

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

**Annual Report of the Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Board  
(2011-12)**

**PRESENTED BY KAREN KALINOWSKI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR  
ADULT CARE & SUPPORT**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report of the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Board for 2011-12, and thereby to raise awareness of the Board's role in promoting the safety and welfare of vulnerable adults in our area

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that

The Board notes the content of the report

The Board makes suggestions as to future presentations

This Board acknowledges the role played by the Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Board in overseeing the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in our area.

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>                         | Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)? |   |
|   | Yes   | Co-operative Council Priority<br><br><b>'Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults'</b>  |
|   | Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?               |   |
|   | Yes   | The report is especially relevant in regard to vulnerable adults, ie those who may be eligible for community care services by virtue of disability, age or illness, and who are or may be unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation  |
| <b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>          | The report covers the period from April 2011 until March 2012         |   |
| <b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>         | Yes   | During the year in question ( and beyond) the Board had no financial identity and no budget. It has operated on the basis of goodwill and commitment of its constituent members   |
| <b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>                             | No  | The Board and its predecessors developed following the publication of the 'No Secrets' guidance (DoH 2000) with its emphasis on cross-agency work. In May 2011, the government published its <i>Statement of Government Policy on Adult Safeguarding</i> , which announced that the protection of vulnerable adults would be strengthened by making the existence of Safeguarding Adults Boards, as recommended by the Law Commission, legally mandatory for all local authorities. Precise details of what this implies are still awaited. |
| <b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> | Yes   | Apart from the direct impact on the safety and welfare of vulnerable people, the activities carried out within the remit of the Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Board also affect family   |

|                                 |    |   |
|---------------------------------|----|---|
|                                 |    | members, carers and in some cases the community at large. |
| <b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b> | No | Impacts equally across the Telford & Wrekin district      |

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

#### Background

Because the Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Board does not operate to a specified statutory remit, there has been no clarity or consensus on where to report its activity. We therefore welcome this opportunity to present the Board's annual report for 2011-12 to the Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board, as a means of raising awareness of the range of endeavours in our area, which address the safeguarding vulnerable adults.

In the absence of a statutory remit, the guidance provided in 2000 by 'No Secrets' continues inform the organisation and practice of adult protection and safeguarding. The arrival of the 2005 Mental Capacity Act with its inherent safeguards has had a transforming influence on the way in which work in this area is carried out.

For historical reasons which continue to have relevance, the Board covers the areas of both Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire. It comprises senior representatives from each of statutory agencies whose work impacts on vulnerable adults, as well as from the private-provider and voluntary sectors. It is chaired in annual rotation by a local authority Assistant Director – reflecting that the local authority is deemed to have the lead role in adult safeguarding.

An annual report focussing on the manner in which the key partner agencies have collaborated in adult safeguarding has been produced for many years. The three most recent can be accessed on the Council's website. Reflected in this annual report is the fact that this has been a period of great change in a number of respects, especially regarding restructure and reorganisation with the social care and health sectors, the continuing challenge of personalisation and the preparation for new policy and procedural arrangements based upon a pan-West Midlands model.

#### Activity and achievements

One of the report's principle purposes is to highlight the notable trends and achievements over the year, and particular reference is made to

- The development of a new multi-agency policy and procedure for adult safeguarding, which will be shared with 11 other local authorities in the region

- The prevalence and significance of wide-ranging and complex investigations of providers within the institutional abuse process
- The development of the local Dignity Network and its formal affiliation with the Board

Activity and performance over the year is charted in a number of charts and diagrams, which provide a global picture across the two authority area within the Board's remit. (Individual figures in respect of the individual authorities are included as an appendix to the report.

### Training

Staff training at all levels remains a cornerstone of all the efforts made in the adult safeguarding field, and the Board's training subgroup holds the remit to focus on the availability, provision and take-up across the local health and care sector of staff development opportunities in safeguarding. Accordingly the annual report refers in some detail to the training which has been undertaken and to the particular role of Shropshire Partners in Care in delivering a range of programmes across the two local authority areas.

### Public awareness and prevention

Raising the profile of safeguarding issues is seen as a central priority and the report highlights some of the initiatives which were taken over year to promote awareness of issues which are all too easy for the community at large to forget.

### Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

A report on DoLS activities over the year across the two local authority areas is incorporated in the annual report. The protection of vulnerable individuals from arbitrary detention is obviously an important aspect of the adult safeguarding drive, and the report focuses on the achievement of progress in the field, while acknowledging that the two local authorities have adopted different approaches in managing DoLS activity. The report also includes comparative data for other West Midlands authority areas on the implementation of DoLS.

### Action plan and priorities for the current year

A detailed action plan for the Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Board is included, which incorporates the developing priorities which were first set for both local authorities in their respective safeguarding inspections in 2009-10, as well as reflecting the features of the shared safeguarding strategy which the Board adopted following the inspections.

The priorities adopted for the current year are set out, and the development of new policy and procedure, in reflection of a pan-regional approach to adult safeguarding, is foremost among these.

### Statistical appendices

A statistical digest of safeguarding data is appended to the annual report. This is largely relective of the areas in which both local authorities have to report annually to the Department of Health (the 'AVA' data return). The Department is presently consulting on new approaches to the collection of adult safeguarding data, and in due course this will require changes to the data which is collected. Meanwhile the Board's performance sub-group is in the process of identifying areas where data collection could be more closely indicative of positive outcomes for vulnerable people, rather than, at present, where the data tends to measure activity.

### Looking ahead

During the current year, the Board will consider whether it should adopt a new approach to production of its annual report, to make it more accessible and readable. The existing format has served us for several years and it may well be time to consider change, for example by adopting a different format and including more personal accounts and reflections. The observations and comments of the Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board would be valued in this regard.

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