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The *No secrets* Review : Empowerment, Prevention and Response

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Process of Review



- **Huge Consultation carried out; several thousands of people involved. Very high numbers of service users.**
- **Consultation closed on January 31st. Responses being analysed.**
- **Four different Ministers will be considering the messages.**

Focus of the review



- 1. How does society keep people safe from abuse or harm?**

- 2. And in particular, how do we combine keeping people safe with three Government policy goals:**
 - (i) increasing independence, choice and control for users of health and social care services;**
 - (ii) increasing access to meaningful community empowerment and safer housing in wider society; and**
 - (iii) increasing access to criminal justice for all?**

The document:



The consultation document is divided into nine sections:

Section 1 sets the scene for making safeguarding everyone's business.

Section 2 describes the policy background against which this review is taking place.

Section 3 examines three fundamental safeguarding issues : leadership, prevention and outcomes.

The document:



Section 4 invites a debate about what aspects of safeguarding can be built into personalisation and what aspects of choice and control can be built into safeguarding.

Section 5 looks at safeguarding in health services

The document ...



Section 6 asks whether safeguarding, housing responsibilities and community empowerment should be better integrated, to enable tenants and residents to live safer lives.

Section 7 asks how safeguarding vulnerable adults can become core police business and what more the courts can do to increase access to justice.

The document:



Section 8 examines the case for legislation and/or guidance to support change

Section 9 raises challenging questions about definitions, eligibility, language and principles.

Lots of Questions



- **But three key ones:**
 - **1. Leadership – role of members?**
 - **2. Empowerment – role of members?**
 - **3. Prevention – role of members?**

Key Question no 1:



LEADERSHIP on Adult safeguarding?

Who provides leadership? Is there a lead member? Who oversees Safeguarding Boards? How do members know that Safeguarding Boards are working effectively?

Questions to ask



- **Safeguarding adults policy: based on assumptions about children or adults?**
- **Service User: Choice and control?
Whose protection plan is it?**
- **: Mental Capacity Act principles?**

Key Question No 2:



- **DO WE DO ENOUGH EMPOWERMENT?**
- **What is the role of members? Scrutiny?**

Why empowerment?



- Because working with children and working with adults is not the same.
- Because we should start from the assumption that adults want to be in control of their protection plans
- Because we should start from the assumption that adults decide their paths to safety
- Because we need to balance people's right to autonomy with the need to safeguard
- Because we must be very careful not to walk all over people's family life.

Key issue 3: Prevention?



- **Demography – Number of older people will double**
- **Many more self funders – buying their own care with own money**
- **More personalisation – buying care with public money**

Prevention means addressing risk



- **Are we educating people about risk?**
- **Are we sharing our power as professionals?**
- **Are we empowering people to make decisions about their lives?**
- **Are we facilitating people to take risks if they choose?**

Prevention + Issues of Choice



- **What do we know about people's wishes for independence, choice and control?**
- **How do we facilitate informed self determination in risky situations and in the safeguarding process?**

And Housing



- **How do we enable residents and tenants to live safer lives?**
- **Do we expect local authority housing services and social care services to act as one, and if so how do we do it?**
- **How do members ensure that housing departments and social care work with each other?*******

GUIDANCE - LEGISLATION?



- **GUIDANCE - LEGISLATION? CENTRAL – LOCAL?**
- **What safeguarding legislation would empower people?**
- **What would fit best within a wider personalisation agenda?**
- **What would make the biggest difference?**

Language



Victims and Perpetrators...

- **“VICTIMS”**: Do people want to be seen as victims? Some people re-define themselves as survivors. The word victim perpetuates perceptions of passive, helpless, objects – people we as professionals can continue to do things to..

More language



- Perpetrators...” Also problematic.
includes Darren Stewart, convicted of killing Steven Hoskin – a young man with serious mental health needs, who the NHS failed – but it also includes many spouses of elderly people with dementia.
- Is the word still useful or has it been overused?

Role for members?



- Adult safeguarding role is as important as Children's safeguarding
- But it has a different starting point and travels in a different direction
- Policy, procedures all needs reviewing

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THANK YOU