

Minutes of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19 March 2008

Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds

2 pm – 4 pm

Present:

Mike Evans (Chair)	Leeds Adult Social Care
Paul Hardy	Leeds Adult Social Care
Jim Traynor	Leeds Adult Social Care
Christine Thornton	Leeds PCT
Julie Mason	Leeds MH Partnership Foundation Trust
Shola Johnson	Leeds MH Partnership Foundation Trust
Nancy Hill	Ex - Leeds PCT
Matthew Orton	Leisure and Learning
Joy Fisher	The Alliance of Service Users & Carers
Heather Jackson	PA to Joy Fisher
Jackie Marsden	Leeds Care Association
Julie Brown	Leeds Care Association
Angela Mkandla	Leeds PCT Strategic Partnership & Development Teams (Older People & Disabled People)
Karen Goor	Ridings Law Solicitors
Ray Ellis	Age Concern
Sally Mansfield	Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
Patricia McCausland	Legal Services LCC
Adrian Cornelissen	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Norman Sterling-Baxter	Leeds Safeguarding Adults Unit
Christine Clark	Leeds Safeguarding Adults Unit
Marion Bunyan (Minutes)	Leeds Safeguarding Adults Unit

Apologies:

Emma Mortimer	Leeds Safeguarding Adults Unit
Claire Linley	Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
Paul Wright	Advocacy Network
David Rosser	Social Care
Diane Boyne	Leeds PCT
Ian Poskitt	West Yorkshire Police
Lorna Robbins	Leeds MH Partnership Foundation Trust
Peter Westhead	Commission for Social Care Inspection
Pam Wisnia	Leeds Jewish Welfare Board

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and everybody introduced themselves. A warm welcome was given to Adrian Cornelissen from the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Jackie Marsden and Julie Brown from the Leeds Care Association, who recently joined the Safeguarding Adults Committee.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 Modernisation Boards

Further invitations to join the Safeguarding Adults Committee have been sent out to the

Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and the Healthcare Commission.

Peter Westhead has established a contact with the Healthcare Commission. George Gill will be joining the committee at the next meeting.

2.2 Committee Sub-Groups

Only the Training Sub-group is operational at the moment.

2.3 Information Sharing Protocol

The Leeds Inter-agency Information Sharing Protocol has been circulated to members of the Committee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be correct.

3 Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults – Next steps for the Leeds Partnership – Mike Evans

A report of the audit carried out into safeguarding adults has raised some important issues:

- The need for further development of the multi-agency partnership
- The need to develop performance management and quality assurance systems
- The requirement further develop Adult Social Care ESCR recording system and other monitoring systems in line with the proposed Department of Health National Reporting Standards
- A need for clarity of roles and development of safeguarding definitions and thresholds
- The redraft of the multi-agency policies and procedures

An action plan to address these issues will be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Christine Clark to send out audit report to members of the committee.

4 Performance Improvement Project – Christine Clark and Emma Mortimer, Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinators

This item was discussed under agenda item 3.

5 Training Report – Norman Sterling-Baxter, Training and Development Officer

The report was mailed with the agenda.

Around a 1000 people across the city have been trained in the last year. This figure includes the safeguarding adults training provided by organisations who have attended the Training for Trainers Courses. Consideration is being given on how to implement and use E-learning across the partnership. Norman led a workshop on institutional abuse at a recent conference. He is keeping up to date with the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and is changing the training programme from a response approach to a more structured framework. The focus is to provide a mixture of both.

6 Training Audit Report – Norman Sterling-Baxter, Training and Development Officer

The report was mailed to members with the agenda.

The training audit has highlighted shortfalls and difficulties, the majority of which the multi-agency training sub-groups was aware. A lack of training resources is a major issue and

needs to be addressed. Shortfalls within training provision for Social Care are being met by LCC Employee Development Unit, which now also provides Safeguarding Adults Awareness training courses. Safeguarding Adults Training has been cascaded to 400 people through the Training the Trainer Courses.

7 Training Sub-Group Report – Christine Thornton, Leeds PCT and Chair of Sub-Group

The report was mailed to members with the agenda.

Christine Thornton of the PCT has been elected the first chair of the Training Sub-group on a six monthly rota. The group is busy implementing the multi-agency strategy and is currently working through the action plan. Attendance to the group varies but work is progressing well. The group needs to find out how other agencies feed into the overall remit of safeguarding training and the group will monitor and collate this information. The Fire Service is willing to get involved.

The future of training provision was discussed, including consideration of what form of training is needed to raise awareness. The group agreed that basic training should link into improvements gained through learning progress from case outcomes and be delivered to a wider range of people and professions. A discussion was held about the trend of professional training being geared towards more sophisticated care rather than general awareness.

