SAFEGUARDING ADULTS RETURN 2013/14

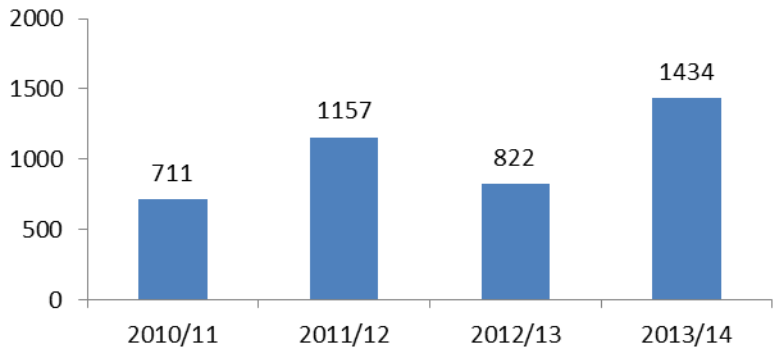
Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Data Submission

In June 2014, Plymouth City Council submitted the Safeguarding Adults Return to the NHS Information Centre. This report highlights some of the figures sent as part of the return as well as comparisons to the results submitted in 2012/13.

ALERTS

1434 safeguarding alerts recorded in 2013/14 which shows a considerable increase on 2012/13. In 2012/13 we recorded 822 alerts so this year we have recorded 612 more. This figure brings us much more in line with other local authorities in terms of increases in safeguarding activity. Chart one below illustrates the number of alerts recorded over the past four years.

Chart one – Number of Safeguarding Alerts



The drop in 2012/13 may have been influenced by a number of issues including complete restructure of both health and adult social care during this time period. A change in the way adult social care recorded contacts/concerns may also mean that some concerns were recorded as assessments rather than safeguarding alerts at the initial point.

ETHNICITY OF ALLEGED VICTIMS (SUBJECT TO REFERRAL FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION)

In 2013/14 we had a 100% capture rate of the alleged victim's ethnicity; this represented a considerable improvement on 2012/13. Table two below provides a breakdown of ethnicity for the alleged victims of abuse that was referred onto a full investigation. In total 595 alerts proceeded to investigation, this is reported later in this report.

White	555
Mixed/Multiple	2
Asian/ Asian British	2
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	2
Any other Ethnic group	0
Refused	27
Undeclared/ Unknown	7

93% of alleged victims are White, a decrease from 96% in 2012/13. It is worth noting however that there were 34 cases where the ethnicity was refused or is unknown, so in reality the proportion of White victims might indeed be higher (or lower). In total of the 561 cases where the ethnicity is known just 6 are of a different ethnicity to White.

According to the 2012 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 93.4 per cent of Plymouth population are White. 6.6 per cent are Black and Minority Ethnic of which the largest communities are Kurdish Iraqi, Polish speaking migrant workers, Indian, Chinese, Russian speaking migrant workers and Black African.

ALERTS REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION

In 2013/14 595 alerts required further investigation, an increase on the 291 in 2012/13, this equates to 41% of alerts proceeding to investigation. The proportion proceeding to investigation in 2012/13 was 35%.

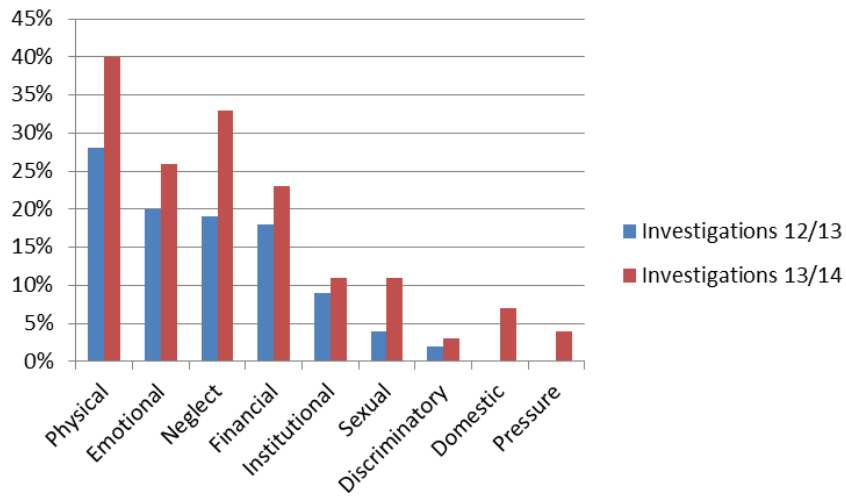
INVESTIGATIONS BY ABUSE TYPE

A single alert or investigation may involve multiple types of abuse.

