

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** **9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF OFFICER, (SOCIAL SERVICES)**

**SUBJECT:** **ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To update members on Adult Safeguarding Performance and current issues.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 This is the annual adult safeguarding report for the year from April 2013 to March 2014 in compliance with the Welsh Government statutory document, "In Safe Hands".

2.02 The adult safeguarding process in Wales is the national system in place to protect vulnerable client groups from abuse. Social Services departments take the lead in co-ordinating the process and in the development of local policy guidance, but all agencies are to work together on the "identification, investigation, treatment and prevention of abuse of vulnerable adults" (In Safe Hands, 2000)

2.03 Over the year, the adult safeguarding team developed its new role of receiving and processing all adult safeguarding referrals received in the Department. This included the recording of performance data by the safeguarding team onto the PARIS system, a process which was implemented in July, 2013. This report, therefore, covers a period of change from the old system, where teams within the Department each managed and recorded safeguarding cases, to the new.

2.04 The Adult Safeguarding Team, consisting of two adult safeguarding managers, an adult safeguarding social worker and business support have enabled a more consistent approach to receiving, processing and investigating safeguarding referrals. Partner agencies, providers, service users and their representatives now have only one team to work with, and staff from within the Department have a single reference point for all safeguarding enquiries. The adult safeguarding social worker can carry out safeguarding investigations and ensures that the voice of the victim is heard from the earliest stage in the adult safeguarding process.

## **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

### **3.1.0 Adult Safeguarding statistics**

- 3.1.1 310 Adult Protection referrals were received in the year (Figure 1). Of these, 184 met the threshold for progressing under safeguarding procedures. The 93 cases that did not meet the threshold were screened, recorded and monitored, and if several of these types of cases were received about the same provider over a short period, a meeting was called anyway, to discuss whether they showed patterns of poor care. The statistics in this report refer to the 184 referrals that met the threshold. This is the sixth successive annual increase in the numbers of referrals received.
- 3.1.3 The highest number of referrals received related to older people, with more referrals for women than for men (Figure 2), and the highest proportion of referrals came from private and social services provider agencies (Figure 3). These figures reflect national trends and statistics, and are in line with the demographics of social care in Flintshire.
- 3.1.3 Vulnerable adults can be subject to a range of types of abuse, and sometimes one incident can be seen as more than one type of abuse (Figure 4). Physical abuse and neglect, for example, often go together.
- 3.1.4 This year, of the cases where abuse was proved or admitted, 36 referrals came from nursing or residential care homes, by far the highest source (Figure 5). Figure 6, however, shows an increase in the year of the number of people being dismissed, prosecuted, cautioned or disciplined as a result of safeguarding procedures. This could be seen as showing an increasingly robust response amongst agencies where abuse is proved. In some cases, the alleged perpetrator met more than one of the outcomes, for example being given extra training and extra supervision as well as going through a disciplinary procedure.
- 3.1.5 The graph at figure 6 shows a very high number of cases recorded as "other". The footnote gives a number of outcomes which have been recorded as "other", although we have also identified a recording problem, now addressed, which resulted in a number of outcomes being recorded incorrectly.
- 3.1.6 Figure 7 shows that in every case investigated in the year, risks were either removed or reduced. This statistic more than any other shows the benefit in agencies working together to tackle abuse. In some cases, the proposed safeguarding actions were refused by the victim of abuse: some older people refused to allow action to be taken against a relative, for example, even when the relative had been

proved responsible. It can also be seen that in 27 cases, an adult protection plan was recorded as a specific outcome, with reviews of the plan being one of the key ways in protecting the individual from further harm.

### **3.2.0 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

3.2.1 The adult safeguarding team also manage the Council's application of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). The Safeguards were introduced in April 2009 to provide legal protection for vulnerable people who are in care homes or hospital and who lack the mental capacity to consent to be in the care setting. Deprivations of Liberty in Flintshire care homes are assessed by a Best Interests Assessor (who will be one of seven specially trained social workers) with an extra mental health assessment carried out by a doctor who is qualified under Section 12 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

3.2.2 In March, 2014 the Supreme Court gave a ruling which greatly widened the scope of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The new ruling means that anyone in a care home is being deprived of their liberty if they:

- lack mental capacity to agree to live in the care home and
- are under continuous supervision and control and
- would be prevented from leaving the care home if they were to try to do so

3.2.3 The Court ruling also means that people living in the community can also be deprived of their liberty. In these cases, applications should be made to the Court of Protection.

