

Committee	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub Committee	25 th September 2015
Subject: Adult Safeguarding Review Report	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

This report, which is for information, provides details of the Adult Social Care (ASC) Safeguarding Improvement plan, which was compiled following an independent quality assurance review of safeguarding conducted within the ASC team over a period of 3 days in March 2015.

The review was carried out by the same independent consultant who had carried out the joint audit of City and Hackney Safeguarding in November 2013 which has been previously reported on. The remit in 2015 was to provide a more in depth analysis of a wider number of cases and to look at Care Act compliance within the same "outstanding" matrix as defined by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE).

The original improvement plan has been fully completed following the audit in 2013. A new improvement plan has been devised following the 2015 audit. This will act as an Outcomes Framework to measure progress.

It is also important to note the statutory nature of adult safeguarding under the auspices of the Care Act 2014, which came into being on April 1st 2015.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report and appendices.

Main Report

Background

1. In March 2015 the Adult Social Care Team solely commissioned the annual return of the independent safeguarding audit, with a wider coverage of case work.
2. As an outcome of the 2015 audit a detailed improvement plan has been developed as part of the overall learning. The plan will be reported on at the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adult Board, City of London safeguarding subcommittee, together with oversight from the Community and Children Services Safeguarding Subcommittee. The aim of this is to ensure that there is a clear accountability framework for evaluating the improvement plan.

3. The improvement plan has been formulated, to ensure that the audit remains a dynamic tool with which to measure change at a local level in order to be assured that safeguarding casework, recording quality and systems, Care Act compliance, frontline staff and management knowledge can be measured and monitored.

4. In addition to the primary benchmarking function for senior managers, it is envisaged that the Improvement Plan will also increase learning and develop practice.

5. Over the year, the Improvement Plan has helped guide practice with the recent development of a safeguarding toolkit, a case audit template (both available upon request) and a key appraisal objective (appended to the report).

6. Additionally the Notice the Signs safeguarding campaign has been evaluated and its impact is felt to have been demonstrably significant with referrals to Adult Social Care within the City increased by 27% over 2014/15.

7. The areas of ongoing development and priority are captured within the Improvement Plan.

Current Position

8. The Care Act 2014 has put adult safeguarding on a statutory footing for the first time. The act requires all local authorities to have appropriate policies and procedures in place for making enquiries when it appears that an adult at risk may be experiencing abuse or neglect.

9. The Improvement Plan seeks to ensure that the key principles of the Care Act 2014 are at the heart of all safeguarding practice within ASC

10. The key areas identified for further development following the audit included the following:

- The 2014 Safeguarding Adults Improvement plan should be implemented in full.
- Ensuring that every “making it personal” measure has been taken into practice.
- To ensure all protective actions are carried through in full.
- To consider the Mental Capacity Act 2005 at all times.
- Records should give strong emphasise to the adults voice.
- The CHSAB to be asked to consider the establishment of an executive sub-group of the CHSAB.
- To develop the CHSAB five year strategic plan and bring it to fruition.
- To ensure equal weight is given to the City’s issues and priorities.
- Commissioning review and contract compliance to be implemented.
- Improved evidence of effective safeguarding regarding host authorities regarding host authorities.

11. Progress has been made across all areas and the 2014 plan has been fully implemented.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. Safeguarding is priority 1 of the Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan.

Conclusion

13. The Improvement Plan has formed part of the ongoing professionalisation of ASC in an arena of inspection and the ongoing need to strive for "outstanding". This improvement plan and the related work has given the service a benchmark from which to continuously build on its safeguarding practice to ensure that we are offering protection to adults at risk in a person-centred and timely manner.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – 2014 Improvement plan;
- Appendix 2 - 2015 Improvement Plan;
- Appendix 3 - team safeguarding appraisal objective.

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