



Report of the Director of Adult Social Services

Scrutiny Board Adult Social Care

Date: 10 February 2010

Subject: Leeds Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board Update

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 updates Members with information with regard to progress made against the workplan contained in the annual report for 2008/09 of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board, first reported to the this Board in July 2009.

In the 6 months that have passed since the presentation of that report the Board has overseen the successful implementation of supporting infrastructures and has concluded two serious case review enquiries. Significant other developments undertaken in the last six months include the implementation of revised and updated procedures across the whole safeguarding partnership, the completion of the recruitment programme (which means that the partnership support infrastructure is now fully staffed) and finally development sessions for Board members to ensure their own leadership roles are well informed by current practice issues.

Most recently, advertisements have been placed to recruit a high calibre independent chair to take the Board forward and drive forward further improvement.

The report concludes by setting out the outline work programme for the Board for the remainder of this performance year and highlights the likely publication date of the 2009/10 annual report

1.0 Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 This report updates members on how the respective partners to the Safeguarding Board have progressed against the work programme set out in the annual report of the Board published in May 2009 and how these in turn 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 second annual report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board in June 2009. 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 Members will be aware from previous reports that significant deficiencies were identified in the partnership infrastructure, processes and performance management arrangements. The 2008/09 annual report, presented to Scrutiny Board members in July 2009 set out progress which had been made in addressing those deficiencies, at that time it was reported that a very significant amount of work had been undertaken to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Leeds reflect national best practice models and aspire to excellence.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 As reported to the December 2009 Board, against the criteria used by the Care Quality Commission, Adult Social Services have been judged in relation to its overall performance in relation to safeguarding (Outcome 7) as being adequate and therefore having demonstrated improvement over the judgment for 2007/08.

3. Current Position in Respect of Safeguarding Adults

- 3.1 Firstly, in relation to the Board, attendance has continued to be very good, with the level of seniority of partner officers at an appropriate level. The Board has now established its sub-group infrastructure with each group now meeting on a regular basis and reporting its work to the Board. The groups consist of, performance and quality, procedure and policy, training and workforce development, serious case and professional practice, each of these sub-groups is now chaired by senior officers drawn from among the statutory partners who, in turn, have taken their place as full Board members.. Three other groups are in the process of formation to inform the work of the Board, citizen reference group, carer reference group and third sector reference group.
- 3.2 The four main groups set out above have each achieved important milestones in the last 6 months. The performance and quality group has overseen the commencement of data gathering from the statutory partner agencies in relation to their safeguarding activity, this will lead to a more detailed understanding of the totality of such activity in the City. The other work of this group includes the development of a quality assurance framework for assessing the impact and efficacy of safeguarding interventions. This in turn will help to inform judgments on the efficacy of training and workforce development initiatives.
- 3.3 The procedure and policy group has overseen the successful sign-off and implementation of new inter-agency procedures for the City which have now been fully adopted by all statutory partners. The group continues to keep the procedures under review and also the constitution of the Board where it was agreed that the 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) would be subject to regular revision in the light of the Board's development.
- 3.4 The training and workforce development group has overseen the commencement of a comprehensive review of the training and development needs of people working in the

respective statutory and associated partners and also specifically for members of the Board. The group has continued to oversee a significant multi agency training programme covering both general (awareness raising) issues and more specialist training aimed at those staff with specific responsibilities within the safeguarding system (for example in relation to the safeguarding aspects of capacity determinations)

- 3.5 The serious case and professional development group has overseen the completion and publication of two serious case reviews which, in turn, have resulted in two detailed action plans adopted by partners as part of their individual organizational improvement plans designed to ensure that lessons learnt from the reviews are fully and widely disseminated and adopted. Crucially, the action plans are reviewed by each of the other groups so that procedural amendments, training requirements and quality assurance measures are all developed quickly and directly in response to the review reports. Appended to this report is the Serious Case Review Procedure which details the criteria for a serious case review. The procedure lists the criteria, and provides a checklist of questions that should be asked of each suggested case for review.
- 3.6 In December, Board members attended a second development day facilitated to develop their understanding of the inter-agency procedures and their agency role as safeguarding champions. In response to these development opportunities each of the partners has now established their own internal safeguarding group specifically to ensure their readiness to respond to safeguarding episodes both strategically and practically, and to ensure their ability to implement their own organizational response to developments initiated by the Board and its sub-groups.
- 3.7 During the latter part of 2009, the recruitment process to ensure greater capacity for the safeguarding board infrastructure and within adult social services, concluded with the remaining appointments having been made. This has ensured that all the arrangements previously highlighted to members of the Scrutiny Board have now been fully implemented, this includes the independent chairing of safeguarding conferences, administrative and specialist advisory support to the Board and its sub-groups as well as specialist support to individual partner agencies and reference groups.
- 3.8 Finally, advertisements have been placed to formally recruit an appropriately able and experienced independent 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 developments set out above 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. It is anticipated that the recruitment process will conclude in time for the independent chair to take up their role in April, however, it is important to note that the strategic importance of this role within Leeds will require the recruitment of an individual with significant qualities and one recruitment round may well be insufficient.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The adoption in February 2009 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 As highlighted in paragraph 3.3 all the governance arrangements set out in the 'Memorandum of Understanding' are being kept under review, adjustments to the constitution will be made in order to address any anomalies or deficiencies. This is particularly important in the light of the recent Ministerial announcement, attached as appendix 2, in relation to the outcome of the Governments' review of the 2000 'No Secrets' framework, which confirms the present Government's intention to place local Safeguarding

Adult partnership arrangements on a statutory footing by the adoption of new primary legislation later this year.

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 introduction of amended safeguarding law as a consequence of the Governments response to the review of the 2000 'No Secrets' guidance. The Ministerial announcement makes clear that issues like Mental Capacity will be brought into the scope of the revised safeguarding board arrangements, as such the Leeds Board has already agreed to adopt the Local Implementation Network for the implementation of the requirements of the MCA as a formal sub-group of the Safeguarding Partnership Board, this arrangement will commence in April.
- 5.3 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. Elements of this investment have been offset in-year by contributions from partners, where appropriate as income (in the case of NHS Leeds, LTHT and LPFT) 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).
- 5.4 The February meeting of the Board will consider the 2010/11 budget and partner contributions proposals.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Safeguarding Adults, especially vulnerable adults, is now definitely 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 improved rating of performance in this area by the CQC provides independent evidence of the success that has been achieved to date.
- 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 continues to be both important and welcome.

7.0 Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the updated information contained in this report.

Documents referred to in this Report:

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Minutes July /October/ December 2009
Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Annual Report 2008/09