

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 62

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Data		
Date of Meeting:	15th March 2010		
Report of:	Acting Director, Adult Social Care and Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Karin Divall	Tel: 29-4478
	E-mail:	Karin.divall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Brighton & Hove City Council Adult Social Care are the statutory lead authority for protection of vulnerable adults from abuse. Abuse can take a number of forms including physical, sexual, psychological, financial abuse and neglect against vulnerable, older and disabled people. Abuse can be spontaneous or premeditated and can be a single incident or repeated and abusers could be a family member, a friend, staff, a professional and volunteer.
- 1.2 Adult Social Care (ASC) are the lead investigating authority for safeguarding alerts which are raised when someone has a concern about the way a vulnerable person has been treated. ASC collect statistical information on the number of safeguarding alerts received and the investigations that they carry out.
- 1.3 From October 2009 the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care has requested additional information to be collected by Local Authorities, as part of the development of a national data collection on the abuse of vulnerable adults. This report sets out the activity during October, November and December 2009 for work completed in Adult Social Care Services, and includes this additional information which is now required, giving more detail about adult abuse than we have been previously been able to analyse.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the trends for this period for safeguarding adults work in Brighton and Hove.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member requests that this information will be included in the Safeguarding Annual Report for April 2009/2010.

3.0 RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The additional data that we are now collecting for analysis means that we can see the source of the safeguarding alert, so we will be able to identify any partner organisations where referrals are low, and consider awareness raising within that organisation. We are now also able to collect information about location of abuse, and the relationship of the vulnerable adult to the alleged perpetrator. This will enable us to understand more about where abuse is taking place, and what risks are posed to vulnerable people, for example by paid carers, or family members.
- 3.2 This data will now be collected and reported every quarter. Once several quarters are collected patterns and trends are likely to emerge, which can inform strategies in the City for preventing abuse and for enabling vulnerable people to live positive and independent lives.
- 3.3 During the period October 1st - December 31st 2009 a total of 88 safeguarding alerts were received and investigated within Adult Social Care. The source of these alerts and the outcomes of the investigations are set out in Appendix 1.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations made in this report. Any changes in the volume of activity will need to be managed as part of the budget strategy.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Mike Bentley
2010*

Date: 16th February

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no specific legal implications which arise from this report as it is for information only. The additional data collected however will clearly assist the Council in facilitating good practice in terms of the protection of vulnerable adults.

Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Priestley Date: 1/03/10

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Older people, people with disabilities and mental illness can be vulnerable to abuse.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Vulnerable people can be subject to financial abuse and physical and sexual violence which are forms of adult abuse that are reported to Adult Social Care.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Safeguarding Adults is a key role for Adult Social care in ensuring that the most vulnerable people are able to live safely. Failure to manage this responsibility well puts individuals at risk as well as exposing the local authority to risk and challenge.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Safeguarding work is carried out across the City.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Safeguarding is a core statutory responsibility and it is important that there is good monitoring and oversight of performance

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To ensure that the Cabinet Member has an overview of Safeguarding Performance.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

Appendix 1