Whilst the order of the highest abuse type has changed slightly the four abuse types with the highest proportion of investigations remain the same. Physical abuse remains the most common abuse type, Neglect now second highest followed by Emotional and Financial. "Domestic" and "Pressure" are new abuse types used for the first time this year.

Charts two below illustrates the breakdown of investigations by abuse type and compares the percentages against 2012/13.

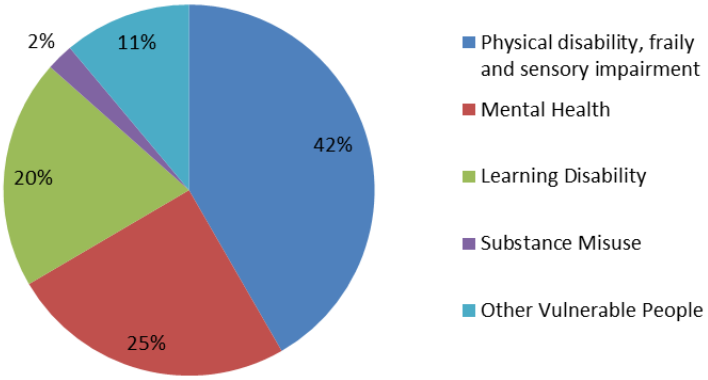
Chart two – Number of Safeguarding Investigations by Abuse type



INVESTIGATIONS BY SERVICE USER GROUP

Chart three below illustrates that physically disabled clients (42%) continue to represent the largest proportion of alleged abuse victims. The client type breakdown is similar to last year with Mental Health the second most likely to be a victim (25%) followed by clients with Learning Difficulties (20%).

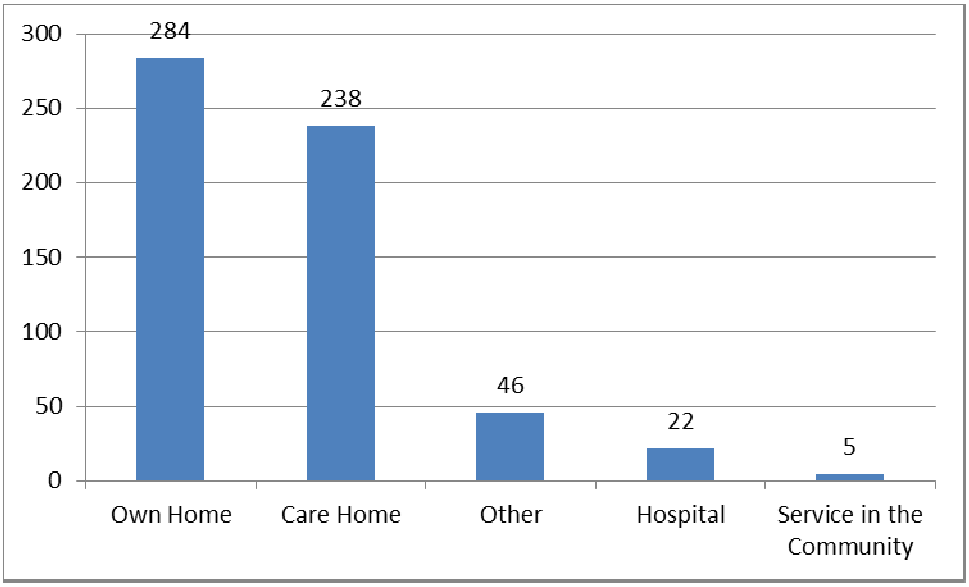
Chart three – Number of Safeguarding Investigations by Client type



LOCATION OF ALLEGED ABUSE INVESTIGATED

This year's return recorded location of abuse differently and required less specific information about where the alleged abuse had taken place, previously for example care home was split by residential and nursing which is no longer the case. Chart four below illustrates the location breakdown and highlights that the vast majority of alleged abuse occurs in either a care home or the persons own home. Just 22 alleged abuse cases were recorded as having occurred within a hospital and 46 were recorded as other with no further breakdown provided.

