

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL	Agenda Item No. 4
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Report of the Director of Adult Social Services and Performance

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PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REPORT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Scrutiny Panel to consider, challenge and comment on the six monthly report on adult safeguarding.

2. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 2.1 Safeguarding vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Sustainable Community Strategy, our ambition includes working to help the people of Peterborough “be protected from abuse, discrimination and harassment”. The Local Area Agreement targets relating to vulnerable people have particular links to this area.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 Appendix 1 shows the number of alerts for the four quarters from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. It also includes the data for January 2009, which is provided in a different format as the breakdown of categories has been changed since the start of this year.
- 3.2 This change, and continuing work on the management information systems in relation to safeguarding data, will result in better quality and more extensive performance data being available for Scrutiny Panel (and the Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership) including the outcomes of alerts. This will ensure that the performance management of this function at the strategic level is strengthened. Scrutiny Panel members are asked to identify any further data which would be helpful in overseeing safeguarding arrangements for Peterborough.
- 3.3 Data relating to alerts regarding people from black and minority ethnic communities requires further scrutiny as numbers appear to be low. This will form part of the three year work plan which has been drafted for submission to the Peterborough Adult Safeguarding Board in February 2009.
- 3.4 Consultants, commissioned by the Director of Adult Social Services & Performance carried out a diagnostic of safeguarding vulnerable adults in Peterborough in September 2008. The diagnostic recognised the good progress and strengths in the Safeguarding Board since it was set up in early 2008 and highlighted the effectiveness of awareness raising work which has resulted in high levels of alerts being made. It also identified a number of areas where improvements were needed including case recording, protocols and tools for staff, policies, user and carer involvement and our capacity to manage the increasing number of alerts received. A number of actions have been taken as a result of this work including amendments to our supervision policy, amendments to our safeguarding protocols, additional capacity provided within Peterborough Community Services for this work and changes to recording practice. A number of longer-term actions are also underway including the improvements to our data systems as mentioned above. It is proposed to run the diagnostic six-monthly (yearly in due course) as a check on progress.

- 3.5 The work completed reviewing case files following the diagnostic has illustrated shortcomings in current quality assurance processes. Proposals to review and improve these processes will be put forward to the February Safeguarding Board.
- 3.6 A referral for a Serious Case Review has been received by the Director of Adult Social Services. This case will be dealt with under the Peterborough Serious Case Review Protocol and Scrutiny Panel will be updated as appropriate.
- 3.7 The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is currently inspecting adult social care in Peterborough, including safeguarding vulnerable adults. Feedback from the inspection is expected in June 2009.

4. PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (PREVIOUSLY THE ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE)

- 4.1 The Adult Protection Committee agreed on 29 August 2008 to adopt the title of "Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board" within the Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership. The term "safeguarding" is increasingly widely used when describing work to protect vulnerable adults and also reflects the aspiration to develop a wider safeguarding role for the Board in line with the wider role adopted by Child Protection Committees when they became Safeguarding Children Boards.
- 4.2 The multi-agency protocols for safeguarding were reviewed in the light of comments received from consultants who have examined the current documentation and the revised procedures were approved by the Safeguarding Board in November 2008. The new policy is attached at appendix 2. The new procedures are available on the PCT website and on request. The new procedures were introduced from 1 January 2009.
- 4.3 An away day for the Board was held in December with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of Board members, developing the annual report of the Board and formulating the future work plan.
- 4.4 Councillor Diane Lamb joined the Safeguarding Board in November 2008 to ensure that there is high profile political leadership for this important agenda. The Board is chaired by The Director of Adult Social Services & Performance with additional representation from the Chief Operating Officer of Peterborough Community Services.
- 4.5 The Chair of the Safeguarding Board and some Adult Safeguarding Board members are part of the Peterborough Community Safety Partnership. The Annual Report of the Safeguarding Board will be presented to the Community Safety Partnership in early 2009. A mapping exercise has been undertaken to illustrate the strategic links and governance around safeguarding vulnerable adults in Peterborough. It is proposed that the annual report of the Safeguarding Board will also be presented to the Scrutiny Panel.

