

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Subject: Annual Safeguarding Report and update on the Care Act in relation to Safeguarding

Date of meeting: 28th November 2014

Report by: Lorraine Burton, Safeguarding Board Manager for Adults
Angela Dryer, Assistant Head of Adult Social Care.

Wards affected: All

1. **Requested by:** Julian Wooster, Director of Children's and Adults Services

2. **Purpose:** To provide updates and information in relation to Safeguarding by way of an annual report and also plan for implementation of the Care Act in relation to Safeguarding .

3. **Information Requested**

3.1 **Annual Safeguarding Adults Report.**

Members of the Health and Wellbeing board are asked to note the attached report.

We would like to bring members attention to the following:-

1. The report is a summary of the activity from Safeguarding in Portsmouth over the last year, where possible it includes updates on activity from our partner agencies.
2. From April 2015 , there will be a statutory duty (under the Care Act) , to have a Safeguarding Board and therefore reports and action plans on work will be produced accordingly , we have also endeavoured to take forward actions from the Peer Review as well ,and are addressing them under one report .
3. PSAB (Portsmouth Safeguarding Board), have set up a series of sub-groups, alluded to in the main report as a way of forward planning and taking forward the actions required in a multi-agency format, where possible the chairs of the sub groups, will be a multi-agency lead.
4. In advance of planning for next year's Annual report and the planning and governance around this report, an Editorial group has just been set up.

3.2 **Update on The Care Act in relation to changes in Safeguarding for Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Care Act – Protecting adults from abuse or neglect

This information is about how the Act will, for the first time, set out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

What is “safeguarding”?

“Adult safeguarding” is the process of protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities.

Safeguarding is mainly aimed at people with care and support needs who may be in vulnerable circumstances and at risk of abuse or neglect by others. In these cases, local services must work together to spot those at risk and take steps to protect them.

Why has the law changed?

Although local authorities have been responsible for safeguarding for many years, there has never been a clear set of laws or regulations behind it. As a result, it has often been very unclear who is responsible for what in practice.

This Act aims to put this right by creating a legal framework so key organisations and individuals with responsibilities for adult safeguarding can agree on how they must work together and what roles they must play to keep adults at risk safe.

What does the Act do?

Safeguarding Adults Boards

Safeguarding is everyone’s business, and it is important that organisations work together to protect people who need help and support. Yet one of the biggest challenges is how to bring together the huge number of teams and organisations involved in keeping people safe.

That’s why this Act requires local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in their area, giving these boards a clear basis in law for the first time.

The Act says that the SAB must:

"include the local authority, the NHS and the police, who should meet regularly to discuss and act upon local safeguarding issues; develop shared plans for safeguarding, working with local people to decide how best to protect adults in vulnerable situations; publish this safeguarding plan and report to the public annually on its progress, so that different organisations can make sure they are working together in the best way.

Safeguarding enquiries by local authorities

The Act also requires local authorities to make enquiries, or ask others to make enquiries, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect in

their area and to find out what, if any, action may be needed. This applies whether or not the authority is actually providing any care and support services to that adult.

What the Act does not do though is give local authorities any new powers to enter a person’s property. The Government did consult on whether there should be a specific power of entry. However, opinions were split on the issue and the Government decided that there was not a strong enough case in favour of a new law.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

When there is any failure in safeguarding, the results can be severe and tragic and therefore demand a strong response.

That is why the Act says that SABs must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review in some circumstances – for instance, if an adult with needs for care and support dies as a result of abuse or neglect and there is concern about how one of the members of the SAB acted. The Reviews are about learning lessons for the future. They will make sure that SABs get the full picture of what went wrong, so that all organisations involved can improve as a result.

Supply of information

It is important that organisations share information related to abuse or neglect with SABs. Not doing so could prevent them from being able to tackle problems quickly and learn lessons to prevent them happening again.

The Act is therefore clear that if an SAB requests information from an organisation or individual who is likely to have information which is relevant to SAB’s functions, they must share what they know with the SAB. This is so any problems can be tackled quickly, and lessons can be learnt to prevent them happening again in the future.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any questions or further information can be gained by contacting:-

Lorraine Burton - Safeguarding Board Manager (Adults) - lorraine.burton@portsmouthcc.gov.uk, or
Angela Dryer - Assistant Head of Adult Social Care - angela.dryer@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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Signed by

- Appendices:** **A - Annual Safeguarding Report 2014**
 B - PCC Safeguarding Adults Yearly report 2013/14

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:

Title of document	Location

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

