

Equality Impact Assessment



Name of project/proposal

Engaging Hampshire Communities in Adult Safeguarding

Contact name

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Department

Adult Services

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Purpose for project/proposal

The introduction of the Care Act 2014, which replaces previous safeguarding legislation, continues to place the responsibility for leadership and co-ordination of safeguarding adults with the local authority, but will strengthen the partnership arrangements through a new 'duty to co-operate'.

Safeguarding referrals in Hampshire have steadily risen over the last four years due to the engagement of local partner agencies in the safeguarding agenda and the joint work to address issues as they arise. Information on safeguarding needs to be promoted further within Hampshire communities.

The information needs to be in a format that is easily accessible to people. By developing new resources and promoting them within other organisations and companies, it is envisaged that this will help raise awareness of safeguarding concerns and help people feel better informed. It may help to inform people of their responsibilities and when to take action around recognising and reporting concerns.

The key aim of the project is to engage with Hampshire communities to promote and raise awareness of adult safeguarding by providing accessible and useful information.

To raise awareness of adult safeguarding the project will produce practical advice and guidance on safeguarding concerns for adults. This will take the form of e-toolkits, published credit-card information, a smart phone app, an alerters guide and a training DVD.

It is envisaged that the resources will include information and advice, signposting, immediate response, different types of abuse and what can be done to help, and a service map.

The resources developed will be specifically for non-professionals. Although some of the resources such as the e-toolkit and smartphone app may exclude people that do not have access to the internet or a smartphone, the project intends to reach this cohort of people with the development of the pocket sized information cards and alerters guide (which will be in an A5 leaflet). These resources will be available in a number of organisations and companies within Hampshire.

Some research has been done to look at who may benefit most from the resources and those most likely to need safeguarding services. The resources being developed will focus on supporting 'vulnerable adults' with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The target group of audience for the resources will include those people that;

- Are elderly and frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment
- have a learning disability
- have a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment
- have mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- misuses substances or alcohol
- have a long-term illness/condition
- does not have capacity to make a decision and is in need of care and support
- is a carer, (family member/friend)

The promotion of the resources will primarily be through organisations and companies within Hampshire. This engagement is imperative to identify any gaps in information and support that is currently available in Hampshire on safeguarding and to identify what the public's needs are.

When selecting the organisations and companies to engage with, much consideration was given to Hampshire's diverse population needs. Some of the target groups that have been identified to engage with include;

- Churches and religious organisations
- Schools/colleges
- Community clubs/groups
- Voluntary organisations

A series of roadshows to further promote the finalised resources will take place and will be open to all members of the public. How the roadshows will be promoted is still to be determined however the project will ensure that all members of the community are reached and that all advertising is in an accessible format for all (not to exclude those that do not have internet). The locations of the roadshows are also to be determined, but will be accessible to all with consideration given to location and disability access.

The benefits of undertaking this project are that it will:

- Support individuals to remain connected and safe in their communities, remaining independent and reducing the need for statutory services;
- Engage those who live, work and represent the people of Hampshire in adult safeguarding;
- Make adult safeguarding everyone's business in a real way with the aim of raising everyone's awareness of how spot and report;
- Provision of an easily updated and accessible resource for those working with and providing services to,

Hampshire citizens ;

- Enhancement of the reputation of the County Council and further concrete evidence of a visible commitment to the corporate strategy.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

No

To firmly embed awareness of adult safeguarding it has been decided that any information resources developed are visibly branded and offer practical advice and guidance. The proposed information resources have been identified by drawing on existing work (both nationally and locally). For example, there is national information available about adult safeguarding for housing which our information resources could include, in addition to local information about abuse and contact numbers. This approach will minimise the amount of development work and maximise information already available.

The information resources for communicating information to the public have been chosen for the following reasons:

Smart phone App

This will be developed and designed to give simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and how to report it. Hampshire Constabulary launched a smart phone app in May 2013 on Hate Crime. Since the launch, the app has been downloaded over 1400 times. The decision to produce this app was based on the fact that, according to Ofcom^[2], 57% of the UK population now own smart phones.

Pocket sized information and alerters guide

This would entail production of a small, laminated resource – credit card size – which people could carry with them. The pocket sized information and alerters guide will be an alternative source of information for those that are not able to access the internet or a smartphone.

E-toolkits.

There has been positive feedback around the 'Making Hampshire a dementia-friendly County' e-toolkit, which has been aimed at organisations and businesses in Hampshire to ensure they are dementia friendly. The safeguarding toolkit will be based on this idea, and will provide advice and guidance, specific to the target audience, but also include links to information about resources already available. For example the older peoples trigger tool, national guidance, troubled families etc. It is envisaged that the e-toolkit will give other organisations and business in Hampshire more information on safeguarding and how to be more aware of the signs.

Training Pack

Research since February has produced feedback that organisations and business in Hampshire would greatly benefit from training materials, which they can share with their staff, to help people more aware of safeguarding.

^[2] Ofcom (2011) *A nation addicted to smart phones*

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Low
Disability	Medium
Sexual orientation	Medium
Race	Medium
Religion and belief	Medium
Gender reassignment	Medium
Sex	Low
Marriage and civil partnership	Low
Pregnancy and maternity	Low

Other policy considerations

Poverty	Low
Rurality	Low
Other factors	Low
If other please describe	

Geographical impact All Hampshire

Have you identified any medium or high impact?*



Yes



No

Equality statement

The main impact that has been identified will be addressed by developing alternative formats of resources to allow for all Hampshire residents to access information.

Date to review actions

01 Apr 2016

Final decision date

Final decision date due
Decision to be made by

Nothing selected