

Update of Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Progress on recommendations from “Staying Safe”

Recommendations

- 1. Secure, reliable, safe and consistent personalised care services be provided for users by public, private and independent providers; and that these providers be monitored appropriately at all times;**

Adult Social Care staff continue to encourage and support the development of a wide range of affordable opportunities for people to use. This includes specialist provision which responds to individual lifestyle wishes, and support for mainstream provision to respond to the needs and wishes of people who have more specialist needs. An example of the former is Bracknell Forest Timebank, and of the latter is the dissemination of smart-card readers to other venues to enable easier and more private access to discretionary charges.

All services commissioned by the Department are monitored through the Quality Assurance/Contract Monitoring protocols, and where appropriate, the Care Governance procedures.

- 2. People who are purchasing their own care support through Direct Payments continue to be made aware of the arrangements for the management of adult safeguarding in Bracknell Forest to enable them to access assistance and advice through the appropriate channels;**

Every individual who uses services through Adult Social Care and Health receives information about safeguarding, and a publicity campaign in 2010/11 has raised awareness in the wider community. The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) is developing an action plan which focusses on enabling and empowering people to safeguard themselves. This will include awareness and skills development opportunities, and will involve wider providers of education and care services.

- 3. Adult safeguarding training and awareness raising be continued in all sectors, including the independent sector, to ensure the successful implementation of the safeguarding agenda;**

The levels 1, 2 and 3 training continue to be provided throughout the sector. In order to encourage take-up from smaller providers, level 1 training is still provided free of charge. The training is constantly under review to ensure relevance and appropriate style of delivery.

CMT approved an e-learning package for all council staff, in recognition of the fact that safeguarding adults from abuse is the responsibility of all citizens whether part of their professional role or not. Consideration is being given to a request from SAPB members that this e-learning package should be made available through the BFC website, or the personalisation i-Hub.

4. Financial abuse and the adverse influencing of young adults with mild Learning Disabilities continue to be monitored to ascertain whether sufficient action is being taken to tackle these issues;

The anti-exploitation group, which is a multi-disciplinary group, continues to meet regularly to consider individuals who have been identified as being at risk in this way. The group agrees and monitors appropriate individual support plans.

5. Mainstream services and activities such as those offered by leisure centres operated by the Council be encouraged to continue to offer greater support to vulnerable people using their facilities in place of traditional day services;

As we progress with implementation of the Bracknell Forest approach to personalisation, we are collating information about the things that people would like to do but are not able to, and determining the reasons why not. This information is then informing our commissioning strategies, and our development work with mainstream organisations to ensure that people with additional needs have access to the same range of opportunities as any other Borough resident.

6. In line with the CQC recommendation, individual involvement to enable people to have greater input into safeguarding services be improved;

Individuals, where appropriate, are encouraged and enabled to be central participants in the process following a safeguarding alert, and a method of determining the quality of the process and the outcomes for the individual is being developed. This will inform continual improvement.

The SAPB is currently considering the most appropriate ways of involving individuals and their family carers in the strategic development of safeguarding arrangements in Bracknell Forest. In doing so, it is important to ensure that the voice of the wide and varied groups of people with very different needs is heard, and that “tokenism” is avoided at all costs.

7. Increased flexibility and independence be incorporated into safeguarding reviews featuring the involvement of and / or conference chairing by someone independent of the team the subject of the case review, such as the Council's Head of Adult Safeguarding or a cost free reciprocal ad hoc arrangement with another local authority;

Recommendation withdrawn

8. Members be made aware of adult safeguarding services, facilities and issues in their particular area and be briefed on relevant developments to raise safeguarding awareness levels to protect vulnerable adults from abuse and create a positive, open and transparent culture;

We are currently liaising with the democratic services team over the best way to ensure this happens.

9. The NHS continue to be encouraged and supported to embed modernised empowering adult safeguarding in its working practices;

Local NHS organisations have a seat on the SAPB and are encouraged to attend and participate. The Head of Safeguarding works closely with the NHS safeguarding leads to identify any areas where there are problems and agree actions to address them.

Local NHS organisations include:-

- NHS Berkshire (PCT)
- Berkshire Healthcare BHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health and Community Health Services)
- West London Healthcare Trust (Broadmoor Hospital)

10. Consideration be given to devising an Adult ‘Safeguarding Toolkit’ similar to that issued by the Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board;

This recommendation was accepted and work will continue on this when the safeguarding advisory team is again up to full strength.

11. Consideration be given to the development of a Self-Neglect Policy for Bracknell Forest.

A policy has been drafted but further work is required. This will be resumed when the advisory team is again up to full strength.