

## **15. The Role of the Safeguarding Adults Board**

- 15.1 Multi-agency Adult Protection Committees have been established within Local Authority boundaries. This policy refers to three areas, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth. These Adult Protection Committees will form the basis of the new Safeguarding Adults Boards.
- 15.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board/Adult Protection Committee is the key structure for overseeing the planning, implementation and monitoring of 'Safeguarding Adults'.
- 15.3 It should include representation from all the appropriate statutory agencies.
- 15.4 The Safeguarding Adults Board/APC should manage the serious case review process.
- 15.5 The Safeguarding Adults Board/APC should complete an annual review and produce an annual report.
- 15.6 The Board/Committee should undertake an annual audit to monitor and evaluate whether the policies, procedures and practice for the protection of vulnerable adults are working in a consistent manner. For this purpose, agencies must work together.
- 15.7 The audit process must provide feedback to all relevant agencies.
- 15.8 In determining the content of the audit process, the Board/Committee must incorporate the following core elements:
  - To evaluate community understanding - the extent to which there is an awareness of the policy and procedures for protecting vulnerable adults.
  - Establish links with other systems for protecting those at risk - for example, child protection, domestic violence, victim support and community safety.
  - To evaluate how agencies are working together and how far the policies continue to be appropriate.
  - Review the appropriateness of local operational guidance, particularly in light of reported cases of abuse.
  - Review training available to staff of all agencies.
  - The performance and quality of services for the protection of vulnerable adults
  - The conduct of investigations in individuals' cases.
  - The development of services to respond to the needs of adults who have been abused.
  - The implementation of the national monitoring system.

The audit must ensure that the 11 standards from 'Safeguarding Adults' are included.
- 15.9 Outcome measures will be developed by both commissioners and providers of services to monitor and evaluate service provision.