

From: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director – Families and Social Care

To: Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee – 14 September 2012

Subject: Peer Review of Kent County Council’s Adult Safeguarding Services report by Essex County Council and Action Plan

Classification: Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This report presents the Peer Review of Kent County Council’s Adult Safeguarding Services report by Essex County Council and the resulting action plan.

**Recommendations:** Cabinet Members are asked to:

- 1) note the Peer Review of Kent County Council’s Adult Safeguarding Services report by Essex County Council and the resulting action plan
- 2) discuss ways in which Members can have increased involvement in safeguarding, as outlined in paragraph 4 (8) below.

## 1. Introduction

(1) In June 2012, Adult Safeguarding in Kent was subject to a Peer Review, conducted by Essex County Council. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) no longer inspect Councils in relation to adult safeguarding. Councils are expected to monitor their own performance and engage in Peer Reviews with other Local Authorities.

(2) Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director, Families and Social Care, requested that a Peer Review be undertaken by another Local Authority in regards to adult safeguarding in Kent. Essex County Council was approached at the beginning of the year, as there are similarities in the make up of our respective Local Authorities. In the last CQC inspection, Essex County Council was awarded ‘Excellent’ with regards to adult safeguarding.

## 2. Financial Implications

(1) There are no direct financial implications stemming from the report.

### **3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework**

(2) The Peer Review of Adult Safeguarding and resulting action plan are part of the work in place to support Priority 14 of Bold Steps:

*“Ensure we provide the most robust and effective public protection arrangements”.*

### **4. The Peer Review**

(1) The Peer Review of Adult Safeguarding took place in June 2012 and focused on four key themes, which are as follows:

1. Outcomes for and the experiences of people who use services
2. Leadership, strategy and commissioning
3. Service delivery, performance and resource management
4. Working together

(2) The review team consisted of a Council Member, who is the Chair of the Safeguarding Scrutiny Board, Operational Service Manager for Safeguarding Essex, Manager of the Support Team for the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board and a Safeguarding Consultant Practitioner.

(3) During the Peer Review, members of the review team led focus groups with a wide range of staff and key stakeholders, including: senior managers, members of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Executive Board, providers, advocacy organisations and frontline staff. Members of the review team met with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health; visited local offices where they met with a range of staff from different teams; reviewed a selection of case files and policies and attended a Safeguarding Awareness Week event.

(4) From the Peer Review, the review team have produced the report, which is available at Appendix 1. The overall conclusion of the review is that, *‘the vulnerable people of Kent are well served by Kent County Council and its safeguarding services’.*

(5) The review team identified a number of examples of excellence during the Peer Review, which included: the safeguarding service; staff awareness across all of Kent County Council around safeguarding; the Mental Capacity/ Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (MCA/ DOLS) service and partnership working with Medway and Health.

(6) The review team also identified a number of areas for development and from these, an action plan has been developed, in line with the key themes which the review focused on, as detailed above. The action plan has eleven recommendations and is available at Appendix 2.

(7) The action plan was presented to the FSC Strategic Safeguarding Adults Board on 2 August 2012 and FSC DMT on 8 August 2012, where it was amended and agreed.

(8) One of the recommendations within the action plan is as follows:

*'Investigate the possibility of increased elected Member involvement in the safeguarding process'.*

This is an area we would particularly like Members to discuss. Suggestions for increased involvement have included Members attending Locality team meetings and Locality briefings and involvement in the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Executive Board.

## **5. Conclusions**

(1) Since the Peer Review of Adult Safeguarding in Kent took place in June 2012, the action plan has been developed from the report provided by the review team from Essex County Council. This action plan has been agreed by FSC DMT and work has commenced on the actions identified within the plan.

(2) The review team agreed to give a presentation on the findings to those that participated in the review. This is arranged for 13 September 2012 and will provide an opportunity to hear feedback, ask questions and discuss the action plan.

## **6. Recommendations**

Members are requested to:

- 1) NOTE the Peer Review of Kent County Council's Adult Safeguarding Services report by Essex County Council and action plan, and
- 2) COMMENT on ways in which Members could have an increased involvement in safeguarding.

## **Contact details**

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## **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: Peer Review of Kent County Council's Adult Safeguarding Services report by Essex County Council
- Appendix 2: Peer Review Action Plan

**Background Documents:** None