

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Title	The Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2013-14		
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item	7
Class	Part 1 (open)	24 February 2015	

Reasons for lateness and urgency

The report has not been available for 5 clear working days before the meeting and the Chair is asked to accept it as an urgent item. The report was not available for despatch on Thursday, 12th February because some of the key data had not been finalised. The report cannot wait until the next meeting because it has been delayed for some time so it is recommended that it is taken at this meeting.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report and accompanying papers provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with detail of the work of the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB).

The Annual Report for 2013-14 summarises the key messages from the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB). The report also highlights the activity that has taken place during 2013/14 to ensure that all organisations in Lewisham work in partnership to promote safeguarding adults and the prevention of abuse.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Healthier Communities Select Committee:

- Note and comment on the achievements to date in the annual safeguarding report 2013/14.
- Note and comment on the goals that were set for 2014/15.
- Note the budget pressures that will be generated over the coming year to manage the growing and critical area of demand in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLs).

3. Policy context

- 3.1 National Policy

Safeguarding Adult Boards were originally developed following DH guidance issued in 2000 entitled 'No Secrets'. Although there were no legislative requirements, the guidance set out the Government's expectations for areas to establish multi agency safeguarding adult boards.

The guidance advised that key statutory and voluntary sector agencies, led by the local authorities, met regularly to oversee and promote a range of activities to

protect vulnerable adults. It also advised on the production of an annual report on activity undertaken and plans for the forthcoming year.

The Care Act 2014 has replaced 'No Secrets' and brings together a multiplicity of current legislation and guidance –which relates to adult social care - into one place. It will place the LSAB on a statutory footing for the first time, in line with children's safeguarding arrangements from April 2015.

The Local Authority will remain the lead agency for adult safeguarding. The Act places a 'duty to co-operate' on statutory agencies in order to enhance the current working arrangements.

It places new legal duties on how local authorities and partner agencies respond to 'concerns' about adults at risk, and stipulates that safeguarding boards must hold formal case reviews in certain circumstances.

Safeguarding Adult Boards must now produce an annual report, strategy and plan. In addition Boards will have a greater strategic role to hold the partnership of agencies to account for delivery of the strategy and the performance and quality of services.

It should be able to ensure the effectiveness of the partnership in preventing and helping adults at risk, and will have significant powers to demand action, from partner agencies.

The CQC as the regulator of care for health and social care is one of the most important partner agencies for safeguarding boards. During the last year the CQC has undergone a national review of their regulatory approach and has strengthened some areas of practice. The CQC's stated intention is that they are to be represented within the work of all safeguarding adult boards.

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Mental Capacity Act, 2005) help ensure that an institution only restricts an individual's liberty safely and correctly, and only when all other less restrictive options have been explored. The Local Authority manages this process and reports to the local Safeguarding Adult Board. In March 2014 the Supreme Court judgment in the case of "*P v Cheshire West and Chester Council and another*" and "*P and Q v Surrey County Council*" lowered the threshold for a deprivation and significantly widened the scope of the Mental Capacity Act Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards themselves. The impact on Lewisham Adult Social Services is described in the LSAB report

3.2 Local Policy

In 2011, a London-wide multi agency policy and procedure was launched for safeguarding adults which Lewisham adopted the same year. This has been the practice guidance used since 2011 and has driven changes to local agency policy and procedures. An updated version of the London wide policy is being developed at the time of writing this report and will be available in April 2015.

The work of the LSAB contributes to the 'Safer' priority within the Lewisham Sustainable Community Strategy supporting people to live free from abuse.

4. The Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board Key Achievements 2013/14

4.1 The activity and next steps of this Board were reported to the Committee in the previous financial year. The outcome of work undertaken in 2013/14 is described below.

4.2 The aim was to strengthen the governance and accountability of the LSAB through agreement by all partners to a Compact describing expectations of each organisation as a member of the Board.

The LSAB Compact final document went to all partner agencies for agreement at the September 2013 LSAB meeting for their endorsement and agreement.

4.3 The aim was to strengthen and align the strategic work of the partnership agencies to develop a cohesive Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Strategy and Business Plan to guide the work and bring resources together.

This process is ongoing as it will now need to encapsulate the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

4.4 The aim was to establish an identity and raise the profile of the work of the Board and the partnership to engage with the wider community and partnerships and promote awareness.

During 2013/14 members of the Board have been involved more closely with the work of the Safer Lewisham Partnership and the initiatives of the borough's Crime Reduction Services.

