

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Safe and Healthy People Select Committee
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Title:	Adult Safeguarding
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Report From:	Director of Adult Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) Annual Report 2009/10 to members of the Safe and Healthy People Select Committee. The Annual Report can be found in the 'Preventing Abuse' section at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/as-publications/general-publications.htm>
- 1.2 Hampshire County Council Adult Services have the coordination and leadership role for safeguarding adults across all agencies and the Executive Member for Adult Services and elected Members – through the Safe and Healthy People Select Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board - provide scrutiny of this role.
- 1.3 This report describes all the activity of the HSAB for 2009/10 and identifies some key priorities for 2010/11.
- 1.4 The report highlights an increase in the number of reported allegations of adult abuse during 2009/10. The reasons for this are;
- Changes in demography, through increased life expectancy, have led to increasing numbers of older people and adults with complex needs, who are most vulnerable to abuse, living in the community
 - Hampshire County Council and partners have worked hard to raise public and professional awareness of safeguarding. This work has included the production of public awareness literature, developed alongside service users through the Safeguarding Users Committee and Forum, for dissemination in public places

- There have been increased levels of training for professionals, both provided by individual organisations and in partnership with one another, which lead to increased referrals
- Data collection processes are continually being refined in order to make better links between the information and other systems across partner organisations.

2. Contextual information

2.1 The Annual Report is published on behalf of the HSAB and contains contributions from the broad range of agencies who are members of that Board. These contributions for 2009/10 reflect a strong joint commitment and the continuing and positive development of a robust multi agency response to Safeguarding Adults in Hampshire.

2.2 There has been significant progress against the priorities set out in the previous 2008/09 annual report particularly around: promotion of awareness of adult safeguarding to the public and professionals; developments in collection of data; governance of the HSAB and the prevention agenda.

2.3 In particular, there has been a strong focus on work with service users to find out what sorts of outcomes they would wish to achieve when confronted with abuse, the processes by which they would want to achieve those outcomes and the development of a set of measurable outcomes for audit by the HSAB. With the help of a drama group, service users explored how safeguarding processes are currently experienced in practice and the drama acted as a catalyst for ideas and views being expressed.

2.4 As a result, service users have developed an audit tool for use by the HSAB and member agencies, to audit their practice in Safeguarding Adults work. In addition, a booklet has been developed which sets out a charter for service users involved in safeguarding and a DVD has been produced highlighting what is important to them. Both the booklet and the DVD will be used in training to help organisations, professionals, service users and their families better understand these outcomes.

2.5 This project was designed to assist HSAB members to look at our own practice in the light of service users' preferences and wishes. We will continue to work with the Service Users Forum in order that we can monitor, sustain and update this work during 2010/11.

2.6 In January 2010, the previous Government, announced that following the review of 'No Secrets' guidance (Department of Health 2000), Safeguarding Adults Boards would be reviewed in order to strengthen arrangements. Whilst there has been no formal announcement by the new Government on

this issue, indications are that adult safeguarding remains under review and changes will be announced during 2011.

2.7 The Business Plan for the HSAB for 2010/11 can be seen in the appendices of the Annual Report and some of the key highlights are: leading a pan-Hampshire review of care for high need learning disability clients at risk of choking; work to raise awareness of safeguarding in BME and hard to reach communities; work on community safety to improve processes for information sharing between partners dealing with vulnerable adults and a programme of audit of multi-agency partnership work using the tool developed by service users. Good progress is being made against all the objectives

3. Legal

3.1 Local Authority Adult Services Departments have statutory responsibilities for Safeguarding / Adult Protection¹ to:

- deliver leadership and co-ordination to ensure that all those who provide services for our citizens work together to address the safeguarding agenda in Hampshire
- 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.

4. Financial

4.1 Safeguarding clients is a high priority for the Adult Services Department; during 2009/10 Adult Services made a significant additional investment in safeguarding of £652,000 to increase support provided to frontline staff dealing with this workload. This ongoing investment has enabled staff to keep pace with the increasing referral rates during 2009/10 and is evidence of the Department's clear commitment to the core business of adult safeguarding.

4.2 Partners in both the NHS and the Police have also provided some funding to support the work carried out with service users during the year.

