

**Report to:** Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 16 September 2019

**Lead Member/Officer:** Lead Member for Well-being and Independence/  
Service Manager - Specialist Services, Operational Services

**Report Author** Team Manager Safeguarding Operational Services

**Title:** Annual Report on Safeguarding Adults in Denbighshire 1<sup>st</sup>  
April 18 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



### **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 importance 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.

### **4. Report details**

- 4.1 Over the past 12 months we have continued to focus on improving the consistency and quality of safeguarding work. Significant work has also been undertaken to improve performance against the Welsh Government performance indicator of enquiries completed with 7 working days.
- 4.2 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; there has also been a steady increase in the use of advocates to support the individual adult at risk.
- 4.3 The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 received royal assent in May 2019, which amends the Mental Capacity Act 2005 ("MCA"). The amendments introduce the new

Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). The Act is designed to reduce the strain on the deprivation of liberty safeguards system since the Cheshire West judgement previously reported to Scrutiny Committee. We expect to see Regulations and a new Code of Practice filling in a lot of the detail which should include practical details about the LPS.

4.4 Similarly, the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures when launched in November 2019 should complement the volumes Statutory Guidance relating to Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which relates to Safeguarding.

4.5 Adult Protection Activity in Denbighshire 2016 – 2019

Year	Reports(referrals) received
2016 - 2017	527
2017 - 2018	568
2018 - 2019	622

4.6 Headlines from 2018 -19 Statistics

- Number of safeguarding reports (referrals) received show a continued steady increase of 9.5%, slightly higher an increase from previous year (8%).
- 21% of cases progressed to Strategy Meetings, slightly lower than last year (23%). This appears to be consistent with other Local Authorities' experience and could be as result of the Section 126 enquiries i.e. sufficient information to determine whether any action should be taken and if so, what and by whom.
- Neglect (31%) and physical abuse (30%) were the most common types of abuse reported, again similar to national trends.

(See Appendix 1 for safeguarding data 2018 – 19)

4.7 Performance Indicators

There is only one national performance indicator currently relating to Adult Protection: the number of enquiries completed within 7 working days.

Our compliance for this first year of reporting has been 68%. A slight increase from last year's 67%. In the cases where the enquiry has taken longer to conclude the reasons can vary from gaining personal outcomes of the individual, accessing advocacy support to ensure the person is given a voice or engagement of other professionals. It is important to note that this does not prevent immediate action being taken when necessary to protect an adult at risk.

However further measures have been implemented this year (April 2019) to improve our performance in relation to the performance indicator which has resulted in significant improvements. For the first quarter of 2019/2020, 87% of enquiries were completed within 7 working days.

#### 4.8 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) – activity 2018 - 19

- There has been a slight increase in the number of applications received: 342 compared to 335 last year.
- 72 authorisations have been granted, a decrease from 106 last year. This was attributed to the additional work being undertaken by some of our Best Interest Assessors who were involved in assessing individuals who are deprived of their liberty in domiciliary settings (DiDS). The Complex Disability team has successfully prioritised those individuals who had new moves into alternative settings and nature/intensity of restrictions inherent within care and support plans. 6 applications have been successfully taken through the court process during this period and a further 9 applications are waiting to be heard.

#### 4.9 Key achievements 2018 -19

- Set days now established for initial strategy meetings following a successful pilot. This was supported by partner agencies and has led to more timely meetings that also enable stronger representation from partner organizations.
- Quarterly audits of a sample of safeguarding cases in order to assure quality and consistency of work.
- A pilot to establish a process between DCC and the health board relating to feedback on recommendations identified as result of the safeguarding process. This pilot is focused on the safeguarding reports/incidents relating to the Ablett Unit. The overview of these safeguarding action plans will remain the responsibility of Scrutiny Corporate Safeguarding within BCUHB. Reviews and involvement of the local authority safeguarding leads will be agreed in the final strategy meeting (e.g. bi-monthly or quarterly review meetings)
- Pilot of an approach to dealing with safeguarding reports relating to acquired pressure ulcers. The aim of the pilot is to establish a closer and more effective process between BCUHB and the local authority.
- Review of systems to manage DoLS applications received.

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

The Safeguarding Adults arrangements contribute directly to the corporate priority Resilient Communities: the Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience.

#### **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 with Scrutiny and others?**

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?**

- Management of imminent legislative/guidance changes e.g. the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures when launched in November 2019 and the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). Training relating to the implications of the LPS for Managers has been arranged.
- 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.
- Increasing costs of DoLS work i.e. medical assessments, IMCA, Court applications. We are limited in our ability to be able to reduce these costs, however discussions instigated with the provider of the RPR role (Relevant Person's Representative) to agree standards that may eventually lead to some reduction in costs. The implementation of the LPS may also lead to cost reductions.

**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 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution.

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