

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Report**

<b>Committee:</b>	Safe and Healthy People Select Committee
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	28 June 2013
<b>Report Title:</b>	Adult Services – Safeguarding Adults
<b>Reference:</b>	4989
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Adult Services

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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.
- 1.2 At the request of the Committee, this paper also highlights the work carried out with the Nepalese community within Hampshire over the last year.

## **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
- 2.3 Scrutiny of the safeguarding work of Adult Services is provided through bi-annual presentations to the Safe and Healthy Select Committee. In addition, adult safeguarding will also be considered at the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that all strategic agendas are aligned to meet the identified needs of the Hampshire population.

### **3. The National Picture**

3.1 The Government has recently published the Care Bill (the Bill) which is now making it's way through Parliament. This Bill brings together the multiplicity of current legislation - which relates to Adult social care - into one place and will modernise care and support in England

3.2 It has been confirmed that the local authority will remain the lead agency in relation to adult safeguarding. This gives two responsibilities which are as follows:

- leading operational safeguarding and overseeing investigation and enquires in response to safeguarding referrals received. Individual safeguarding referrals are investigated by social care staff, NHS and the Police, in line with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Adults Policy (2010).
- We are accountable for the co-ordination of the strategic multi-agency safeguarding partnership across all agencies within the Hampshire County Council area and this is delivered through the multi-agency Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board

3.3 The Bill will place a 'Duty to Co-operate' on statutory agencies in order to enhance current working arrangements. In Hampshire, the working relationship between key agencies is already of good quality.

### **4. The Local Picture**

4.1 *Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB)*

4.1.1 The Bill will place the HSAB on a statutory footing for the first time, in line with current Children's safeguarding arrangements. In advance of this Care Bill coming into law, Adult Services, working closely with the Police and NHS commissioners (other key statutory agencies named in the Bill), are restructuring the HSAB and have appointed a new Independent Chair.

4.1.2 A Memorandum of Understanding is now in place for all member agencies and discussion regarding shared funding of the HSAB expenses, is underway.

4.1.3 The workplan for 2013/14 is as follows;

- Work with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to reduce the number of fire deaths of vulnerable people in Hampshire
- Respond to Winterbourne View SCR and Department of Health final report. Develop and deliver resulting actions.
- Develop a system of quality assurance for the HSAB in order to strengthen accountability of member agencies.
- Develop service user involvement in the working of the HSAB

4.1.4 The Bill clearly outlines expectations in relation to public accountability and states that the HSAB must publish both the annual strategic plan, in addition to the progress made against the plan, in discussion with Healthwatch. With this in mind, in order to harmonise the HSAB reporting schedule, there will be no annual report published in 2013/14. This will enable the HSAB to bring reporting in line with the publication of the national, comparative safeguarding statistics. The HSAB will therefore publish a report in June/July 2014 which will cover the previous two years and will produce an annual report at this point in the year, into the future.

#### 4.2 *Serious Case Review (SCR)*

4.2.1 As one of the HSAB responsibilities, it is required to undertake Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) in circumstances where a vulnerable adult has died or sustained serious injury where abuse or neglect were a factor and where there are concerns about the way in which agencies had worked together to safeguard vulnerable adults.

4.2.2 The Hampshire Adult Safeguarding Board (HSAB) commissioned its first SCR in late 2011 and the report was published on 17 June 2013. The review concerns a man with a learning disability referred to as 'Mr A' who died in Portsmouth Hospital in May 2010. He had been under the care of health and social services all of his adult life, had complex health needs (autism, learning disability and challenging behaviour) and was living in supported accommodation.

4.2.3 The review was carried out by an Independent Chair provided by Portsmouth City Council and was supported by a panel of representatives from the key agencies and a (commissioned) independent author.

4.2.4 The SCR process involved an in depth review of the care and treatment received by the vulnerable adult across an agreed timeframe. In this case the review considered Mr A's care from 2007 to the time of death. The process involved the review of reports, information and chronologies from the agencies providing care and face to face interviews and the collation of an overview report.

