

Report To: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 December 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member for Social Care (Adult and Children's Services)/Service Manager: Specialist Services

Report Author: POVA Co-ordinator

Title: Annual Report on Adult Protection In Denbighshire 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014.

1. What is the report about?

This report constitutes the annual performance report for Adult Protection in compliance with statutory guidance and provides an overview of the impact of Local Safeguarding arrangements and practice.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide Members with an overview of the impact of Local Safeguarding arrangements and practice. To review progress in this key area of work over the last twelve months. To refer to data which reflects figures submitted by the Local Authority on an annual basis to the Welsh Government Data Unit.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That members receive and comment on the report and acknowledge the important nature of a corporate approach to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults and the responsibility of the Council to view this as a key priority area and to place it alongside the commitment and significance given by Denbighshire to Child Protection.

4. Report details - Background

4.1 The key policy document in relation to Adult Protection for Denbighshire is the Wales Interim Policy and Procedure for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults, which informs practice when responding to alleged or confirmed abuse of vulnerable adults. This policy was drafted from the 'In Safe Hands' guidance and was revised in January 2013 to ensure that the document is relevant and in line with legislative changes since its first conception in November 2010

4.2 'In Safe Hands', the Welsh Government's statutory guidance for safeguarding vulnerable adults, states that local authorities have the responsibility for taking the lead role. This does not diminish the role of partner agencies who will still continue to have their respective responsibilities to respond to suspicions, allegations or incidents of abuse as described in these procedures and, where appropriate, to arrange support and/or care for the most vulnerable people in the community. Partnership working is essential for the protection of vulnerable adults.

4.3 A vulnerable adult is a person over 18 years of age who 'is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and

who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation’.

4.4 Abuse is defined as a ‘violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons’.

5. Adult Protection Activity in Denbighshire 2013 – 2014

Year	Referrals received and investigated
2009 - 2010	234
2010 - 2011	244
2011 - 2012	244
2012 - 2013	280
2013 - 2014	298

See Attached Appendix for breakdown of POVA data 2013 - 14

5.1 Performance Indicators

There is only one national performance indicator relating to Adult Protection: the number of cases where the risk has been managed or removed. We continue to believe that this is an important target as it demonstrates how Denbighshire as a whole safeguards the most vulnerable within the community. In 2013-14 we achieved an increase from 97 % in 2012-13 to 100% where the risk has been removed or reduced/managed with Individual Adult Protection plans.

6 Developments

6.1 National and Regional Developments

6.1.1 The Social Services and Well-being Act will put Adult Protection on a statutory footing for the first time. With development of the National Independent Safeguarding Board and the appointment of the Expert Panel it is envisaged this will further influence the development of the Regional Safeguarding Adult Boards across Wales.

6.1.2 North Wales has recently adopted a two tier approach to the oversight of safeguarding vulnerable adults that mirrors the regional approach to safeguarding children. Denbighshire and Conwy have a combined Local Delivery group that replaces the Adult Protection Committee and which reports to a Regional Adult Safeguarding Board.

6.1.3 New guidance was published last December to replace the current arrangements for Serious Case Reviews as recorded within the interim policy and procedures. This new model draws on current Child Practice Reviews but has been amended /adapted for Adults. There are a small number of pilot cases being completed across Wales.

6.2 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The deprivation of liberty safeguards provide legal protection for those vulnerable people who are, or may become, deprived of their liberty within the meaning of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights in a hospital or care home.

A Supreme Court Judgement on 19/3/14 revised the test in relation to a deprivation of liberty for the purposes of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This judgement sparked a considerable increase in DoLS activity nationally. In Denbighshire it is expected that the number of applications will increase to approximately 450 in 2014/15, from an average of 15 annual applications in previous years.

In response to the considerable increase in workload, the following actions have been taken:

- 11 social workers are undertaking the required best interest assessor training in order to increase the pool of staff available.
- A dedicated administrative post (18.5.hours) has been allocated from within existing resources.
- The Supervisory Body role is now shared between two Service Managers rather than a single individual.

The following are the main areas of pressure:

- Volume of work and keeping to timescales
- Cost of section 12 doctors (each assessment costs £174)
- Complying with the judgement in relation to individuals living in the community, where an application to the Court of Protection is required.

6.3 Model of delivery of POVA

A task and finish group was established in May 2012 to consider options and recommend a model for the future management of adult safeguarding within Denbighshire. An update on the capacity of the Adult Safeguarding Service was presented to Scrutiny in March 2013 to reassure Members that there was sufficient capacity with Adult Services to cope with the continued increase in Protection of Vulnerable Adult referrals. The revised safeguarding model was launched in June 2013 with locality team managers and senior practitioners undertaking the Designated Lead Manager Role alongside the POVA co-ordinator. The new model has not been without its challenges as some staff have struggled to adapt to the new role, however developments within localities to strengthen the senior practitioner capacity will play a vital role in the future delivery of the new model.

6.4 **National Inspection Reports by CSSIW and HIW** Adult Protection Monitoring Report 2010-12

This is the fourth year that CSSIW have reported on data about allegations of abuse against adults. This report covers 2 consecutive years of data. There are no plans at present for a further report due to Welsh Government now publishing the Wales statistics allowing for full access to the general public.

Key findings:

- The number of completed referrals fell by 14%.
- Variation to the rate of referrals across Wales with Torfaen recording 5.4 while Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire recorded 1.7 per thousand population.(Denbighshire were at 3:3 per 1000 in 2012)
- The most common victim of alleged abuse older women. The ratio of completed referrals for women to men was almost 2:1.

- As in previous years the largest proportion of victims of alleged abuse lived in their own home in the community.
- In 32% of cases, the place where the alleged abuse occurred was in Care Homes.
- Physical and Neglect remain the top two categories of abuse
- Staff were the most likely to be the alleged perpetrators (44%) followed by relatives at 25%.
- 23% of referrals did not proceed beyond an initial strategy meeting to an investigation in the two years 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2012.
- In 21% of the adult protection referrals completed during the 2 years 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012 had allegations that were proved, while 26% remained inconclusive.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Protection of Vulnerable Adults arrangements contribute directly to the corporate priority to protect vulnerable people and enable them to remain living independently.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

This service is already featured within existing budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this report makes no changes to policy.

8. What consultations have been carried out?

Not applicable

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The new model of delivery which shares the role and responsibilities of the Designated Lead Manager with team managers and senior practitioners presents a challenge to ensure a consistency of approach and quality in dealing with safeguarding referrals. The POVA co-ordinator will have a pivotal role in monitoring this progress and ensuring an overview of the whole safeguarding process. With this shared Designated Lead Role we have a more robust service with a clear safeguarding focus across Denbighshire.

11. Power to make the Decision –

11.1 Scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter are set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and article 6.3 of the Council's Constitution.

Contact Officer:

POVA Coordinator

Tel: 01824 706675