

Summary report for Scrutiny Commission

1 This report covers data relating to safeguarding practice from October 2010 up to and including September 2011. There is a particular focus on the months of August and September, with the months of October 2010 to July 2011 analysed in earlier reports.

2 PERFORMANCE DATA

2.1 Detailed performance and training data is attached.

3 ANALYSIS

3.1 There has been a slight decrease in the number of safeguarding alerts being recorded

- Last reporting period (Jun/Jul) there were 76 recorded alerts, this has dropped to 63 in the current reporting period
- This is a much higher rate of activity than recorded in the same reporting period last year (Aug/Sept 2010 = 31 alerts)
- There have been 266 alerts reported in the last 12 months however if we look at activity in the first six months from Oct to Mar (90) and last 6 months April to Sept (176) you can see that activity has nearly doubled.

3.2 Activity relating to safeguarding referrals has fallen over the last 2 months

- 68 referrals were recorded Aug/Sept – substantially lower than the previous reporting period (91) and the same reporting period last year (88)
- There have been 511 referrals in the last 12 months – Oct to Mar 259, Feb to July 252.

3.3 The other main points relating to activity in the current reporting period are

- September's referrals showed an increase in the proportion of referrals relating to clients over 65 (72% of all referrals recorded compared to 12 month average of 60%)
- In August in total 17 more cases were closed than opened. However in the last 12 months 228 more cases have been opened than closed with completed paperwork/tracker.
- Update of training is slowing improving

4 LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

4.1 The Safeguarding Board has chosen a range of indicators (appendix 5) and highlighted here:

Over the last 12 months to September 2011

- 75% of alerts have been responded to within the 24 hour deadline. – August's performance is slightly above this at 78% and September at 75% - well above July's performance of 66%

Appendix 2

- 60% of strategy meetings were held within the 5 day deadline – September at 74% and August at 67% is well above the current average for the year and the 58% comparator average.
- 61% of Investigation Reports were completed within the 20 day deadline. Septembers at 68% shows improvement but August at 61% falls below the 64% comparator target.

5 DATA QUALITY

5.1 From 1 November the following new arrangements will be in place with regard to data quality management

- Currently the forms that we use to capture data are opened, completed and locked by the operational team. As from 1 November the operational team will inform the strategic lead when documents are ready for closure so that they can be quality checked and any necessary changes notified to and completed by the operational team before the documents area locked down
- Currently cases ready for closure are locked down by the operational team managers – from 1 November a final formal checking procedure will be undergone before any case is locked down

This should ameliorate the current problems we experience with data quality issues relating to locked documents and cases (i.e. technical issues and time demand of reopening documents on RAISE and auditing and data integrity issues of making amendments to closed safeguarding cases/documents) and lead to a significant increase in overall data quality.

This process will be trialled and monitored and if effective will become set practice.