

SAFEGUARDING MANAGER'S REPORT

Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Board January 2018



<p>I Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) 2016-17</p>	<p>National benchmarking information from NHS Digital was published in November: https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30145</p> <p>This report presents information about adults at risk for whom safeguarding concerns or enquiries were opened during the reporting period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, and case details for safeguarding enquiries under S42 of the Care Act which concluded during the reporting period.</p> <p>National and regional discussions have confirmed that there is inconsistency in the interpretation of recording nationally, and accordingly comparator information can be of mixed utility. The report notes that 'at a local authority level, the directly standardised rates of concerns per 100,000 of the adult population range from 32 to 976', and that 'these variances could be a reflection of local practice, demand and demographic factors, particularly in how enquiries are defined as Section 42 or Other at a local level'.</p> <p>Similar themes are also reflected in the recent Action on Elder Abuse report: <i>A Patchwork of Practice: What adult protection statistics for England tell us about implementation of the Care Act 2014</i>: https://www.elderabuse.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=cf1f9e48-cc1a-463c-95a0-95eb717e8b31</p> <p>As expected on this basis, Plymouth has relatively high numbers in some areas, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high numbers of recorded safeguarding concerns; we attribute this to increased awareness and high training levels, but are doing some work with providers, in particular in an attempt to embed the criteria for low level concerns. For quality of care issues, we are now using the Devon and Torbay-wide Yellow Card scheme, managed by the CCG, through which providers can report issues which are unsuitable for S42 enquiries. Should numbers of reports about individual agencies reach prescribed levels, they are referred for commissioners' oversight and intervention. This is expected to reduce the numbers of low level concerns we process for which we previously had no alternative route. • among the highest percentage of safeguarding concerns that progress onto enquiry. 74% progress to enquiry compared to an England percentage of 41% and more than double the regional percentage. However, there are LA's with a higher percentage further evidencing the varying returns being submitted by LA's. (e.g. Plymouth out-turn falls to 43% when referrals are included) • we match the national, regional and family group with the most common types of abuse being Neglect & Acts of Omission. However, the second most common type of abuse in Plymouth is Financial or Material Abuse, this in contrast to the region and national picture where Physical abuse is second most common type of abuse. Regional discussions reflect that that other areas are less likely to process allegations of financial abuse, particularly if there is police involvement. • the profile of outcomes to S42 enquiries varies across local authorities. In
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	<p>Plymouth 29% of enquiries were concluded with a recording of ‘no action taken’. This compares to the national and comparator group average of 22%. There are some areas with very different profiles; in Bristol for example 74% of outcomes are recorded as no action. We are planning some case audits in 2018 to further explore recording practice across the agencies who undertake enquiries, as we understand that this outcome has been used when the conclusion is actually ‘no further action required’.</p> <p>This data is informing the work of the PSAB Quality & Performance sub group, and in addition PCC have established a multi-agency Strategic Leads network which meets regularly to discuss and find solutions to practice issues. It is expected that this will have an impact on the data in future returns and improve consistency across the safeguarding partnership.</p>
2 Local Data Set Quarter 3 2017/18	<p>See attached spreadsheet. The regular Data Set report shows a number of encouraging trends which reflect the work mentioned above, and other associated workstreams. For example: while demand longer term continues to increase we are seeing the results of work to triage effectively on receipt of concerns and improvements in recording practice at the conclusion of enquiries.</p> <p>Reflecting the continued practice focus on MSP and people’s wishes during the process, we have maintained high figures in terms of those who report their desired outcomes as Fully Achieved, and increase in those Partially Achieved and a small reduction in those Not Achieved. This area will be included in planned future case auditing in order to understand these figures in more detail.</p>
3 Modern Slavery agenda	<p>Following the completion in March of the pilot resulting from the Home Office’s review of the National Referral Mechanism, in which Plymouth took an active part, the evaluation report was published in October: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/653703/evaluation-national-referral-mechanism-pilot-horr94.pdf</p> <p>The aims of the pilot were to streamline the NRM process, raise the numbers of victims identified, and encourage better decision making. Whilst some of these were achieved, practitioners felt that the lead roles in the suggested system were not sustainable beyond the pilot period. Both roles were voluntary, taken on in addition to existing responsibilities and this stretched the resources of those involved across all agencies.</p> <p>With partner agencies, PCC continues to support the regional and local Anti-Slavery Partnership groups, which await further direction from the Home Office. Future work across the City will also be informed by consideration of the recommendations contained in the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner’s Annual Report 2016-17: http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1164/iasc_annual-report-16-17-web.pdf</p> <p>More locally, excellent partnership working continues within the City, an example of which was recently in the local press: http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/man-denies-kept-three-people-1029509</p>