

REPORT FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

6th April 2011

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DUDLEY SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS BOARD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present to Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee the Annual Report of the Dudley Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2000, the Department of Health issued the 'No Secrets' Guidance, which gave local councils the lead role in setting up a multi-agency committee and establishing policy, procedures and guidance for work with vulnerable adults.
3. The Dudley Adult Protection Committee was established in 2004 and became the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board in 2009. The Board includes representatives of all the key agencies – DMBC, the PCT, the Dudley Group of Hospitals, the Police, the Mental Health Trust, Probation and the independent sector.
4. The Board has three sub-groups – Policy, Audit and Training. The Board collects statistical information on the number of adult protection incidents reported in Dudley and is responsible for auditing multi-agency safeguarding work. The Board works closely with the Safeguarding Children's Board.
5. 2010 has witnessed significant improvements in Safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults in Dudley, which are set out in the executive summary of the Safeguarding Board's annual report attached. A copy of the full report is available in the Members' library.
6. Almost all of the recommendations made by the Care Quality Commission following an inspection of Adult Social Care in Dudley In June 2009 have now been implemented. The Business Plan of the Safeguarding Board, which forms part of the Annual Report, is attached.
7. During 2010, the Board commissioned its first Serious Case Reviews and important lessons have been learned from these cases, which will enable us to improve practice and management.

FINANCE

8. In accordance with our statutory responsibilities, the Council funds an Interim Head of Service post, an administrator and three part-time clerks, two of whom are responsible for minuting adult protection conferences. The Council also funds most of the cost of the annual training programme through the Social Care training grant.

LAW

9. The main legislation governing adult protection is contained in sections 21, 26 and 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, the Community Care Act 1991, and the Mental Health Acts 1983 and 2007.

EQUALITY

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

RECOMMENDATION

11. Select Committee is asked to consider and comment on the Annual Report.



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