5 SAFEGUARDING FORUM (PREVIOUSLY THE ADULT PROTECTION FORUM)

- 5.1 The Forum continues to meet regularly. Recent meeting topics have included the consultation regarding adult protection training and discussions regarding the format and content of a proposed "quick guide" to adult protection for staff of all agencies.
- 5.2 The Forum's suggestion of two formats for quick guides for staff – a credit card size laminated card and an A5 size laminated card was agreed by the November meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 5.3 The September meeting of the Forum also included an introductory presentation by a member of the Adult Protection Unit, on the Independent Safeguarding Authority. This will be a new, improved, checking and monitoring scheme aimed at preventing unsuitable people from working or volunteering with children and/or vulnerable adults. The scheme came into being from 12 October 2008 and we will be doing further work on the details of the scheme within the Forum.

6 RAISING AWARENESS OF SAFEGUARDING IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 6.1 The planned article on protecting vulnerable adults was included in the June/July issue of "Your Peterborough".
- 6.2 A new public leaflet has been published. The leaflet is a simple guide to what abuse is and what to do if you suspect abuse of a vulnerable adult.
- 6.3 Scrutiny Panel members are asked to suggest any additional ideas for further public awareness raising.

7 TRAINING

- 7.1 The transfer of adult protection training from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adult Protection Partnership to Peterborough Primary Care Trust Workforce Development Department took place on 1 October 2008 following a six month lead in. During these six months, consultations took place with statutory and non-statutory agencies to create a training plan which meets local need. There will be continuing co-operation between Peterborough Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council especially in view of agencies such as Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, which cover the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 7.2 The training plan continues to include the half day Raising Awareness of Adult Protection course, provided to all agencies. Between 1 June 2008 and 30 September 2008, 158 people were trained. This included a "bespoke" course for 22 housing association staff. This course is now to be mandatory for Peterborough Community Services staff and is also being rolled out to relevant staff in the commissioning arm of the PCT. In response to consultation, a one-day enhanced Raising Awareness course has also been introduced aimed at professional staff and supervisory/first level managers. 31 people have attended this course.
- 7.3 The two-day Adult Protection Enquiries and Investigation course continues, aimed at Social Workers within the Peterborough Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust. By the end of October all current social work professionals in both Trusts will have received this training. Further courses will be arranged as new staff are recruited. Half-day follow up sessions are also held following this course.
- 7.4 Two new sets of quarterly workshops have been set up, one for Managers of the two Trusts and one for Social Workers. These followed consultation with staff and managers. The aim of the Social Worker Workshops is to support Social Workers in their adult protection role. The Managers' Workshops will explore the manager's role in supporting and encouraging social workers in adult protection work and examine the part managers need to play in protecting vulnerable adults from abuse.
- 7.5 At the request of the independent sector, a specialist course on "Adult Protection Investigations and Staff Disciplinary Procedures" was arranged for January 2009.
- 7.6 A one-day course covering Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Adults was held in November and will then be held on a twice yearly basis.
- 7.7 A session for primary care was scheduled for November 2008 following the suggestion at the May 2008 NHS Peterborough Board. This focused on the definition and forms of abuse and what to do to raise an alert. The session was tailored for primary care practitioners and GPs and aimed to identify any further development needs.
- 7.8 All training courses have been reviewed and updated to reflect the new policy and procedures. Training for managers in the new procedures took place in December 2008. Further support and training for staff will follow.

8. NATIONAL REVIEW

8.1 Following the report to the Scrutiny Panel on 22 January 2009, a response to the national review of "No Secrets" consultation was submitted on 31 January 2009 (attached as appendix 3).

9. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

9.1 The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note and discuss the content of the report.

10. NEXT STEPS

10.1 Safeguarding adults reports are submitted to the Scrutiny Panel on a six-monthly basis.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – safeguarding alerts 1 January 2008 to 31 January 2009.

Appendix 2 – Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Policy

Appendix 3 – Peterborough response to the "No Secrets" Review January 2009

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