

Date of SAB:	13 July 2015
Title:	Sub-group quarterly update: Adult Social Services Quality Assurance Board (sub-group of SAB)
Purpose of briefing:	Quarterly update to inform the SAB of recent and current safeguarding work undertaken by the Adult Social Services Quality Assurance Board
Subgroup details:	Adult Social Services Quality Assurance Board: last meeting held on 16 June 2015
Lead Officer:	Helen Constantine Strategic Lead – Governance and Business Improvement

1. Introduction

Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse remains a priority for the Council. The *Corporate Plan 2013-15* sets out ‘Safety and wellbeing for all’ as one of four key Council priorities. Adult Social Services has an important role to play in delivering this priority through its work around adult safeguarding.

The Adult Social Services Quality Assurance Board (QAB) involves a wide cross-section of Haringey’s Adult Services staff to ensure a high level of ownership and to embed good practice right across Adult Social Services. The purpose of the QAB is to ensure that quality assurance arrangements are in place across Adult Social Services to gather information on the quality of services provided, service user feedback and data on the outcomes achieved for people using Adult Social Services. The Board ensures that this information is analysed and used to inform service delivery as well as strategic planning and commissioning.

The sub-group meets quarterly and has recently seen the merger and adoption of the Safeguarding Practice sub-group workplan.

2. Summary

The Adult Social Services Quality Assurance Board last met on 16 June 2015. Relevant areas of safeguarding work discussed by the Board are described below.

3. Background

The Board's Improvement and Quality Action Plan (2014-2016)¹ has been developed to include key improvement projects identified in the 2013-14 Local Account, the three local authority priorities from the Safeguarding Adult Audit Tool improvement plan, and practice issues around Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, the Care Act and health and social care integration. This enables key projects across Adult Social Services to be monitored by the Quality Assurance Board on a quarterly basis.

Work has been undertaken as part of the Making Safeguarding Personal initiative to prepare for the introduction of an adult safeguarding user survey looking at the outcomes of safeguarding investigations. Department of Health guidelines require 10% of safeguarding referrals to be surveyed and the survey must be carried out by qualified professionals. Adult Social Services are currently identifying the resources needed to implement the survey in 2015.

Complaints learning reports for Q4 2014-2015 were presented to the Quality Assurance Board. There were no upheld complaints concerning adult safeguarding. In Q2 there were 3 Members' Enquiries in relation to adult safeguarding and 1 in Q3.

New case file audit templates will be introduced in July 2015 to reflect new Department of Health and Care Act requirements. This will include adult safeguarding case file audits.

Adult Commissioning is continuing to work with external providers to improve their safeguarding practice and whistle blowing policies. Quality assurance reviews of all supported living provisions in Haringey are also being carried out. A risk register of care providers is being compiled to identify level of risks in provider failure.

A market position statement has been published, setting out commissioning intentions for the next 4 years (see report presented to Cabinet on 16 June 2015: <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s79046/Market%20Position%20Statement%20with%20Signature.pdf>).

Safeguarding adults' performance data for Q4 was presented to the Quality Assurance Board. This data will be presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board meeting on 13 July 2015.

An update was provided to the Quality Assurance Board on how Adult Social Services have been managing the huge increase in Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) cases that have arisen following the Cheshire-West ruling.

¹ Including areas for further improvement following the section 11 audit (Children Act 2004) in 2014

A draft children and adults' social care supervision policy was presented to QAB. The policy will ensure quality supervision is in place and is based on a reflective model.

Care Quality Commission's new fundamental standards replace the 16 'essential standards' of quality and safety. The fundamental standards include a requirement to have governance and auditing systems in place to ensure compliance with the standards, as well as 2 new regulations – the duty of candour and the fit and proper person requirement for directors. These standards will be tested through registration and inspections.

4. Conclusion

The work described above will continue to be monitored by the Quality Assurance Board.

Work is underway to move to a multi-agency Quality Assurance sub-group and widen the remit to include partnership working. The focus will be on partnership issues, predominantly good practice, performance and quality assurance.

The terms of reference and membership of the QAB will be revisited in order to take this forward. These and a further quarterly update will be provided to the Safeguarding Adults Board at the next meeting.