

By: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services
Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee –
15 January 2009

Subject: **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULT
COMMITTEE – DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2007-MARCH
2008**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report introduces the above report which describes how the multi-agency partnership managed safeguarding adult issues in 2007-2008. The report provides safeguarding activity information including the number of adult protection alerts; the source of the alerts, a breakdown of the alerts against defined categories (age, gender, ethnicity, and clients groups).

The report also contains key statements from partner organisations on how they dealt with safeguarding issues in their respective agencies.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Safeguarding vulnerable adults is one of the responsibilities of the Statutory Chief Officer post of the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS).
- 1.2 The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Partnership Board directs the work of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Committee (SGVAC). The Managing Director of Kent Adult Social Services (KASS) chairs the Board and the Committee. The Board is comprised of the Chief Executives of NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, NHS West Kent, Medway Primary Care Trust, (or their nominated deputy) Assistant Chief Constable (or a designated deputy) and the Assistant Director of Social Care, Medway Council.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy Overview Committee (POC) on how the multi-agency partnership managed safeguarding activities during 2007-2008. The draft Annual Report is attached separately to the papers for Members of the POC. Further copies are available from the author. The report will be presented to the Safeguarding Partnership Board in early February 2009 and once approved will be posted on the Kent and Medway Safeguarding website www.kent.gov.uk/adultprotectioncommittee. The report also sets out a summary position on the Independence Wellbeing & Choice (Safeguards) Inspection.

2. Overview of the Policy Context

- 2.1 The policy landscape has changed with the enactment of key pieces of legislation, all playing their contribution in respect of safeguarding the interest of vulnerable members of the community. The notable ones are the provisions in the 'Mental Capacity Act 2005', 'Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards' (DoLs) 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006', 'Fraud Act 2006' and 'Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007'.
- 2.2 The landmark *'Putting People First - A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care' (2007)* concordat frames the Government's commitment to independent living for all adults. This signalled a fundamental shift to the development of a personalised adult social care system on a national scale. The policy direction acknowledges the need to focus on prevention, early intervention, enablement, and high quality personally tailored services. At the same time, it employs local authorities to develop systems that act on, and minimise, the risk of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults.
- 2.3 The drive to ensure that all older people are treated with dignity and respect at all times, adds to the Government's intention to drive up care standards through the *'Dignity in Care Campaign'*. The *'Dignity Challenge'*, is a call to arms for service commissioners and providers to adhere to the 10 principles; the first of which is to have a *'zero tolerance of all forms of abuse'*, irrespective of whether they are publicly funded or not.
- 2.4 The Department of Health, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice launched the national consultation on the review of the *'No Secrets'* guidance on 14 October 2008, with the closing date of 31 January 2009. The focus of the consultation is about how people are empowered to identify and manage risk, empowering people to say no to abusive situations and criminal behaviour. These are within the context of addressing safeguarding in the broader agenda of choice and control. The clear message is that safeguarding is everyone's business. Identifying the tools necessary for better safeguarding as we move ahead with the implementation of personalisation becomes a priority. A consultation stakeholder event was held on 7 January 2009 to inform the multi-agency submission to the consultation. The Care Services Improvement Partnership also held a consultation event on 8th January 2009 for Members.

3. Key Summary from the Annual Report

- 3.1 The Service User and Carers Forums continued to be well attended, with people coming from all over geographic Kent with regular groups from many parts of Kent attending the meetings.
- 3.2 Training to enable staff in all agencies to undertake safeguarding actions in accordance with the multi-agency policy and protocols is a priority for the Kent and Medway SGVAC. The demand for multi-agency training has increased over the years and in response to this additional resource is to be made available to meet the rising demand.

- 3.3 The issues of safeguarding vulnerable adults are well established and supported within Kent County Council. Safeguarding adults issues are also integrated within the County's community safety arrangements.
- 3.4 There have been some good results from adult abuse investigation in 2008. In a case from West Kent, an elderly female aged 86 and suffering from dementia, was defrauded of £56,000 by a male who had done some work and taken advantage of her confusion. By enabling a live link to her home address, the victim was able to give evidence direct to the court, providing sufficient evidence to convict and lead to a sentence of three and a half years.
- 3.5 During 2007/8 there were 1804 Adult Protection (AP) alerts recorded in Kent (including Medway). This represents an increase of 146 (8.8%) on the 1658 AP alerts recorded in the previous year, 2006/7. A breakdown of these figures can be found in the full report.
- 3.6 Social services had some involvement in nearly three quarters of cases investigated (73.4%), with the police involved in over half of all cases (56.3%) and health colleagues involved in over a third of all cases (36.9%).
- 3.7 The Safeguarding Partnership Board has approved a three-year strategy, which takes account of a wide range of national and local drivers for change. The three year strategy recognises that safeguarding is everyone's business and that a multi-agency approach, together with the engagement of service users, family carers and the general public, is vital if we are to tackle abuse effectively.

4. Independence Wellbeing & Choice (Safeguards) Inspection

- 4.1 The Commission of Social Care Inspectorate has notified KASS that they wish to inspect Kent during the period of December 2008 – March 2009. The main features of the Inspection are listed in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.7:
- 4.2 The main theme will be safeguarding, but there will also be one or two other themes focussed on a particular client group. For example 'prevention & personalisation' with a focus on Older People.
- 4.3 The Authority will be given eight weeks notice.
- 4.4 The inspection team will consist of three inspectors, one service user and the team will be on site for five days.
- 4.5. The inspection will follow a familiar format of file audit, user partner and staff focus groups, interviews and visits.
- 4.6 The final report will be published 8 weeks after the fieldwork has been completed
- 4.7 Similar to the recent Corporate assessment the inspection will be scored on two domains Delivery & Capacity to Improve These will be individually scored out of four - Excellent (4), Good (3), Adequate (2), Poor (1).

Recommendation

Members are asked to NOTE and COMMENT on the contents of the attached report

Michael Thomas-Sam
Head of Policy and Service Development
Phone: 7000 4843 or 01622 594843
Email: michael.thomas-sam@kent.gov.uk

Appendix

Kent and Medway Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Committee Annual Report April 2007
– March 2008

Background documents:

Safeguarding Adults A consultation on the Review of the 'No Secret' Guidance 14 October
2008

Putting People First A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social
Care, 10 December 2007

Local Authority Circular (2008) 1, Transforming Social Care, 17 January 2008