

	<p style="text-align: center;">Executive 14th November 2005</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Housing and Community Care</p>
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
<p style="text-align: center;">Brent Adult Protection Multi-agency Report and Proposed New National Standards</p>	

FP Ref: AD&SC-05/06-33

1.0 Summary

1.1 This Executive reports presents the first annual report of the Brent multi-agency Adult Protection Committee. (Appendix 1) It outlines the work of the Committee, provides information on adult protection referrals, and outlines priorities for 2005/2006. This report also provides information on proposed new standards for local authorities and partner agencies on adult protection strategies, policy and procedure.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That approval is given to the publication of the Brent Adult Protection report.
- 2.2 That it be referred to Adults & Social Care Scrutiny for consideration and be reported to scrutiny on an annual basis.
- 2.3 That the Director of Adults and Social Care report back on the implications of the final new ADSS standards for good practice protection of vulnerable adults.

3.0 Detail

Background to adult protection

3.1 Brent's multi-agency Adult Protection Committee was set up in accordance with the Department of Health guidance No Secrets.

This was agreed at an Executive in July 2003. The Committee includes representatives from various Brent Council departments, Brent tPCT, Brent Police, BRAVA, Brent Carers Centres and the private sector. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has observer status. The Committee has clear terms of reference, objectives and priorities for its work. The Adult Protection Committee, which meets quarterly, determines and promotes policies, co-ordinates activity between agencies, facilitates joint training, monitors and reviews progress. It has set up a multi-agency operational sub-group to provide advice and guidance to the Committee on operational matters that require strategic or policy decisions and helps ensure decisions of the Committee are put into practice.

3.2 Summary of Brent Adult Protection Report – key issues

There is a requirement to publish an annual report (attached). The key issues in the report are outlined below. During 2004/05, there have been 73 referrals of alleged abuse of vulnerable adults in Brent, which is likely to be an under reporting. The single greatest cause of abuse was physical, followed by neglect. There was more than one type of abuse in almost a third of the cases. 35% of alleged abuse took place in the client's own home and a further 32% in residential or nursing homes. 42% of the alleged perpetrators were care professionals. In 40% of all cases the allegations were substantiated; in 27% they were not proven. In total, 56 adult protection strategy meetings were held.

3.3 Raising awareness

A range of awareness raising activities has taken place. It includes: widespread distribution of leaflets (10,000), summary guidance and full policy and procedure documents; and commissioning over 1,000 training place on various aspects of the protection of vulnerable adults.

Brent was recommended by CSCI as an example of good practice, and as a result is a pilot for an Action on Elder Abuse/ Department of Health project to establish a national monitoring and reporting process.

3.4 Consultation

There have been a range of discussions with staff, users and carers, multi-disciplinary groups and joint commissioning teams, to highlight awareness of adult protection issues. This report will go to relevant groups and organisations to assist them in developing user specific action plans.

3.5 Promoting the Annual Report

As part of developing a joint strategy with the community safety unit, it has been agreed to launch this report at a joint event which will also launch the corporate domestic violence strategy. This will be held on 25th November 2005 to also mark the 'UN International Day for the elimination of violence against women'. The Leader of the Council has agreed to do the formal launch.

3.6 Key Adult Protection Priorities 2005 – 7

These are summarised as follows:

- i. Review and update policies, procedures and practice guidance in the light of local experience and national developments e.g. new national reporting requirements, possible revisions to No Secrets and introduction of Safeguarding Adults service standards.
- ii. Improve communication and information strategies and distribution of materials in order to better raise awareness of adult protection issues in order to encourage greater reporting and good practice in the care of vulnerable adults.
- iii. Seek wider and more active support across all agencies in Brent for the protection of vulnerable adults, and improve user and carer involvement'; ensuring links are made with BME groups.

3.7 Proposed new adult protection standards.

The ADSS published on 21st October 2005 new good practice guidelines for adult protection procedures 'Safeguarding Adults. A national framework for good practice and outcomes in adult protection work'. These had previously been subject to consultation. These are significant and propose creating a 'safeguarding adults' board. Whilst welcomed by DoH they are not mandatory. However it is likely CSCI inspection audits will expect these good practice guidelines to be used.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The costs of the publication will be met within existing budget and with a contribution from the tPCT.
- 4.2 The proposed new standards will have cost implications. These will be considered when the actual requirements are known. This will be the subject of a future report to Executive. Now the final guidelines are published it is proposed a further audit of Brent procedures is completed and discussed at the multi-agency board. This can then agree recommendations to the respective partners, through the Health and Social Care partnership to the Council Executive. It is likely to take 3 months to complete this process.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Once the new national standards framework is issued there will be legal considerations involved in setting up the required partnership.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact assessment has been undertaken on the Policy and Procedure and this assessment has shown no adverse impact on any group of people. The policies, procedures and service have been designed to have a positive impact on protecting vulnerable people to

enhance their lives.

- 6.2 Quarterly and Annual statistics are presented and discussed at both the Adult Protection Committee and the Operational sub group and these will be published annually as part of the Annual Review report.
- 6.3 The analysis of the statistical data has shown that referrals have come from both genders from various ethnic background, with different disabilities and ages.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 Implementation of the new standards, once known, are likely to have staff resource implications. And will be considered in options when reported back to Executive.

Background Papers

Brent Adult Protection Policy and Procedures Executive report 21 July 2003
ADSS Safeguarding Adults 2005

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