

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

ADULT SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the 6th North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report (appendix 1).
- 1.2 To provide a progress report against last year's considerations.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 All councils have been delegated a duty to work in partnership to establish systems and services that protect vulnerable adults from abuse. North Lincolnshire Council established an Area Adult Protection Committee as a result of the 'No Secrets' guidance of 2000, published by the Department of Health. The committee comprises senior representatives from the main statutory authorities: including the Police, NHS Trusts, Commission for Social Care Inspection, Independent Care organisations, the Voluntary sector and the council's Adult Social Services. In line with the guidance a senior manager from the council chairs these meetings.
- 2.2 Officers from Adults Social Services and partners co-ordinate and investigate all safeguarding adult referrals.
- 2.3 Council staff provide the co-ordination of such investigations, chairing strategy meetings, training and raising awareness of safeguarding adult issues.
- 2.4 The 6th Annual Report for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 indicates
 - There have been 130 referrals of which 109 progressed to a safeguarding adults investigation, an increase in reported referrals of 6% over the same period last year.

- This slight increase in referrals indicates a wider awareness of the partnership process for recognising, referring and investigating potential abuse of the more vulnerable members of our society.
- Safeguarding Adults training has been delivered to 370 staff across North Lincolnshire, including North Lincolnshire Council staff and staff from partner organisations.
- Staff from partner agencies have received investigation training enabling them to work alongside Adult Social Services staff on non-police investigations. This development brings additional expertise to such investigations in addition to increasing the capacity to investigate referrals.
- Additional training has been provided to those members of staff from all agencies, which are tasked with co-ordinating and investigating allegations of abuse. This training has focused on best practice and 'achieving best evidence' processes.
- There has been a strong commitment to partnership working within Safeguarding Adults across North Lincolnshire. This has been indicated by the number of active police investigations and the number of investigations carried out by non-local authority staff. These investigation results are then reported back into the safeguarding adults process for the outcomes to be noted and any 'learning from experience' opportunities taken.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve the 6th North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report.
- 3.2 To not approve the 6th North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Approval of the annual report is sought in order for the contents to be circulated to partner agencies and for publication via appropriate organisational websites as per Safeguarding Adults best practice.
- 4.2 If approval is not given the information cannot be shared.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications relating to this report.

5.2 Staffing

There are no staffing implications relating to this report.

5.3 Property

There are no property implications relating to this report.

5.4 IT

There are no IT implications relating to this report.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 Statutory

The council has a statutory duty to manage and co ordinate the area adult protection policy and procedures and to investigate where abuse does occur.

6.2 Environmental and Other

Attention to the safeguarding of adults issues raises the quality of service provision for all vulnerable people.

Cabinet approved the adoption of the 'Safeguarding Adults' guidance within North Lincolnshire in March 2007.

In line with this national guidance the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board has moved from the original Area Adult Protection Committee. This has seen the membership of the Board include relevant senior managers from partner organisations. This will enhance the decision-making capability of the Board.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Annual Report has been circulated to all partner agencies represented on the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

7.2 The Annual Report has been circulated to Service Heads, Adult Social Services, Service Managers, Adult Social Services and Mental Health

and all Principal Care Managers/Team Leaders who co-ordinate Safeguarding Adult Investigations.

- 7.3 The response to the consultation has been positive and constructive and is reflected in the content of the annual report. Members of the Safeguarding Adults Board have approved this annual report.
- 7.4 The Trades Unions have been consulted and have raised no concerns in relation to this report.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That Cabinet Member approves the 6th Annual Report from the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

SERVICE DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

The 5th Annual Adult Protection Committee Report, North Lincolnshire Council, 2006/07.