

**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

**Title of meeting:** Health, Wellbeing & Social Care Portfolio Meeting

**Subject:** Public Protection Notice (PPN1) Process

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Report by:** Andy Biddle, Director of Adult Social Care

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Requested by**

Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care

**2. Purpose**

To update the Portfolio Holder of the response by the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team to manage the number of Public Protection Notices, (PPN1) submitted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary.

**3. Information Requested**

Following waves one and two of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in demand in many areas of Adult Social Care, including the statutory safeguarding function. This information report details one demand pressure and the service solution to managing it.

**4. Context**

Both during the pandemic and since relaxation of national 'lockdown' precautions in July 2021, Adult Social Care in Portsmouth has seen an increase in the number of people seeking support. This has been particularly acute in the number of concerns generated about abuse and neglect. Being a small Local Authority, Portsmouth City Council has a limited number of staff in the safeguarding team and focuses on the most urgent, (defined by risk) response and casework. The safeguarding team have received an increasing number of complex safeguarding concerns during the pandemic that require significant staff time to oversee, with no additional resource to manage this.

In addition to safeguarding concerns, the team receives Public Protection Notices (PPN1) from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. PPN1s are submitted to the safeguarding team when a Police Officer attends any incident in which they perceive an 'adult at risk' to be involved. The safeguarding team have received unprecedented numbers of PPN1s over the last year, a trend that has also been seen in the adult social care functions in the other Local Authorities in Hampshire. The number of referrals received in Portsmouth has increased from 544 per quarter (Q4 2019-20) to 919 per quarter (Q2 2021-22), a

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percentage increase of 69%. This increase in numbers of PPN1s received, added to the increased numbers and complexity of other safeguarding concerns has led to a backlog of 1,700 PPN1s, dating from 05/05/2021 to the present day. The information contained in a large proportion of these PPN1s is now so out of date as to be invalid.

Reviewing historic PPN1 data from previous years, over 97% did not meet the criteria for safeguarding involvement, or involvement from other departments in Adult Social Care. In a large number of cases, no consent was gained from the 'adult at risk' to share information with social care and the input/support that police were requesting would not be within Adult Social Care's remit to provide. When PPN1s did meet the criteria for statutory safeguarding action, in the vast majority of cases, a safeguarding referral had been received from an alternative source and the PPN1 was used only to provide additional information.

To respond to the existing backlog, the following plan has been agreed through discussions between the team and Deputy Director of Adult Social Care. During the month of January, the safeguarding management team will review 30 PPN1s randomly sampled from the backlog. They will complete a short audit tool (Appendix A) reviewing the appropriateness of the referral, whether consent had been obtained and the triage outcome. If the outcome of this audit provides results as expected based on historic PPN1 data, the backlog of over 1700 PPN1s will be automatically triaged as No Further Action, with a case note added to the ASC recording system where an open record exists for an individual, for audit purposes. During this process, a decision will be made as to whether the team will send a response regarding each separate PPN1 or if a summary of action taken will be submitted to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. The team will continue to review the small number of PPN1s that have been flagged as high risk by Police Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Sergeants as they are submitted.

In order to mitigate the possibility of a backlog reoccurring the MASH team intend to pilot new ways of working with regards to the daily management of PPN1's. Due to staffing constraints, this cannot be initiated until January 2022.

This process is aimed at resolving the current backlog for the PCC adult safeguarding team. The quality and volume of PPN1 referrals being received by local authorities across the wider Hampshire area has been under discussion and review for significant period of time. Wider discussions continue and the team manager will continue to attend the quarterly PPN1 Scrutiny Panel along with all other local authority safeguarding leads to participate in wider discussion about the PPN1 process.

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Signed by (Director)

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**Appendices:**

## Appendix A



PPN1 Document  
one.docx

## Appendix B



PPN1 Document  
two.docx

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>