

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Assurance**

**Summary**

1. This report provides an update on the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults activity and improvement work within the City.

**Background**

2. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report in June 2012 providing assurance of the Council's governance and operational arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable adults. The Committee asked for a further update on performance and improvement plans.
3. Safeguarding Adults responsibilities are defined in 'No Secrets' (Department of Health 2002) and 'Safeguarding Adults' (Department of Health 2005). The guidance relates to the multi-agency responses made to a person aged 18 years or over: *'who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and is or maybe unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'*.
4. Annex A provides a summary of the progress on actions identified in the June 2012 report.
5. Annex B provides the most recent performance report for the City of York Council's Safeguarding Team. It does not include all of the measures included in the Performance Report annexed to the June report, as these are provided an annual basis. Some new indicators are still in development.

6. Annex C provides a National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service comparison for York's 2011-12 performance data, which was not available in June 2012.

## **Analysis**

### Improvement and development work

7. This report is based on a six month update, and as such much of the work in the Action Plan is 'work in progress'. Progress is being made in most areas. Work has been completed in respect of :
  - Widening the Safeguarding Board membership to include representation from the Voluntary Sector.
  - Understanding the low number of referrals reported from health settings. This has been identified as being a data capture and reporting issue which is now being addressed.
  - Improving feedback arrangements for customers who have experienced a safeguarding investigation. One small survey has now been undertaken and we will routinely ask a sample of people who have been through a Safeguarding episode about their experiences
  - Implementing new internal operational procedures for City of York Council. These are now in place and providing a more consistent response.
8. Work to understand the higher numbers of referrals for people with Learning Disabilities has not yet started, but this appears to be a national pattern. The benchmarking information from the National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service shows York had a slightly lower percentage of referrals for people with a Learning Disability than the National and Comparator Authorities.
9. In addition to the previously reported planned work, a local review of the implications of the reviews of Winterbourne View has been initiated. Working with the Valuing People Partnership Board the review will look at the procedures for ensuring that vulnerable people placed out of area for care or treatment are robust and safe. Local independent hospitals will also be involved in the work to ensure that deprivation of liberty, restraint, and good care and support planning are effective and safe. A first meeting is planned for mid January, with an expectation that the work should be completed by June.

## Performance and activity

10. We have seen increasing numbers of alerts to the Safeguarding Team this year. New indicators on the timeliness of assessments and decision making were available for the first time (retrospectively) in December 2012. The increasing number of alerts has impacted on the percentage of assessments completed within the expected timeframe. The Team have been continuing to screen and prioritise all alerts, to ensure that urgent matters are dealt with promptly.
11. New indicators, including the number of Protection Plans agreed, are still in development but are expected to be available soon.
12. Based on the NASCIS report, compared to other Councils in 2011-12, York:
  - had a significantly lower level of repeat referrals than then England or Comparator Authority averages ( 5% compared to 15% and 17%). Repeat referrals may indicate that safeguarding measures previously put in place are not working.
  - had a higher proportion of substantiated investigations than the England and Comparator averages, and a lower proportion of not determined or inconclusive outcomes.
  - Had a lower number of protection plans agreed. This had already been picked up and is an area for improvement.

## **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. There are no new specific equality issues identified at this point, but the annual performance information will be analysed for equality implications.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Recommendation**

22. No specific recommendation is made, as this is an update report for information.

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**Wards Affected:**

All

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

**Annexes:**

- Annex A: Safeguarding Action Plan City of York Council 2012-13
- Annex B: CYC Safeguarding Performance information 2012-13
- Annex C: National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service: Abuse of Vulnerable Adults 2011-12 Comparator Report (Online only)