4.2.5 The HSAB will now monitor the action plan to ensure completion.

#### 4.3 *Performance*

4.3.1 The national information return, the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (AVA) data, for 2012/13 has been submitted and will be published later in the year. This data, after validation, allows for some comparison with local authorities of a similar size although a number of caveats apply.

4.3.2 The AVA data evidences that during 2012/13 there has been a steady increase in safeguarding referrals of approximately 500 over the total for 2011/12. The additional referrals are placing the social care teams under pressure but they are, at present, managing this work with the support from the adult safeguarding unit.

4.3.3 The main headlines from this information are as follows;

- Mental health referrals (18-64) have increased from 10% in 2011/12 to 21% in 2012/13. The national average is 23%. This success is due to hard work by staff to record effectively
- Cases of institutional abuse requiring large scale investigation have increased, particularly in learning disability
- The majority of safeguarding referrals relate to older people and people with a learning disability. Older people are more likely to suffer from neglect, whilst people with a learning disability are subject to physical abuse
- The three main types of abuse, in order of prevalence, are neglect, physical abuse and financial abuse
- The key relationships between the perpetrator and the victim of abuse, in order of prevalence are social care staff (independent, private and public sector staff), other family member followed by partner

#### 4.4 *Trading Standards*

The Adult Safeguarding team work closely with Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Safeguarding Unit, to address issues where vulnerable people have been the victim of financial abuse, as a result of contracts for goods and services. This collaboration has worked well, with the development of a shared post, and to date Trading Standards have retrieved over £850,000 for people in Hampshire through intervention in disputes.

### 5. **Work with the Nepalese Community**

- 5.1 Since the High Court Ruling allowing retired Gurkha's to remain in the UK, the numbers of Gurkha's/Nepali residents in the UK has increased. Rushmoor has a population of 93,807 of which 6,131 have declared themselves to be Nepali (Census 2011).
- 5.2 Identification of a safeguarding issue in the Nepali community can be complex and is determined by a range of factors; language, literacy and cultural norms such as family dynamics, financial situation and understanding of the law. These things also create barriers between the settled community, service providers and Nepali community.
- 5.3 One Nepali Community Safety Officer has been based in Rushmoor since late 2012, which has provided a better understanding of this community. .
- 5.4 There has recently been an anti-migration group set up via a social networking site called Enough is Enough. This group has posed a number of questions, based of myths which have resulted in reports of vandalism to Nepali owned vehicles and school children spitting in the faces of elderly Nepali women. A community meeting has been held with members of this

group that involved both Hampshire County Council and Rushmoor Borough Council senior community safety officers in order to dispel these myths.

5.5 The Hampshire County Council Adult Services Safeguarding team alongside the Inclusion and Engagement Team have been working with the Gurkha/Nepali community to raise awareness of adult safeguarding, domestic violence and children's services in the following way;

- working collaboratively with the Police, local religious leaders, the district council, Aldershot Citizens advice bureau and voluntary organisations to inform the Nepalese communities of safeguarding adults.
- Providing training in safeguarding to existing workers who are focused on working with the Nepali community
- Undertaking Safeguarding awareness presentations and holding 'surgeries' - with a translator - for communities.
- Participating in a joint radio programme with the police on the Gurkha Radio station to raise awareness of safeguarding in Aldershot. The first programme was aired on Sunday 2 June 2013.
- Involvement in health events focusing on holistic health and well being including prevention of abuse. The health awareness events were attended by about 200 Nepalese and safeguarding adults was promoted.

5.6 Moving forward, there are a number of planned interventions over the coming months including the production of an audio CD in Nepalese about safeguarding adults in a similar format to the CD currently available from the police on Child Protection and Domestic Abuse.

## **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**

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

DocumentLocation

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. An equality impact assessment has been completed and is published on Hampshire County Council website.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1 The Department works 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 Hampshire County Council carbon footprint or energy consumption.

- 2.2. 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.