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18 November 2008

Independent Safeguarding Authority

**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**  
Chief Executive's Department  
**Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones**  
**Chair of Overview and Scrutiny**

County Hall, West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 7QP

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Tel:** 0115 977 2756      **Fax:** 0115 982 2432  
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### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee**

Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee recently completed a review which considered arrangements for safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Nottinghamshire. The Select Committee gathered information and evidence relating to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, partnership work and the development of the safeguarding arrangements for the county. With the move from an adult protection focus to a wider safeguarding remit, and the development of separate safeguarding boards for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, the Committee felt the time right to gauge the impact these changes would have on vulnerable adults in Nottinghamshire. The Committee received evidence from a wide range of sources covering many aspects of the safeguarding agenda.

The Select Committee recognised the significant strengthening of safeguarding by establishment of the Independent Safeguarding Authority's development of the new vetting and barring scheme and welcomed the penalties for employers who fail to carry out the necessary checks. However, Members were concerned about the ability to carry out vetting for workers who had only recently entered the United Kingdom. It was felt that this lack of vetting for new entrants to the country could raise the risk of abuse for vulnerable adults.

The Select Committee requested that the Independent Safeguarding Authority be made aware of their concern and unease at this disparity in the vetting procedures for employees who have not previously worked in the United Kingdom.

I attach a copy of the final report for the review.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Winterton  
Chair, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee



25 NOV 2008

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Councillor Chris Winterton  
Chair, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Chief Executive's Department  
County hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

Stephenson House  
Morton Palms Business Park  
Alderman Best Way  
Darlington  
DL1 4WB

24 November 2008

Dear Councillor Winterton,

I refer to your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> November and the enclosed copy of Nottinghamshire County Council's overview and scrutiny of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

I read your report with interest and am heartened by both the report in general and indeed the references to the ISA – we are at the beginning of a challenging but exciting journey that we hope will see us play a key role in the safeguarding landscape.

On the specific point of foreign nationals coming to work with vulnerable adults, I am afraid this is an issue that is discussed at pretty well every consultation session I attend and clearly there is no easy answer. I am also acutely aware that whilst not unique to the vulnerable adult's environment, it is particularly pertinent given the nature of the workforce. The simple fact is that we in the ISA (and indeed any employer) can only make decisions on the basis of the information available to us at the time of that decision.

You may be aware that there is a significant cross government effort underway to close this particular weakness of the vetting process but I think we will be somewhat exposed for the foreseeable future.

Please be assured that we take every opportunity we can to raise the issue and indeed the ISA is represented on all the key groups charged with addressing this particular challenge in seeking to further enhance safeguarding.

Thank you again for taking the time to write,

Kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Adrian McAllister  
Chief Executive  
Independent Safeguarding Authority

Helen Lee  
0115 977 2258  
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18 November 2008

Julia Hodson  
Nottinghamshire Police  
Sherwood Lodge  
Arnold  
Nottingham  
NG5 8PP

**Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones**  
**Chair of Overview and Scrutiny**  
  
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Dear Ms Hodson

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee**

Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee recently completed a review which considered the arrangements for safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Nottinghamshire. The Select Committee gathered information and evidence relating to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, partnership work and the development of the safeguarding arrangements for the county. With the move from an adult protection focus to a wider safeguarding remit, the development of separate safeguarding boards for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County the Committee felt the time right to gauge the impact these changes would have on vulnerable adults in Nottinghamshire.

The Committee received evidence from a wide range of partners covering many aspects of the safeguarding agenda. This included a contribution from Nottinghamshire Police outlining their policies, procedures and the current mechanisms for service delivery. The Select Committee heard how the early assessment of cases of abuse can be undertaken by front-line police constables, beat managers or detectives and not specialist police officers as happens in some other forces. The Select Committee were concerned about the lack of specially trained and skilled officers, and have recommended that consideration be given to the appointment of specialist officers to support safeguarding and to assist and speed up investigations in Nottinghamshire.

The Select Committee requested that an approach be made to Nottinghamshire Police to raise their concerns and requests that consideration is given to their recommendation. I attach a copy of the final report of the review.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Winterton  
Chair, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee

18 November 2008

Alan Johnson  
Secretary of State for Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

**Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones**  
**Chair of Overview and Scrutiny**

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Dear Mr Johnson

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee**

Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee recently completed a review which considered arrangements for safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Nottinghamshire. The Select Committee gathered information and evidence relating to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, partnership work and the development of the safeguarding board for the County. With the move from an adult protection focus to a wider safeguarding remit and the development of separate safeguarding boards for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County the Committee felt the time right to gauge the impact these changes would have on the vulnerable adults in Nottinghamshire.

The Committee received evidence from a wide range of sources covering many aspects of the safeguarding agenda. The Select Committee heard how increasingly people are arranging care in their own home and were concerned that this freedom may increase the risk of abuse. It concluded that there is a need for regulation to protect people who commission their own services who are not protected in the same way as people receiving care through formal support systems. It was felt that this lack of regulation of carers could raise the risk of abuse for vulnerable adults.

Further to this the Committee has expressed concern about the lack of information for some people who enter the United Kingdom who apply to work with vulnerable adults. An approach will be made to the Independent Safeguarding Authority express their unease at this disparity in the vetting procedures for employees who have not previously worked in the United Kingdom.

The Select Committee requested that an approach be made to the Secretary of State for Health to highlight these concerns and requests that consideration be given to their concerns. The Committee will also be sending a response to the Department of Health Safeguarding Adults – A Consultation on the Review of the ‘No Secrets’ Guidance.

I attach a copy of the final report for the review.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Chris Winterton  
Chair, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee

18 November 2008

Lucy Bonnerjea  
Department of Health  
Wellington House  
133 Waterloo Road  
London, SW1 8UG

Dear Ms Bonnerjea

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee**

Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee recently completed a review which considered arrangements for safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Nottinghamshire. The Select Committee gathered information and evidence relating to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, partnership work and the development of the safeguarding arrangements for the county. With the move from an adult protection focus to a wider safeguarding remit, and the development of separate safeguarding boards for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, the Committee felt the time right to gauge the impact these changes would have on vulnerable adults in Nottinghamshire. The Committee received evidence from a wide range of sources covering many aspects of the safeguarding agenda.

The Select Committee heard how increasingly people are arranging care in their own home and Members were concerned that this freedom may increase the risk of abuse. It concluded that there is a need for regulation or legislation to protect people who commission their own services and who are not protected in the same way as people receiving care through formal support systems. The committee were particularly concerned about socially isolated and vulnerable adults who have no friends/relatives to monitor their care and recommended that inspections systems need to be developed to ensure that needs are met and instances of poor practice minimised. It concluded that this lack of regulation of carers could raise the risk of abuse for vulnerable adults.

Further to this the Committee has expressed concern about the lack of information for some people who enter the United Kingdom who apply to work with vulnerable adults. An approach will be made to the Independent Safeguarding Authority express their unease at this disparity in the vetting procedures for employees who have not previously worked in the United Kingdom.

The Select Committee requested that a copy of their final report be sent in response to the consultation. The Committee will also be sending a copy of the report to the Secretary of State for Health to highlight these concerns.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Chris Winterton  
Chair, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Select Committee