



Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8th February 2007

**Report from the Director of
Housing and Community Care**

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Protection of Vulnerable Adults Report (POVA)

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the annual report for 2004/05 relating to the Brent Multi-agency Adult Protection Committee.
- 1.2 The Multi-agency Adult Protection report outlines the work of the Adult Protection Committee, provides information on adult protection referrals and outlines the priorities for 2006/07.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 This report is for information only

3.0 Detail

3.1 Key Achievements

- Brent was recommended by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate an example of good practice and as such was a pilot authority in the Action on Elder Abuse/Department of Health project to develop a national monitoring and reporting process. This has enabled Brent to develop robust statistical analysis processes.
- A multi-agency awareness day held in November 2005 in conjunction with Domestic Violence was positive at raising awareness of adult protection issues across a wide range of agencies

- Over 190 Multi-agency training places were offered over a range of topics
- The appointment of an Acting Adult Protection Coordinator

3.3 Adult Protection Referrals

- An 80% increase in Adult Protection Referrals from the previous year
- Almost 50% of the reported victims of alleged abuse were older people
- 62% of victims were female and 47% of victims were white British
- The greatest single cause of abuse was physical abuse followed by financial
- There was a significant decrease in the allegations made against care professionals from the previous year
- 34% of completed cases were substantiated
- Almost half of the allegations of abuse took place in the client's own home
- 76% of cases involved a tabled multi-agency strategy meeting

3.4 Priorities of the Adult Protection Committee for 2006/07

- Develop, monitor and review the Adult Protection Policy and Procedures, incorporating Safeguarding Adults
- Organise and provide training to multi-agency partners
- Ensure close links with London and National Protection Networks
- Expand information on the Brent Council Website and develop an Adult Protection Newsletter
- Maintain effective information systems to ensure accurate statistical monitoring

4.0 **Financial Implications**

4.1 There are likely to be cost pressures if Safeguarding Adults; good practice guidance, is fully implemented. Also now that there is better information on the number of cases a more detailed analysis of the resource requirements can be completed which includes contributions from partner agencies to the cost of revising procedures and providing information leaflets as well as the work of the multi-agency Committee.

5.0 **Legal Implications**

5.1 None

6.0 **Diversity Implications**

6.1 The Adult Protection Policy and Procedures have been designed to have a positive impact on protecting all vulnerable people to enhance their lives.

- 6.2 An analysis of adult protection statistical data has shown that referrals come from both genders from various ethnic backgrounds, with different disabilities and ages.
- 6.3 The statistical data enables awareness raising to be targeted to potentially under-represented groups within Brent.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 The significant increase in Adult Protection referrals has impacted on the Community care teams as referrals can be time-consuming. Implementing Safeguarding Adults is also likely to have staffing implications.

Background Papers

1. Protection of Vulnerable Adults In Brent: Multi-agency policy and procedures
2. Safeguarding Adults: a national framework for good practice and outcomes in Adult Protection Work
3. Brent Multi-Agency Adult Protection Committee Report 2005/06

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