



**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 23rd Feb 2012
09.00 - 12.00**

Venue: Hall, Education Centre, Junction Road, Stockton

Present:

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| Jim Beall | Cabinet Member (Adult services and Health), SBC |
| Cllr Steve Nelson | Cabinet Member (Housing and Community Safety), SBC |
| Liz Hanley | Adult Strategy Manager (Chair of this meeting), SBC |
| Paul Green | Strategic Lead Adult Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act, SBC |
| Terry Elliott | First Contact Manager, SBC |
| Glyn Roberts | Service Manager, SBC |
| Louise Anderson | Partnership Coordinator, Cleveland Fire Brigade |
| Jeff Evans | Stockton Probation Service |
| Parveen Mughal | Independent Care Home Representative |
| Janet Hayes | Commissioning Manager (Training) SBC |
| Pat Haslam | Head of Social Work and Mental Health, SBC |
| Kevin Richards | Emergency Duty Team Manager, SBC |
| Andrew Thomas | Performance Support Manager, SBC |
| Christine Brown | Policy Lead Adult Safeguarding NHS Tees |
| Molly Taylor | Adult Safeguarding Specialist Nurse |
| Margaret Brett | Lead Nurse, TEWV |
| Marie Brown | Safeguarding Lead, NEAS |
| (for Lesley Thirlwell) | |
| Regina Harington | Housing Options, SBC |
| (for Caroline Wood) | |
| Simon Walker | Detective Superintendent, Vulnerability Unit |
| Mal Suggitt | Stockton Police |
| (for Mick Williams) | |

Apologies:

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| Jane Humphreys | Corporate Director (Chair) |
| Sean McEneaney | Head of Adult Services, SBC |
| Mick Walker | Business Manager, Tees-wide SVAB |
| Allison Agius | Chief Executive, Catalyst |

Minutes taken by: Joanne Dickens

| Agenda Item | Item | Action |
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| 1 & 2 | Introductions and Apologies: Introductions were made and apologies accepted. | |
| 3 | Minutes of the last meeting: 6th Oct 2011 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. | |

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| 4 | <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the planned radio campaign and life channel campaign will be circulated following the meeting. • Fire service information sharing protocol was circulated with the meeting minutes as discussed at the last meeting. • Jane Humphreys wrote to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Committee (SVAC) members to reinforce the need for partners to commit to completing single agency reports for safeguarding strategy and review meetings. • A reminder was sent by Jane Humphrey regarding the Warmth initiative • New Threshold guidance has been produced by ADASS and adopted across the North East as good practice. • Membership has been reviewed and updated. User and carer representation to be considered as a substantive agenda item at future meetings. | |
| 5. | <p>Safeguarding Process</p> <p>The current adult safeguarding structure was outlined by Glyn following the restructure of adult services. All staff are currently in post and have undertaken relevant chairing and investigation training.</p> <p>The adult safeguarding process in Stockton was also outlined. The Liverpool Investigation Support Unit (I.S.U), where all referrals, risk assessments and investigations are dealt with by a Safeguarding Social Worker in consultation with the active social worker was briefly discussed. It is hoped that by undertaking a similar method within the Safeguarding team, a more consistent approach can be achieved. Mick Walker is exploring the possibility for Stockton and Hartlepool to be involved in a pilot project in line with the I.S.U principles.</p> <p>It was reported that consistent advice regarding no further action (NFA) relating to decisions on referrals was positive and that the system of relaying that information to the referrer is working well. Threshold guidance is also sent to the referrer along with the NFA decision to aid the referrer's decision making when submitting a referral.</p> <p>The strategic role of Paul Green and the link to operational safeguarding was discussed. Information will be circulated to launch</p> | |

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| | <p>the new process / structure formally in the appropriate format for different stakeholders.</p> <p>The Committee was assured that the significant increase in resources for Adult Safeguarding is expected to meet the identified increase in activity.</p> | GR |
| | <p>Activity Analysis</p> <p>Andrew reported to the Committee on the Safeguarding activity which was circulated with the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Anomalies were identified regarding non recorded information, which is linked to thresholds, how referrals are made and who records them.</p> <p>Councillor Nelson raised the issue reported in the media of the increased abuse of disabled people; it was acknowledged that this reporting is limited through the adult safeguarding systems. However, the Vulnerable Adult police pilot system is in progress which incorporates an assessment of risk of anti social behaviour for referral to the relevant police officer (started on 17.2.12).</p> <p>Much more reliable information is now available in relation to referrals than previously; the influence of recording via the new Care Director system was discussed.</p> <p>ADASS work is in progress to agree ten key performance fields to report against. Internal audit will be consulted to see if work could be completed to look at the information collected and how this could fit recording requirements.</p> <p>The Committee was assured that all referrals are dealt with in a holistic way, regardless of what is identified as the main category of abuse.</p> <p>Molly highlighted the progress made in the NHS in relation to adult safeguarding awareness and reporting; Margaret also highlighted the increased reporting in the NHS.</p> <p>Next Committee: an initial analysis of the full financial year information will be presented.</p> | |

