

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Safeguarding Sub Committee	30 June 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Adults Safeguarding Self-Assessment	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

This report provides members with an overview of the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Audit Tool, which is attached as an appendix.

This report provides a review of the findings from the City of London's perspective, and describes how the tool will inform the strategic vision of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adult Board. This work is especially pertinent in light of the political focus that safeguarding adults has had in recent times and which will indeed increase with the Care Act, placing Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing. With significant changes happening in the NHS, local authorities and the Metropolitan Police, it remains crucial for London-wide assurance that organisations continue to have robust governance and processes in place that lead to positive outcomes for adults at risk.

The report highlights that the self-assessment process has identified that the City of London Adult Social Care service meets 18 of the 22 requirements, with 4 assessed as requiring additional action. No reds were identified.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to note the outcome of the completed self-assessment tool.

## **Main Report**

### **1. Background**

1.1 NHS England in conjunction with the Safeguarding Boards Network has introduced a new Safeguarding Adults at Risk Audit Tool as part of the Safeguarding Adults assurance process to strengthen inter-agency working and processes.

1.2 The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board agreed to employ this tool following a development day in February 2014. There is an expectation that all London Safeguarding Boards will sign up to use this tool.

1.3 The tool aims to ensure that there is a common purpose to safeguard adults whose circumstances place them at risk and to protect them from avoidable harm across the different sectors in London, which are health, the police and local authorities.

1.4 The aim is to provide Safeguarding Adults Boards with a consistent audit tool in London and across the sectors. It will allow for benchmarking, and identification of themes, improvement needs and best practices according to localities and sector, and at sub-regional and London-wide level.

1.5 The tool will support the Boards in ensuring effective safeguarding practice across their localities, identifying:

- strengths to facilitate the identification and sharing of good practice
- common areas for improvement where organisations can work collaboratively with support from the Board
- single agency issues that need to be addressed
- partnership issues that may need to be addressed by the Boards.

1.6 The findings will then inform the Boards' action plans. All organisations are asked to make a judgement based around 22 questions, framed around the following topics:

- Leadership
- Organisational responsibilities
- Workforce
- Inter-agency working
- Issues of diversity
- Empowerment.

1.7 How well each area is being achieved is based on the following ratings:

- Green rating – the organisation meets the requirement consistently.
- Amber rating – the requirement is met in part; there may be pockets of excellence and areas for improvement.
- Red rating – the organisation does not meet this requirement.

1.8 Each senior management team will complete its own self-assessment to decide where they think their organisation lies in relation to each statement. The completed self-evaluation will then be opened up for discussion with the Board Chair and with partner agencies at a Board 'challenge and support event'.

1.9 The challenge and support event will help to identify:

- single agency actions, which will be monitored by that agency and updates on progress notified to the Board
- partnership issues requiring action by the Board or its sub-groups.

1.10 Thereafter the Board will facilitate and monitor improvement via these annual challenge events and regular Board meetings as necessary.

1.11 The Safeguarding Adults Board will keep this audit under review and may change it to reflect changes in legislation and best practice and to ensure continuous improvement of Safeguarding Adults.

## **2 Current Position**

2.1 The audit tool has 7 sections. The total score for the Adult Social Care service was 18 green and 4 amber.

- In Section A. Leadership: There was a score of 4 green and 1 amber.
- In Section B. Organisational: There was score of 2 green and 1 amber.
- In Section C. Workforce: There was a score of 4 green.
- In Section D. Inter-agency: There was a score of 4 green.
- In Section E. Diversity: There was a score of 1 green.
- In Section F. Empowerment: There was a score of 3 green and 2 amber.

2.2 The strong evidence of a green rating illustrates the priority and commitment shown towards Safeguarding Adults at risk, through the golden thread of the Corporate Safeguarding strategy, highlighted within the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) business plan, through to the core business and professional practice of the Adult Social Care service.

2.3 The 4 amber ratings show a need to improve in the following areas, around:

- a clear quality assurance framework for safeguarding
- update of the Adult Social Care safeguarding pages
- the need to develop a challenge session within our sub committee structure
- a more robust adherence to safeguarding throughout the commissioning cycle, together with Mental Capacity Act issues within commissioned services.

2.4 As noted in the areas of Workforce, Inter-agency working and Diversity, Adult Social Care has self-assessed as meeting all the requirements consistently,

2.5 The strong green ranking can be externally validated through the quarterly performance reporting and annual safeguarding report mechanism, the independent safeguarding review of the Adult Social Care team, together with the Care Quality Commission inspection of the Reablement service in 2013, all previously reported to this Committee. Additionally, sound organisational governance exists through the framework of the Safeguarding Sub Committees, which have been commended by the main Safeguarding Board.

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 The main area for ongoing development will be the need to support a continuous development plan for Safeguarding Adults. It is planned that as well as recommissioning the full independent review of safeguarding in Adult Social Care, we will additionally be developing the implementation of a quality assurance framework for all future auditing of safeguarding systems and practice to operate within. This will ensure that with the addition of the annual Board audit tool, regular internal audits will be specific, measurable, time specific and reported on.

### **4. Conclusion**

4.1 This report has provided a summary of the main findings of the audit of arrangements within the City of London to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of adults at risk. The purpose of this tool is to provide all organisations who are partners of the City and Hackney Adult Safeguarding Board with a consistent framework to assess, monitor and/or improve their Safeguarding Adults arrangements. In turn this will support the Board in ensuring effective safeguarding practice across the localities of responsibility. The process will involve the coming together of all partner agencies to attend a challenge and support event, which will promote objectivity and support from the Board. Subsequent audits will take place annually, with the purpose of informing the Board's action plan on a yearly base.

### **Appendices:**

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Audit Tool

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