

**By:** Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
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**To:** Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee - 22 January 2019

**Subject:** **Safeguarding Adults Update**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Previous Pathway of Paper:** None

**Future Pathway of Paper:** None

**Electoral Divisions:** All

**Summary:** This report presents an update on Adult Safeguarding activity in Kent for the period April to September 2018.

**Recommendations:** The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** the content of this report in addition to the statutory annual report, which was discussed at County Council on 13 December 2018 and **COMMENT** on the activity provided in the update and put forward suggestions on the key issues they would like to cover in the upcoming informal member briefing.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents an update on Adult Safeguarding activity in Kent for the period April to September 2018. This is an interim report and the full information for 2018/19 will continue to be included in the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report which is presented to County Council.
- 1.2 The 2017/18 Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report was discussed at County Council on 13 December 2018 and a link to the full report is included as a background document to this report. Following the County Council discussion, it was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health would organise an informal briefing on Adult Safeguarding, for all Members of the County Council. The Member briefing has been arranged for Thursday 28 February 2019. Members of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee are asked to put forward suggestions for the key issues they would like to add to the agenda for discussion at the briefing.
- 1.3 As an upper tier authority, Kent County Council has lead responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable adults in Kent. This is ultimately the responsibility of the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health, as the statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS), and the Cabinet Member for

Adult Social Care and Public Health. It is however the responsibility of the whole Council, both members and officers, to ensure that safeguarding remains its highest priority. The partnership work that is undertaken, under the oversight of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board, is critical to achieving this and the Council continues to work closely with Kent Police, local NHS organisations, Kent Fire and Rescue and Medway Council, as well as non-statutory partners and health and social care providers.

## **2. Adult Safeguarding Activity**

2.1 Following the implementation of the Care Act 2014, the following definitions have been in use in safeguarding:

- Concern – Suspected abuse or neglect that is reported to or identified by the Council
- Enquiry – Formal action taken by the Council in response to a concern.

2.1.1 Not all new concerns reported to the Council progress to an enquiry. Some concerns are already known about and are being addressed and some concerns the Central Referral Unit (CRU) or operational teams (if person is already open to Adult Social Care) assess as not being a safeguarding matter or as requiring no further action.

2.2 Highlights of activity during April to September 2018 are:

- The number of concerns reported continues to increase, with an average of 947 concerns/month compared to 878/month in the preceding six months. However the rate of increase seems to be levelling off.
- The rate of concerns received by the CRU has increased, with 489 concerns/month compared to 461/month in the preceding six months.
- In the latest reporting period, 36.7% of safeguarding concerns received by the CRU were already open to operational teams, 19.1% were assessed as not safeguarding or required no further action and 37.4% progressed to a safeguarding enquiry. 6.8% of CRU Safeguarding concerns had no outcome recorded at the date of the report.
- Concerns raised by or received directly by the operational teams continue to increase with 458 concerns/month compared to 417/month in the preceding six months
- The proportion of all concerns which become new enquires has declined to 48.7%, compared to 55.9% for the preceding six months. This figure is higher than the national average and work is currently underway to explore this as it may result from a known data quality issue.
- The rate of new safeguarding enquiries started has fallen, with an average of 461 enquiries/month, compared to an average 491/month in the preceding six months
- Outcomes of concluded enquiries remain broadly similar, with *Confirmed* or *Partially Confirmed* being found in 49.9% of cases compared to 51.8% previously.

## 2.4 Overall Activity

Activity	Apr 2016 to Sep 2017	Oct 2017 to Mar 2018	Apr 2018 to Sep 2018
<b>Total Safeguarding Concerns received</b>	<b>5047</b>	2568	<b>5682</b>
Of which concerns received by the Central Referral Unit	2975	2769	2935
<b>Safeguarding Enquiries</b>	<b>2843</b>	2943	<b>2768</b>
<b>Closed Enquiries</b>	<b>3272</b>	*3505	<b>3197</b>

\*It is of note that a data quality exercise was undertaken during this period in order to close longstanding involvement and therefore this figure is higher than would ordinarily be expected

## 2.5 Primary support need of person named in the concern

Primary Support Reason	Apr 2017 to Sep 2017	Oct 2017 to Mar 2018	Apr 2018 to Sep 2018
<b>Older</b>	3020	3225	3421
<b>Learning Disability</b>	476	404	364
<b>Mental Health</b>	568	616	668
<b>Physical Disability</b>	355	387	444
<b>Substance Misuse</b>	11	0	6
<b>Other Vulnerable People</b>	271	244	336
<b>Not Recorded</b>	420	392	446

