

Bolton Council

Report to: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES

Date: 31 MARCH 2010

Report of: DIRECTOR OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report No:

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Report Title: SAFEGUARDING ADULTS FRAMEWORK

Non Confidential

(**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Recommendations:

The Executive Member for Adult Services is requested to agree the Safeguarding Adults Framework.

Decision:

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The Safeguarding Adults Framework has been developed to explain the context of vulnerable adults within the vision of Safe Bolton.

In Bolton all citizens should be safe and free from fear of harm and there are numerous initiatives and partnerships that work to achieving this vision.

No Secrets (DH 2000) charged local authorities with the responsibility of developing a coherent, consistent multi agency framework in order to respond to concerns around the abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults.

Vulnerable adults defined by No Secrets are those adults who because of disability, age or illness may not be able to guard themselves against harm or exploitation.

The work undertaken in Bolton has identified that there are many interpretations and definitions of vulnerability within agencies such as the NHS, Criminal Justice System, Education and the Council.

This multiplicity of definitions can, on occasion, create confusion and uncertainty about who should respond to vulnerable adults deemed to be at risk of abuse or neglect.

This framework is a first attempt at setting out an approach to vulnerability and response to risk.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 No Secrets (DH 2000) charged local authorities with the responsibility of developing a coherent, consistent multi agency framework in order to respond to concerns around the abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults.
- 1.2 Vulnerable adults defined by No Secrets are those adults who because of disability, age or illness may not be able to guard themselves against harm or exploitation.
- 1.3 The work undertaken in Bolton since No Secrets has identified many other interpretations and definitions of vulnerability within agencies such as the NHS, Criminal Justice System, Education and the Council. Adults as defined by No Secrets have huge variations of ability to make and exercise choices about keeping safe and well. Adults within this group do not always want or need the same safeguarding response.
- 1.4 This multiplicity of definitions can create confusion and uncertainty about who should respond to vulnerable adults deemed to be at risk of abuse or neglect.
- 1.5 The framework defines adults in 3 types and recognises that any adult can be at risk due to circumstances and that risk can be low, medium or high. Level 1 are “universal” adults and Level 3 are the adults defined by No Secrets; that is those with disability, health, age, related social care needs. Level 3 Adults are those who are likely to be in receipt of specialist services.
- 1.6 Mental Capacity is represented within the framework with regard to the principles of decision making enshrined in The Mental Capacity Act 2005. This impacts on an adult’s vulnerability and must be a key consideration for agencies in determining whether or not they have a duty of care.
- 1.7 Recent national tragedies where vulnerable people have died as a result of abuse indicate an imperative for all agencies to be clear about their duties and powers to intervene.
- 1.8 The framework is a first stage of describing vulnerability and response to risk. It is intended to launch the framework at the Safeguarding Conference on March 5th 2010 and follow on with monthly workshops to explain and to develop further.

2.0 PROPOSALS

The Safeguarding Adults Framework was launched for consultation at the Safeguarding Conference on March 5th 2010.

The framework will be further developed at a series of Bolton wide workshops, which will include attendees from all relevant agencies. This will ensure a more consistent understanding of vulnerability and approach to risk.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications in the development programme. Any potential costs will be met within Mental Capacity Act resources.

4.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial / screening assessment has been undertaken and concludes that there will be no differential impact from this proposal, in respect of race, gender or disability.

5.0 HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No implications

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

No public consultation as yet. The Framework has been developed to this stage in consultation with various teams and departments within Supporting People, Adult Social Care

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Member for Adult Services is requested to approve the Safeguarding Adults Framework.