

## **THE CARE ACT 2014 – ONE YEAR ON:**

In March DoH published the revised edition of Care and Support statutory guidance to underpin the Care Act. The new edition supersedes the version issued in October 2014, and takes account of regulatory changes, feedback from stakeholders and the care sector and developments following the postponement of social care funding reforms to 2020. Changes and links have been circulated to partner agencies and the relevant PSAB sub groups, and a table summarising the changes in total can be found at:

[http://www.local.gov.uk/care-support-reform/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/7740017/ARTICLE](http://www.local.gov.uk/care-support-reform/-/journal_content/56/10180/7740017/ARTICLE)

Changes in the Safeguarding Chapter 14 include:

- addition to the aims of safeguarding
- addition to the Self Neglect section
- additional section and mention of new offences relating to Domestic Abuse
- additional section on scamming
- highlighting of documents regarding Financial Abuse of Older People, Risk Guidance for People with Dementia, and Self Neglect policy
- links to the concept of wellbeing in the Act
- clarification of the expectations regarding allegations against People in a Position of Trust (PiPoT) following removal of the requirement for agencies to have a Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager (DASM).
- additional section on multi-agency working, legal implications of intervention in a persons best interest, role of a Principle Social Worker

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance/safeguarding>

The number of cases raised to adult safeguarding teams doubled in the first six months of the Care Act, figures published in the latest LGA Care Act Stocktake suggest. Previous surveys measured councils' readiness to deliver the legislation but this stocktake, which was carried out in November 2015, covers implementation of the act itself.

Councils made, or caused others to make 100,000 safeguarding enquiries between April 2015 and October 2015, and the figures show councils handled 103,900 safeguarding referrals in the full 12-month period up until April 2015, when the Care Act came into force.

Social care sources have suggested the rise was likely to reflect a combination of factors. These included increased reporting, greater awareness of the need for safeguarding interventions in cases involving issues like modern slavery and self neglect. In addition the Care Act's statutory threshold may be broader than the local definitions previously used by councils.

However, there are also concerns among sector leaders that the figures could at least in part mark problems in the quality of care services nationally. As at March 7, a third of social care services inspected by the Care Quality Commission were deemed to be inadequate (3%) or require improvement (30%). In further figures, based on performance so far, adult social care teams are expected to carry out 1.65 million social care assessments by the end of the financial year, an increase of 56,000 on last year.

## **MODERN SLAVERY:**

### **Home Office SW regional pilot in response to their review of the National Referral Mechanism**

We are awaiting updates from the Home Office regarding the call from both pilot areas for confirmation of the provision of outstanding training. In addition we are expecting detail regarding the duration of the pilot, muted as until Summer 2016, in order to plan our future approach.

### **Anti-Slavery Partnerships (ASPs)**

Regular meetings of the force-wide Devon & Cornwall and local Plymouth ASPs continue. With our colleagues in Safer Plymouth we are feeding into the police evaluation of the recent operation involving fifteen Romanian nationals.

## **PSAB EXECUTIVE GROUP HIGHLIGHTS:**

The group met 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016, and the agenda included:

### **SCR 'V' update**

Update received on the timeline and rationale for any delays.

Acknowledgement that a date was awaited from the family to meet with the author

Agreement for the final report to go to PSAB for sign off on 22.4.16, and for the SAR Sub Group to monitor action plans and feed back to PSAB.

Agreement that impact and risk assessments, communication plan, and legal advice all required prior to publication.

### **Health pathway update**

Acknowledgement of delay of the Strategic Review of Safeguarding and revised timeline

Acknowledgement of provider recruitment problems

Request from Chair for a meeting with all relevant parties to resolve the issues and update

### **Strategic Plan 2015-16 update**

- i) Service Development priorities:

Risk Management and Self Neglect:

- Update received that the working group has been productive, policy is in draft, and launch of city wide plan is in planning.
- Decision to link with the Creative Solutions Forum being developed to look at complex MH and substance use cases once care management and CPA approaches have been exhausted. A multi agency/disciplinary forum to include commissioners who can give permission for contracts to be utilised differently or grant extraordinary funding. ToR is in draft, with plans to pilot the forum over 2-3 meetings, report back and evaluate.

MCA:

- LPA and Advanced Decision training has been delivered to around 200 people across sectors. The LPA& AD leaflet design has been printed and is in circulation, related links will be included in the web pages.
- MCA & DOLS working group - to be carried forward
- CCG has provided MCA training to 65 GPs and have provided leaflets and information for GPs.

#### Engagement and Participation:

- PAUSE service user group: the new co-ordinator has recently resigned, JET in discussion with provider agency and commissioners. SAB Chair has attended some meetings in the last year, and will attend again when dates are confirmed. UPDATE: new facilitator in place and links being re-established.
- Healthwatch have had to withdraw from a number of city committees, including membership of PSAB and LOG
- Agreement to continue to identify increased capacity to progress the Engagement and Participation priority. Update: A task & finish group will be dedicated to completing the Equality Impact Assessment regarding access to the safeguarding process. Another group is being developed to take forward the wider Engagement & Participation work and will report into the Executive Group.

#### ii) Board Development priorities:

#### Care Act compliance:

- The PSAB is Care Act compliant, as is the multi-agency online policy and procedures manual.

#### Quality & Performance Framework:

- Work has been completed on the adaptation of the identified model to one of three core questions, and indicators identified. Recommended to be taken to April's PSAB for sign off.

#### Annual report framework:

- Agreement that the annual report will be completed in Q1 of 2016. A number of different formats from various SABs have been researched and a decision reached on the preferred option.
- Agreement to ask SAB members to report on their activity against the PSAB Strategic Plan  
Update: current suggestion for report to comprise:

1. Independent Chair's Foreword
2. Who we are and what we do – structure, members reports
3. Safeguarding data
4. Review of progress during 2015/16 - strategic plan objectives and updates from subgroups
5. SCR – 'V'
6. Priorities and plans for the year/s ahead

Appendix: budget

#### Learning & Development:

- Agreement for task & finish group to bring review and strategy back to the next Executive Group meeting for sign off at July PSAB.

#### **Strategic Plan 2016-17**

- Discussion regarding PSAB priorities for next year. Suggestions included mental health, domestic abuse, concerns with care homes, asylum seekers, SAR outcomes and learning, modern slavery. To be discussed at board meeting and Development Day

### **STRENGTHENING LINKS:**

The Executive Group will be asked to consider a model of joint protocol governing the relationship between PSAB, PSCB and the Health & Wellbeing Board. It will aim to set out the distinct roles and responsibilities, the interrelationships between them in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing, and the means by which effective co-ordination and coherence between the Boards will be secured.

We are adopting the template used by PSCB for feedback to full board by sub-groups and task & finish groups. This is aimed at tightening relationships, consolidating links and a consistent format for information to Board

### **ADASS/LGA SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY NETWORK WORK PLAN 2015/16:**

We had committed to having input to the Quality & Safeguarding workstream, aimed at identifying the key factors and interdependencies that impact on quality and safeguarding, and scope the priorities objectives and outcomes.

Task and Finish networks, which included CQC, have been reviewed and while Commissioning/Performance/Quality remain priorities, work in high level coalition has not achieved its goals. However, we are linked in through the SW regional Safeguarding Leads network and in collaboration with the Chair of this group, who is DASS for Bristol, we are in discussion regarding a joint working group to develop a local approach.

### **CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY SERVICE:**

The CSAS have sent all SABS and SCBs an update on their contribution to the independent inquiry led by Judge Goddard, and their revised safeguarding structure. For further detail the letter is included in this pack.