Chart four – Abuse by Location



RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN

This year's return for the first time asked us to report on the outcome of action taken by the safeguarding teams. The return gives us the opportunity to record one of the following as an outcome of support;

- Where 'no further action under safeguarding'

- Risk remains

- Risk reduced

- Risk removed

Each result is recorded by the person who records the result on Carefirst at the end of the investigation.

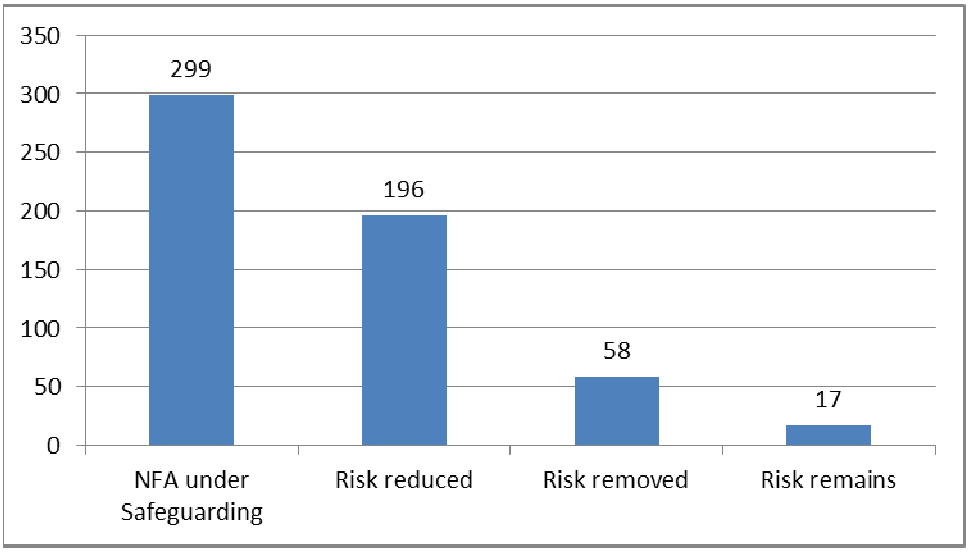
Chart five below shows how these outcomes were reported by us this year and shows that in over half of cases the investigation at point of conclusion resulted in no further action (52%), this in most cases refers to those that were not substantiated, inconclusive or investigation ceased at individuals request.

34% of concluded cases saw the risk reduced, this refers to cases where, after action has been taken to support management of risk, the level of risk has reduced or the circumstances which made the individual vulnerable have been mitigated.

10% saw the risk removed, this refers to cases where, after action has been taken to support management of risk, the circumstances which made the person vulnerable have been fully addressed and the individual is no longer subject to that specific risk.

17 cases were recorded where the risk remains, this is defined in guidance as after action has been taken to support management of risk, the circumstances causing the risk are unchanged and the same degree of risk remains. It should be acknowledged that there may be valid reasons why a risk remains, one of these being individual choice, and so this is not meant to be used as a stand-alone measure of performance.

Chart five – Result of action taken to support management of risk



CASE CONCLUSION

96% (570 of 595) of investigations were concluded at the time of submission; this represents an improvement on the 91% capture rate of last year. The 25 cases with no conclusion have been identified as ongoing and their outcomes will feature in next year's return. Table three below outlines the breakdown of case conclusions and makes a comparison to 2013/13.

Case Conclusion	2012/13	%	2013/14	%	Direction of travel
Substantiated	61	23%	148	25%	Increasing
Partly substantiated	49	18%	44	7%	Decreasing
Not substantiated	73	27%	201	34%	Increasing
Not determined/inconclusive	84	32%	146	25%	Decreasing
Ceased at clients request			31	5%	

A further conclusion category has been introduced (Investigation ceased at individuals request), which will require monitoring to ensure that it is being applied appropriately. That is, the new category should only be used where there is no over-riding reason for the investigation to continue such as alleged abuse by a member of staff or where other vulnerable adults may be at risk. Appropriate use of this category has had an impact on the proportion of investigations recorded as inconclusive which has dropped from 32% and 25%.