

Meeting of Executive Members for Housing and Adult Social Services and Advisory Panel

11th September 2006

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services **Adult Protection Committee Annual Report**

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Executive Members of the work of the Adult Protection Committee for City of York and North Yorkshire as set out in its third annual report.

Background

2. The Adult Protection Committee was set up in 2003 to respond to the requirements of Department of Health guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policy and procedures for the protection of vulnerable adults against abuse. The title given for this initiative was "No Secrets". The initiative arose from growing awareness of the need to have clear and immediate action across social services, the NHS and the Police to tackle incidents of abuse against adults and older people to match those required for the protection of children. However, Adult protection arrangements differ from those to protect children and there is still no statutory requirement to have a committee.
3. From the outset it was agreed that City of York and North Yorkshire County Council would collaborate to set up the same policies and procedures so that there could be seamless working with the NHS and the Police across local authority boundaries. Thus the committee covers the whole of both local authority areas and has one half time co-ordinator to support its work. In addition, in each PCT area there is a Local Adult Protection Group (LAPG) which is responsible for the more detailed implementation, monitoring and development and for maintaining and improving local networks to tackle abuse.
4. Adult protection procedures apply to any vulnerable person over the age of 18 who may be unable to look after him or herself and/or be unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. It therefore includes people who:
 - are elderly;
 - are physically or mentally frail;
 - suffer from a mental illness including dementia;
 - have a physical or sensory disability;
 - have learning disabilities;
 - have a severe physical illness
5. "Abuse" is defined in the widest sense of the word so that it includes:

- **physical abuse**, including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions;
- **sexual abuse**, including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable person has not consented, or could not consent, or was pressurised into consenting;
- **psychological abuse**, including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks;
- **financial or material abuse**, including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits;
- **neglect and acts of omission**, including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating; and
- **discriminatory abuse**, including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Consultation

6. The report is primarily for information. Comments have been received from members of the multi-agency panel in the preparation of the report.

Options

7. Members can provide comments on the annual report or merely note its contents.

Analysis

Key Issues in the Annual Report

8. Comments are invited on the whole report but the following issues are highlighted for noting:
 - There is improved data available on the number and type of abuse cases reported for investigation. Across the whole area about 60-70 cases are being investigated per quarter with about 18 of these in the York and Selby area. Abuse was substantiated in just over a quarter of the cases.
 - Physical abuse is suspected in 50% of cases and the vast majority of allegations (86%) concern abuse in the person's own home or in a residential setting.

- Across the area as a whole most abuse concerns older people (68%). That proportion is lower in York/Selby but largely due to a high number of reported cases concerning people with learning disabilities in one quarter of 2005 (which may be due to an aggregation of cases being logged at one time).
- The data enables us to compare our area against national and regional benchmarks and as it continues to be refined we will be able to use it more to plan preventative work.
- The APC has been in existence now for over 3 years and it is an appropriate time to take stock. The foundations and building blocks are in place for an effective system but we need to strengthen our links to other strategic bodies and also consider how adult protection fits within Local Strategic Partnerships (and Local Area Agreements), neighbourhood safety initiatives and the work to improve the general well being of adults set out in the Health and Social Care White Paper – “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say”. The Adult Protection Committee will be starting work this Autumn on working through these issues.

Corporate Priorities

9. The report relates to the corporate priority “ Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of healthy are the poorest.

Implications

Financial

10. The overall financial position stabilised in 2005/6 with funding pledged from all 4 PCTs in North Yorkshire and York. At this stage it is being presumed that all agencies will continue at least to support the APC at its current level in future years

11. Other

- **Human Resources** – no implications
- **Equalities** – no implications
- **Legal** – no implications
- **Crime and Disorder** – there will be a discussion at the APC about strengthening links to local safety partnerships
- **Information technology** – no implications
- **Property** – no implications
- **Other** – not applicable

Risk Management

12. The partnership with other agencies is not one that involves a lot of joint assets or expenditure and therefore the risks attached are relatively low. There is a risk that funding from other partners could be affected by reorganisation and restructuring but no specific indications at present.

This could present some financial risk to the council in terms of maintaining the necessary infrastructure for adult protection but the levels of money involved are small.

Recommendation

13. That the Executive Members and Advisory Panel comment on the work of the Adult Protection Committee and the issues highlighted in this report.

Reason

In order to improve the council's response to vulnerable people affected by abuse.

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Director

Housing and Adult Social

Services

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Hodson

Director

Report Approved

Date 24/8/06

Bill Hodson

Director

Report Approved

 tick

Date *Insert Date*

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes

1. City of York and North Yorkshire Annual Report 2005/06