

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 15

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Data		
Date of Meeting:	14th June 2010		
Report of:	Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Karin Divall	Tel: 29-4478
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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, institutional, discriminatory 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 This report sets out the activity from April 2009 to end March 2010, for work completed in Adult Social Care Services, including within mental health services, and is planned to be included in the Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2009/10.
- 1.4 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 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, and is used to inform action plans for the year ahead.

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, and trends emerging 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 April 2009 to end March 2010 a total of 1,288 safeguarding alerts were received, and 1,065 were investigated within Adult Social Care. The source of these alerts and the outcomes of the investigations are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 There has been a year on year increase in Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults alerts since 2004. This year the increase is 51%, which is the highest for 3 years. In previous years the increase has generally ranged between 25-35%. A year on year increase in safeguarding alerts has been experienced by Local Authorities nationally. This is likely due to ongoing improvements in data collection, and awareness raising and training for staff who are responsible for recognising abuse and raising alerts.
- 3.5 The proportion of alerts by client category (figure 1) continues this year at similar levels to last year. For example, last year the proportion of alerts for older people (over 65) was 52%, and this year it is 54%. For people with learning disabilities last years figure was 23%, this year it is 22%.
- 3.6 Figure 6 shows that allegations of physical abuse, psychological abuse and financial abuse are the most frequent. This is similar to last year, although this year allegations of physical and psychological abuse have increased slightly, and allegations of financial abuse have decreased from 23% to 18.8%.
- 3.7 Figures 7-9 show information for a 6 month period only, from October 2009 to end March 2010, from when this data started to be completed.
- 3.8 Figure 10 shows that 44.5% of completed investigations into allegations of abuse are substantiated. This has increased from last year, where 'inconclusive', 'substantiated' and unsubstantiated' were evenly split.

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: Anne Silley

Date: 1 June 2010

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: Sandra O'Brien

Date: 1 June 2010

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

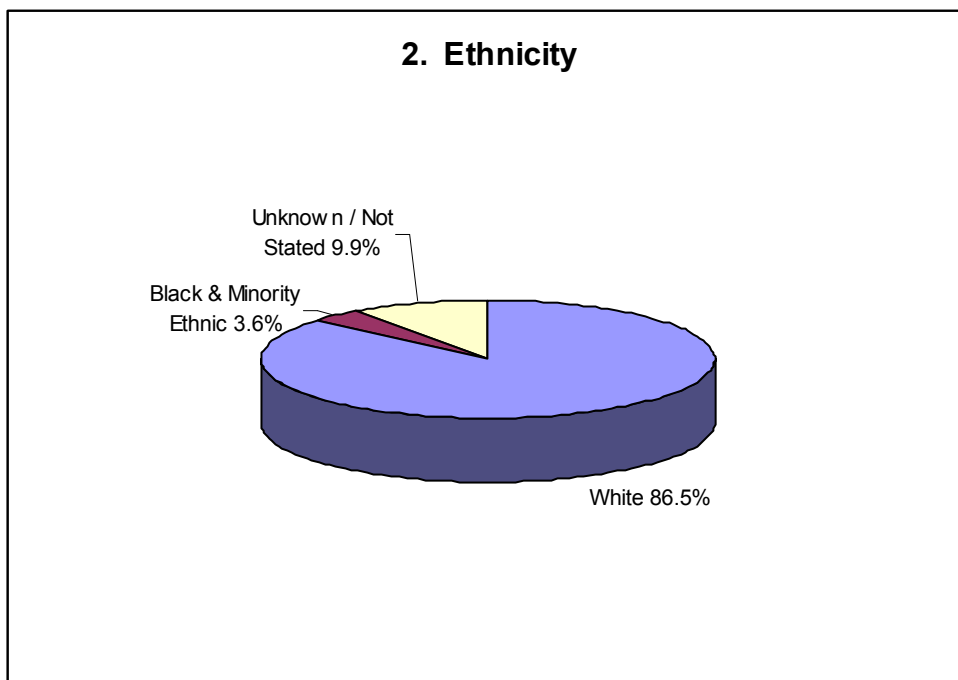
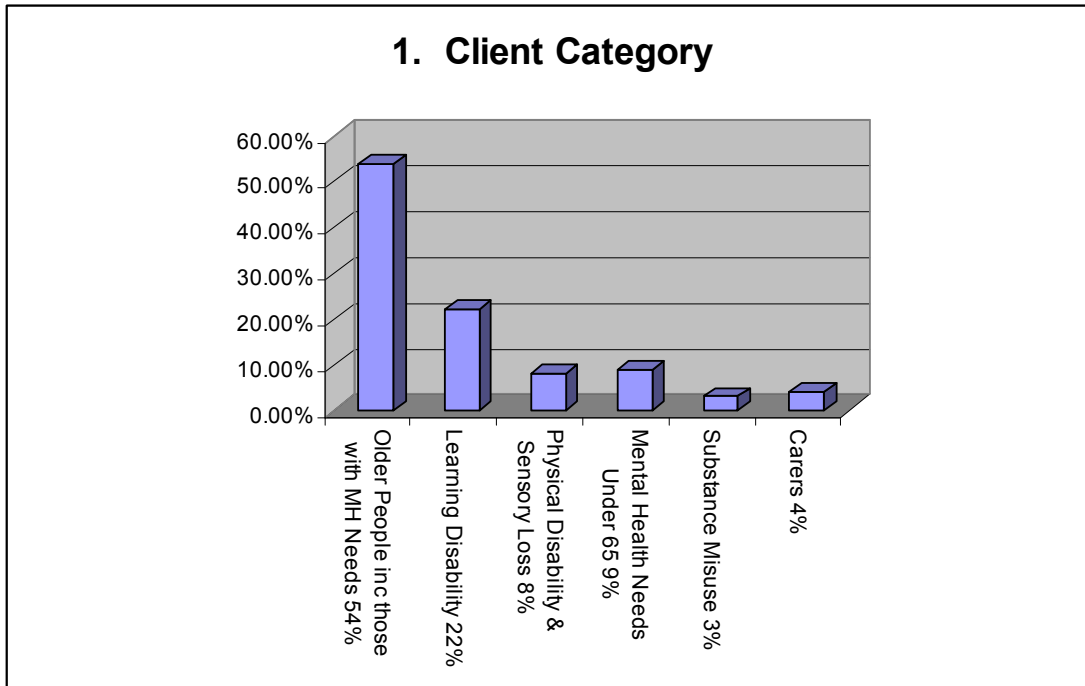
Documents In Members' Rooms

