

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Safe and Healthy People Select Committee
Date of meeting:	25 May 2012
Report Title:	Adult Services – Safeguarding Adults
Reference:	3967
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Select Committee on developments within Adult Services in relation to adult safeguarding practice.

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1 Hampshire County Council Adult Services approach to safeguarding is defined by the 'No Secrets' guidance (Department of Health 2000), which is issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority and Social Services Act 1970. Through this legislation, statutory health and social care organisations have a duty of partnership to work together to put in place services which act to prevent abuse of vulnerable adults, provide assessment and investigation of abuse and ensure people are given an opportunity to access justice.
- 2.2 The 'No Secrets' guidance gives the Local Authority a leadership and co-ordination role to ensure that all those who provide services for our citizens work together to address the safeguarding agenda in Hampshire and this is fully recognised as a corporate responsibility. Adult Services are working closely with external partners through the Safeguarding Adults Board, which is currently chaired by the Director of Adult Services. In addition, work to focus all internal Hampshire County Council departments in relation to the broader safeguarding agenda, is being delivered through the Cross Departmental Safeguarding Group chaired by the Deputy Director of Children's Services.
- 2.3 Scrutiny of the safeguarding work of the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Adult Services Department is provided through the Safe and Healthy Select Committee. In addition, discussion is currently underway with regard to the ongoing relationship to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

3. The National Picture

- 3.1 The Department is currently awaiting the Government 's draft bill to modernise adult care and support in England, which will propose placing Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing. This will provide a robust framework for delivery of adult safeguarding across agencies and will enable the Board to hold all organisations to account in a focused way. The bill was highlighted in the Queen's Speech on 9th May 2012 and is expected in early June 2012.
- 3.2 It has been confirmed that the local authority will remain the lead agency in relation to adult safeguarding.
- 3.3 It is clear that HCC will need to work closely with NHS partners, through this time of significant change, to ensure safeguarding processes continue to work well for service users and patients. There is a developing picture in relation to how the local authority will work with the GP Clinical Commissioning Groups from March 2013 and it is anticipated will become clearer over the next 6 months.

4. The Local Picture

- 4.1 At a local level, Adult Services staff are currently able to keep pace with the increasing workload despite the significant pressure placed on both the service and budgets. Vulnerable adults within the community are presenting with very complex needs due to both changes in demography and the fact that people are living much longer with conditions that, in the past, would have led to a shorter life expectancy.
- 4.2 The NHS Information Centre published the key findings from the 2010/11 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (AVA) data return in March 2012. This has enabled a comparison of the performance of HCC against the national picture and confirmed that, broadly, HCC activity is in line with others across the Country.
- 4.3 However there are a few areas that highlighted differences;
 - referrals from mental health services are at 23% nationally, but only account for 4% of referrals in Hampshire
 - referrals from learning disability services are at 30% nationally, but account for 52% of referrals in Hampshire
 - Service user outcome data does show a significant degree of variation from the national picture. For example, Hampshire have 40% of cases recorded as requiring increased monitoring in comparison to the national figure of 26%.
- 4.4 In relation to the above, the Department are working with mental health service integrated partners – Southern Health and Surrey and Borders - to understand what is required to increase the referrals rates in Hampshire. Anecdotally, it is believed that mental health teams are working in a structured way with high levels of risk all of the time and may not therefore recognise where safeguarding, in addition, could provide support for service users. It is recognised that recording issues may also play a large part in

that HCC and these organisations use different electronic recording systems that cannot interface with one another and result in the need for practitioners to put information into two systems.

- 4.5 Both mental health organisations are committed to working with HCC to resolve this issue and all have focused resources on the problem.
- 4.6 In relation to Learning Disability, the high proportion of referrals is as a result of inflation, caused by the low proportion of mental health referrals in the total figure. However, it is clear that over the past 12 months the number of safeguarding incidents involving learning disability clients, has increased. A significant proportion of this increase does relate to issues within institutions, with 3 of the 5 institutional abuse cases dealt with by the Department in 2011/12 being learning disability homes/hospitals.
- 4.7 Significant work is being undertaken with learning disability service users, carers, providers of care and statutory agencies to look at the issues in Hampshire, in addition to national work in response to the cases highlighted at the Winterbourne View Hospital in May 2011.
- 4.8 Finally, the differences related to service user outcomes are in the main, caused by interpretation. Although Hampshire have a higher percentage of cases requiring increased monitoring, there are only 18% of cases where there is no further action, compared to the national figure of 31%. This issue is being explored as it may result from a failure of staff to revert back to increased monitoring through normal case management at the end of the safeguarding process.
- 4.9 In relation to safeguarding activity in Hampshire for 2011/12, this will be reported to the November 2012 meeting of the Select Committee as part of the presentation of the Safeguarding Adults Board Accountability Statement for this year.

5. 2012/13

- 5.1 In addition to the work described above to understand the anomalies within the AVA data, the Department and the Safeguarding Adults Board, are working on the following;
 - Development of a new structure and membership for the Safeguarding Adults Board and appointment of an Independent Chair for this Board
 - Development of a new Safeguarding Adults Policy for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, lead by HCC
 - Work with the Department of Economy, Transport and Environment to increase the safety of travel on public transport for vulnerable adults, particularly those with a learning disability
 - Development of a strategy to address 'mate' crime in Hampshire
 - Work to improve the response and ongoing service given to victims and witnesses of crime who have a learning disability, with the aim of

achieving equality of outcome when they need to engage with the criminal justice system

- Launch the report from the Hampshire multi-agency review of care provided to high need learning disability clients who are at risk of choking

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 In conclusion, Hampshire County Council Adult Services are currently undertaking a significant amount of work with partner agencies in the area of adult safeguarding in order to ensure that our responses are appropriate and meet the needs of service users both now and into the future.
- 6.2 Hampshire County Council are taking a lead role in this work and the Department will continue to maintain investment in this core area of business to ensure delivery of it's statutory responsibilities.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

Safeguarding Adults Policy 2010

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/professionals-abuse.htm>

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. The approach taken is offer services equally to all. The equality impact assessment has been updated and will shortly be published on HCC website.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/as-equality-ia-archive.htm>

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 The Department work closely with the Hampshire Constabulary in delivery of the adult safeguarding agenda.

3. Climate Change:

- 2.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

At present, there is no impact on HCC carbon footprint or energy consumption.

- a) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

There is no impact on the need to adapt to climate change.