## 2.6 Source of concerns

Source of Safeguarding Concern	Apr 2017 to Sep 2017	Oct 2017 to Mar 2018	Apr 2018 to Sep 2018
<b>Social Care Staff (KCC and Independent)</b>	35.2%	31.2%	29.4%
<b>Health Staff</b>	26.5%	30.2%	31.7%
<b>Self-Referral</b>	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Family member</b>	1.8%	1.1%	1.3%
<b>Friend/neighbour</b>	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
<b>Other service user</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Care Quality Commission</b>	2.9%	2.8%	1.8%
<b>Housing</b>	3.1%	2.0%	3.4%
<b>Education/Training/Workplace Establishment</b>	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
<b>Police</b>	11.8%	14.4%	11.2%
<b>Other</b>	14.4%	14.3%	17.2%
<b>Unknown</b>	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%

2.7 The percentage of safeguarding concerns has remained broadly similar although referrals received via health are increasing.

2.8 Location of alleged abuse, in cases where enquiries were undertaken

Location alleged abuse took place	Apr 2017 to Sep 2017	Oct 2017 to Mar 2018	Apr 2018 to Sep 2018
Own Home	37.6%	40.0%	42.4%
Care Home (Residential and Nursing)	35.8%	33.5%	30.4%
Alleged Perpetrators Home	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Mental Health Inpatient Setting	4.6%	6.0%	5.3%
Acute Hospital	5.7%	5.1%	5.5%
Community Hospital	0.6%	0.4%	1.1%
Other Health Setting	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%
Supported Accommodation	2.0%	3.1%	2.2%
Day Centre/Service	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Public Place	4.0%	3.1%	1.6%
Other	1.4%	2.0%	1.6%
Not Known	7.1%	6.0%	8.4%

2.8.1 These have remained broadly the similar and largely mirror previous figures.

2.9 Type of alleged abuse, in cases where enquiries were undertaken

Type of Risk	Apr 2017 to Sep 2017	Oct 2017 to Mar 2018	Apr 2018 to Sep 2018
Discriminatory	1.2%	1.3%	0.7%
Domestic Abuse	3.7%	4.1%	3.8%
Emotional/Psychological	19.6%	19.8%	21.4%
Female Genital Mutilation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Financial or Material	14.7%	16.9%	18.0%
Modern Slavery	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
Neglect and Omission	25.0%	25.5%	23.9%
Organisational	2.0%	1.7%	2.0%
Physical	38.5%	34.4%	33.2%
Self-Neglect	9.5%	11.7%	11.2%
Sexual	5.0%	5.2%	4.8%
Sexual Exploitation	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%

### 3. Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

- 3.1 In the six months from April to September 2018, the Kent Mental Capacity Act Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (MCA DOLS) Service received 2,597 applications for a DOLS authorisation. The service continues to screen promptly all applications received and approximately 51% of referrals are prioritised using the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) screening tool. The waiting time for assessment for a prioritised application has been reduced to between three to four weeks which compares very favourably with other authorities.
- 3.2 However, as with very many other authorities, following the very substantial national increase in applications in 2015 after the Cheshire West judgement extended the scope of the DOLS, there continues to be a growing number of non-prioritised applications. In February 2018 Kent County Council identified a one-off funding of £1.54m for the processing of historic non-prioritised DOLS applications from care homes and hospitals, received up to and including 31 March 2017. The purpose of the project is to ensure historic non-priority DOLS applications within scope are assessed and authorised appropriately; providing a legal framework for individuals deprived of their liberty in care homes. There are no cases in hospital settings in the backlog.
- 3.3 Following an open competitive tender exercise, ICS Assessments Services (ICS) was awarded the DOLS Best Interests Assessment Service contract, for a period up to 24 months, which commenced on 1 August 2018.
- 3.4 At the start of August 2018, following an extensive data cleansing exercise, there were 1686 applications in the backlog. In the period August to September 2018 (inclusive), 93 applications were assessed, of which 83 DOLS authorisations were granted, and 10 not granted.
- 3.5 The project is meeting all its key objectives and milestones and is making good progress to complete assessment of all backlog applications in scope within the two-year timeframe of the project.

### 4. Recommendation

4.1 Recommendation: The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** the content of this report in addition to the statutory annual report, which was discussed at County Council on 13 December 2018 and **COMMENT** on the activity provided in the update and put forward suggestions on the key issues they would like to cover in the upcoming informal member briefing.

**5. Background Documents**

Kent Adult Safeguarding Annual Report

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s88227/Item%209%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20Annual%20Report%202017%20-%20FINAL%20replaces%20version%20published%20with%20agenda.pdf>

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