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| | <p>Police Referral Criteria</p> <p>Simon Walker spoke to a paper that had been circulated with the meeting papers. Simon advised that the police vulnerability unit is still receiving a high number of referrals (60% last year were recorded as NFA) despite having no criminal component to the allegations. The role of the police in Adult Safeguarding was reiterated and Simon gave the Committee advice to consider when making a referral to the police. The implementation of the Mental Capacity Act has required a review of what referrals are considered criminal. Tees-wide Vulnerable Adults Board (TSVAB) will be reviewing this in line with business plan objectives. It was agreed that some referrals are complex and will continue to be referred to police for advice when thought necessary. It was confirmed that all referrals relating to financial abuse should be sent to the police in all circumstances.</p> <p>It was agreed that a local review was needed regarding the effectiveness and in line with the new vulnerable adult process.</p> | GR/ PG |
| 8 | <p>Middlesbrough Council Safeguarding Adults Finance Panel</p> <p>The paper was discussed at the TSVAB. It was agreed that a local workshop will be held on 28 March to review Stockton's systems in line with the recommendations regarding best interest decision / referral for appointeeship and deputyship. An update on the outcomes of the workshop will be provided at the next meeting.</p> | PG |
| 9 | <p>Social Care Worker / Personal Assistant Registration Scheme</p> <p>The proposal to register social care workers and personal assistants was discussed. Although this system could be of some benefit, it was thought that to commit the £5k costs from each of the 4 local authority areas would need further evidence and a more detailed proposal would need to be considered before a decision was made. Liz will feedback when further information is available.</p> | LH |
| 10 | <p>Responding to Serious Concerns about a service</p> <p>Chris Brown presented a protocol developed in response to concerns raised around multiple and /or complex safeguarding allegations raised in relation to a specific provider or facility which will be</p> | |

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| | <p>incorporated into the Tees-wide procedures. The protocol should be invoked when there are serious concerns about a service provided for vulnerable adults. It is hoped that this will facilitate and support a consistent approach to the formation of a multi-agency action plan.</p> | |
| 11 | <p>Mental Capacity Act Update</p> <p>Copies of the Section 75 Management Board minutes were circulated with the agenda for information.</p> <p>The MCA Section 75 Agreement is in place between the PCT and Council and funding arrangements for 2011 - 12 will remain for 2012-13. A consultation on future funding has been undertaken and funding is being made available to facilitate the planned transfer of statutory duty from the NHS to the LA on 01/04/13.</p> <p>Paul Green provided an update on Independent Mental Capacity Act (IMCA) usage. A small increase in numbers of IMCAs was noted.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the contracted provider for delivery of IMCA awareness to secure enough trained educators to deliver the service.</p> | |
| 12. | <p>Committee Work Plan</p> <p>A sub group of the Committee met to address the priorities for the Committee Work Plan in line with the Tees-wide business plan. A discussion took place in relation to how the Local Committee and Tees-wide Board work and the related governance arrangements.</p> | LH |
| 13 | <p>Standing Items:</p> <p>Tees-wide Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board Business</p> <p>Manager update:</p> <p>The Tees-wide Board meeting was held on 2nd February 2012 and a number of items have been discussed at this meeting; a copy of the minutes will be circulated with the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Adult Safeguarding and the NHS</p> <p>Chris Brown provided the Committee with an update with regard to Safeguarding within the NHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults at Risk: a review is in progress • NHS Commissioning Board Structures have been | |

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| | <p>released: Safeguarding will be part of the quality structure</p> <p>Regionally: Key projects to be completed in March 2012: clinical quality assessment in care homes; SCR reviews agreed model audit (workshop planned 30/03/12).</p> <p>Locally: All GPs, dentists, optometrists, and pharmacists have received Adult Safeguarding posters and leaflets. GP Practice briefings have been requested: the issue of providing training for independent contractors was discussed.</p> <p>Margaret informed the Committee that reports for the TEWV Learning Disability Services are now available and that she will forward the links to the Committee.</p> <p>Training Update</p> <p>Janet Hayes presented the findings of an audit that was undertaken to determine the arrangements providers have in place for safeguarding adults training. The exercise proved useful and has prompted the uptake of various courses including Stockton Borough Council training. However, the exercise also raised concerns about the staff turnover as a number of providers had never received information about e-learning courses despite this being distributed to providers on a regular basis. This process will be audited annually.</p> <p>A discussion took place in relation to how Commissioners can ensure that independent sector providers are held to account for workforce training and competence.</p> <p>It was agreed that Rob Papworth will present the Quality Standard Framework at the next Committee.</p> <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15th May 9:00 - 12:00 Room E, Education Centre, Junction Road, Stockton</p> | <p>JH</p> <p>RP</p> |
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