¹ No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, Department of Health 2000

5. Performance

- 5.1 Safeguarding referrals, across all agencies, come through the Adult Services Department. In 2009/10, there has been a significant increase in situations of abuse which are reported and we expect this trend to continue.
- 5.2 It is important to note that when dealing with safeguarding issues, the needs and wishes of the victims are put first within the process. Hampshire County Council are keen that the service user finds an outcome to the safeguarding process that is right for them and this may, or may not, include pursuing direct actions against perpetrators of abuse such as prosecution.
- 5.3 Through the collection of data, partners are able to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable adults and use this information to continually improve our collective response. In 2009/10, there has been an anticipated increase in the allegations of abuse from 804 in 2008/09 to 1437. This equates to 1319 people, as one individual may be the subject of more than one report.
- 5.4 This rate of increase is slowing down in 2010/11 due to the maturation of safeguarding processes and a much greater awareness of reporting mechanisms amongst staff and the general public.
- 5.5 The outcomes for these 1319 people, have been drawn from the Adult Services Department client record systems and are represented at a moment in time, as some cases are ongoing. This data shows;
- 40.5% allegations were unsubstantiated or no further action was taken or issues dealt with in a different way
 - 0.3% refused support
 - 15.2% the abuser or abused were removed from the situation
 - 39.6% management action was taken or support provided to enable the person to manage the situation
 - 1.4% referred for further action to other agencies
 - 3.0% criminal investigation pending.
- In addition, the Police report that there were 17 police outcomes in 2009/10 which resulted in caution or prosecution in respect of adult safeguarding cases.
- 5.6 Hampshire County Council submitted a voluntary Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (AVA) national return during 2009/10, which comprised data for the 6 months from 01 October 2009 – 31 March 2010. This has enabled informal benchmarking with six other local authorities and showed that levels of safeguarding activity and patterns of abuse for the six month period were in line with Essex, Hampshire's closest comparator among the participants.
- 5.7 This return is mandatory from 2010/11 for all Councils and it will provide an opportunity to fully benchmark HCC safeguarding against all other local

authorities. The findings were due to be released by the Department of Health in October 2010 but, at the time of writing, this information has not been made available.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 In conclusion, the Annual Report for 2009/10 evidences that the multi-agency partnership, co-ordinated by Hampshire County Council Adult Services, has undertaken a significant amount of work during last year which has continued into 2010/11.
- 6.2 The Department will continue to maintain investment in this core area of business to ensure delivery of it's statutory responsibilities.

7. Appendices

Appendix A	Corporate or legal information
Appendix B	Impact Assessment
Appendix C	Members of the Safeguarding Adults Board

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):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
No Secrets Guidance – Department of Health		2000
Local Authority and Social Services Act		1970

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The Department has completed and published on Hantsnet an Equality Impact Assessment at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/safeguarding-ia.doc> . This document has been reviewed in the light of the Equality Act 2010 and is compliant.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime.
- 2.2. Effective safeguarding impacts on both the community safety and the domestic abuse agendas. The Police and a member of Victim Support sit on the Safeguarding Adults multi-agency Board and other emergency services are represented on a sub-group of the Board. Joint work is underway with those leading on domestic abuse to ensure that the safeguarding agenda is run in parallel.

3. Climate Change:

- a) 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.

- b) 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.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE HAMPSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
BOARD 2010/11

- Hampshire County Council Adult Services
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire Probation Service
- Hampshire Community Health Care
- NHS Hampshire
- Hampshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Surrey and Borders Foundation Trust
- Acute Health Trusts (through the NHS Health Consortium Subgroup of the HSAB)
- Community Action, Hampshire (voluntary sector)
- Hampshire Care Association
- Hampshire Domiciliary Care Association
- Supporting People, HCC
- Strategic Housing Officers Group Representation
- Service User representation
- Crown Prosecution Service
- General Practice
- Trading Standards (HCC)
- (Department of Work and Pensions)
- (South Central Ambulance Service)
- (Hampshire Fire Service)
- (Domestic Abuse Partners)
- (Shared Lives)

For those organisations listed in () there is currently not a representative attending the Board on a regular basis but they have strong links with the Board through membership of sub-groups and receive the minutes