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To Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)

Date 10 September 2014

**Subject: Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

To inform Scrutiny Board of the content of the Annual Report of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board 2013/2014. A full copy of the report is attached as an appendix.

**2 Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- a) Consider the contents of the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013/2014 and make any comments on the report which may assist the Safeguarding Board in assuring itself of the effectiveness of safeguarding for adults in Coventry.
- b) Note the analysis of the low rate of conversion of alerts to referrals which relates to a previous Scrutiny Board discussion following on from the Adults Social Care Peer Review in March 2014.

**3 Information/Background – The Board and the Annual Report**

The Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency partnership made up of statutory sector member organisations and other non-statutory partner agencies. An Elected Member also attends the Board as an observer. Under the Care Act, it will become a statutory requirement for each area to have a Safeguarding Adults Board. Coventry has had one in place for a number of years.

The Board has strategic responsibility for the development, co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of multi-agency policies and procedures that safeguard and protect vulnerable adults in Coventry. Through its work, the Board promotes the welfare of adults at risk and their protection from abuse and harm. The Annual Report aims to summarise the key messages around safeguarding and progress made during the year in making improvements and addressing any emerging concerns.

Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board meets quarterly to provide strategic leadership and to set direction. The work of the Board is supported by a number of Sub-Groups that are responsible for developing and managing the delivery of activity to achieve the Board's priorities.

The Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board Sub-Groups for 2013-4 were:

- Executive
- Partnership and Practice Development
- Policy and Procedures
- Quality and Audit
- Serious Case Review
- Workforce Development
- Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Steering Group

To achieve the Board priorities subgroups have drawn up action plans for the year which set out what they plan to do. The Board regularly reviews progress against these priorities and sets new priorities for the year ahead to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Coventry are effective and that positive outcomes are achieved for those people in need of safeguarding.

The Annual Report for 2013-14 explains what safeguarding adults means and introduces the implications of the Care Act 2014, much of which will become effective from April 2015. It also highlights the work of the Board, its partners and sub groups over the previous year and the Board's priorities for the year 2014/15. The five key priorities for the coming year are:

1. **Prevention** - Raising awareness about adult abuse (and the thresholds for abuse) and communicating better with the public.
2. **Quality** - Continuing to focus on quality and auditing services to continually improve the way we work to improve the lives of vulnerable adults in Coventry.
3. **Care Act 2014** -The Board needs to ensure that this legislation is implemented effectively.
4. **Domestic violence and abuse** - Working with the Coventry Police and Crime Board to ensure that knowledge and awareness of domestic violence is embedded in safeguarding adults work and those dealing with domestic violence recognise and respond to the needs of vulnerable adults.
5. **Synergies between safeguarding boards** - Ensuring that it learns from and works effectively with, the Children's Safeguarding Board.

#### 4. Background – Alerts and Referrals

There is an appendix to the Annual Report which includes key data and statistics in relation to Adults Safeguarding. Much of this data is reported quarterly to Board as part of the performance management processes of the Board.

When Scrutiny Board considered the Peer Review report earlier in the year, the issue of the low proportion of alerts which proceed to referrals was raised as a potential concern. Members of the Board will notice that in the report (appendix 2) the rate of conversion of alerts to referrals fell again in 2013/14. There has been some additional analysis of this following on from the publication of the statistics at year end.

Over the five year period, the conversion rate has reduced year on year to the lowest rate of 26% in 2013/14. The 2012/13 England conversion rate was 50%. Within the West Midlands, the average conversion rate is 58% but individual authorities have significantly different rates from a high of 83% of alerts becoming referrals in Telford and Wrekin to a low of Coventry's current figure of 26%. Solihull is the next lowest rate at 29% for this year. This wide variance

does suggest that this process is not being recorded consistently in different areas and so does make comparison more difficult,

Investigation of these figures has highlighted that pressure ulcers make up the second highest proportion of alerts (255 alerts last year 25% of all alerts) yet they result in the lowest conversion rate to referrals at 12%. This may be due to previous policy decisions within Coventry that all pressure ulcers of a certain severity are to be treated as potential safeguarding issues and alerted as such pending further work. This is actually a practice which ensures cases are not missed.

If pressure ulcer alerts were removed from the conversion rate, Coventry's overall conversion rate would increase to 34% for last year, which is above that in Solihull and in line with that in Walsall.

Further analysis of the conversion rate by source of the alert has highlighted a potential issue around low conversion rates for alerts from the ambulance service and hospital ward staff. This may require further investigation and possibly more awareness raising of thresholds in these groups.

Both the City Council and the Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to monitor the rate of conversion of alerts to referrals. The Quality and Audit sub group of the Board includes this indicator within its indicator set and will be reporting quarterly to the Board on any areas of concern.

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