



**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
7 October 2008

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

For Information

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2007/08**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This is the fourth annual report of the Brent Safeguarding Adults Committee and covers the period April 2007 – March 2008. It outlines national developments, the progress made in Brent (including the priorities set in last year's annual report) and also identifies key issues and future plans for growth and improvement. The report also covers the outcome of the Commission for Social Care Inspection on Independence, Wellbeing and Choice.
- 1.2 Key statutory agencies and the lead for the voluntary sector, with the Lead Member will be present at Scrutiny to clarify any issues arising. There will be representation from the Police, PCT, Assistant Director Community Care, who chairs the committee, the Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator, and the Vice Chair of BrAVA who is also the Director of Mencap.

**2.0 Recommendation**

That members of the committee comment on and note the report.

**3.0 In Brent**

*Brent Safeguarding Adult Committee and Operational Sub-group*

The Adult Protection Committee became the Safeguarding Adults Committee to reflect the move towards Safeguarding Adults. The

committee continued to meet quarterly. The Operational Sub-group had other agencies seconded onto to it and acted as the reference group for the update of the policy and procedures.

### *Wellness, Independence and Choice Inspection*

The Commission for Social Care Inspectorate undertook an inspection between March and April 2008. It focused on two themes; Personalisation in Older People Services and Safeguarding Adults across all adult social care. Brent was found to have adequate Safeguarding arrangements. The final report was presented to the Council's Executive in July 2008. The Action plan resulting from the inspection has been incorporated into the Safeguarding Adults Implementation Plan. An update on the Action plan is provided later in this report.

### *Referral Activity 2006-07*

- 211 referrals were received which was a 41% increase on last year
- The majority of referrals were again for older people, with an 85% increase in referrals relating to Older People.
- The main referrals were for people of a white background, whose abuse happened in their own home allegedly by a friend or relative
- The main form of abuse was financial, followed by physical
- 34% of all concluded cases were substantiated
- For substantiated cases relatives, including spouses, were the main perpetrators followed by care professionals. This differs from 06/07 where the main perpetrators were care professionals.

## **4.0 Nationally**

- The Mental Capacity Act came into force on April 2007 and introduced the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were incorporated into the Mental Health Act and will come into force in April 2009
- A review of 'No Secrets' was announced in February 2008 with an expectation that a consultation will take place over the forthcoming year
- Two research projects were published;
  - UK Prevalence on Study on Elder Abuse
  - Partnership and Regulation in Adult Protection

## **5.0 Current work**

### *Update of Policy and Procedures*

The Safeguarding Adults Committee agreed to an update of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults in Brent; multi-agency policy and procedures to Safeguarding Adults in Brent. This work has been able to

be completed with a successful bid from the council's Chief Executive's Performance Fund. That update has taken longer than anticipated due to ensuring that the update policy and procedures are robust and fit for purpose and that wide-spread consultation has been undertaken. It is envisaged that the update will provide a clearer framework to partner agencies as to what it expected of them as well as clear operational procedures for staff. It is envisaged that the updated policy will be launched early next year with implementation from April 2009.

*Implementation of Action Plan From CSCI Wellness, Independence and Choice Inspection in relation to Safeguarding Adults*

The CSCI inspection and action plan was presented to Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> July and it was agreed that an update on the action plan would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report.

Regular systematic case file audit:

An external audit of Safeguarding case files was undertaken in July 2008 with the newly developed audit tool. It highlighted good collaboration between different agencies, prompt response to ensure vulnerable adults were safe, a sensitivity to cultural needs and religious belief and the evidenced lead of management in one unit to improve responses. The audit identified that there were different levels of understanding and commitment to the safeguarding process across adult social care. Recommendations from this audit has been discussed with the Adult Social Care units and are being taken forward via their monthly meetings. The Safeguarding Adults team will be completing case audits on a quarterly basis and reporting back to Community Care Management Team and the Safeguarding Adults Committee.

New episodes have been built within the client database Framework I, and these will be trialled before going live. It is envisaged that these will be fully implemented by the new year following training.

Strengthen management oversight of safeguarding cases:

Each Adult Social Care unit has a monthly meeting to review all cases and actions are taken forward from these. Quarterly monitoring reports are provided to Assistant Director of Community Care based on these meetings.

Formalising Arrangements for assessing staff competencies:

Specific staff competencies for safeguarding are being developed which will be incorporated into the annual performance system.

Strengthen the analysis of safeguarding data and outcomes:

New indicators emphasising the qualitative evaluation of safeguarding cases will be presented at the next Safeguarding Adults Committee for agreement. These indicators strengthen the outcomes for the victims, their views of their safety and their experiences of the safeguarding adults process. The new indicators will be incorporated into the 2008/09 annual report.

Improve the quality of safeguarding practice and ensure consistent compliance with policy and procedures:

The formal audit of safeguarding cases and monthly service area meetings are in place and this will assist the above. Practice forums were established earlier this year and are part of Learning and Developments Continual Professional Development programme. Currently work is also being undertaken with legal services to develop a series of joint workshops which will look at particular case scenarios to highlight examples of good practice.

Strengthen the Safeguarding training programme:

A learning needs analysis was undertaken and the initial training plan was adapted to take this into account. The training programme has been enhanced to ensure that the procedural aspects of safeguarding adults are explicitly trained on. A review of all training commissioned was also undertaken with the aims and objectives of courses being modified to ensure it met the training needs.

Promote Awareness of Safeguarding Adults issues:

In conjunction with the Communications Department the Brent website is being updated in relation to Safeguarding Adults. It will ensure that actually accessing information via the search engine is made easier. The launch of the updated policy and procedures has been delayed as noted above, there will however be a communication plan developed by a sub-group of the Safeguarding Adults committee relating to this. It has also been acknowledged the requirement for an internal webpage for staff on both the council intranet and Central NorthWest London Trustnet to ensure consistent use of templates. This work has started and will be finalised by Oct 2008.

An event took place to consult and raise awareness on the new Deprivation of Liberty safeguards which will come into force on April 2009 and the new Vetting and Barring scheme will go live in October 2009. This was attended by over 100 people from a variety of agencies.

The CSCI action plan continued to be monitored through both the Safeguarding Adults Committee and the Community Care Management Team.

## **Contact Officers**

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