

**Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York****12 September 2013****Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk of significant harm.****1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To update members on progress being made to safeguard and protect adults at risk of significant harm.

**2 Background**

Under the 'No Secrets' guidance (2000), NYCC has the lead responsibility to co-ordinate a multi-agency response to safeguarding. This is achieved through the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB). Membership of the Board includes North Yorkshire County Council, District Councils, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS England Area Team, NHS Trusts, police, probation, independent and voluntary sector. The Board is supported by four Local Safeguarding Adults Groups and sub groups for training/practice development. A Health Partnership Group is in place in addition to the Mental Capacity Act Forum. District Councils are engaged at both local and Board level, individually and as a liaison group.

Nationally, safeguarding adults remains a high priority with updated government guidance and the draft Care Bill published in May 2013 (1) (2). The Board has responded to this guidance by developing a strategic plan for 2013 – 2016 which focuses on the safeguarding principles and key standards for outcomes, leadership, commissioning and working together and will continue respond to this guidance as different elements come on stream.

**3 Progress during 2012/13**

The NYSAB Annual Report 2012/13 is due to be published in September 2013 and includes the following highlights.

- An independent chair of the Board started in April 2012 and has focussed on ensuring that we respond to the NHS changes and establish effective working relationships with the new Clinical Commissioning Groups and new Public Health functions and respond to the national Winterbourne View recommendations.
- A safeguarding conference for staff was held in November which promoted the importance of dignity and wellbeing in safeguarding, with workshops on multi-agency support available for vulnerable adults (including District Council issues in relation to safeguarding, Trading Standards, food, nutrition and dignity, telecare, dementia and dignity).
- The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Awareness Campaign was launched with the strapline 'Seen it? Heard it? Report it' to help people to know more about safeguarding and to encourage the reporting of abuse.
- Publication of a Serious Case Review report about the death of a homeless man 'Robert'. This has led to improvements in joint working and understanding between housing and social care authorities, particularly for out-of-hours responses.
- The Board received a District Council presentation on welfare reforms and considered how the wider agenda could impact on safeguarding.
- Reported safeguarding remained at a high level; increasing by 18% on 2011/12 with the proportion from health, police, housing and CQC partners remaining high (27%). Under a third of these (27%) result in further action under safeguarding procedures which maintains North Yorkshire in line with national trends.

- Training remained a high priority with delivery of a high level of training for alerters with new online materials to support direct training and support for the growing number of champions to help maintain their knowledge and skills.

#### **4. Priorities for 2013- 2016 include;**

- Respond to the requirements for safeguarding in the Care Bill; ensuring these are reflected in governance and strategy, with effective links to the Health and WellBeing Board, Healthwatch, District Councils, Community Safety and Domestic Abuse partnerships.
- Strengthen the links with user organisations so that user experience is at the heart of the Board's work.
- Continue to raise awareness of safeguarding concerns amongst vulnerable adults, their family and friends through promotion of the awareness campaign. The aim is to help people to be resilient and to protect themselves from abuse or exploitation and to encourage more self-reporting.
- Respond to the findings of the Francis report by promoting cultural leadership throughout the partnership including the values of candour, transparency, openness and respect
- Continue to respond to the requirements of the Winterbourne View Concordat; in particular to assure the Board that services for people with learning disabilities are safe and of a good quality and that people are supported to move to community based support where appropriate.
- Implement an outcome based performance framework which includes evidence from user views of safeguarding to influence safeguarding policy and practice.
- Work with partners to be assured that safe and cost effective services are commissioned for vulnerable adults and that staff understand thresholds for safeguarding.
- Respond to the NYCC Care and Independence scrutiny work on financial abuse.
- Ensure that targeted and effective training and development is delivered at all levels; from basic awareness through to specialist training.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Note the progress and priorities of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 5.2 Support the identified priority to ensure that effective links are in place to the Health and WellBeing Board, Healthwatch, District Councils, Community Safety and Domestic Abuse partnerships.
- 5.3 Support the identified priority to promote cultural leadership throughout the partnership including the values of candour, transparency, openness and respect.

#### **6 References and further information**

(1) Updated statement of government policy on adult safeguarding (May 2013)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-safeguarding-statement-of-government-policy-10-may-2013>

(2) The Care Bill (May 2013)  
[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0001/lbill\\_2013-20140001\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0001/lbill_2013-20140001_en_1.htm)

Safeguarding Fact sheet  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/198104/9520-2900986-TSO-Factsheet07-ACCESSIBLE.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/198104/9520-2900986-TSO-Factsheet07-ACCESSIBLE.pdf)

Annual Report 2011/12 <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=20707&p=0>

Sally Anderson, Safeguarding Adults Policy Officer on behalf of the Chair of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (27 August 2013)