None

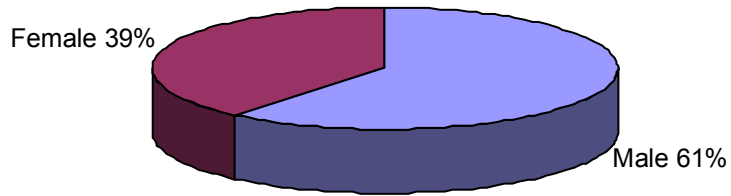
Background Documents

None

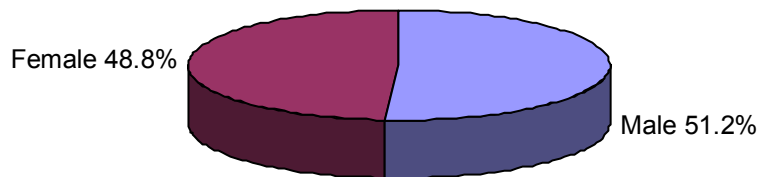
Appendix 1



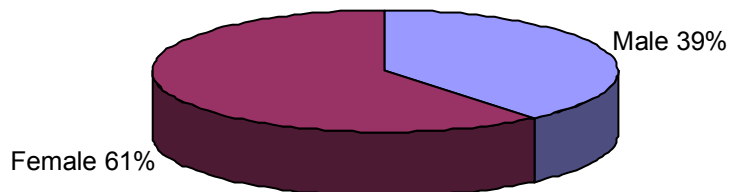
3. Gender of Vulnerable Person



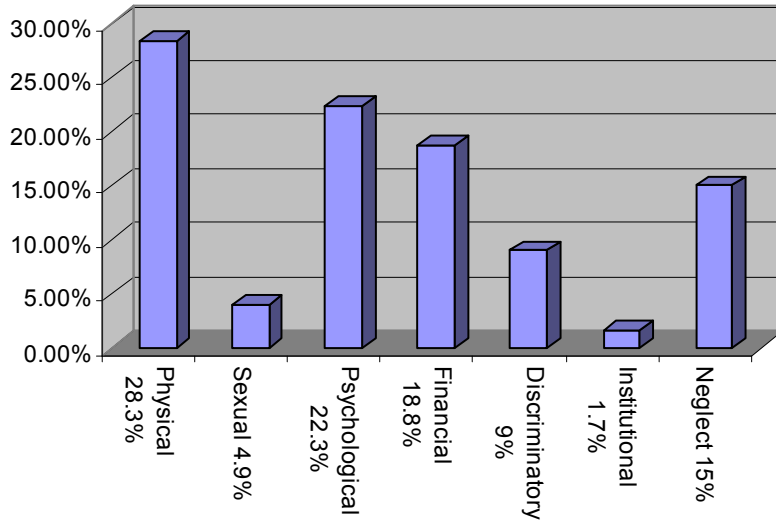
4. Gender aged under 65



