

**Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny      30 January 2017**  
**Committee**

Report of the Assistant Director Adult Social Care

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Assurance**

**Summary**

1. This update report outlines arrangements in place to ensure that City of York Council discharges its responsibilities to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect, whilst maintaining their independence and well-being. It includes the presentation of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-2016.
2. Members are asked to accept assurance that arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.
3. 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.

4. 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.
  
5. 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**

### **Key achievements for York Safeguarding Adults Board.**

6. 2015/2016 has been a year of significant change for the partnership. The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has an updated constitution, memorandum of understanding and membership which reflects this. The Board has three sub groups reporting quarterly to the SAB these are Lessons Learned which looks at complex cases which may need learning from and a tracker form has been developed to monitor ongoing issues, Quality & Performance which monitors performance and data from all partners on the SAB and Training & Workforce development. The SAB has developed a strategic plan with a focus on the six safeguarding principles and work plan which sits under this and has also developed a risk register to ensure effective monitoring and mitigating of potential risks.
7. Safeguarding Board members have developed a SAR (Safeguarding Adults Review) procedure, which is a legal requirement for a process to be followed in the event of a death of somebody receiving services in which there are/or may have been safeguarding issues and indications that there could have been better multi agency working.
8. The SAB has developed an induction pack for all new members of the Board, feedback from member of the Board is that it has been a useful tool.
9. The Safeguarding Adults York website is updated and work is ongoing.

### **CYC and Partner Self-assessment**

10. The self-assessment framework for partners has been updated to include further evidence of Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes. All partners are currently completing their assessment for this year which will be collated and reported to the Board.
11. Assurance on the ability of members including CYC to safeguard adults was good overall and areas for future work were highlighted. These areas included:
  - Suicide Surveillance
  - Out of Area Placements

## **CYC Performance**

12. Transfer from Safeguarding Adults Return to Safeguarding Adults Collection has been well managed. Where possible our performance is mapped to the previous collection and our comparators within this.
13. In the first 6 months of 2016-17 City of York Council received a total of **636 Safeguarding Concerns**. This figure is an increase from 584 Safeguarding Concerns in the previous year
14. All Concerns raised with City of York Council are scrutinised to see if they meet the Care Act's conditions for a section 42 enquiry, and to consider our duties under the Wellbeing Principle (section 1 of the Care Act) to offer support, advice and information to reduce the risk for the person in question and prevent further harm.

Where the council is unable to resolve the concerns at this stage, further enquiries may take place, either under the auspices of S42 or using 'other' enquiry mechanisms as appropriate.

## **Actions and Results from Enquiries**

15. Action was taken to reduce or remove the risk in the majority of enquiries (in 18% no action was deemed to have been taken). In 56% of all completed enquiries, the risk was noted to have reduced, and in 18% to have been removed. In only 8% of cases did the risk remain.

This looks to be an improvement in the outcomes for adults with care and support needs on previous years, as in 2014-15 22% of cases resulted in no action being taken and in 67% of cases the risk remained. The number of cases where risk reduced and where risk was removed looks comparable across the collections – at 42% and 29% respectively.

The full narrative on performance is contained within the annual report.

## **Key Achievements CYC**

16. The regional group reviewing policy is meeting regularly and good progress is being made in terms of the multi- agency procedures worked to by all partners in SABs across West and North Yorkshire.
17. The local operational guidance has been implemented is available on the website.

18. The Safeguarding team has daily meetings with North Yorkshire Police to share concerns/intelligence in order ensure more effective joint responses.
19. CYC have continued to develop their use of soft intelligence, with regular structured meetings between health and social care commissioners and regulators, and safeguarding staff. The SAB has agreed to extend the scope of our soft intelligence work to build on pilot work with the police and information from the public through Healthwatch York.

### **Workforce development**

20. ASC has worked with the CYC Workforce development Unit (WDU) to create a new training offer, based around the care act, the making safeguarding personal approach MSP, and a more flexible approach to enquiries.
21. An Impact Assessment tool for use by managers with staff attending training has been developed by WDU. This has been designed to support managers in checking on the transfer of learning from the classroom to their day to day roles. This is still being piloted. If successful, the intention is to roll this out to all safeguarding courses during 2017.

### **CYC Safeguarding Team**

22. A new Head of Service for Safeguarding, Mental Health, Learning Disability & DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards), Kyra Ayre, was appointed in September and she will also take on the role of Board Manager.
23. The team is being expanded to incorporate four Best Interest Assessors so that the Authority can better manage the demands of DoLS applications.
24. The team continues to manage a demanding workload and to further improve ways of working to facilitate this in a very proactive way.

### **Serious Case Reviews**

25. A meeting was held between children's and adult safeguarding staff to consider any possible learning from a children's serious case review from another area, it was felt that this was a very useful exercise and it is

intended that the new Principal Social Worker for Adults and the Principal Social Worker for children will ensure that regular meeting along these lines will continue.

26. There have been no Serious Case Reviews since the last update in July 2016.

### **Council Plan**

27. The proposals within this report relate to the Council Plan priority to focus on frontline services, ensuring all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

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

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

29. There are no HR implications.

#### **Equalities**

30. Safeguarding activity is important to all protected communities of interest. The performance report indicates a relatively high number of referrals.

#### **Legal**

31. There are no legal implications.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

32. 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)**

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

## Property

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

## Risk Management

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

## Recommendations

- (i) The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee note the report and are assured that arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.
- (ii) The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee receive further updates on a 6 monthly basis.
- (iii) The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee receive an update report following the upcoming Safeguarding Adults Peer Review taking place in January.

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

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**Report Approved**  
18 January 2017✓

## Annexes

Annex 1- City of York Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16