuse	0	0			

There is a significant reduction when compared to last year. This relates to us no longer providing counselling at one high school which accounted for the majority of the alerts last year. We chose not to renew this contract as the school had failed to work in partnership with regard to safeguarding issues despite Key raising our concerns on a number of occasions. It was felt that this was putting our counsellors in an unfair position.

### 3.3 Drop In

Drop-in 44 cases (32 individuals)

Reason	Number		Reason	Number	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Homelessness	29	24	Emotional Abuse	8	13
Suicidal ideation	1	9	Physical Abuse	5	11
Neglect	1	4	Other	4	13

When reviewing the cases from drop in there has been a rise in the number of young people presenting with more than one safeguarding concern. The main presenting factor is still their homelessness but many are also reporting domestic abuse, physical and emotional abuse. Some of the safeguarding alerts around emotional distress and suicidal ideation are from young people who are well known to the service and feel comfortable disclosing to staff.

We continue to experience difficulties with Children Social Care's (CSC's) thresholds for homeless 16/17 year olds. CSC will only accept referrals where there is an immediate risk of significant harm and they don't deem homelessness to be such despite the case law that states otherwise. The 16/17 Homelessness Protocol is due for review but this keeps getting delayed. MASH robustly put the onus back on parents to find alternative accommodation for their 16/17 year olds. Drop In staff work very closely with young people and their families to find a suitable outcome.

### Homelessness Schemes

Homeless Schemes 11 cases (10 individuals) more than 1 type of safeguarding issue reported for some cases

Reason	Number		Reason	Number	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Suicidal ideation	4	2	Emotional abuse	1	0
Self-harm	2	2	Sexual Abuse	2	1
Other	1	8	Bullying	0	1

There have been 11 safeguarding alerts over the last year relating to 10 individuals. Of the incidents above three relate to threats to tenants from people who do not live in the schemes and three relate to an incident in the community where young people got involved in drug taking with older strangers they met in the community. This was a serious incident where they witnessed a death due to an overdose. The safeguarding reporting shows timely decision making and staff at the scheme appropriately involving other agencies such as the police and children's social care.

### 3.4 Refuge

There have been 3 safeguarding incident forms completed (3 individuals). Safeguarding concerns are relatively few in number in this setting with people living in a place of safety. Cases are being dealt with appropriately and information is shared with statutory partners as appropriate.

Reason	Number		Reason	Number	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Suicidal ideation	4	2	Family not coping	0	0
Witnessing DV	0	0	Physical abuse	0	0
Neglect	0	0	Emotional abuse	0	0
Self-harm	1	0	Other	1	1

### Outreach

There have been 0 safeguarding incident forms completed

Reason	Number		Reason	Number	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Suicidal ideation	0	0	Other	1	0

Witnessing DV	0	0	Physical abuse	1	0
Neglect	0	0	Emotional abuse	2	0
Self-harm	0	0	Bullying	1	0

After discussions with the team manager for this service, it is felt that there has been underreporting of safeguarding alerts in this area of work. This is due to a different understanding of when an internal alert should be completed. Many of the cases are considered low or medium risk and are separated from the perpetrator. In many cases, a multiagency response is already in place. If the risk increases, then they are supported to move to Independent Domestic Violence Associates (IDVA) services. This wouldn't usually require a referral for example, to Children's Social Care as commonly they are already in place or have been referred via the Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH) process when police have attended an incident. However, this increase in risk that has necessitated a referral for IDVA services or for a hearing at (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) MARAC and should be recorded as an internal safeguarding alert to acknowledge this escalating risk. Further work is required with this team to ensure that internal alerts are recorded as appropriate. In all cases discussed appropriate action has been taken to keep the client safe but this is difficult to extract as information is in case notes rather than on safeguarding alerts. It is anticipated that safeguarding alerts will increase in this area of work going forwards.

### Other Services

Other Services (Tenancy Support 3)

Reason	Number		Reason	Number	
	2022	2023		2022	2023
Suicidal ideation	0	1	Family not coping	0	0
Witnessing DV	0	0	Physical abuse	0	0
Neglect	0	0	Emotional abuse	0	0
Other	1	1	Sexual Abuse	0	1

### Monitoring information (within 24hrs)

Project	Cases	Compliant	Non-compliant	Reason for non-compliance
Drop-in	44	43	1	CM reported that she was in back-to-back meetings and did not get the time to do it
EHWB	81	81	0	
Schools Counselling	7	7	0	
Homelessness	11	10	0	
Refuge	3	2	1	Incident happened on a Sat and it was actioned on Monday morning
DV Outreach	0			
Other	3	3	0	

- Both non compliant incidents happened in the first quarter of 2023 and are therefore not shown in the current financial years KPI's.

## **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	
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