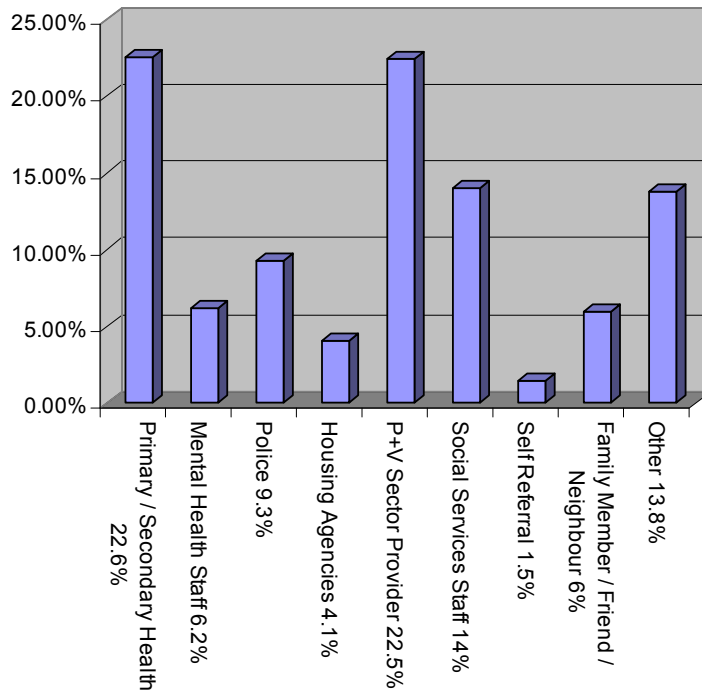
5. Gender 65+



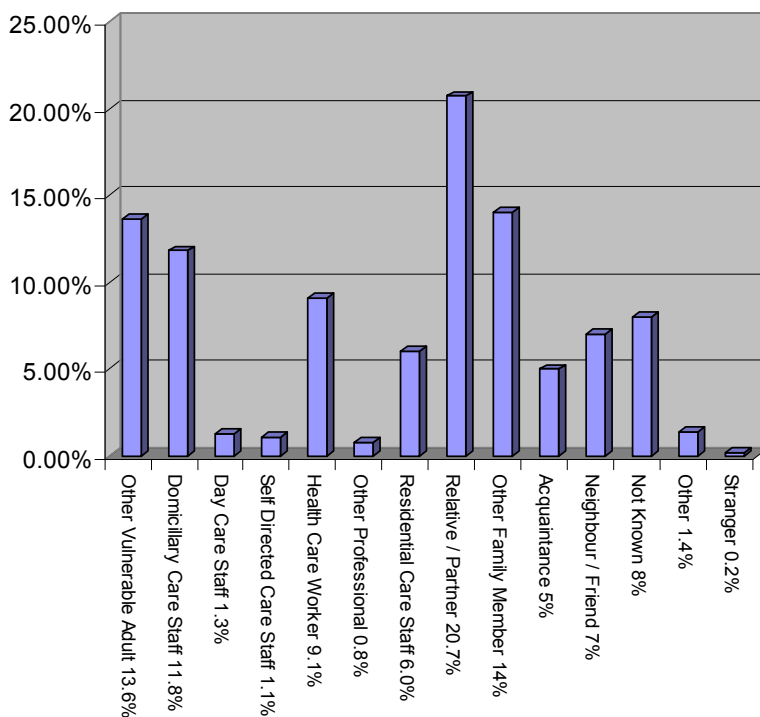
6. Category of Alleged Abuse



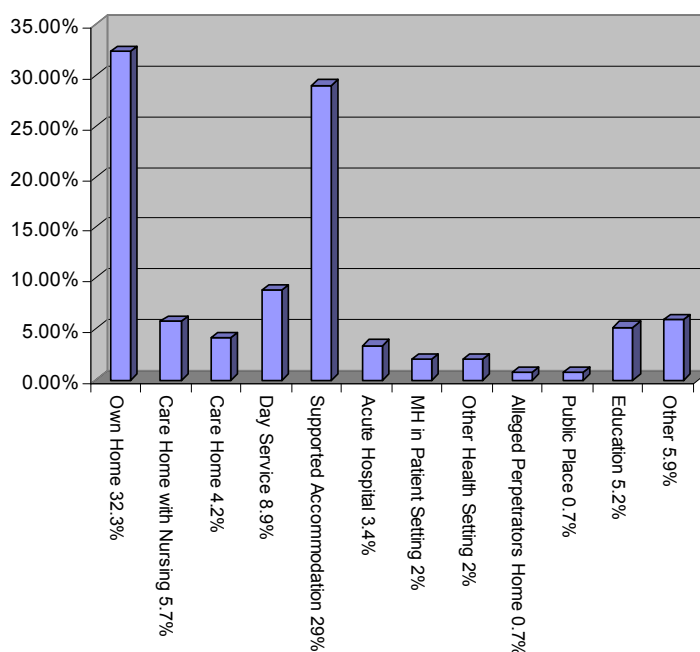
7. By Source of Referral



8. Relationship of Perpetrator with VA



9. Incident by Location



10. Outcome of Investigation

