

Report to:	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2018
Lead Member/Officer:	Lead Member for Well-being and Independence/ Head of Community Support Services
Report Author:	Team Manager: Safeguarding
Title:	Annual Report on Safeguarding Adults in Denbighshire 1st April 2017– 31st March 2018.

1. What is the report about?

This report constitutes the annual performance report for Safeguarding Adults 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 and 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 safeguarding of adults at risk 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 safeguard children at risk.

4. Report details

4.1 Background

The Safeguarding Team is now fully established and the current model of delivery is compliant with the safeguarding process determined by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The final volume of statutory guidance, Volume 6: Handling Individual Cases was published earlier this year by Welsh Government thus completing the compendium of statutory guidance relating to Part 7 of the Act.

4.2 Improvements

Over the past 12 months the focus has been on improving the consistency and quality of safeguarding work. The quarterly audits of a sample of safeguarding cases over the past year has shown consistent improvement in several areas of the work e.g. evidence to show that individuals were consistently being safeguarded as a result of this process; that appropriate professionals had been involved in the discussions/decision-making element of the safeguarding process. There has also been significant improvement in

the quality of strategy meeting minutes with evidence of formal outcomes and clear action plans with agreed timescales for completion.

4.3 Adult Protection Activity in Denbighshire 2015 – 2018

Year	Reports(referrals) received
2015 - 2016	355
2016 - 2017	527
2017 - 2018	568

4.4 Headlines from 2017 -18

- Number of reports (referrals) received show a continued steady increase of 8%, however the significant increase of 48% in the previous year appears to have plateaued.
- 23% of cases progressed to Strategy Meetings.
- The risk was removed or reduced for 92% of the adults at risk.
- Neglect (39%) and physical abuse (31%) were the most common types of abuse reported. This concurs with the national trend as reported for 2016 - 17
- Paid employees were most likely to be allegedly responsible for the abuse / neglect (69%) followed by relatives / friends (12%). This again is in line with national trends.

See Appendix 1 for the headlines of safeguarding data 2017 - 18

4.5 Performance Indicators

There is only one national performance indicator currently relating to Safeguarding Adults: the number of enquiries completed within 7 working days. our compliance for this first year has been 67%.

Whilst there are times when the enquiry takes longer to conclude e.g. for completion of a capacity assessment or awaiting the conclusion of a police enquiry, it is important to note that this does not prevent immediate action being taken when necessary to protect an adult at risk.

4.6 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) – activity 2017 - 18

4.6.1 There has been a slight increase in the number of applications received – 335 compared to 314 last year, with 96 authorisations granted (increased from 68 last year).

4.6.2 A database of individuals who are deprived of their liberty in domiciliary settings (DiDS) has been established by the Complex Disability team, prioritised on the basis of proposed new moves into alternative settings and nature/intensity of restrictions inherent within care and support plans. Steady progress has been achieved in successfully taking these applications through the court process.

4.6.3 As reported in previous Scrutiny Reports the Supreme Court Judgement in 2014, and further case law, resulted in a considerable increase in DoLS activity across UK and this is no different in Denbighshire. The Law Commission undertook a review of the current DoLS framework across England and Wales, and consulted on a range of significant

reforms in autumn 2016. The Government rejected the initial reforms recommended, but accepted revised reforms which were published in a white paper in April 2017.

4.6.4 In July 2018, the Government published a Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill, which if passed into law will reform the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), and replace them with a scheme known as the Liberty Protection Safeguards (although the term is not used in the Bill itself). The Bill draws heavily on the Law Commission's proposals for reforming DoLS, but generally does not address some of the wider Mental Capacity Act (MCA) reforms that the Law Commission suggested. So proposed reforms around supported decision-making and best interests are not included, although the omissions have proved controversial, and may be challenged as the Bill goes through Parliament. The new Bill also broadens the scope to treat people, and deprive them of their liberty, in a medical emergency, without gaining prior authorisation. It remains unclear when the Bill may pass into law, and then when it may be implemented.

4.7 Key objectives for 2018 -19

- To improve performance against the Welsh Government performance indicator and establish clear recording mechanism to capture the reasons for exceeding the 7 working day deadline.
- To continue to implement the last volume of statutory guidance, Vol. 6 Handling Individual cases, particularly the link with integrated care and support plans.
- To pilot set days for strategy meetings in order to enable and support stronger representation for partner organisations.
- To continue quarterly audits of safeguarding cases in order to assure quality and consistency of work.
- To promote the use of advocacy to support individuals within the safeguarding process.

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

The Safeguarding Adults arrangements contribute to the Corporate Priority for Resilient Communities by supporting vulnerable adults to remain living safely in their community.

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 Well-being Impact Assessment?**

A Well-being 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**

Not required for this report.

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

- 10.1 DoLS/DiDS – Management of the volume of work in relation to individuals within a care home and domiciliary setting remains a challenge. There are systems in place to prioritise the applications received and we continue to train more best interest assessors in order to increase the workforce's capacity to undertake the work.
- 10.2 Increasing costs of DoLS work i.e. medical assessments, Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA), Court applications. We are limited in our ability to be able to reduce these costs, however some discussions have been instigated with the provider of the Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) role in order to agree standards that may lead to some reduction in costs.

11. Power to make the Decision –

Scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter are set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 7 of the Council's Constitution.

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