

ADULT SAFEGUARDING

As the Adult Safeguarding Lead Officer, I have been asked to contribute to the upcoming scrutiny review in relation to Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and have been asked to comment on the following from an Adult Safeguarding perspective.

- **What measures already exist across the Borough to identify and address anti-social behaviour (inc. support given to those deemed vulnerable)?**

Under s42 of the Care Act 2014 there is duty on the Local Authority (Adult Services) to make enquiries where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)—

- .(a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- .(b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- .(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The Inter Agency Safeguarding Policy developed by the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) (see <https://www.tsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Teeswide-Inter-Agency-Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-V6-FINAL.pdf>) gives an overview of the legal framework, the different types of abuse/neglect and the key principles which include working in partnership. Under the category of psychological abuse there are many different indicators including intimidation, coercion, harassment and verbal abuse, all of which can present themselves as anti-social behaviour.

- **How do Council departments work with partners to address concerns?**

As stated above partnership working is one of the core principles of Adult Safeguarding as defined by the Care Act. Although the Local Authority has the legal duty to co-ordinate enquiries we are reliant on the input and involvement of other agencies/departments/professionals to adequately safeguard people and promote their wellbeing and maintain safety. Along with the Local Authorities, Cleveland Police are a statutory member of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults (TSAB) board and we work very closely with police on a case by case basis. There is Adult Social Care attendance at a morning huddle meeting which is led by police, Children Services, Community Safety, Thirteen Housing, and VCAS all attend this and this allows for specific cases/issues to be discussed. Social Workers, who are co-ordinating Adult Safeguarding enquiries, will also work with other council departments such as Community Safety and Housing to address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour. We escalate cases when required to Safeguarding Strategy meetings to enable partners to come together to discuss actions/options, we seek legal advice when and as required in terms of using potential legal options to safeguard. We also have an escalation process in the form of the Team Around the Individual (TATI) panel (Appendix 1). As you will see from the terms of reference this is attended by a number of different agencies.

- **Why is this not working in some cases?**

We have experienced a number of challenges in respect of addressing anti-social behaviour, mainly because of lack of reporting by the individual to police/community safety or them later not supporting giving a statement. Without the formal reporting, although we can often see the presenting risks/concerns there can be very little that can be done from an enforcement perspective. We then continue to manage the risk through monitoring plans and attempting to co-ordinate reporting to police/community safety.

- **Any awareness of / information on the use of PSPOs elsewhere that may have impacted upon work your service is involved in?**

Although PSPO's weren't directly referenced we as a Local Authority have recently shared the findings of a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) that was held in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough named as Peter (Appendix 2). Findings 6 was specifically in relation to street begging and how warning notices were implemented far too late. The focus of the learning determined that if a co-ordinated professional response had used preventative tools earlier on, this might have positively impacted on Peter's behaviour and restricted his drinking habits. Therefore it's important that we collectively consider the use of PSPO as part of collective multi agency preventative work.