

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 February 2010	Meeting Name: Health and Social Care Board
Report title:		Southwark Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Annual Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Edwina Morris, Interim Assistant Director, Adult Care	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Health and Social Care Board is asked to note the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report for 2008-2009, which is attached as Appendix 1, and the work of the partnership.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report is the third annual report of the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. The Partnership was formally launched in November 2006 with membership from the Council and Health and voluntary and service user led networks within Southwark. This report should be seen in the context of a number of national developments:
 - The **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** was introduced to respond to the Bichard Inquiry and creates a new body, the **Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)** which will register all those who work with vulnerable adults or children and manage a vetting and barring system including a register of people banned from work with these groups.
 - The **Mental Capacity Act (2005)** provides protection for those vulnerable people who cannot make decisions for themselves, and includes the **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards** which protect people from unlawful detention in health and care settings.
 - **Personalisation** or self directed support will offer more individuals more choice and control for vulnerable people to organise their own personal care and personal budgets. However, there is the recognition that some will need greater support to prevent the risk of abuse, particularly financial abuse.
3. During 2008/09 the data shows that there was an 18% increase in the number of safeguarding alerts from 244 in 2007-2008 to 288. This increase can be seen to reflect an increase in recognising abuse and who to report to. This was supported by the findings of Southwark's step checked Winter Campaign, Don't Turn Your Back on Abuse.
4. 86% or 248 alerts led to a full safeguarding investigation. This is a slight increase compared with 2008/09 and demonstrates that people are raising alerts appropriately. 34% of alerts were raised individuals or by their family or friends, 30% were raised by people providing social care including the voluntary sector and 18% were reported from people working within the NHS.

5. 138, or 56%, of referrals concerned older people with referrals for people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities accounting for 19% and 14% of referrals respectively. This is broadly similar to the distribution in 2007/08.
6. 2008/09 also saw a 40% reduction in the average length of a Safeguarding Adult investigation from 7 to 4 months, falling within the Partnership's expected timeframe for concluding investigations.
7. Just over half of the referrals concerned people who were considered to have fluctuating or no capacity to make informed decisions. This reflects the importance of undertaking a capacity assessment when vulnerable adults are reported as potential victims of abuse and to ensure these people are supported through advocacy and representation throughout the safeguarding process.
8. Concerns relating to finance (38%), physical (31%) and neglect (15%) together accounted for 84% of all abuse types and again this is broadly similar to 2007/08. There was an increase in the number of sexual abuse alerts, totalling 25 for 2008/09.
9. The most frequent location of abuse was reported to be within the family home reflecting over 50% of all abuse. 29% of abuse was reported to be within sheltered housing or supported accommodation.
10. 51% of outcomes were determined to require no further action to make the person safe. Others had actions relating to criminal prosecution, management action or assessment or closer monitoring.
11. During 2008/09 the following headline priorities were achieved:
 - The Safeguarding Adult web pages on the Council website were upgraded in response to feedback from the partnership and public. The site now provides greater information on abuse, prevention, training and external sources of information.
 - The Safeguarding Adults Winter Campaign was regarded as being successful at raising public awareness on the types of abuse and where to report abuse if suspected. This campaign also gave pointers as to where people would want to find information on safeguarding adults and has directed closer working with our NHS colleagues working in Acute Trusts and Primary care (GP Practices).
 - Safeguarding Adult Competencies have been agreed with the Partnership to support people's training needs, roles and responsibilities.
 - Guidance for Commissioners has been developed to support the expectations of providers to ensure people in receipt of care are performing their roles within defined contract standards.
 - The Annual Conference (November 2008) had as its theme safeguarding and human rights with a focus on how abuse was an infringement of people's human rights and how providers and commissioners need to work together to ensure people were protected.
 - The work of investigating and protecting people falls to our social workers and

a programme to improve the quality of safeguarding has been implemented to support them in this crucial role.

12. The SAPB Action Plan 2009/10 is contained within the annual report and includes:

- Provision of quarterly statistics to the SAPB
- Responding to new statutory requirements and government guidance
- Ensuring that safeguarding vulnerable adults is integral to the community safety planning or the Local Strategic Partnership and Southwark Alliance.
- Ensuring that key staff groups internal and external to health and social care including the voluntary sector have access to training.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Care Quality Commission Independence, Wellbeing and Choice Inspection

Policy implications

13. This report summarises the 2008/9 Annual Report of the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Partnership which operates within the Government guidance contained in No Secrets (DH 2000) and Safeguarding Adults (ADASS 2005).

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

14. Effective safeguarding arrangements protect the most vulnerable people in society.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Safeguarding Adults Annual Report	Health & Social Care 160 Tooley Street, SE1	John Emery 020 7525 3314

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Edwina Morris, Interim Assistant Director, Adult Care	
Report Author	Sena Shah	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 February 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director for Communities, Law & Governance	No	-
Finance Director	No	-
Executive Member	No	-
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	12 February 2010	