

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Assurance

Summary

1. This is the second annual report to Health Overview and Scrutiny. The report outlines 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 arrangements are satisfactory and effective.

Background

2. 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'*.
3. The Council has responsibilities as the Lead Agency for the partnership response within the city, including the operation of the multi agency Safeguarding Adults Board, and also as a service provider and commissioner.
4. Responsibilities include both ensuring that anyone who may be at risk of abuse is protected and supported, and to reduce the likelihood of abuse of vulnerable adults within the community.

5. In 2005 the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services (ADASS) produced guidance and standards for the delivery of Safeguarding responses. These standards have been used as the framework for the assurance information provided within Annex A.
6. One of the standards requires partner agencies to assure themselves of the safeguarding arrangements within their organisation on an annual basis. This report is intended to enable that to happen within the Council. Other partner organisations will report through their own governance arrangements.
7. Operational safeguarding practice is guided by the Multi Agency Safeguarding policy and procedures, which together with a Quick Guide, are available at http://www.safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=36&id=48&Itemid=67
8. Annex B provides an update on the specific actions identified in last year's assurance report to Health Overview and Scrutiny. It also contains information about additional work that the Board has taken in the last year, for example in response to the Winterbourne View review.
9. Annex C provides the Performance Report on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults activity for 2012-13.
10. A separate, but related report is tabled tonight for the Committee on the quality assurance of commissioned services in York.
11. Going forward, the Care Bill, due to be enacted this year will place Adult Safeguarding on a statutory footing. In preparation for this, and to update guidance in the light of research, peer review findings, and good practice, ADASS and the Local Government Association produced additional guidance and advice in 2013. This guidance will help shape the strategy for the York Adult Safeguarding Board over the coming year.
12. Training for all Councillors in respect of Adult Safeguarding will be offered in September as part of the Councillors' Training Plan.

Options

13. **Option 1** Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee could confirm they are satisfied with the arrangements for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, based on the current performance and proposed new improvement activity, set out in Annex A, which is already underway.
14. **Option 2 Health** Overview and Scrutiny Committee could identify areas where they believe further assurance is needed for the Council to be confident that it is undertaking its responsibilities on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults satisfactorily.

Analysis

15. Annex A uses the same ADASS standards as last year and confirms that York has the key elements in place to ensure that vulnerable adults are safeguarded in York. The annex also outlines the areas where there is improvement work already in progress, or planned to maintain these ADASS standards.
16. Good progress has been made on the Action Plan reported last year, and further improvements are already planned and being delivered. An update on the Action Plan is contained in Annex B.
17. This has however been a year of change, particularly in our health organisations and in the Police, and so there is a continued need to ensure that joint working is developed and consolidated within the City.
18. Our new Independent Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board has been in post for just over three months, but has already made good progress in ensuring our links are strengthened across the city, including with other Strategic boards, and with our neighbouring authorities.
19. There is a need to ensure that the Board, and practice within York is fit for the future. The key messages in the LGA/ADASS advice note in March 2013 will underpin a longer term strategy for the Board.

These messages were:

- We must now focus on people and the outcomes they want, valuing the difference that is made, rather than the process that is followed.
- Collaborative leadership – supporting, integrating and holding partners to account – is key to cross agency engagement and effectiveness.
- Effective interfaces are essential - between developing Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, Children’s Safeguarding Boards, etc.
- Responsive Specialist services need to be in place and have a portfolio of responses to support people with difficult decision making.
- Make sure that concerns are addressed proportionately so that our systems aren’t swamped and we don’t miss the really serious concerns.
- Commissioning, contracts management, care management review and safeguarding intelligence are fully integrated.

20. The new strategy for the Board should be ready by late autumn 2013.

21. In the meantime, the following is a summary of the areas identified for action and improvement for this year.

- Board Terms of Reference to be reviewed in light of Care Bill
- Representation on ASB from Health Watch to be explored
- Maintain the links with other Strategic Boards and develop further joint work
- Updating of multi agency procedures
- Internal procedures will be reviewed again once the Multi Agency procedures been agreed
- Sign up to the Local Government Association Making Safeguarding Personal programme at Bronze level.
- Increase management capacity in CYC Safeguarding Team
- First stage implementation of National Competency Framework for CYC staff
- Review finance model for multi agency training

Council Plan

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

Implications

Financial

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

Human Resources (HR)

24. There are no HR implications.

Equalities

25. 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

26. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

27. All of the issues and actions relating to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults contribute to the Safer Communities agenda.

Information Technology (IT)

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

Property

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

Risk Management

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

Recommendation

31. There is no specific recommendation made.

Reason: As the purpose of this report is to allow the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to determine if they are assured of the arrangements for Adult Safeguarding within the Council.

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Wards Affected:

All ✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service (NASIS)-Abuse of Vulnerable Adults Comparator Report (York) (Online Only)

Annexes:

Annex A: Adult Safeguarding Assurance Questions

Annex B: Action Plan Update

Annex C: CYC Performance report 2012-13