3.2.4 In the year covered by this report (that is, April 2013 – March 2014), thirteen DoLS applications were made by care homes. At the time of writing this report (September, 2014) over 120 applications have been received since April 2014. The ongoing implications for DoLS will be considered in a forthcoming report to Cabinet.

### **3.3.0 Training**

3.3.1 Flintshire County Council safeguarding training for council employees, partner agencies, and for staff and volunteers in the community is commissioned and delivered by the Social Services Workforce Development Team. There is no charge for attendance. Some Adult safeguarding training was part-supported by contributions from the Mental Health Services budget, but now all costs are met entirely from Welsh Government grants and matched funding via the Workforce Development Team training budget.

3.3.2 Training is organised at 4 levels:

## **LEVEL 1**

### **Induction training**

Level 1 is the safeguarding information provided within the induction process agreed within individual teams and agencies.

## **LEVEL 2**

### **All-Wales Basic Safeguarding Awareness Training**

In September 2013, Flintshire became a pilot authority for the Welsh Government/Care Council's new "All-Wales Basic Safeguarding Awareness Training" course. This course has been made available to all staff and volunteers from any organisation in Flintshire working or in contact with people (children and adults) who are potentially vulnerable to abuse. Over the last 12 months (to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014) the course has been delivered to 241 individuals. The one day course is run approximately every 2 weeks in the Workforce Development Training Rooms in the Mold Library HQ, taking 20 delegates at a time. A double-half day version of the course is now also offered to agencies who cannot release staff for a full day.

## **LEVEL 3**

### **Safeguarding Adults Level 3 All Wales Policy & Procedures**

This one day course covers the background to, and responsibilities contained in the *Wales Interim Policy & Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse*. It is delivered by the Social Services Safeguarding Adults Manager and replaces the previous POVA level 3 course. It has been provided 5 times in the 12 months up to September 2014, with a capacity of 20 places per course. It is open to managers and practitioners from any organisation in Flintshire working with adults who are potentially vulnerable to abuse. Over the last 12 months (to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014) the course has been delivered to 80 individuals.

## **LEVEL 4 AND SPECIALIST TRAINING**

*This level provides advanced training for Social Care professionals plus special interest courses.*

### **Deprivation of Liberties Safeguarding (DoLS)**

One day training for Adult Social Services and independent/voluntary staff in the roles and responsibilities regarding vulnerable adults lacking capacity to consent to arrangements in a care home, hospital, or supported living placement that amounts to a deprivation of liberty. Includes reference to the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007) and the Mental Health (Wales) Measure. Delivered June 2014 and scheduled for October 2014.

### **Domestic Abuse (MARAC/DASH)**

Half day course delivered 3 times in last 12 months; also scheduled September and October 2014. Aims to increase awareness in all agencies of the responsibility regarding identification, assessment and management of the risks relating to domestic abuse. Delivered by the

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator for Flintshire County Council and the Flintshire Community Safety Partnership.

#### **Adult Mental Health First Aid**

A 2 day course for staff from any agency working with adults who may be at risk of suicide: how to give immediate help; what to say and do in a crisis; understand the connection between mental health problems and substance abuse. Delivered 4 times in the last 12 months and scheduled again for October 2014 and January 2015.

#### **Assessment of Capacity - Practical Approaches**

A 1-day course open to all qualified staff who carry out MCA assessments and students. Delivered twice during last 12 months.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That the contents of the report are noted, and in particular an increased consistency in making decisions around thresholds for adult safeguarding procedures.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 None.

### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None.

### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None.

### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 No specific impact.

### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 No impact.

### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01 Not specifically required.

### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 11.01 Full discussion at Flintshire Safeguarding Board.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

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

None

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