

People Services Scrutiny Committee 28th January 2016

Report of the Strategic Director People

Dudley Safeguard Adult Board Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Purpose of Report

1. To present to People Services Scrutiny Committee the Executive Summary of the Annual Report of the Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board for 2014-2015

Background

2. In 2000 the Department of Health issued the “No Secrets” guidance which gave local authorities the lead role in setting up multi-agency committees and to establish policy, procedures and guidance for work with vulnerable adults.
3. The Dudley Adult Protection Committee was established in 2004 and became the Vulnerable Adults Board in 2009. The Board includes senior representation of all key agencies – DMBC, the CCG, Dudley Group NHS FT, the Police, the Mental Health Trust, Probation and the Independent Sector.
4. The Board had three sub-groups Policy, Audit and training. The Board collects statistical information on the number of safeguard incidents reported in the borough of Dudley. In 2014-2015 the Board developed a further sub-group, a Safeguard Adult Review group, in preparation for the Care Act 2015 to hear any safeguard reviews required.
5. The Care Act 2014 was to be introduced in April 2015 so much work went on in the year to ensure the Board was Care Act compliant. The Care Act provided clarity on the responsibilities of a Safeguarding Board as well as making it a statutory responsibility for local authorities to have a Board and to prepare an Annual Report and a Business Plan.
6. The Care Act provides clarity in that it defines who the duty to safeguard applies to. This is defined as an adult who:
 - Has needs for care and support (irrespective of whether the council is meeting these needs) and;
 - Is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect and;
 - As a result of their care and support needs is not able to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

7. Throughout 2014/2015 the Board worked hard to implement their 2014/2015 Business Plan which focused around six key principles – empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability. The Annual Report and the executive summary demonstrates the progress achieved in these priorities in 2014/2015.
8. In 2012 the West Midlands Safeguard procedures were implemented providing consistency across the region for the safeguard process during this year.

Finance

9. In accordance with our statutory responsibility the Council funds a Head of Service post and an administrator to support the work of the Board. Additionally funding has been sought and obtained from partner agencies during 2014/2015 to fund the work of the Board.

Law

10. In 2014-2015 the draft Care & Support Bill set out new statutory responsibilities for Adult Safeguarding. However, the main legislation governing adult safeguarding is contained in sections 21, 26 and 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, the Community Care Act 1991 and the Mental Health Act 2005.

Equality Impact

11. The Safeguard and Protect Policy and Procedures are consistent with the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.

Recommendation

12. The People Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the Adult Safeguard Board 2014/2015 prior to it being placed on the Safeguard website and distributed to partner agencies.



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List of Background Papers

Executive summary of the Board 2014 – 2015