

Trafford **Adult Safeguarding** Board Annual Briefing

2013 – 2014

“A year of consolidation”



Safeguarding adults: If you don't do something, who will?

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No single agency can deal with adult safeguarding alone...



Trafford Adult Safeguarding Board
If you don't do something who will?

Foreword



By the Chair, Trafford Safeguarding Adults Board

I am delighted to write a few words on introduction to this year's annual report of the Trafford Adult Safeguarding Board.

Following on from our "Year of Transformation", this has been a "Year of Consolidation", in the adult safeguarding arena and across public services, be they statutory, independent sector or voluntary sector based.

Locally, our adult safeguarding panel hearings continue to be hugely successful and feedback from professionals, service users and their relatives and friends who have been involved in these panels remains overwhelmingly positive. We have transformed the role and function of the Strategic Adult Safeguarding Board, which I am privileged to Chair, and we have created a functional Operational Adult Safeguarding Board. We have written a comprehensive set of documents to support the work of the Boards and are well placed to implement the changes required by the introduction of the Care Act, 2014, which will become law in 2015. These documents are available on the Council ["My Way" web pages](#) and the [NHS Trafford CCG web pages](#).

Nationally, we have seen an increasing number of stories in the national media regarding terrorism and the radicalisation of vulnerable adults during the past year. Her Majesty's Government has implemented the national [Prevent Strategy](#) and the Department of Health has decided that counter-terrorism and preventing the radicalisation of vulnerable adults should be mainstreamed within local safeguarding structures. We have been taking steps to ensure that safeguarding system in Trafford is ready, responsive and adapting quickly to these new requirements and we will begin Prevent training for local authority, NHS and Independent sector staff in 2014/15. Colleagues from criminal justice agencies have already completed their Prevent training.

At the end of this "Year of Consolidation" we are able to look forward to 2014/15, a "Year of Opportunity". The new Care Act will provide us with the opportunity to build on our existing systems, process and practices and allow us to continue, to ensure we remain "fit for purpose" and that we continue, through our multi-agency partnership "Team Trafford", to grasp those opportunities to improve, to challenge and to continue to work together to safeguard and protect vulnerable adults.

Gina Lawrence

Gina Lawrence
Chair, Trafford Adult Safeguarding Board

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1. Introduction

The Adult Safeguarding Board is a partnership which provides a framework within which agencies and professionals collectively share a responsibility for the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults in Trafford.

We work together as a Board of Commissioners and Providers to ensure, and seek assurances, that we have effective, fit for purpose services, which place citizens at their heart.

The Board has comprehensive representation from agencies across Trafford, and recognises that our partnership and multi-agency approach is essential to ensure the delivery of effective outcomes for vulnerable people who have been subjected to harm or radicalisation or those who have experienced crime or abuse.

This is the seventh annual report from Trafford Adult Safeguarding Board and this year it takes the form of a briefing report. As such, it is a brief record of the work of the agencies that form the Board. This work has led to the strengthening of safeguarding adults' functions and associated services across Trafford.

This report covers the developments from the period April 2013 – March 2014 and has been produced for the purpose of informing the public, users of services, member agencies and the wider Greater Manchester health and social care economy of achievements over this period. It provides local information within the national context of Safeguarding adults.

This year the work of the Board has focused on six key priorities:

- 1. Reducing the levels of neglect, harm and exploitation by putting in place ways of avoiding it happening*
- 2. Increasing the levels of public awareness across the Borough*
- 3. Improving the ways in which agencies respond to reports of harm*
- 4. Improving the skills and knowledge of all those involved in dealing with adult safeguarding*
- 5. Improving the levels of resources allocated for safeguarding vulnerable adults*
- 6. Improving the links between adult and children's safeguarding*

2. New Safeguarding Adults Procedures

The Adult Safeguarding Procedures are now well embedded and are functioning well. They will be further revised in 2014/15 to ensure they remain current, relevant and “fit for purpose”.

*There has been excellent feedback given on the procedures which have increased transparency and placed service users in the driving seat of the safeguarding process and support service users to get the outcomes **they** want from the process.*

3. Making Safeguarding Personal

Trafford Adult Safeguarding Board has been participating in the “Making Safeguarding Personal” programme run by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. This has been a really positive experience and has confirmed for us that locally, we have taken the right steps and made great strides toward ensuring that we are outcome focused and delivering on our promises to “make safeguarding personal.”

4. Increasing community engagement

We have, as part of the reform of the Adult Safeguarding Board, considered how we can increase community engagement in adult safeguarding. We have established a series of engagement groups which include members of the public, alongside practitioners and managers from a range of public services. These engagement groups will help shape, form and influence the future development of adult safeguarding in the Borough.

