

20 January 2010

IDeA Safeguarding Adults Programme

Summary

The IDeA Adults Safeguarding Programme is a sector priority. This report gives an update on the work of the programme.

Recommendations

Members are recommended:

- (a) to note the update; and
- (b) to feed in views and suggestions, to shape the direction of the Adult Safeguarding programme 2010/11

Action

Officers take forward appropriate actions as requested by members.

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Background

The IDeA Adults Safeguarding Programme is a sector priority: “Adult social care and well being” is cited as a priority theme in the IDeA Business Plan 2009/10, with safeguarding and protecting vulnerable adults from abuse a key priority in the Children and Adults team’s Service Plan. Adult safeguarding is also a LGA priority theme, and forms a key issue under the reputation theme for 2010/11.

The programme commenced in July 2009 and is due to run to March 2010, with probable extension into 2010/11. The programme has been built on a partnership basis in order to ensure that the programme dovetails with other initiatives and that it is firmly tied in to sector priorities. ADASS and SCIE are key partners but there has been wider engagement with a co-ordinating group involving the above and NHS Confed, Research in Practice for Adults and BASW. Specific activities have also involved Women’s Aid and others. Links have also been made with the DH and CQC leads.

Building on its expertise the IDeA is providing support this year to councils to offer:

- peer review and peer challenge of local adult safeguarding arrangements involving councils and their partners;
- training and briefing for councillors;
- a pool of accredited peers and sector specialists to deliver customised support to councils and their partners;
- tools to enhance council scrutiny processes in regard to adult safeguarding;
- an online community of practice for safeguarding networks to share knowledge and best practice;
- national conferences for lead councillors and officers.

Council Performance

Dignity and safeguarding are, in the reported performance ratings of CQC (December 09), the most challenging aspects of Adult Social Care performance.

Whilst 95% of councils are rated as good or excellent generally, 44 out of 152 are only rated adequate in this domain (refer to Appendix A for list of ‘adequate’ and ‘excellent’ rated councils).

Engagement with Councils to date

In the partnership context referred to above, the programme has focused on two levels of activity.

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The first relates to all 152 upper tier LAs. Our programme with them involves:

- a launch at the NCASC;
- 4 half day national conferences, two held on 7 December 2009 and two to be held on the on 20th January 2010 in Leeds;
- we are planning 2 OBA events (approximately March time to be confirmed);
- briefing materials for councillors (on the website and in hard copy) ;
- a scrutiny guide by March;
- a Community of Practice by January;
- Meetings with 9 regional Joint Improvement Partnerships and regional briefings;
- a review of and a call for evidence of good practice(with SCIE and others to publish in March).

Both SCIE and ADASS have contributed to funding events, and all partners have contributed officer time.

The second relates to more targeted and in depth work with individual LAs. We aim to have completed 3 pilot Peer Reviews (and may have done four) by the end of March 2010.

Safeguarding Adults: Call for evidence of good practice

In December 2009, we sent out a request to the sector, to build a base of practice evidence from the field to support people to improve services and outcomes for those who have experienced abuse, particularly in their personal relationships.

We are working alongside Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and Women's Aid, to develop an evidence base of good practice in relation to: Supporting "vulnerable" people who have experienced abuse with difficult decision making.

We are particularly keen to explore this area of work in light of the views of people who had experienced abuse and safeguarding processes that were highlighted through the "No Secrets" Review, and of disabled women who had experienced domestic abuse and contributed to the Women's Aid "Making the Links" research. A scope of literature has indicated that there is very little by way of a research evidence base, and we have just published an analysis of this.

We are interested in good practice at an organisational and individual level. For example

- Organisational – commissioning or providing services that support people to manage risks and make difficult personal decisions

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- Individual – good practice highlighted in a case study.

Practice examples and stories are requested to be submitted by February 5th. Once complete, we will make this available through our websites.

In December 2009, we sent out a request to the sector to invite comment and feedback from people who have recently used safeguarding services and are willing and able to share their experience of the service with us. We are interested to find out what they thought of the service, whether it helped them to cope with the situation and to weigh up the risks and benefits of courses of action and if not, what might have helped to make the experience of difficult decision making a more positive one.

The views of people who have used services will be collated and analysed to identify key messages for how services could be improved.

