

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

**19 July 2016**

Report of the Assistant Director Adult Social Care

### **Safeguarding 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. Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee are asked to accept assurance that arrangements for safeguarding adults are satisfactory and effective.

#### **Background**

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. New structures put in place following the Care Act are now embedded. The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has a constitution, memorandum of understanding and membership which reflects this. The care act implementation group has been stood down. This has been replaced with a lean structure of the SAB board with 3 sub groups. These are lessons learned, performance & quality and workforce development. The

SAB has developed a strategic plan with a focus on the six safeguarding principles and work plan which sits under this.

The Safeguarding Adults York website has been redesigned with a new structure to improve its public facing nature, and a greater emphasis on informing the public on how to stay safe and prevent abuse. Significant work still needs to be done to ensure that the website is used to its maximum potential.

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

7. A key part of this year's work was the further development and implementation of a self-assessment framework for partners, to understand the progress their organisations are making in safeguarding adults. All partners completed this assessment and they were collated for the board.

Assurance on the ability of members including CYC to safeguard adults was good overall and areas for future work were highlighted. These areas included:

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

A further round of self-assessment is being implemented during 2016/17, with each organisation having their own view of themselves validated and assessed by another one, beginning with CYC and the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group.

### **CYC Performance**

8. 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.

During 2015-16, City of York Council received a total of **1108 Safeguarding Concerns** (relating to 863 individuals). This figure is an increase from 1058 *alerts* in the previous year

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**

9. Action was taken to reduce or remove the risk in the majority of enquiries (in 8% no action was deemed to have been taken). In 59% of all completed enquiries, the risk was noted to have reduced, and in 29% to have been removed. In only 4% 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**

10. CYC is now part of the multi- agency procedures worked to by all partners in SABs across West and North Yorkshire, improving the consistency of response by partners. CYC are part of the review group revising the North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire procedures. The development of local operational guidance under this has been led by CYC, which is more personalised and flexible than previous practice guidance.

Improved partnership working is developing in areas of shared interest with Safer York Partnership. CYC Adult Social Care Directorate (ASC) has worked with colleagues from Safer York Partnership (SYP) to develop the PREVENT operational guidance which is due to be issued through SYP. ASC are also working to develop process for managing self neglect with SYP colleagues.

CYC have developed 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**

11. ASC has worked with the CYC Workforce Development Unit (WDU) to create a new training offer, based around the care act, the making safeguarding person approach MSP, and a more flexible approach to enquiries. This is now in place for the ASC workforce .

ASC are also leading SAB briefing to providers to progress the training agenda for external workforce in line with care act principles around causing enquiries and MSP.

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 currently a pilot. If successful, the intention is to roll this out to all safeguarding courses during 2016/17.

### **CYC Safeguarding Team**

12. Significant achievements include the piloting of a post to support provider led enquiries and the embedding of the MSP culture. Temporary staffing arrangements are a continued concern but these are being resolved. The key post of head of safeguarding has been appointed to. The successful candidate will start in September. The Safeguarding Adults Service manager role has been revised and a new job description agreed to include the emerging priorities and duties. This will be recruited to over the coming months ending the temporary arrangements.

### **Serious Case Reviews**

13. Although there have been no Serious Case Reviews. The protocol in place has 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 Care Act. Details of these are in the annual report.

## **Council Plan**

14. 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**

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

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

16. There are no HR implications.

### **Equalities**

17. 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**

18. There are no legal implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

19. 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)**

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

### **Property**

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

## **Risk Management**

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

## **Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

23. 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.

### **Recommendation 2**

24. The Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee receive further updates on a 6 monthly basis.

Reason: To assure members about adult safeguarding arrangements in the city.

## **Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 8/07/2016

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## **Annexes**

**Annex 1 – City of York Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16**