

## **Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

**21 July 2015**

Report of the Assistant Director Adult Social Care

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Assurance**

#### **Summary**

1. This update report outlines the actions taken to further improve the arrangements in place to ensure that City of York Council is able to discharge its responsibilities to keep vulnerable adults within the City protected from violence and abuse, whilst maintaining their independence and well-being. It includes the presentation of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-2015 (Annex 1).
2. Health Overview and Scrutiny are asked to accept assurance that arrangements for safeguarding adults and the improvements made over the year are satisfactory and effective.
3. Previous Safeguarding Adults responsibilities were been defined in 'No Secrets' (Department of Health 2002) and 'Safeguarding Adults' (Department of Health 2005). In 2005 the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services produced guidance and standards for the delivery of Safeguarding responses.
4. These guidance documents have been superseded in April 2015 by the Care Act 2014. This report covers activity to make our safeguarding adults activity compliant with the Care Act.
5. The Care Act requires that each local authority must:
  - Make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom
  - Set up a Safeguarding Adults Board

- Arrange, where appropriate, for an independent advocate to represent and support an adult who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) where the adult has 'substantial difficulty' in being involved in the process and where there is no other suitable person to represent and support them
- Co-operate with each of its relevant partners in order to protect the adult. In their turn each relevant partner must also co-operate with the local authority.

6. Safeguarding duties under the Care Act apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

7. The Six key principles contained within the Care Act which underpin all safeguarding work are:

- Empowerment – “I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens”
- Prevention – “I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help”
- Proportionality – “I am sure that the professionals will work for my best interest, as I see them and will only get involved as much as needed”
- Protection – “I get help and support to report abuse. I get help to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want and to which I am able”

- Partnership – “I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together to get the best result for me”
- Accountability – “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life”

## **Analysis**

8. CYC has made taken the necessary action to make its safeguarding arrangements compliant with the duties imposed by the care act.
9. The Safeguarding Board has the necessary statutory membership including Healthwatch and a written constitution and memorandum. Links with other boards particularly Children’s Safeguarding continue to be strengthened. All members have satisfactorily completed a regionally agreed assurance framework which has been accepted by the board and is being repeated for a 6 monthly update.
10. A Care Act Advocacy Service has been commissioned and has been running since April. This is being used to support vulnerable adults who have substantial difficulties. Work is ongoing to ensure that this service is fully utilised for all who need it
11. Veritau audited adult safeguarding arrangements with a focus on care act implementation. Their completed audit is attached at Annex 2. The auditors were substantially assured by the Safeguarding Adults arrangements.
12. The actions the auditors identified as needing to take place were the improvement of the website and the move to an electronic system for delivering the deprivation of liberty safeguards case management.
13. Deprivation of liberty safeguards are now managed through a paperless system. The web content on the CYC website and connect to support websites have been improved. A new safeguarding adults’ website is planned with a delivery date of 1 January 2016
14. The Safeguarding Board has adopted policy and procedures for adult safeguarding across York, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. This has been made possible due to the consistency provided by the statutory guidance to the Care Act.

It ensures that key partners such as the police, ambulance service and NHS organisations who work across a large geographical footprint can work to a consistent set of procedures.

Work is ongoing to draft additional practice guidance into these policies to embed emerging best practice.

## 15. **Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report**

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report describes the key aspects of the work of the board over the past year.

### Making Safeguarding Personal.

Good progress has been made on this agenda and the work has moved on to supporting people who lack the mental capacity to decide how they are safeguarded to influence these decisions through independent representation.

### Self Assessment from Partners

Formal assurance has been sought from board partners using a regional self assessment tool. Assurance on the ability of members to safeguard adults was good and areas for future work were highlighted. These areas include.

- Community engagement
- Improving delivery to minority groups
- Embedding the Mental Capacity Act
- Information sharing.

### Care Act

A subgroup of the Safeguarding Adults Board has successfully overseen the transition to the Care Act legislative framework. Details of this are within the annual report. This work has culminated in the substantial assurance given by internal auditors.

### Performance

The performance framework used nationally is the Safeguarding Adults Return (SAR). This has a greater focus on individual outcomes than previous the previous abuse of vulnerable adults' framework (AVA).

A key performance area is the effectiveness of interventions in reducing the risk to people as a result of enquiries. The annual report details the performance in this area. There is good recording of these outcomes which show the effectiveness of interventions for most people we work with. Once national and regional comparisons are available benchmarking will take place to influence future actions.

### Workforce Development

There has been increased workforce development activity over the year. This has been to support Care Act implementation, strengthen our response to deprivation of liberty demands and to make progress against agendas including self neglect. Training courses continue to be highly rated by participants.

### Strategic Plan

Progress against this plan is reviewed at each SAB and the annual report details the progress made against the key areas

- Make sure safeguarding is embedded in corporate and service strategies across all partners
- Ensure good partnership working
- Focus on prevention of abuse
- Respond to people based on the Personalisation approach, and with a clear focus on outcomes

### Serious Case Reviews

Although there have been no Serious Case Reviews. The protocol completed prior to the implementation of the Care Act have been used by a multi agency sub group to learn lessons from incidents which did not meet the threshold for a formal review under the act. Details of these are in the annual report.

### **Council Plan**

16. The proposals within this report relate to the Council Plan priority to ensure those who are most vulnerable are protected. They support the A focus on frontline services, ensuring all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities.

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

17. There are no financial implications to this report. Safeguarding activity is undertaken within agreed budgets.

### **Human Resources (HR)**

18. There are no HR implications.

### **Equalities**

19. Safeguarding activity is important to all protected communities of interest. The performance report indicates a relatively high number of referrals in respect of people with a learning disability and older people.

### **Legal**

20. There are no legal implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

21. All of the issues and actions relating to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults contribute to the Safer Communities agenda. Specifically Safeguarding has strong links with the Domestic Violence agenda and to Hate Crime.

### **Information Technology (IT)**

22. There are no IT issues relating to this report.

### **Property**

23. There are no property issues relating to this report.

### **Risk Management**

24. The recommendations within this report do not present any risks which need to be monitored.

## **Recommendations**

### **25. Recommendation 1**

The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee note the report and take assurance that arrangements for safeguarding adults and the improvements made over the year are satisfactory and effective.

### **26. Recommendation 2**

The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee consider the further updates it requires regarding adult safeguarding.

Reason: To keep the Committee assured of the arrangements for Adult safeguarding within the city.

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## **Annexes**

**Annex 1** – Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15

**Annex 2** – Adult Safeguarding Internal Audit Report 2014/15

## **Abbreviations**

AVA – Abuse of Vulnerable Adults  
CYC – City of York Council  
HR – Human Resources  
IT – Information Technology  
NHS – National Health Service  
SAB – Safeguarding Adults Board  
SAR – Safeguarding Adults Return