

## Report on Follow up actions from Health and Scrutiny Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Following on from the Health and Scrutiny there were a number of follow up actions/questions requiring a response for the July meeting. Below is a table detailing the six enquiries with response for each embedded.

A response to the recommendation that easy to read formats for all safeguarding publications are made available
<p>Easy read versions of all council publications including safeguarding should be available.</p> <p>Currently Safeguarding publications are not available in easy read formats however work is planned in the coming year to work with corporate communications to enable this.</p> <p>Delivering this service will require a dedicated communications budget to be funded and will need to be centrally managed and centrally generated as a definable council 'easy read style' ,this will ensure that publications are of a consistent style throughout the council.</p>
More information on what happens to perpetrators, and if there have been any prosecutions
<p>Many perpetrators are friends and family of victims and in these cases victims will often seek resolution to their conflict rather than prosecution through the legal system. In these cases social workers work with vulnerable adult to reach the outcome they prefer, and will ensure that they are supported if they do opt to seek to prosecute the perpetrator.</p> <p>In other cases where possible criminal acts have occurred social workers work together with the Police to resolve cases. Very few cases do reach court often because the crown prosecution service is concerned that the rigours of a court appearance will not be in the best interests of a vulnerable adult.</p> <p>In the past two years three Southwark cases have been brought to court and two resulted in successful prosecutions, and custodial sentences for the perpetrators. These were for theft and assault respectively.</p>
More detail on how people are protected form abuse that are a) substance misusers (and are defined as 'vulnerable') and, b) those that misuse alcohol (and are not counted as 'vulnerable').
<p>Protecting substance misusers whether of drugs or alcohol is extremely challenging as in many cases they are reluctant to disclose any incidents of abuse. However, on-going support to such service users is provided by a number of teams (including the substance misuse team) and this involves frequent risk assessments, counselling and support to individuals to enable them to modify behaviours that expose them to risk.</p> <p>The Anti - Social behaviour Unit and the Police will target known drug dealers who attempt to supply drugs to residents of hostels for people with drug and mental health problems.</p>
A report into the safeguarding implications of the recent revelations that the Sapphire Unit encouraged women to withdraw rape allegations.
<p>The SAPB received a presentation at its June meeting from Southwark Police reviewing the findings of the investigation into the performance of the Southwark Sapphire Unit between July 2008 and September 2009. The presentation summarised the recent IPCC report and described how during this period Southwark Sapphire unit was under-performing and over-stretched and officers of all ranks, often unfamiliar with sexual offence work, felt under pressure to improve performance and meet targets. These factors led to close questioning of victims and the widespread use of retraction statements.</p> <p>A review of vulnerable adults that were known to the Safeguarding Service during this time revealed that there were 40 allegations of sexual abuse approximately 30% (11 cases) involved women with learning disabilities or mental health problems.</p> <p>In the cases of which Southwark is aware that involved vulnerable adults there is no</p>

evidence that the allegations were not taken seriously by the Police, but it is not possible to say whether every initial interview was carried out by Sexual Offences Investigation Technique trained officers. We are not aware of any instances where a vulnerable adult was encouraged to withdraw their allegations in order that a non-crime report could be made.

It is known that each of the vulnerable service users were supported by social workers to take forward their complaints and we are not aware of any instances where they were coerced to withdraw their allegations.

See attached appendix one :

Southwark Sapphire Unit's local practices for the reporting and investigation of sexual offences, July 2008 – September 2009

#### Details of safeguarding training provided by the council

Southwark Council regularly runs the following training course available to both staff and partner organisations :

- Safeguarding Alerter
- Safeguarding Adults Investigators
- Investigatory Process for Managers and Seniors
- Safeguarding Chairing meetings
- Safeguarding Provider Managers of Services undergoing Investigation
- Physical abuse and neglect
- Domestic Abuse Awareness
- Domestic Abuse Champions Programme
- Safeguarding Adults from Financial Abuse level 1
- Safeguarding Adults from Financial Abuse level 2
- Safeguarding Adults –minute taking
- Risk Assessment and Protection planning
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults :Physical Abuse and Neglect
- Honour Based Violence
- Domestic Violence risk assessment model- multi agency awareness
- Best Interest Assessor Training

Please find attached Appendix two:

Adult Safeguarding Training sub group report detailing training performance across 12-13.

#### The safeguarding whistle-blowing procedures of the council

Please find attached Appendix three and Appendix four :

Southwark Safeguarding Adults Whistle Blowing Procedure and Southwark Council whistle – blower policy