

DUDLEY HEALTH & WELL-BEING BOARD - 26TH September,2013

Report of the Director of Adult,Community and Housing Services

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DUDLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD 2012

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To present to the Health & Well-Being Board the Annual Report of the Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2000 the Department of Health issued the “No Secrets” Guidance which gave local authorities the lead role in setting up a multi-agency committee 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 has three sub-groups - Policy, Audit and Training. The Board collects statistical information on the number of safeguard incidents reported in the borough of Dudley and is responsible for the governance of multi-agency safeguard work.
5. The Board had 6 strategic priorities for 2012.
 - To ensure that the structure and the remit of the board addressed the needs of adults at risk within the borough.
 - To ensure that partner agencies recognised their responsibility for safeguarding and have staff trained and equipped to respond to safeguard incidents.
 - To ensure the safeguard and protect procedures were updated and address local and national initiatives.
 - To raise public awareness
 - To develop strategies which prevent abuse to vulnerable adults

- To monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding interventions and to ensure this delivers better outcomes for victims and their carers.
6. The Annual Report demonstrates the progress achieved in these priorities in 2012.
 7. 2012 saw a number of national reports into the care and treatment of the most vulnerable adults in our society. In July 2012 the Serious Case Review into Winterbourne View was published, which instigated a Programme of Action for Safeguard Boards nationally.
 8. The Draft Care and Support Bill which was published in 2012 set out the legal framework for Safeguarding Adults Boards and outlined the responsibilities of partners. This provided opportunity for safeguard boards to consolidate those partnerships in preparation for the Support Bill.
 9. Locally the West Midlands Safeguard Procedures were developed and launched in 2012 providing consistency across the region for the safeguard process; enabling partners who covered several authorities to work under the same procedures.
 10. A decision to appoint a Joint Independent Chair to the Safeguarding Board for both Children & Adult Services was progressed in 2012. An appointment to the post was made in May 2013

FINANCE

11. In accordance with our statutory responsibilities the council funds a Head of Service post, an administrator and administrative support staff. The council also funds most of the cost of the Annual training program.

LAW

12. The main legalisation governing adult protection is contained in sections 21, 26 & 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, the Community Care Act 1991 and the Mental Health Acts 2005.

EQUALITY

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

RECOMMENDATION

14. The Health & Well-Being Board is asked to consider and comment on the Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Pope-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Andrea Pope-Smith
Director – Adult, Community and Housing Services

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