

Policy Committee Decision Report

Title of Report: Safeguarding and DoLS Update

Date of Decision: 18th September 2024

Report To: Adult Health and Social Care Committee

Report Of: Dawn Bassinder, Chief Social Work Officer

Report Author: Andrew Drummond, Service Manager, Safeguarding Quality Assurance

Executive Summary: The report provides the six-monthly Adult Care and Wellbeing Safeguarding update for assurance to Committee.

Endorsement is requested from Committee to continue to the work set out in the Safeguarding Delivery Plan and for the Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership (SASP) Annual Report.

Approval is sought for an Early Indicators of Concern Guidance. This sets out an approach to identify early any concerns which may require a planned response and process to follow to prevent harm from occurring.

Approval is also sought for a commissioning strategy to undertake best interest assessors where there is little or no capacity within the in-house Deprivation of Liberty Orders Service.



Council Plan outcomes:

- High quality care and support at the right time and place so people can be independent for longer and stay safe
- Work with communities to ensure people can access support and live the lives they want

Policy Committee remit:

This report is to be considered by the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee as its remit includes Adult social work, care and support including specialist social work and Adult Safeguarding. [Part 3C - 3.3 Matters Delegated to Committees May 2024.pdf \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](#)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? No

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Adult Health and Care Policy Committee: -

1. Endorse progress made with implementing the Adult Care and Wellbeing Safeguarding Delivery Plan including actions identified from a self-evaluation carried out for the SASP Board.
2. Endorse the Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan.
3. Approve the Early Indicators of Concern Guidance.
4. Approve the Best Interest Assessors Commissioning Strategy
5. Agree that an update is provided in 6 months as to performance and progress made with implementation of the Safeguarding Delivery Plan.

Financial Implications:

Yes – Laura Foster 04.09.24

Legal Implications:

No. Patrick Chisholm 29.8.24

Equality and Inclusion Implications: No

Climate Change Implications: No

Initial Impact Assessment completed with EIA number: 2313

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Adults Safeguarding Delivery Plan
- Appendix 2 – Early Indicators of Concern Guidance
- Appendix 3 – SASP Strategic Plan
- Appendix 4 – Performance Report, Quarter 1

1 Background to the issue

- 1.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- 1.2 Safeguarding means protecting people's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Statutory safeguarding applies to adults with care and support needs who may not be able to protect themselves. It can also include neglect, domestic violence, modern slavery, organisational or discriminatory abuse
- 1.3 The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.
- 1.4 This report, Delivery Plan and additional appendix item updates and sets out how the Local Authority is performing and improving practices to support meeting our statutory duties as set out in the Care Act 2014.

2 Adult Safeguarding Delivery Plan Update

- 2.1 This paper provides the fourth update on progress made since the initial Adult Safeguarding Delivery Plan was approved by Committee in September 2022, with previous updates here: - [March 2024 Update](#). The Adult Safeguarding Delivery Plan update can be found at *Appendix 1* and aims to ensure that Sheffield Council has robust and coordinated response towards Safeguarding Adults from abuse and neglect and continuous learning so that outstanding services are delivered.
- 2.2 Over the past six months good progress has been made in implementing the Delivery Plan and working towards the objectives set out, with most of the actions on the original endorsed plan have been successfully completed. Progress can be summarised as: -
 - ✓ **Recording of Practice** - In collaboration with practitioners, the recording of Safeguarding actions on our systems has been reviewed. This will improve the recording and data available; it includes further prompts and questions to ensure best practice across the social care workforce. This change will be implemented by the end of September.
 - ✓ **Organisational Safeguarding** - Pilot of the Organisational Safeguarding Module has been completed and this is being rolled out to all social care and commissioning teams in September.
 - ✓ **Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews** – Learning has been strengthened. They are discussed in the Safeguarding Practice Forum, attended by all service managers to ensure learning is disseminated to all teams.
 - ✓ **Drug & Alcohol Deaths** - Working in collaboration with the Police the Safeguarding Assurance Service Manager is now notified regarding Drug and Alcohol deaths in the city and shares relevant information to support learning across both agencies.

- ✓ **Preventing and Responding to allegations of Abuse by Adults who work with Adults** - Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Board provided funding for a 12-month Adults LADO Posts to lead a response where there is allegations of abuse by adults who work with adults and further enhance our approach to prevention.
- ✓ **Engagement with Communities** - Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Board provided funding for a temporary half-time post to be hosted in Voluntary Sector to enable engagement in communities across Sheffield regards. The post is due to be out to recruitment in the next 3 months.
- ✓ **The Safeguarding Local Policy and Procedure** - This has been updated. This includes additions to ensure documentation of the duty to referral to the Children's Services/LADO where appropriate, reference to consideration regarding children missing education, contextual safeguarding, Adult MASH and Early Indicators Of Concern. The Policy and Procedures has been set as a mandatory reading task for all operational officers in Adult Care. This can be viewed online for internal officer, partners, VCF and public [here](#).

2.3 A 'Safe and Well' performance clinic is now embedded, this is to provide assurance of safe systems of working, governance policies and procedures. This is in the form of the Safeguarding Practice Forum chaired by our Chief Social Work Officer and Service Manager for Safeguarding Quality Assurance.

2.4 A positive example from this has been working undertaken to ensure Service Manager's and their Team Manager's understand the accountability they and officers have. With the Safeguarding Practice Forum used to look at performance, spotlight good practice and highlight any themes identified or emerging for improvement.

2.5 There has also been good progress in the implementation of regular safeguarding audits, this was started in August 2023 and is continuing lead by Service Manager's under the management of the Chief Social Work Officer. A Safeguarding Audit Toolkit has been developed and shared with Members as part of our briefing on our safeguarding improvements.

2.6 In addition to the audit programme over the last 6 months there has been additional scrutiny of open Safeguarding Episodes. Accountability regarding open Safeguarding Episodes and closing concerns has been highlighted in our Safeguarding Practice Forum with Service Managers. The forum is focussed on introducing a culture of risk reduction and quality recording.

2.7 Our priority had been to further develop our response to Organisational Safeguarding as a key delivery focus in 2024 to 2025. A test of change was undertaken across Commissioning, Adult MASH and Social Work Teams over the last year to develop a collaborative approach towards early identification of organisational concerns and effective multi-agency response. As a key next step, the approach will be rolled out across all teams which will enable all staff to log intelligence and through that an effective early response can be implemented to prevent harm.

- 2.8 This work compliments our activities over the last year to establish market sustainability and continuity of care set out in our Market Sustainability Plan approved at Committee in February 2023 and our recommissioning of homecare, supported living and day activities so that all commissioned services are of good quality and sustainable.
- 2.9 To consolidate our approach, an Early Indicators Of Concern Policy Guidance has been developed to provide a clear framework for our workforce, partners and providers. This will be reflected in our adult safeguarding policies and procedures and recording systems. The Early Indicators of Concern Policy Guidance is attached at Appendix 2 for approval at Committee today.
- 2.10 The term Transitional Safeguarding describes the need for, “an approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children’s and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives”.¹ It focuses on safeguarding young people, from adolescence into adulthood, recognising this period of transition will be experienced differently by young people at different times. Full guidance to staff is now on our Adult Care and Wellbeing Manual.
- 2.11 The focus over the next 6 months will be to continue to build upon our learning culture developed through our Safeguarding Practice Forum, Audits and oversight of the delivery plan through performance clinics with that continue to embed Making Safeguarding Personal Principles so that citizens of Sheffield are safe from harm.

3 Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Update

- 3.1 The Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SASP) brings together statutory and non-statutory organisations to actively promote effective working relationships between different agencies and professionals to address the issue of abuse and harm. More can found out at the SASP website - [Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership \(sheffieldasp.org.uk\)](https://sheffieldasp.org.uk)
- 3.2 The Board has a statutory responsibility to produce a strategic plan which reflects the views of people and communities of Sheffield and provide a report on its progress.
- 3.3 The Strategic Plan was co-produced with the safeguarding customer forum and the updated Strategic Plan for the period 2024 to 2027. The SASP strategic priorities include Coproduction and Reflection and Learning with a focus on prevention and working collaboratively to safeguard all adults.
- 3.4 The new SASP Strategic Plan also provides an opportunity to enhance the role of the City-Wide Best Practice Group utilising intelligence and data from regulation 28 reports, LeDar, the SAR Subgroup, the Performance and Quality group and the customer forum to proactively and innovatively drive change, improve outcomes and prevent or reduce incidences of serious harm or death (negating the need for a SAR).

- 3.5 The Board also has a responsibility to produce an Annual Report on its performance. The **SASPB Annual report 2023 – 2024** has been completed and will be submitted to the SASP Board on the 20th September 2024 and Adults Health and Care Policy Committee in October 2024. The Annual Report includes what the partnership and including all Members have done during the year to achieve its objectives and strategy.
- 3.6 Endorsement is sought for the SASPB Strategic Plan at Appendix 3 by the Adult Health and Social Care Committee.
- 3.7 Further updates in relation to the Board are: -
- ✓ **Power of Attorney** - Promotion of Power of Attorney as a key least restrictive means of supporting people who do not have capacity (decision specific) avoiding more restrictive interventions through developing multi-agency good practice guidance and promotion at the Safeguarding Awareness Week and Mental Capacity Action Network (MCAAN) event.
 - ✓ **Mental Capacity** - Promotion of understanding about Mental Capacity as a key learning from all partners that greater understanding of Mental Capacity is needed. Further information is at 3.8.
 - ✓ **Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week** – The theme is walking alongside Adults and further information is at 3.9.
 - ✓ **Partnership** - Development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Sheffield City Council and SASPB to confirm roles and responsibilities, including hosting arrangements for the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager.
- 3.8 A subgroup of the board, Mental Capacity Action Network (MCAAN) is hosting an event on the 4th September. At the event colleagues from Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust are running a workshop on Power of Attorney and other legal elements of Mental Capacity Act. Part of the workshop will be about dissemination of good practice, awareness and understanding of courses available. Other elements include being alert to further actions that are needed across SASP and then working within the MCAAN to develop a 2025-6 action plan that will be taken forward.
- 3.9 The annual Safeguarding Awareness Week is planned for week commencing 18th November 2024. The theme for this year's Safeguarding Awareness Week is: '**Safeguarding is Walking Beside the Adult, not Walking Away**'
- ✓ Examples of the topics and workshops planned are:
 - ✓ Intergenerational Trauma Informed Practice
 - ✓ Cuckooing - Raising Awareness
 - ✓ Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)
 - ✓ Professional Curiosity
 - ✓ South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue - Hoarding Risks and Support
 - ✓ South Yorkshire Police - Anti-Corruption. Adults at Risk being Targeted

- ✓ IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Service) - Who they are and what they offer
- ✓ Sheffield Mind - Magpies Project
- ✓ Transitions
- ✓ [Sheffield Safeguarding Awareness Week.](#)

4 Adult Safeguarding Performance, Practice and Delivery Plan Update

4.1 Our ambition is to respond on a timely basis, reduce risk and improve outcomes in line with Making Safeguarding Personal. The Adult Performance Report is at Appendix 4, providing details of our performance position and trajectory towards meeting our targets.

4.2 In line with the Cycle of Assurance, scrutiny of our performance regards safeguarding is provided to the Safeguarding Board, Committee and Council on a 6 monthly basis.

4.3 Safeguarding Performance Update.

Since 2019, there has been a 84% increase in safeguarding referrals, from 2,886 in 2019/20 to 5,311 in 23/24. Despite the significant increase, our Performance continues to improve as highlighted below:

- Q1 of 24/25 shows that a person was asked their desired outcomes 75% of the time. In the previous quarters this was 63%, 65% and 69%, which shows a continued improvement in this measure. Our aim is to continually improve in this measure through our safeguarding forum.
- % of enquiries (S42 – where a Safeguarding investigation is needed) where risk was identified, and the risk was subsequently reduced or removed has also seen significant improvements. This has consistently been above 90% during the past 12 months. Q1 of 24/25 data shows that 95% of occasions is now being achieved, which is another positive step forward and supports evidence of good practice to enable people live free from abuse or neglect
- Currently, the % of people who expressed their desired outcomes, stands at 95% of people whose outcomes were fully or partially met (All Enquiries). This is an increase from April when it stood at 93% consistent since and on target.
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has a target for the median number of days taken to screen Safeguarding referrals of 1 working day. This target is being met.

4.4 Over the next 6 months the priority is to deliver safeguarding training and guidance which supports deliverable safeguarding outcomes, so that outcomes are realistic and meaningful for the person.

4.5 In addition, it has previously been noted in Committee reports as a 'next step' that the electronic recording system (Liquid Logic) would be updated to record Outcomes and Consent. This is planned for September 2024 and will include consent and recording of outcomes as mandatory in all S42 and Non-Statutory Enquiries.

4.6 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Since the last report to committee, the agreed DoLS Plan has been fully implemented. At Q1 24/25, overall performance data is as follows:

- July 2024 saw 213 DoLS applications received, a 20% reduction from 268 in July 2023, and about the same level of applications as in 2021.
- However, over the last 12 months demand has increased by 12%, 249 applications per month on average in 2024 compared to 218 in 2023.
- Despite the increase in demand the number of active DoLS in place in August 2024 is 1015 compared to 1095 in 2023. (7% less)
- The number of new assessments awaiting allocation is 643. The number of renewals is 612. Comparator figures for 2023 are 581 and 444 respectively.

More specifically, implementation of the 2023 DOLS plan has resulted in the following performance return:

- A significant reduction in high priority new referrals, decreasing over the last quarter from 65-10. Which is a reduction of 84%.
- A significant reduction in high priority renewal referrals, decreasing over the last quarter from 77-38. Which is a reduction of 50%.
- A significant reduction in medium priority new referrals, decreasing over the last quarter from 64-17. Which is a reduction of 73%.
- High priority renewals are now processed within 1 month, a much-improved position. Prior to the DoLS 2023 plan there was a mean for high-risk renewals of 112 days or nearly 4 months.
- Completed DOLs authorisations have steadily increased every month this year by 20%.
- For the first time, the DOLS team have achieved a simultaneous reduction in both high priority new and high priority renewal referrals.
- There has been a slight increase in low priority new referrals by 2%.
- There has been a slight increase in low priority renewals by 2%
These latter two points are being addressed by moving BIAs to work on these on a rolling basis.

The main remaining area of ongoing improvement is capacity to undertake mental capacity and best interest assessments during peak times. This impacts on waits.

Due to this, approval is sought for a Commissioning Strategy to recruit an external agency to provide Best Interest Assessors (BIA) for a 5-year period,

with option of extension options on a year-by-year basis, to enable a response to surge in demand for mental capacity and best interest assessment. It's planned that this approach will negate the need for / reduce costs associated with agency BIA and ad hoc arrangements and ensure greater quality of provision.

The annual cost is up to a maximum of £250,000, on a 'call-off' basis. It will only be used to meet demand where budget allows. The maximum five-year cost is £1,250,000.

4.7 The Adult Multi-Agency Screening Hub (MASH) Update

The Sheffield Adult MASH responds to Adult Safeguarding concerns, where a person isn't known to already (with a care and support plan in place). MASH works to respond to these concerns, mitigate risk and enable the person to live the life they want to live.

In particular, the MASH Team has developed a range of partnerships across the city and indeed the "MASH Huddles" have been very successful and these are now well established, with regular attendance from partners within South Yorkshire Police, Probation Service and Council Housing and information shared regularly with Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust.

Since the commencement of the Adult MASH referrals have increased by 20%. Referrals mainly come from the Police, residential care homes, and health services including Yorkshire Ambulance Service, followed by families. Over the next 6 months its planned to work with statutory partners using the 'Safeguarding Responsibilities Guidance' (approved at March Committee) and the safeguarding board to review efficacy of referrals and embed the guidance in response to increased demand.

Despite increased referrals, through investment in the service and changes to systems, practices and processes, as well as the use of agency teams, has seen performance improvements as follows:

- In August 2023, the median days to complete Section 42 of the care act 2014 paragraph 2: safeguarding investigations, was 50 days. In July 2024 the median was 24 days. Below the locally set target of 28 days.
- In October 2023 the median number of days to complete the screening process for safeguarding (Section 42- paragraph 1): providing an immediate response was 8 days, and in July 2024 it was 1 day.
- With partnership agreement Huddles have been extended to allow more time for valuable discussions.
- Partnership involvement has continued to grow, most recently with "Snowdrop" "Environmental Health" "Framework Homelessness

support” and “Changing Futures”. In total now 18 partners from across the City are committed to the success of MASH.

4.8 Voluntary Sector Engagement

It's our ambition to build upon the engagement event earlier this, as reported to Committee with VCF and Care sector to: -

- Build awareness and understanding of adult safeguarding including supports available across communities, VCF and social care sector.
- Co-develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention which prevent abuse and neglect and promote wellbeing.
- Build a community network of best practice in relation to Adult Safeguarding, including learning and development opportunities.
- Agree communication frameworks which promote and enable understanding of safeguarding including new developments and events.

A funding bid to the value of £25k was approved by Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SASP) to develop a dedicated and funded post by SASP hosted within VCF to meet these objectives in June 2024. The Adults Safeguarding Service Manager will have oversight of the project and further work with the VCF to strength partnerships which prevent harm and abuse.

4.9 S11 Self Evaluation Update

The Section 11 is Adult Care and Wellbeing's self-assessment completed and submitted to Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership (SASP). This is a self-assessment completed by all SASP partners. The Delivery Plan details actions identified from the self-assessment and an update on what has been completed to date.

Activity which has been completed in response to learning from the s11 are:
-

- ✓ Adult Care and Wellbeing Policy and Procedures are now mandatory reading for staff through our [TriX System here](#).
- ✓ The Safeguarding workflows in our electronic recording system have been updated and crucially has involved practitioners at each step. The improvements have taken into account learning from SARs and link practitioners to appropriate actions/policies in regard to Domestic Abuse, Mental Capacity, Self-Neglect and Modern Slavery.
- ✓ A letter to all providers setting out safeguarding information, including escalation procedures, training opportunities and introduction of a care sector safeguarding forum.
- ✓ A survey regarding modern slavery which will inform future action plan and activities in partnership with Trade Unions, CQC and SASP Partners.

4.10 People in Positions of Trust and Conversion Practice

Through a partnership with SASP, an Adult Local Authority Designated Officer (ALADO) has been funded to support for a period of 12 months to deliver a dedicated approach in regard to People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT) being sources of harm in Safeguarding. This is in recognition of the need to ensure that individuals can feel safe with people employed to and/ or in positions of trust that provide support to individuals.

The [Conversion Practice Statement](#) was approved by Strategy and Resources Committee in May 2023. It has been shared with partners and workforce in newsletters and is hosted on the SASP Board website. This has been shared with partners through the Safeguarding Board and will be added to the mandatory local authority safeguarding training.

Of note, a request has been made to SASPB to add Spiritual Abuse as a concern, following learning from the development of the Conversion Practice Statement. Operational guidance is being finalised to enable implementation as a partnership in 2025/2026.

4.11 Advocacy Update

As reported in June 2024 [Market Sustainability and Providing Support Update to Committee](#). In April 2024, a 7-year contract to deliver Advocacy services in Sheffield was implemented following a tender exercise. The contract was awarded to Sheffield Advocacy Hub with the new contract commencing from 01/05/2024.

[Sheffield Advocacy Hub](#) is a partnership made up of 3 voluntary sector organisations, Citizens Advice Sheffield, Disability Sheffield & Cloverleaf Advocacy. As part of the re-tendering process SACMHA Health & Social Care joined the partnership, with a particular focus of increasing advocacy numbers in underrepresented communities.

5 How does this decision contribute to the Council Plan?

5.1 Council Plan outcome

5.1.1 Adult Care and Wellbeing actively work towards the outcomes set out in the [Council Plan](#). The Safeguarding Delivery and our actions align [3. People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity and support wellbeing](#), specifically the delivery of high-quality care and support at the right time and place so people can be independent for longer and stay safe.

5.1.2 In taking a focus on delivery of high-quality care, The Safeguarding Delivery Plan contributes to delivery upon the Safe and Well and Effective and Efficient Adult Social Care outcomes as set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy Living the Life You Want to Live.

- 5.1.3 This work set out directly enables removal of avoidable demand and helps to ensure an efficient, effective system. The design of the system is rooted in improving the experience of people through the care system, ensuring individuals are protected from abuse and harm and maximising their independence wherever possible.

The plan is informed by and supports local and national guidance, including:

- ADASS Making Safeguarding Personal and using Strengths-based approaches to social care.
- Unison Ethical Care Charter¹³: signed up to by SCC in 2017 14, the Charter 'establishes a minimum baseline for the safety, quality and dignity of care'.

5.2 People – Prosperity – Planet

The wellbeing of Sheffielders drives the work of the Council. We want more people to live long, independent and fulfilling lives free from harm and poverty. This plan supports the ambition to enable people to live free from harm

6 What community or partner engagement has been undertaken and how has it informed the proposal?

- 6.1 There continues to be a strengthening of links with partners. Our MASH works closely with key partners to ensure engagement with partners at earliest possible stage. To enable to positive information sharing to protect people from abuse or neglect.
- 6.2 At the Rough Sleeping Summit on 12th July, the Safeguarding Quality Service Manager presented to attendees our role and the structure in Adult Care and Wellbeing, learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and the need to recognise the experiences rough sleepers have often had. In that where people are rough sleeping that is often elements of adverse childhood experiences, brain injury, substance misuse and trauma. The aim of the session was to promote recognition of the impact on a person's ability to make decision and as part of this consider executive capacity.
- 6.3 Moving forward, its planned to embed a joint and one council approach towards supporting vulnerable people, which includes the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Service Manager reviewing opportunities and learning to embed a personalised approach to supporting vulnerable adults who are rough sleeping.

7 What alternative options did we consider?

7.1 Alternative Option 1:

To Not Have a Delivery Plan: Adults Care Social Care has duties set out in the Care Act and Mental Health Acts which require a focus on Safeguarding. The Care Quality Commission Local Authority Assurance will specifically look at Adult Social Care approach to Ensuring Safety and due to this a delivery plan is required to mitigate and proactively respond to known risks.

7.2 Alternative Option 2:

To not progress a commissioning strategy for best interest assessors: -

- Do Nothing - this does leave us with a number of outstanding assessments which would further put which would undoubtedly put the council at risk of unauthorised deprivations.
- Recruit more in house BIA - However we may simply have had a one off surge over the past year which may not be sustained and if we were to recruit permanently we might be left with an excess of staff that we may not need in the future. This would be the more expensive of the three options proposed.
- Agency BIA - continue to use agency which we have done for a three-month period earlier in the year. However, this is a costly option and does not provide best practice.
- Independent BIA on a procurement framework – Having a dedicated procurement framework provides consistency of cover.

8 How has equality, diversity and inclusion been actively considered?

8.1 As part of our recording improvements, where 'Discriminatory' as a category of abuse is identified, it will be a requirement to record in which area the person has been discriminated against, based on the protected characteristics. This will form ongoing improvements and response as part of the safeguarding delivery plan.

8.2 SASP has given approval for a half time post to support the VCF to have a greater understanding of Safeguarding Adults. This will also support the VCF to understand when to refer and help embed the Responsibilities Guidance which was agreed at Committee in March 2024.

8.3 Our data for quarter 1 of 24/25 shows when looking at Safeguarding Episodes by age the largest group continues to be people aged over 65. With this making up 61.34%. The recently launched Care and Wellbeing contract provides homecare to this age group. Our Responsibilities Guidance approved at Committee in March 24 supports providers and partners to understand when they have a responsibility to raise a safeguarding concern. The Responsibilities

Guidance supports provides who work with people of all ages, ethnicities and disabilities to make them aware of their responsibilities to raise concerns.

9 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 9.1 For 24/25, the available staffing budget for DOLS is £1,048,500. At month 3, there is a forecast overspend of £112,000 as a result of additional staffing capacity and agency being required to meet demand.
- 9.2 Having a procurement framework aims to reduce need for expensive agency and therefore address areas of forecast overspend in a sustainable way. Any spend on staffing through the new framework must be within the available budget.
- 9.3 Commercial implications because of DOLS commercial strategy for BIA. As part of this process a new procurement arrangement is being developed with colleagues in commercial services, to enable a dynamic approach to meet the ongoing needs of the DoLS service.
- 9.4 For 24/25, the available budget for MASH is £516,000. At month 3, there is a forecast overspend of £578,000 as a result of additional staffing capacity to meet demand. It is proposed that this pressure is addressed as part of Business Planning, subject to approval.

10 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Council's relevant powers and duties are as set out in the Report, in particular paragraph 1.3. There are no other legal implications arising directly from this Report. Implementation of the specific proposals outlined in the delivery plan may require further decisions in due course, which will need to be made in accordance with the council Constitution. It is important to note that in making these decisions, full consideration of the Council's legal duties and contractual obligations will be needed.

11 Climate and Environmental Implications

- 11.1 There is minimal impact on the Climate as a direct impact of actions set out in this Safeguarding Report. Safeguarding is a statutory duty, as set out earlier in the report social care should work in a person-centred way and in partnership with other statutory and voluntary organisations. This may mean on occasions there is no need to visit a person and drive to property and thus reduce emissions. Though this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the primary consideration will always be the safety and the risk present in each scenario.

12 Other implications

- 12.1 There are no other implications other than those already set out in this report.

13 Reasons for decision

- 13.1 An approved delivery plan for the strategy gives a structured approach to delivery of safeguarding improvements so that Members and the public can be assured that Adult Care is delivering upon its commitment to protect people from abuse and harm. It will also provide greater accountability and transparency of how will do this.

Asking for regular updates and refreshes of the plan will keep the Committee, wider stakeholders, and the public the ability to hold the Council to account for progress and provide an additional mechanism to input to future development.

Providing approval for a Commissioning Strategy to recruit an external agency to provide Best Interest Assessors (BIA) for a 5-year period, with option of extension options on a year-by-year basis, to enable a response to surge in demand for mental capacity and best interest assessment will negate the need for / reduce costs associated with agency BIA and ad hoc arrangements and ensure greater quality of provision.

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