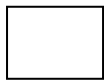




Report of: The Director of Adult Social Services
Board: Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Date: 29th July 2009
Subject: Leeds Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board report 2008/09

Electoral Wards Affected:



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary:

This report introduces the annual report for 2008/09 of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. The Annual report provides information on how all agencies with responsibilities in relation to safeguarding adults, under the leadership of the Director of Adult Social Services, have built on the proposals contained in the first annual report of the partnership (presented to the Executive Board in July 2008) and then responded to the recommendations of the 2008 Independence, Wellbeing and Choice Inspection of Adult Social Services.

That response, detailed in the report, includes the introduction of significantly revised governance arrangements with regard to the Board, the nomination to the board of a cohort of senior officers from the partnership organizations, the inclusion of citizen representation and establishment of focused, purposeful sub-groups to support the work of the board.

As well as significantly revising the structure and purpose of the Board, the report highlights the successful creation of an infrastructure designed to better promote and assure the work of the Board and the partner organizations in their efforts to safeguard and protect. The report also highlights the work that has been undertaken in the last year to radically overhaul the Leeds Safeguarding Policy, which supports a significantly revised set of multi-agency procedures that are in the process of being adopted by all partner organizations.

Finally, the report contains more detailed information on the direct work undertaken in 2008/09 by officers within the wider partnership and within adult social care with significantly greater numbers of people who were referred because of their need to be safeguarded or otherwise protected from harm.

The report concludes by setting out the detailed work programme for the Board in 2009/10

1.0 Purpose of Report.

1.1 This report introduces the second annual report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board, the report sets out how the respective partners have built on the work programme set out in the first annual report of the Board published in 2008 and have responded to the recommendations of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) Independence, Wellbeing and Choice, area Inspection conducted in the late summer of 2008.

2. Background

2.1 Members of the Executive Board were presented with the first annual report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board in July 2008. That report set out activity which had taken place in the previous year to establish steps that would need to be taken to reinforce the safeguarding partnership, augment the infrastructure supporting it and to drive up standards of safeguarding practice in front line services within all partner organizations.

2.2 The outcome of the Independence wellbeing and Choice inspection of adult social care services was reported to the Executive Board in November 2008. That report drew attention to areas of deficiency in both the strategic oversight of safeguarding and the quality of practice identified within the casework which had been under inspection.

2.3 As a consequence, a number of recommendations were made in relation to the overall safeguarding arrangements in the City. The actions in relation to the responsibilities of the safeguarding partnership, under the leadership of the Director of Adult Social Services, have been regularly reported to both the Executive Lead Member, the Adult social care Scrutiny Board and within the governance structures of the statutory partners.

2.4 In addition, the revised governance arrangements of the partnership have been the subject of two reports to the Corporate Audit and Governance Committee.

3. Current Position in Respect of Safeguarding Adults

3.1 A very significant amount of work has been undertaken (and continues to be undertaken) to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Leeds reflect national best practice models and aspire to excellence. First and foremost this stems from the determined view by all agencies that Leeds citizens have a right to expect that all are safeguarded by responsive public bodies working in partnership and that the most vulnerable are effectively protected when they need to be.

3.2 The annual report which sets out the activity that has been undertaken in relation to all aspects of safeguarding activity in the 2008/09 year, the report also sets out the prospective activity planned for 2009/10 (for both the Board and its sub-groups) The report identifies the very substantial growth in numbers of safeguarding referrals and the increasing proportion of those referrals that are concluded by the establishment of a safeguarding plan for the individual concerned.

3.3 Finally, the report indicates the intention towards the end of the current performance year to formally recruit an appropriately experienced chair for the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. Since June 2008, the Board has been chaired by the Deputy Director (Strategic Commissioning) within a separate accountability agreement to the Director of Adult Social Services. All the Board initiatives set out in the attached report have been put into place under this arrangement, however, it is recognised that this period of stabilization and embedding of new arrangements should be a temporary one and that national best practice, to which we aspire, requires the appointment of an independent chair. The recruitment process will commence in early Autumn with the objective of the new Chair taking up their role in April 2010.

- 3.4 Against the criteria used by the Care Quality Commission Adult Social Services have advised that they regard their performance as being adequate and therefore having demonstrated improvement over the judgment for 2007/08. The CQC will provide their formal definitive response to the self assessment in November.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The adoption in February of improved arrangements for partnership and Board governance means that the Board now operates within a nationally recognized set of best practice arrangements designed with the assistance of leading national figures. These arrangements were twice reported, in detail, to the Corporate Audit and Governance committee.
- 4.2 The Board has agreed to keep all the governance arrangements set out in the 'Memorandum of Understanding' under review during the current performance year, adjustments to the constitution will be made in order to address any anomalies or deficiencies. This is particularly important in the light of the likelihood of further guidance emerging for Local safeguarding Partnerships as a consequence of the outcome of the Governments review of the 2000 'No Secrets' framework, responding quickly to address any new requirements will be important.

5.0 Legal & Resource Implications

- 5.1 The legal implications relate to a significant array of legislation in relation to offences against the person, guidance in relation to Care Standards, the implementation of specific guidance in relation to Adult Safeguarding, Dignity in Care and the associated responsibilities for Local Authorities and their partners set out in the terms of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- 5.2 Paragraph 4.2 above alerts Members to the possible introduction of amended safeguarding requirements as a consequence of the Governments response to the review of the 2000 'No Secrets' guidance.
- 5.3 The resource implications of the new arrangements are set out in the annual report, however, in summary, Adult Social Care, as part of the 2009/10 budget setting process, identified a total investment package of £878K to support and augment front-line practitioners. An element of this investment has been used to ensure that the overall partnership has an effective infrastructure which is able to support safeguarding activity across the wider partnership.
- 5.4 Elements of this investment are being offset by contributions from partners, where appropriate as income (in the case of NHS Leeds for example) or in terms of time devoted by officers to supporting the work of the partnership (in the case of the West Yorkshire Police, for example).
- 5.5 The elements of contribution will remain under review and will continue to be reported through the annual report.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Safeguarding Adults, especially vulnerable adults, is increasingly recognized in Leeds as being everybody's business. Members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board will wish to continue to be assured that the system and practice of Safeguarding is kept under close and regular review to ensure that it remains responsive to national policy shifts and local organisational realignments.
- 6.2 Members will wish to be assured that the practical as well as strategic requirements of this approach are well understood by key staff from across the safeguarding partnership and, increasingly, by the wider public. Further, this report seeks to provide assurance that not only are any weaknesses in the system of Safeguarding recognised and addressed but that the partners have committed to a programme designed to achieve excellence in

Safeguarding practice in Leeds. The annual report for 2008/09 and associated workplan for 2009/10 set out the practical steps to be taken in helping to achieve that goal in the coming year.

6.3 In support of the crucial role played by the Local Authority in ensuring the safety of its citizens, Members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board have continued to retain a close interest in the development of these arrangements, their support and interest has been both important and welcome.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 Members are requested to note the content of the attached 2008/09 annual report.

Background papers:

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Safeguarding Policy

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Annual Report 2008/09

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Memorandum of Understanding