The need to develop training that addresses the lower level of concerns, e.g. standards of care, support problems and moving towards prevention of abuse rather than responding was recognised.

8 Serious Case Review Procedure – Christine Clark, Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator

The final draft of the Serious Case Review Procedure, which was sent to members with the agenda has now been revised and a copy has been forwarded to the Chief Executive of Leeds PCT for clearing and signing.

Action: Christine Thornton to chase up progress with the PCT

Three potential cases have been identified in Leeds that could be dealt with under the Serious Case Review Procedure. When it is felt to be appropriate the protocol is to be enacted prior to full and final agreement with the PCT as there are cases to be reviewed. Questions were raised whether the procedure should run alongside homicide and other investigations. It was decided depending on the situation and if the need arises the Serious Case Review should run alongside other investigations as its primary purpose is one of learning and improvement.

9 Safeguarding Dignity and Choice Conference, 8th January 2008 – Mike Evans

A major conference for practitioners, their managers and colleagues from partner agencies, voluntary sector and independent sector was held on 8th January 08. One hundred and sixty people attended including members of the Committee who found the conference interesting, valuable and opened up new perspectives. The purpose of the conference was to raise the question: 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults with Dignity. Are we up to the task?' The proposal is to focus on the messages that came out of the conference and plan appropriate responses. An action plan will be passed to the training sub-group and the Committee for discussion to ensure implementation and any training addressed the issues raised.

10 Consideration of the difference between safeguarding and protecting vulnerable adults.

The focus of safeguarding is to prevent situations coming to a crisis. This is a change of focus for our work and protection has become a sub-category of safeguarding. The difference in definition could support the development of thresholds for different levels of intervention, providing a range of responses to issues e.g. poor recording, re-training and poor practice issues which are hidden through lack of understanding. The focus is the right support by the right people at the right time.

The Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust has recently renewed its safeguarding policy in light of this change.

Action: The LPFT policy document to be shared.

The change in definition challenges societal views about allowing /exercising levels of risk by vulnerable adults and brings in the issue of different standards of living needing consideration. The importance of raising awareness, providing information on what is safeguarding, an improved level of recording processes and involving service users in cases and decisions are all stressed to be vital. Under duty of care risky situation/cases need to be returned to rather than closed after one assessment. Questions were raised about:

- How far do you take safeguarding? – e.g. for children is cycling proficiency and road safety included?
- What are the processes for early action/intervention?
- How do you address risks that are not abuse? - More support may be required not a protective response
- Balance of risk, support and safeguards is not easy, e.g. what are the responsibilities in Learning Disability service users with sexual relationships?
- The right of vulnerable adults to make the wrong decision. How can vulnerable adults exercise their rights? How to deal with this? A better level of recording, education and repeat visits were suggested. A clear understanding on what are the overall needs of vulnerable adults is paramount.

It was suggested that the Committee have an away day to discuss these issues further. More details are to be given at future meetings.

11 News and current issues in safeguarding work – update from each agency

Age Concern :

- Ray Ellis announced his forthcoming retirement. Mike Evans on behalf of the Committee thanked Ray Ellis for all his support over the past years to the Committee.

Leeds PCT :

- The PCT is busy slotting everything together and re-organising, picking up and identifying work to be done in the future.

Leeds Care Association:

- A new member from the Leeds Care Association will be joining the committee from the next meeting onwards.

The Alliance of Service Users and Carers:

- Concern has been raised by the Alliance of a move nationally to replace wardens at sheltered housing complexes with Telecare. The Alliance is asking if this is to be

resisted locally amid concerns that services users could be put at risk and leaving vulnerable people to feel more isolated. Mike Evans said that the Telecare board are looking at this and working on assistive technology as helping people to have contact.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service:

- The Fire Service has recently joined the Committee and through their work in the community have recognised the importance of safeguarding. The Service is actively working within the community, developing a multi-agency approach and planning to set up training in safeguarding adults. The Fire Service is looking forward to getting more involved with safeguarding.

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Unit:

- Norman is developing a schedule of courses for Supporting People
- Christine is setting up a publication circulation list

Leeds MH Partnership Foundation Trust:

- The Trust now has dedicated Safeguarding Adults Enquiry Co-ordinators who work with Service Users on a 24 hour response basis. This service should reduce some of the work for Adult Social Care Safeguarding Adults Enquiry Co-ordinators.

Mike Evans announced that the next Committee meeting will be his last as he is retiring after the 18 June 08. It is hoped that the new chair of the Committee is going to be present at the next meeting.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 18 June 08
2 – 4 pm, Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds

Wednesday 17 September 08
2 – 4 pm, Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds