



Briefing for Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 23rd March 2016

Subject: Adult Safeguarding and Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Contact Officer: Alice Nicholson, Policy & Improvement Officer
alice.nicholson@sheffield.gov.uk
0114 27 35065

Overview

It is a given that there is a role for scrutiny in regard to Adult Safeguarding. The Care Act 2014 put Safeguarding Adults Board on a statutory footing. Here in Sheffield there is the Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board.

This item briefs members on proposals for strengthening communication and developing the relationship between Healthier Communities and Adult Social Services Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and Adult Safeguarding in Sheffield. Particularly briefing members on the agreed actions in regard developing the relationship which will be shared at the Adult Safeguarding Board on 18th March 2016. The notes of a meeting held to discuss developing the relationship are attached for information.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Note the information
-

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Services Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and Adult Safeguarding – Developing the relationship

Notes from Meeting 29/01/16

Attendees

Cllr McDonald - Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee
Sue Fiennes - Independent Chair Adult Safeguarding
Simon Richards - Head of Adult Safeguarding [notes]

1. Overview of discussion

1.1 There is mutual agreement that developing the relationship between Scrutiny and Adult Safeguarding Partnership is a priority. Regular, direct and open communication is welcomed as contributing to this objective. Promoting an open dialogue is fundamental to the health of the relationship.

1.2 Whilst it is recognised that a governance and oversight function are legitimate part of the relationship there needs to be a better balance enabling Scrutiny to proactively contribute and meaningfully influence developments at an appropriate point. This will ensure that there is a real focus on the added value that Scrutiny can provide. Scrutiny's role is not seen as one in which it is required to passively endorse decisions taken elsewhere.

2. Agreed Actions

2.1 It is proposed that there are regular meetings between Chair and Deputy Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care scrutiny and policy development committee with Chair of Adult Safeguarding. Meetings to be at intervals of no longer than 6 months. A schedule of meetings to be agreed once outcome of local elections are known, and identity of Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee is confirmed. Meetings to include ongoing discussion on how to further develop the relationship in the context of the Scrutiny Work programme for 2016/17. It is recognised that the Scrutiny Work Programme may present opportunities, where specific topics have an Adult Safeguarding aspect, for this to be considered as part of the wider topic. A briefing note, providing key information on Adult Safeguarding, highlighting issues of note to be provided to Chair and Deputy Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee in advance of further discussions. Briefing note potentially used to brief members of Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

2.2 An update on Adult Safeguarding to be provided to Chair and Deputy Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee annually. Scheduling of this to be discussed at meetings between Chair, Deputy Chair and Chair Adult Safeguarding.

2.3 Adult Safeguarding Board to consider how best to engage with Scrutiny and to feed into future discussions through Safeguarding Chair. It was agreed that it would be helpful to arrange a training session for scrutiny members on adult safeguarding. It was also agreed that, where needed, it would be possible to put together a sub group of the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee to discuss safeguarding related issues. Recent models for effective engagement with Scrutiny have included the Carers Strategy and the Quality Account work with Hospitals.

2.4 It was proposed that minutes of Safeguarding Executive Board meetings are shared with Chair and Deputy Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee. Proposal to be formally considered at the next Safeguarding Executive Board meeting on 18/03/16.

2.5 Ongoing contact as necessary between Adult Safeguarding Partnership and Chair and Deputy Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee is welcomed. Where relevant issues are to be communicated initially via email to be followed up with phone call or meeting as necessary. Chair Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development committee would appreciate notification of any significant issues that may arise in advance, where possible, or as soon after as is practicable. It is important that Scrutiny is supported with horizon scanning for any significant emerging issues.

Simon Richards on behalf of Sue Fiennes – independent Safeguarding Chair
29/01/16

This page is intentionally left blank