

Report



meeting ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING

date 20 January 2009

agenda item number

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REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ARRANGEMENTS

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- a) present to Members, the 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (**Appendix 1**)
- b) inform Members of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Response to the National consultation on the review of 'No Secrets' (DoH 2000)
- c) present to Members the departmental action plan in response to the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee report into Safeguarding Adults
- d) inform Members of the arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable adults in Nottinghamshire with reference to the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

2. Background

- 2.1 Members received a report in January 2008 informing them of the Safeguarding Adults arrangements in Nottinghamshire, the history of adult safeguarding and the development of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 2.2 Since this time there have been a number of developments in relation to local services and the national context including the continued implementation of the Mental Capacity Act, the introduction of the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards and the review of the national policy framework document, 'No Secrets'.
- 2.3 In December 2008, the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board published the 2007/08 annual report, and formed its response to the national review,

and the County Council Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults select committee published its report into safeguarding arrangements in the county.

3. Context

- 3.1 The 2007/2008 annual report is the first such report following the establishment of the revised policy and procedure document in October 2007 and the establishment of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) in April 2008.

The report looks back over a year of major restructuring and refocusing of the adult safeguarding agenda, involving;

- a major review of the multi-agency policy, procedures and guidance
- the establishment of separate Boards in the City and County
- the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act
- the creation of the Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act Team
- (SAMCAT) to replace the Adult Protection Unit (APU)
- the introduction of safeguarding adults leads in many key health organisations and improved governance arrangements.

- 3.2 The move from Adult protection to Safeguarding Adults shifted the focus from reactively responding to individual protection from abuse to a wider remit which also includes proactively protecting the community from the potential for abuse or harm. This involves a fuller role in public information and abuse prevention services, alongside a strengthened governance function. The Adult Social Care and Health department have been rated as providing a 'good' level of service in relation to safeguarding outcomes, however the growing number of safeguarding referrals and investigations places an increased burden on the departments resources.

- 3.3 The Mental Capacity Act (2005) is now operational. To support the implementation of the Act, Nottinghamshire County Council and NHS Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust have agreed to provide a joint health and social care support service. In line with national guidance, specialist practitioners will provide the health and social care community with advice, support and specialist knowledge and expertise. However, outside of these specialist functions, the responsibility for undertaking assessments of individuals' mental capacity and best interest assessments falls on the existing social care workforce. In addition, the introduction of Deprivation of Liberty safeguards (DoLs) in April 2009 will require further assessment and managerial functions which will significantly add to the safeguarding adults agenda.

- 3.4 The recent review of safeguarding arrangements by the select committee produced an excellent report highlighting a number of recommendations for action both at a local and national level. These recommendations will be taken forward to the safeguarding adults board along with the suggested action plan for service improvement.
- 3.5 The Department of Health have launched a national consultation into the review of the 'No Secrets' policy document which has formed the basis of adult safeguarding for the last 9 years. The Nottinghamshire safeguarding adult's partnership considered the review document at a special meeting in December 2008. The document contains a number of questions relating to the responsibilities and accountabilities of various organisations involved in safeguarding adults. There are, however, specific points of interest for local authorities as the lead partner.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the NSAB annual report and make comment on the findings contained within it.
- 4.2 Safeguarding is now a core component of adult social care services, both in policy and in practice. There is a renewed emphasis on safeguarding which requires an increased level of capacity to undertake and oversee this complex area of work. It is proposed that the development of senior social work posts will facilitate this development.
- 4.3 The involvement of members in adult safeguarding has proved to be extremely beneficial through the select committee process. The portfolio holder for Adult Services and Health is now giving consideration to the establishment of a standing member reference group to provide oversight to this area of statutory responsibility.
- 4.4 The national review of No Secrets (DoH 2000) provides an opportunity to reshape adult safeguarding and develop a framework which provides for the next ten to twenty years. The Nottinghamshire cross organisational response is attached for members' information and comment.

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