We are opening up the Adult Safeguarding Board to public attendance, in the same way that Council, NHS Board meetings and Health & Well Being Board meetings are accessible. By doing this, we aim to improve transparency and engagement with the Adult Safeguarding Board.

4. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The has been a small increase in the use of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards across public services, where they apply. The Adult Safeguarding Board has ensured, through its member agencies, that the use and application of both the Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards remains high on the local adult safeguarding agenda.

5. Safeguarding Children

We have continued to strengthen our relationship with Trafford Children’s Safeguarding Board and have established a joint children and adult safeguarding committee. This committee addresses issues common to both boards e.g. Prevent, transitions between children and adult safeguarding and domestic abuse. This joint committee is beginning to significantly improve connections between adult and children’s health, social care and criminal justice services and is another way in which we in Trafford are approaching our “think family” agenda.

3. Incidence and outcomes data

Our introduction of “five harms” has been very positive and enabled us to focus our attention on low and moderate level harm, supporting our prevention agenda, while focusing the finite statutory resources required for complex investigations definitions of harm where they are needed most.


Level 1 Harm – Low level harm

Level 1 Harm – Moderate harm

Level 3 Harm – Serious harm

Level 4 Harm – Significant harm

Level 5 Harm – Catastrophic harm



Full definitions of each level of harm are available to view in the Trafford Adult Safeguarding Board Policy and Procedures

Using our five levels of harm has resulted in an increase in effective screening and proportionate responses to the levels of harm identified. There were 167 referrals that went on into the investigation stage at in 2013/14. This is a net decrease of 89 cases based on 2012/13 figures.

The introduction of the five levels of harm has been supported by comprehensive workforce development activity, including the continued training of Root Cause Analysis methodology to undertake investigations.

In this year’s report we are again presenting headline data. We have used the data collated in 2013/14 to inform workforce development needs, support Commissioning and contract monitoring arrangements and to seek assurance from individual member agencies.

For all adults – abuse by category:

1	Neglect	101
2	Physical abuse	36
3	Financial abuse	21
4	Emotional abuse	8
5	Sexual abuse	12
6	Institutional abuse	4

NB: Some episodes of abuse will have more than one category; therefore the total will be greater than the total number of episodes for the year.

Of the 138 safeguarding episodes that have been concluded:

Department of Health Outcome Indicator	Episodes
Substantiated	21
Partially Substantiated	3
Not Substantiated	19
Inconclusive	14
Investigation ceased at individuals request	1

Substantiated – all of the allegations of abuse are substantiated on the balance of probabilities.

Partially Substantiated – This would apply to cases where it has been possible to substantiate some but not all of the allegations made on the balance of probabilities. For example *‘it was possible to substantiate the physical abuse but it was not possible to substantiate the allegation of financial abuse’*.

Not Determined/Inconclusive – This would apply to cases where it is not possible to record an outcome against any of the other categories. For example, *where suspicions remain but there is no clear evidence*.

Not Substantiated – It is not possible to substantiate on the balance of probabilities any of the allegations of abuse made.

Outcomes

As a result of multi-agency adult safeguarding intervention, the outcomes for adults who have experienced harm, exploitation or abuse are:

Outcome for adults involved in adult safeguarding process	Number
Increased Monitoring	21
Adult removed from property or service	4
Community care assessment and service provision	2
Application to Court of Protection	1
Referral to counselling / training	1
Moved to increase / alternative care provision	8
Management of access to finances	6
Guardianship/Use of Mental Health Act	1
Restrict/mgmt. of access to alleged perpetrator	2
Other	17
No further Action	75

(NB: there can be more than one outcome per safeguarding episode)
The outcomes for the perpetrators are as follows:

Perpetrator Outcome	Number of Records
Criminal Prosecution	1
Police Action	4
Community Care Assessment	4
Removal from property	3
Management of access	1
Referred to DBS	2
Disciplinary Action	14
Continued Monitoring	25
Counselling/Training	22
Exoneration	2
No Further Action	60
Not Known	5
Action by contract compliance	3

A full breakdown of activity is available on request, in a variety of results and formats. Please see rear of document for whom to contact.

Summary

It is clear from the information contained within this report that the Board, through the offices of its member agencies, has achieved a significant amount in the year 2013/14. However, there is still much left to do and we must not rest on our laurels.

The 2015/16 year will be our “Year of Opportunity” and will bring with it new and different challenges, both financial and operational. There will be new statutory responsibilities for the Board to consider and implement and new requirements for member’s agencies to meet.

The introduction of new legislative requirements, ushered in by the Care Act, 2014 will bring new challenges, new opportunities and new ways of working across public services.

Whatever the challenges are that we face in the future, we will face them with a solid foundation, a clear direction of travel and the commitment to succeed. We will seize the moment and take those opportunities which arise to continue to work to safeguard the people of Trafford and Greater Manchester.

Team Trafford

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