

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Neighbourhoods & Adult Services
Health & Wellbeing

Briefing Note to Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Safeguarding Adults Service

The Safeguarding Adults Service now consists of following service areas:

- The newly joined **Contract and Quality Assurance Officers Team** undertake the monitoring of quality standards including planned and unplanned investigations and checks to ensure that services provided by all external and some in house providers are in accordance with contracts and Service Level agreements.
- **Safeguarding Adults Office** – this team co-ordinate, monitors, audits and provides Best Practice guidance/advice in relation to reported/alleged incidents of abuse of vulnerable adults. This service provides advice and information about the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLs) and undertakes the administration of the DoLs process.
- **Safeguarding Investigation Team** – this team investigates allegations of abuse in line with South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Procedures. The vacant Team Manager post in the investigation team has been appointed to and Jill Wetherall commences in post on 1st October 2012.
- **Court of Protection Appointeeship Team** - this team manage the financial affairs of a person who lacks the mental capacity to do so for themselves.
- **Domestic Abuse** – this team offers advice, support, information and advocacy to people who have been victims of Domestic Abuse.
- **Residential and Nursing Care Team** – this team undertakes planned reviews, assessments and unplanned reviews of all older people and adults with a physical and sensory impairment who are permanent residents in residential or nursing care.

This year we have introduced a new **Local Authority Designated Adult (LADO)** procedure. This guidance deals with allegations against staff and volunteers employed by RMBC. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that all allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers employed by RMBC working with vulnerable adults are dealt with in a fair, consistent and timely manner and to ensure vulnerable adults are safe

Raising Standards with Providers

We now hold monthly meetings with CQC where all significant issues with providers are discussed and intelligence shared. This compliments the risk matrix where all providers are rated and scored according to the level of concerns with the provider this includes safeguarding alerts and investigations, contract concerns and compliance and warning notices served by CQC. We also undertake monthly visits to providers.

Significant Safeguarding Concerns

Currently we are investigating several allegations of abuse in the following homes: The Abbeyes, Clifton Meadows, Ladyfields and Woodlands. There are suspensions of placements at all homes and default notices have been served, there are special measures action plans in place for all these care providers to improve the standards of care.

Annual Report

The annual report for 2011-12 is ready to be published shortly. During 2011-2012 significant improvements have been put in place in Rotherham to promptly and effectively respond to protect individuals when allegations of abuse are made. Key achievements include:

- We have, through our awareness campaigns, continued to increase the number of safeguarding alerts by 14%
- We have decreased repeat referrals by 55%
- We have decreased, by 7%, abuse taking place in Residential/Nursing care.
- We have reviewed the Bronze to Platinum Training Programme which has trained 1890 people in 2011/12 across all partners in dealing with adult abuse.
- We have reviewed and refreshed the Boards Terms of Reference.
- All people who reported that they “don’t feel safe” in the Adult Social Care Survey were contacted personally, none of the concerns report were in relation to adult safeguarding.

This years Rotherham **Safeguarding Adults Board annual awareness week** took place from 9th to 16th July 2012. The theme for this year was neglect “prevention is better than cure”. We targeted all aspect of neglect including prevention of self neglect linking the event with “5 Ways of Wellbeing”, and the national Mental Health Campaign “Lets Get Talking”.

We have recently undertaken a **review of the Safeguarding Investigation Team**, its purpose and the roles and responsibilities within the team. The team was established in 2008 as a direct result of learning from a serious case review and a commitment to safeguarding adults to be our number one priority. The team has grown and developed over the past four years and the review has highlighted several areas where improvements to the current process would result in better outcomes for our customers. An action plan has been developed and managers and workers will be reviewing the recommendations in order to drive through the changes and improvements.

Sam Newton
Service Manager
Safeguarding Adults