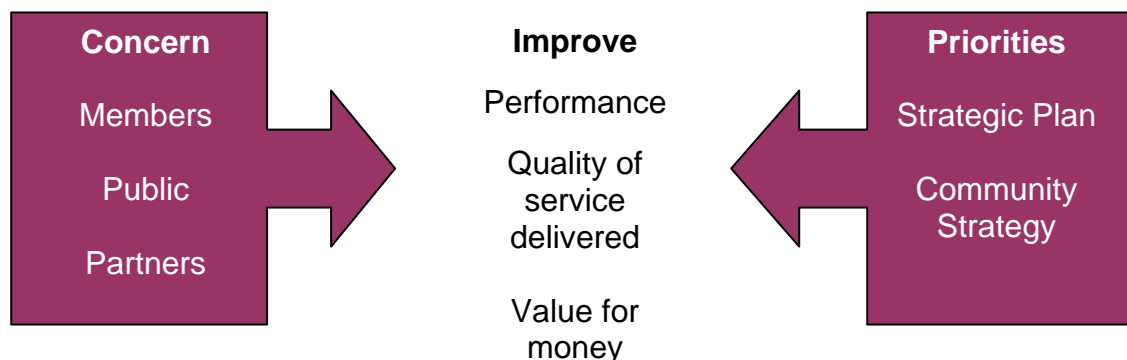


Scoping Questions – Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the following questions when scoping a Scrutiny review:

Issues for Scrutiny should reflect:

- i. Concern of Members, the Public or Partners
- ii. Strategic Priorities for the delivery of services and
- iii. Clear Outcomes to improve performance, value for money or to change the priorities of the Council.



A. Aims

What are the aims of the review (key question?)

To contribute to policy development and review within the safeguarding vulnerable groups agenda. What will the impact be of the wider safeguarding remit and the forthcoming Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (due to come into force in October 2008)?

How does the review link to priorities?

The Strategic Plan "Altogether Better" 2006-2010 undertakes to safeguard the most vulnerable young people and strengthen community care to help more vulnerable elderly or infirm people live independently at home.

How does the review link to community concern?

The proper protection of the most vulnerable is naturally an issue of public concern.

What outcomes are sought?

Better safeguarding of vulnerable adults and a definitive judgement on whether or not amendments to policies and procedures/services reflect properly the requirements of forthcoming legislation (i.e. proactively protecting the community from the potential for abuse).

Improved partnership working.

Which specific areas will the review examine?

The shift from an adult protection focus to a wider safeguarding remit and its impact on the County and City.

The development of separate safeguarding boards for the City and the County.

The work and remit of the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

The implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (due to come into force in October 2008) across the County and City.

Possible related area: implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 – additionally related to the Mental Health Act 2007.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- Is the service achieving what it set out to achieve?
- What can we improve?
- What are the community's priorities?
- What are the regional/national/international priorities?
- Are we doing what users / non users / local residents want?
- Are users' needs central to the service?
- What are the strategic and operational risks?
- What intelligence is available to predict future change?
- Is there effective partnership working?

B. Timetable

When will the review commence

March 2008.

When will the review conclude?

July 2008.

C. Information and consultees

What information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review?

Detailed briefing on the safeguarding vulnerable adults agenda and associated legislation.

Likely key witnesses/documents

Service Director, Mental Health and Learning Disability (Adult Social Care and Health, NCC)

Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act Team

Related partners at Nottingham City Council

Nottinghamshire Committee for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults

The Independent Safeguarding Authority

The Select Committee may wish to undertake visits to Adult Care Homes, as appropriate.

How will the review involve the public?

Gather evidence from/consult vulnerable service users

D. Resources

Are there any specific resource implications for the review?

Support for the review will be coordinated and led by the Scrutiny Team as part of their normal duties.

Councillors selected to sit on the Committee will be expected to allocate time within their diaries to facilitate scheduled meetings.

External experts and departmental officers will be invited to contribute to the review

E. Departmental View

What does the department responsible say about the review?

The Adult Social Care and Health department of the County Council welcomes the review of Safeguarding Adults and the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act.

The department is committed to ensuring all vulnerable adults are protected from harm and abuse.

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham have a strong history of providing adult protection services and are confident that we can develop equally strong safeguarding arrangements with our partners in the NHS, criminal justice system, voluntary and independent sectors

The review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will provide a timely consideration of the council's current arrangements and its ambition for the future