

# **SAFEGUARDING MANAGER'S REPORT**

## **to Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Board July 2015**



### **PSAB, PCC & UoP ADULT SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE: 'Changes, Challenges and Opportunities' 12 JUNE**

Our first conference was successfully delivered and very well received, and the University is keen to continue the partnership. Feedback included:

'..the speakers were excellent and I have learnt a lot; some of the points were very thought provoking'  
'..enjoyed the wealth of knowledge from the speakers and re-assurance that I am following correct procedures'  
'...excellent high profile speakers and a good overview into current challenges and opportunities'

We came in under the projected budget, but may want to consider charging for future events, particularly in light of the demand from outside the City.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY**

As reported to the April Board, Plymouth are fully signed up to the Home Office South West Regional pilot in response to their review of the National Referral Mechanism. Representatives from all partner agencies have been identified and we are awaiting details of the related training, expected around September.

We have also linked with the Anti-Slavery Partnership (ASP) who are looking to expand their coverage from the Avon & Somerset police area. Their work includes:

- Forums and training for NGOs, community and faith groups, frontline health and social care workers to enable staff to spot the signs of modern slavery and know where to go for help
- Problem Profile Groups targeting specific sectors
- A Champions network of individuals from a range of sectors who are points of contact for their organisation and who receive training and support direct from ASP
- A website with a range of resources: [www.aspartnership.org.uk](http://www.aspartnership.org.uk)

In addition, Plymouth City Council have joined Devon and Torbay councils, Devon & Cornwall police and faith representatives to co-host a Devon Modern Slavery Event in September in Exeter. When in receipt, we will circulate invitation letters to relevant Board and sub group members as well as linked agencies for identification of suitable delegates. Plymouth has approximately 200 places if required.

### **DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE: CENTRAL SAFEGUARDING TEAM (CST) AND VULNERABILITY SCREENING TOOL (VIST)**

Following Paul Northcott's previous report to PSAB, multi-agency strategic and operational leads are attending a workshop at the end of July aimed specifically at adult services and with the aim of introducing the CST and VIST, presenting a more detailed picture of how they may impact upon services, and understanding how the police may need to align them to the differing local variations.

The VIST seeks to identify vulnerability at an early stage helping to identify safeguarding concerns and prevent vulnerable people from being exposed to the risk of harm, abuse or exploitation. The CST, which is planned to be up and running by the end of 2015, will also act as the police hub for all safeguarding adult alerts and replace the current Central Referral Unit (CRU).

## **MULTI-AGENCY ONLINE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

The recent review is now complete and retained documents have been revised in line with changes to local arrangements and Care Act compliance. The Executive Group have the revised framework and supporting text for sign off, and we are consulting with operational leads. The contract with the website maintenance firm is under review and we are agreeing more flexible arrangements for future updates. There is proposal for an alternative model for the manual which is in consideration and will be taken to the Lead Officers Group in August.

## **MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CONCORDAT:**

The Mental Health Crisis Concordat (MHCC) was published by the Government in February 2014, and local governance sits with the CCG Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The LGA conducted subsequent research with the aim of collecting data from local authorities on local planning and the commissioning of services, to prevent and respond to mental health crisis in the community:

[http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11719/20150316+Mental+Health+Crisis+Final+Report+-++LGA+house+style+\(2\).pdf/7ffca521-6308-4231-a1ac-d542a76ef007](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11719/20150316+Mental+Health+Crisis+Final+Report+-++LGA+house+style+(2).pdf/7ffca521-6308-4231-a1ac-d542a76ef007)

The third section of the survey aimed to establish the position of councils with regards to mental health crisis care and safeguarding, and findings include that almost two-thirds of respondents (64 %) reported that their local safeguarding board had not discussed the Mental Health Crisis Concordat, and that recent analysis of 71 serious case reviews showed a significant number concerned people in mental health crisis. Accordingly the LGA have published 'Note for Adults Safeguarding Boards on the MHCC'. The CCG have a Devon-wide action plan to which the PSAB may want link, and task a piece of work which assesses the Plymouth position against the concordat. The findings of this may raise its priority status and lead to consideration for inclusion in the work of the Board going forward.

## **OUTREACH TO GP SURGERIES:**

We have at times experienced problems in getting consistent engagement with safeguarding processes, and have developed an awareness that surgeries may not be aware of all local arrangements or legislative changes. We have now made a link with the facilitator of the regular practice managers' meetings, and will use this to disseminate relevant information.