

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 28 January 2014

Subject: Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2012-2013

Wards: All

Contact officer: Julie Phillips – Safeguarding Manager

Recommendations:

- A. That the Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel notes the contents of this update for their information.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To provide an overview of safeguarding Adults and Deprivation of Liberty information overseen by the safeguarding adults board between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 for the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. Local details: During this year, Merton has continued to see an increase in the number of referrals received and in the number of referrals that progress through to investigation. This we believe can be attributed to increased awareness among staff in all partner agencies as well as increased community awareness through national safeguarding concerns covered by the media. We have received a total of 428 alerts. This shows an increase of 2.64% from the same period in the previous year.
- 2.2. This year saw a rise in referrals in physical abuse for learning disability. This is uncharacteristic of previous years and reason could be the awareness of the Winterbourne View case.
- 2.3. Results indicate that in most reported cases abuse takes place within the service user's own home. This is consistent with the figures from previous years. This is closely followed by alerts relating to residential settings. Nationally, abuse is more likely to go unreported in people's own homes but this is not reflected in our figures.
- 2.4. There are a good number of outcomes with police action. This could be a good indicator that practitioners are getting better at reporting, our link with the CSU and police recognising abuse cases as a criminal matter.
- 2.5. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards: We received nine urgent DOLS requests in this year. Last year we received 10, so we are continuing to receive a steady amount of requests, almost working out 1 a month although requests seem to come in spurts and are unpredictable to when they will be submitted. We are noticing that care homes will call the team more regularly for advice regarding deprivation of liberty safeguards and we expect that request rates will increase next year.

- 2.6. National Information: Progress is being made nationally for Safeguarding Adults being given statutory footing in the draft care and support bill once the Bill has negotiated the necessary legislative scrutiny channels in 2014. These statutory duties are contained within Clauses 34-36 and Schedule 1 of the Bill.
- 2.7. A significant duty imposed will be a duty upon the local authority to establish a SAB (safeguarding adult's board) to bring together the key organisations in the area with functions relevant to adult safeguarding. In Merton we already have a safeguarding adults board established but they bill will help to embed statutory working with key agencies.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. n/a

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

N/A

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. This report covers time period 1st April 2013-31st March 2014.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no cost implications.

6.2. .

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no implications.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are no implications.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no implications.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no implications.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Adult VAST Members
- Appendix 2 - VAST Terms of Reference

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None.