

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**“SAFEGUARDING ADULTS STRATEGY” – IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF  
VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 Adults with disabilities or infirmity are vulnerable to physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse from other people, but it has a far lower public profile than child abuse but “every adult matters” is just as important as “every child matters”.
- 1.2 A strategy has been developed to improve both the response to abuse and its prevention
- 1.3 To ask the Cabinet to endorse the Safeguarding Adult Strategy

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Abuse of vulnerable adults whether physical, sexual, emotional or financial is a reality in North Lincolnshire and across the country. In the year 2009/10 there were 366 reports of adult abuse (or their potential). However, it is widely held that the reported incidents are a considerable under-representation of actual abuse. Adult abuse has a far lower profile in the public eye and media than child abuse, which means there is a lower awareness of its possibility among the public.
- 2.2 Safeguarding Adults is a developing agenda throughout the county, and is expected to continue. The Cabinet endorsement of a “zero tolerance” policy for North Lincolnshire (March 2009) has further increased public and professional awareness of the issues, and subsequent actions to take.
- 2.3 The council has a duty and lead responsibility to protect adults who are vulnerable due to disability or infirmity. The council fulfils this duty in a number of ways and three years ago it established a North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to ensure a co-ordinated approach across all relevant agencies.
- 2.4 The Care Quality Commission are the regulators for Adults Social Services, they consider the safeguarding of adults a key aspect of their performance assessment. Their assessment is often included in other forms of performance assessment that are undertaken with regards to the council.

- 2.5 The SAB consists of senior representatives from the police, NHS, voluntary sector, care providers and others. The council's Director of Adult Social Services chairs it. The board publishes an annual report and is subject to oversight by the council's Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.6 The work of the SAB has produced good progress in creating the infrastructure to manage the safeguarding policy and procedure, this has helped many individuals. The work need to be continued to ensure that the current achievements are further progressed and the actions required to prevent abuse are introduced. This is a complex multi-agency undertaking that requires a strategy to ensure that the benefits are realised.
- 2.7 The strategy has been developed in conjunction with SAB members, the public and providers of services, the document has an outline action plan. This plan will be updated annually through consultation. The plan is described as an outline plan, the detailed action plan will be managed by the SAB.
- 2.8 The government is reviewing the legislative and guidance framework surrounding the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. It has undertaken an extensive consultation exercise "No Secrets". The results and subsequent actions from this consultation have been under review for an extended time. The strategy includes consideration changes to external drivers and should not be undermined by any outcome.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option 1  
To endorse the Safeguarding Adults Strategy
- 3.2 Option 2  
To continue with current arrangements.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Option 1  
This is the recommended option and the option of the Safeguarding Adults Board and its partners.  
  
This will create a framework for the ongoing development of both the investigative and prevention aspects of safeguarding adults, and subsequently improve the reporting and protection of those that are being abused and reduce the risk of abuse within the community.  
  
The strategy ensures the outcomes required are unified, and developments are not taken by one organisation in isolation. This improved coordination will reduce the investment required for each individual improvement, and improve its effectiveness.  
  
The strategy and its implementation will improve the performance assessment of the council and our partners.

4.2 Option 2

This option will continue to provide the current level of service to those who are being abused, but will limit the coordination of the multi agency approach to prevent abuse.

The increased number of referrals (and subsequent investigations) may produce resource implications within Adult Services.

The performance assessment of Adult Services and our partners may be impeded by the absence of a strategy.

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

5.1 Finance

There are no financial implications to this paper. It is also noted that partner agencies make cash and in-kind contributions to enable the SAB to carry out its duties.

5.2 I.T. Implications

None

5.3 Staffing implications

None

5.4 Property Implications

None.

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

Statutory Implications

6.1 The council fulfils its statutory duties by leading and co-ordinating adult protection policy, procedures and practice through the Safeguarding Adults Board.

6.2 Environmental implications - None

6.3 Diversity implications

Safeguarding practice and procedure recognise that diverse and minority groups can be at risk of abuse and constantly strives to include their needs and views.

A Diversity Impact Assessment has been completed.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder implications

Improvements to safeguarding of vulnerable adults will help detect and stop crimes.

6.5 Risk and other implications - None

## 7 **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board has endorsed this proposal

7.2 Adults Cabinet member has endorsed this proposal.

7.3 The Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel contributed to the strategy

7.4 A public event has been held. Feedback from the event welcomed the strategy and contributed to the strategy.

7.5 Copies of the draft strategy have been deposited in the Political Group Offices and are available on request.

## 8 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet approves option 1, the endorsement of the Safeguarding Adults Strategy.

### **SERVICE DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES**

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#### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Department of Health "No Secrets" consultation