

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 8

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Safeguarding Adults at Risk		
Date of Meeting:	28.06.11		
Report of:	<i>Director of Adult Social Services/Lead Commissioner People</i>		
Contact Officer:	Name:	<i>Denise D'Souza</i>	Tel: 29-5048
	E-mail:	denise.d'souza@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Every person has a right to live a life free from abuse, neglect and fear. 'Safeguarding' includes a range of activity aimed at upholding an adult's right to be safe at the same time as respecting people's rights to make choices. In its broadest sense safeguarding is everyone's business: the public, volunteers and professionals.
- 1.2 Brighton & Hove City Council Adult Social Care are the statutory lead authority for the co-ordination of work for safeguarding adults at risk (formerly termed as vulnerable adults) from abuse. If there is a concern, or an allegation made that an adult at risk may have been harmed, the lead role for investigating this rests with Adult Social Care.
- 1.3 The principles for this follow the statutory guidance provided by the Department of Health and Home Office in 2000 in 'No Secrets', and the best practice guide 'Safeguarding Adults – A National Framework of Standards for Good Practice and Outcomes for Adult Protection' 2005.
- 1.4 The 'Sussex Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Adults at Risk' provide the local framework for co-ordinating prevention and investigation, when a concern or allegation has been raised regarding an adult at risk being harmed. These policy and procedures are overseen by the local Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 1.5 This report shows the Safeguarding Adults Board Action Plan, for the years 2011 – 2013, to show the planned work to safeguarding the most vulnerable people in the City. This plan will be updated quarterly, and reported to the Safeguarding Adults Board.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the updated Action Plan for safeguarding adults at risk.
- (2) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee requests that this information will be included in the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for April 2010/11, published July.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 'No Secrets' was published in March 2000 by the Department of Health and the Home Office for use by all health and social care organisations and the police, giving guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable people from abuse. It noted that some groups of adults experience a higher prevalence of abuse and neglect than the general population and that they are also not so easily able to access services to enable them to lead safer lives. 'No Secrets' stated that the development of local multi-agency codes of practice for safeguarding vulnerable adults should be co-ordinated locally by each local authority social services department, requiring partnership working to create a framework of inter-agency arrangements. The lead agency within the overall framework should be the local authority, but all agencies should designate a lead officer at senior level. This would create a multi-agency management committee for safeguarding vulnerable adults.
- 3.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board in Brighton and Hove fulfils this role, and is a multi-agency partnership leading the work to safeguard vulnerable adults in Brighton and Hove. Its members include Sussex Police, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust, Sussex Community Trust, Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Trust, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Brighton and Hove NHS, Practitioners Alliance Against the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (PAVA), the Domestic Violence Forum, The LINK, Community Safety, and leads for City Council assessment, provider, contracts, and housing teams.
- 3.3 The Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Action Plan (Appendix 1 for 20011/13 plan) is the work plan agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Board setting out objectives and priorities for preventing adult abuse, and ensuring all safeguarding work is of the highest quality.
- 3.4 The priorities for work identified in this action plan have come from the 11 Standards in the 'Safeguarding Adults National Framework', as well as recommendations made by the Care Quality Commission following their inspection of adult safeguarding work in 2010. Other documents referred to are the Joint Improvement Partnership 'Self Assessment Quality Performance Framework for Adult Safeguarding', ADASS 'Safeguarding Adults Advice Note' April 2011, and Local Government Improvement and Development 'Adult Safeguarding – Early messages from peer reviews'.
- 3.5 The focus for this year's work will be prevention and raising awareness, and in listening to the experiences of those who have been abused, to help develop support and policy.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Any costs associated with the delivery of the business plan forms part of the budget strategy of the different partner agencies involved.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Anne Silley Date: 31/05/11

Legal Implications:

5.2 It is incumbent on the Local Authority as safeguarding lead to implement the recommendations made by the statutory inspection body, CQC, to ensure ongoing robust and effective safeguarding practice in the city. By definition proper safeguarding planning and practice ensures individuals' Human Rights [as enshrined in the Human Rights Act 1998] are taken into account.

Lawyer Consulted: Name: Hilary Priestley Date: 01/06/11

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 abuse 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 the Cabinet Member has an overview of safeguarding performance.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Action Plan 20011/13

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. 'No Secrets: the development of multi-agency responses to the abuse of vulnerable adults' Department of Health 2000
2. 'Safeguarding Adults: a national framework of standards for good practice and outcomes in adult protection work' ADASS 2005
3. Sussex Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Adults at Risk 2007 (revised 2011)
4. Care Quality Commission 'Inspection report Brighton and Hove City Council' 2010