

New ACS Safeguarding Adult's service design, Stella article

As you are probably aware, the safeguarding adult team is based at County Hall in Exeter and deals with safeguarding of vulnerable adults, advice and information relating to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and administers and coordinates a process to manage the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

So, what's new?

Three changes in how responses to safeguarding adult alerts are managed have been agreed by SMG to improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness. They are also aimed at reducing the pressure on social workers and managers in integrated teams that this work can create and increase the ability of these teams to focus on reviews, service monitoring and prevention.

1. New Institutional Investigations Team

The safeguarding team already coordinate Institutional or whole home investigations. They have recently started carrying out some investigation review work. The team will now begin employing social workers from independent consultancies to carry out all social care investigation review work for Institutional investigations. We expect this service to be fully functioning by *1st September 09*.

Managers for integrated teams i.e. CCTs, L. Dis. Community Teams, and DPT mental Health will continue to decide on protection plans and their implementation.

2. Safeguarding Adults Team to chair all safeguarding Case Conferences.

Case Conferences follow the completion of Strategy Meetings and completion of the investigation plans agreed at strategy meetings.

The Safeguarding Adults Team is aiming to chair all case conferences arising from alerts that were made after *30th June*. During the summer capacity for chairing case conferences for both pre and post *30th June* alerts is likely to be particularly challenging for CCTs and L. Dis. Community Teams and for the Safeguarding Team. The SA Team will try to support other managers with all case conference chairing as much as possible to avoid delays. Any problems in achieving this will be referred to the Assistant Director responsible for Safeguarding, Jennie Stephens and the relevant operational Assistant Director.

Strategy meetings will decide if a case conference is likely to be needed. The responsible manager will ensure that the Safeguarding Adults Team is informed of the need for a case conference and the time scale for completing the investigation.

Case Conference chairs oversee and ensure compliance with safeguarding Adults procedures and guidance. For non institutional investigations managers in integrated teams will decide on investigation and protection plans and manage their implementation.

3. Coordination of initial response to all safeguarding alerts

Within the Safeguarding Adults Team social workers will undertake initial information gathering and coordinate the initial response to *all* SA alerts that are passed on from Care Direct Plus requiring further safeguarding consideration by ACS.

For non institutional or whole home investigations they will recommend to the investigating social workers and manager in the integrated team what specialist

professional input the investigation will need and the time scale for starting the investigation and any initial or urgent protection actions needed.

This does not include alerts that concern people of working age with mental health problems. For the time being these alerts will continue to go to DPT Mental Health services from Care Direct Plus. We are planning to review this approach with DPT Mental Health services.

The recruitment and training of these social workers and the setting up the processes and management required is likely to take up to *October '09*, dependant on notice periods required from the successful applicants. Temp social work staff may be used to avoid delays in implementing this service.

Impact

These changes are aimed at

- Improving management of the increased volume of safeguarding adults
- Achieving more consistent quality of the safeguarding process
- Enabling staff in integrated teams to focus more on monitoring the quality and safety of services that they are involved in planning, arranging and reviewing in order to improve standards and help prevent abuse.

Review

All these service developments are initially being seen as interim measures that will be reviewed along with all the arrangements for safeguarding services in 12 months

For more information contact Safeguarding Adults Team