Work in partnership with the membership of the board and Crime Reduction Services to implement the action plan following a domestic homicide review, has resulted in a conference for practitioners across the partnerships that raised further awareness and promoted the use of risk assessment strategies in relation to the combination of domestic abuse, mental health needs and drug abuse. Another event is planned for 2015.

In order to promote further awareness of adult safeguarding within the wider community an article about safeguarding adults was placed in the December 2013 quarterly edition of the community newspaper 'Lewisham Life'.

4.5 Work has taken place within the Quality and Performance sub group to establish a multi-agency quality assurance and performance reporting framework. The information gathered will provide the Board with an opportunity to analyse the standards and quality of services and to identify areas of risk that may require intervention from the partnership agencies.

4.6 Agreement was made by the LSAB in December 2013 to undertake an audit using the newly drafted NHS England Safeguarding Adults at Risk Self-Assessment tool. The outcome of this process will be reported in the 2014/15 LSAB annual report.

5. The objectives for 2014/15

- 5.1 The review of activity undertaken in 2013/14 has led the Board to set the following goals for 2014/15 and 2015/16. They are described below and aligned to the work streams of the Board and its sub groups.
- 5.2 Under the governance and partnership work stream of the LSAB it has been identified that there are further opportunities to increase the effectiveness of partnership working, to enhance preventative work and the reduction of risk to adults in the community. For example, ensuring that Home Fire Safety visits referrals to the London Fire Brigade are included on assessment checklists for all health and social care staff who visit people in the community.

Another objective within this work stream is to finalise the governance and strategic strengthening for the operation of LSAB and its activities to comply with the Care Act 2014.

- 5.3 The policies, protocols and procedures work stream will be centred on completion of review all existing LSAB policies, protocols and procedures to ensure they are Care Act compliant. Additionally work will take place to establish the new arrangements for care of pressure sores across the health and social care economy.
- 5.4 The training and workforce development work stream will be delivering phase 2 of the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) project, and embedding the learning from phase 1 of the MSP project across the partnership. A key focus of the work within this subgroup will be to continue reviewing training programmes to ensure they meet the requirements for Care Act 2014 compliancy.
- 5.5 The Safeguarding Adult Review panel has identified that learning from Safeguarding Adult reviews occurring nationally and locally needs to be more effective across all agencies. Strategies for this will be developed in 2014/15.
- 5.6 The Quality and Performance objectives are ongoing from work carried out in 2013/14. Completion of both the implementation of the Lewisham Adults Quality Assurance and Performance Framework and the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Self-Assessment Audit are essential to the LSAB oversight of the effectiveness of the Board. Analysis of this information will also be important in respect of informing the LSAB's strategy and business plan.
- 5.7 The Communication and Engagement work stream will deliver the 'brand' for the LSAB for use across the borough in raising awareness and promoting safeguarding adults information. Further events are planned to share learning from the current guidance, local and national case reviews and good practice from Safeguarding Adults activity. The brand and information is to be used in the redesign of a Safeguarding Adults web page (on the LBL website) to highlight the work of LSAB and all the partner agencies.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 There will be an increased number of applications for DOLS. The costs for this increase in workload for Lewisham Adult Social Care Services is anticipated to be £250,000.

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no additional legal implications arising from this report.

8. Crime and disorder Implications

8.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report. However, the LSAB works in close collaboration with Safer Lewisham Partnership members to ensure joint approaches to overlapping issues such as domestic violence and hate crimes.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 The LSAB has a leading role to ensure that all people in Lewisham are aware of adult abuse, have information on how to recognise it and where to report their concerns. In particular it ensures that those most at risk such as older adults, those people with learning disabilities and those people with mental health needs are advised and supported to recognise abusive behaviour and how to alert services.

9.2 In analysing the activity data collected, the LSAB is able to both provide information and identify trends in relation to the types of people being abused and the alleged perpetrators. This is invaluable in directing the Board to target activity and interventions towards those individuals, groups or sections of the community most at risk. This further enables the Board to understand the data in terms of those protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010.

10. Environmental implications

10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

11. Conclusion

11.1 This report highlights the progress the LSAB partnership has made during 2013/14 and work still to be done in preparation for the impending statutory status and responsibilities. Nevertheless the foundations were laid in 2013/14 and the work that is underway this financial year is anticipated to deliver the set goals.

Background documents

No Secrets DH 2000 [No Secrets: guidance on protecting vulnerable adults in care - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

The Care Act 2014 [Care Act 2014 Part 1: factsheets - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014 [Care Act 2014: statutory guidance for implementation - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)

Protecting adults at risk: London Multi Agency Policy and Procedure to safeguard adults from abuse <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report39.pdf>

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