

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Update on Assurance

Summary

1. This is an update to the third annual report to Health Overview and Scrutiny. 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. Health Overview and Scrutiny are asked to consider whether the Council can be assured that these further improvements to our arrangements are satisfactory and effective
2. Safeguarding Adults responsibilities have 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 (ADASS) produced guidance and standards for the delivery of Safeguarding responses.
3. These guidance documents will be superseded in April 2015 when the Care Act is implemented. This report covers activity in preparation for Care Act implementation and information requested by the July 2015 HOSC.
4. 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 (as set out in Section 6 of the Care Act) in order to protect the adult. In their turn each relevant partner must also co-operate with the local authority.

5. 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.

6 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

7. The updated assurance action plan shows that in, CYC has made good progress in improving its performance and towards implementation of care act.
8. The 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 assurance framework which has been accepted by the board. Work on Serious Case Review protocol has been completed.
9. Veritau are auditing CYC progress and are due to complete their audit in February.
10. Work is ongoing to develop our procedures and training to ensure they comply with care act
11. Issues in relation to our understanding of the performance data in relation to the high number of ‘no further action’ cases have been understood and systems put in place which give a better representation of the activity undertaken and out comes achieved.
12. A specific project to better understand the support needs of people who may lack mental capacity has been put in place. Reporting systems are developed to track progress made and this will be available at the end of March 2015.

Council Plan

13. The proposals within this report relate to the Council Plan priority to ensure those who are most vulnerable are protected.

Implications

Financial

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

Human Resources (HR)

15. There are no HR implications.

Equalities

16. 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.

Legal

17. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

18. 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)

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

Property

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

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

22. **Recommendation 1** Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and the improvements made set out in Annex A.
23. **Recommendation 2** Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are assured about the preparations being made for the implementation of the Care Act
24. **Recommendation 3** HOSC to consider whether it requires further update reports.

Reasons: To keep the Committee assured of the arrangements for Adult safeguarding within the borough.

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Annexes:

Annex A- Safeguarding Assurance Action Plan Update February 2015