

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2012

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** ADULT PROTECTION REPORT APRIL 2011 TO MARCH 2012

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To inform Members about activity and developments within Adult Safeguarding over the year, specifically Adult Protection and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.
- 1.02 To inform Members of the annual Adult protection statistics for Flintshire.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 In 2000, the Welsh Assembly government published a statutory guidance document, 'In Safe Hands'. Which said '*Authorities should draw up an annual report to their committees about their work in relation to Adult Protection. The National Assembly for Wales will expect to see this information being collected, collated and, most importantly, used in developing practice and services*'. This is the annual Protection of Vulnerable Adults' report for the year April 2011 to March 2012.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 The year saw a total of 250 Adult Protection referrals received by Social Services for Adults. Of these, 186 progressed to a full investigation and 64 referrals were screened and were dealt with by the relevant Team Manager. This figure compares with 212 cases reported in the year 2010 – 2011. It shows that the trend of annual increase in Adult Protection referrals is continuing, as can be seen in **Table 1**. This increase in referrals reflects the increased awareness of adults safeguarding in society, prompted by high profile cases such as Winterbourne View case in Bristol. In Flintshire, we also work hard to increase the awareness of adult protection amongst all operational teams and the public.

Year	Total Number of Referrals
2011 - 2012	250
2010 - 2011	212
2009 - 2010	190
2008 - 2009	128
2007 - 2008	141

2006 - 2007	103
2005 - 2006	76
2004 - 2005	40

Table 1: Annual rates of Adult Protection referrals in Flintshire

- 3.02 The graphs presented at *Appendix 2* give a breakdown of numbers, types of referrals and outcomes. The highest number of referrals (38) came from Social Services provider services, followed by independent providers (37). This shows the vital role that care staff in residential and domiciliary settings have in identifying and reporting suspected abuse.

County	Referrals received
Anglesey	154
Conwy	375
Denbighshire	244
Flintshire	250
Gwynedd	166
Wrexham	335

Table 2: Comparative Adult Protection referral rates across North Wales 2011 - 2012

- 3.03 **Table 2** shows the number of Adult Protection referrals received for the six counties across North Wales for the year 2011 – 2012. It can be seen that in Flintshire there was a lower than average rate of referral (the average figure across North Wales was 23 per 10,000 population).
- 3.04 The next twelve months will see significant change in the way adults at risk are safeguarded both nationally and within Flintshire. The Social Services Bill will affect the coordination of, and priority given to, adult safeguarding at a strategic level across the country. Within Flintshire, the creation of a dedicated Adult Safeguarding Unit will enable Social Services for Adults to further develop and improve safeguarding for adults at risk.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Members consider Flintshire's Annual Adult Protection Monitoring Report for the period April 2011 to March 2012.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 A pressure bid has been agreed by Council for an additional £45k for 2012 – 2013, with full year effect of £90k for future years.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 Adult Protection Procedures address the financial abuse of vulnerable adults.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None arising from this report.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 Effective Adult Protection Procedures ensure that vulnerable adults in

Flintshire have the same rights as other residents to enjoy a life free from abuse.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 Additional funding will enable staffing levels within the Safeguarding Unit to be increased. A second Adult Safeguarding Manager will be appointed, along with an additional administrative support post, and social work support.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None required.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Members of the Flintshire Adult Protection Committee include senior representation from most of the agencies signed up to Adult Protection Procedures. It includes the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Police, and the independent sector, and they have been made aware of the content of this report.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 *Appendix 1 – Annual Report*  
*Appendix 2 – Statistical Analysis*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985**  
**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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