(No comments will be attributed to individuals and information about the interview source will be anonymised to protect the interviewee's identity, and we have provided the contact details of support organizations for those whom require the service). Interviewees will be directed back to their local safeguarding service for the resolution of specific issues raised.

We are exploring further with the Department of Health lead how we may take forward further scoping of good practice development.

Adult Safeguarding 'Community of Practice' (CoP)

Supports development and dissemination of Safeguarding Adults work, designed to help local councils and their partners fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to adults in vulnerable circumstances. Purpose of CoP is to identify issues and good practice direct from local authorities; share findings and emerging issues from adult safeguarding programme on ongoing basis; disseminate learning; build coalition of support.

One of the challenges in multi-agency safeguarding work is to ensure that everyone involved is clear of their roles and responsibilities. This is no easy task given the range of agencies that might work together in adult safeguarding, which are continually increasing as the number and range of care providers grow in response to the personalisation agenda. Most councils have established a safeguarding board, in order to make sure that this happens. The creation of this community will provide a joined up platform to enable these discussions to take place and provide an opportunity for members to contribute to and learn from a critical and cutting edge programme which is genuinely joined up. In addition, the CoP will enable IDeA (alongside LGA, ADASS, SCIE) to post essential resource material to contribute to

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further sector based improvement in safeguarding adults work and to ensure that leaders in the field are kept abreast of developments in delivery.

Adult safeguarding will be informed by work on community safety, community capacity building and community cohesion agendas, and the CoP will be live Jan 2010.

Evaluation proposal

We have developed an evaluation proposal, in discussion with David Pye at LGAAR and the IDeA Strategy and Development Unit,.

Safeguarding Programme 2010/11

Looking ahead, we would be pleased to welcome views and suggestions from LGA CWB Board, to shape the direction of the Adult Safeguarding programme 2010/11.

Useful links:

Safeguarding Adults programme

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=14866608>

Adult Safeguarding 'Must know':

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=7352476>

Adult safeguarding - Councillor briefing (October 2009)

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=15010364>

Financial Implications

This programme is currently fully resourced from IDeA's adult safeguarding budget.

Implications for Wales

None at present.

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Appendix A

Local authority performance

It is useful to link this in with the national picture and the needs of the sector – there were 44 councils rated as ‘adequate’ under ‘Outcome 7: Maintaining dignity & respect’ in the recent CQC adult services results - and 12 councils rated as ‘excellent’ under Outcome 7 listed below.

Some CQC key messages specific to adult safeguarding are as follows:

- about a third of councils should be doing a lot more to give people greater dignity and respect- including improving arrangements for safeguarding people
- Safeguarding services feature in seven councils as one of the most complex aspects of joined-up working. Among the better performing councils, safeguarding improvements refer mainly to basic awareness training across sectors and organizations and to the strengthening of inter-agency policies and procedures. Key message is: "The Council has strengthened its safeguarding systems. Most staff have now received training in identifying and assessing safeguarding risks; multiagency procedures have been updated and publicized and the Safeguarding Adults Board has been strengthened during the year."

44 councils rated as adequate under 'Outcome 7: Maintaining dignity & respect' as follows:

Bexley
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Bournemouth
Bromley
Buckinghamshire
Darlington
Devon
Doncaster
Dorset
Dudley
Gloucestershire
Haringey
Harrow

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Havering
Herefordshire
Hillingdon
Kingston upon hull
Leeds
Luton
Medway
North Lincolnshire
North Somerset
Northamptonshire
Oxfordshire
Reading
Sandwell
Shropshire
Solihull
South Tyneside
Southampton
Southwark
Staffordshire
Stoke-on-Trent
Suffolk
Surrey
Sutton
Thurrock
West Sussex
Wiltshire
Windsor & Maidenhead
Wirral
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire

There are 12 councils rated as 'excellent' under 'Outcome 7: Maintaining dignity & respect:' as follows;

Bolton
Essex
Halton
Knowsley
Newcastle upon Tyne
Portsmouth
St Helens
Sunderland
Tameside

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Telford & Wrekin
Warrington
West Berkshire

Of these 12 councils, the majority, 8 councils are rated as excellent overall in delivering outcomes, and the remaining 4 are rated 'Well'- these are;

Essex
Portsmouth
Warrington
West Berkshire