

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****11 February 2010****LGA Safeguarding Adults Conference: 20 January 2010, Leeds**

County Councillor David Jeffels, Chairman of the Safe and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended the above Conference. He has prepared the following report, which your Chairman agreed to circulate with your agenda, bearing in mind its relevance to the Safeguarding Report and presentation from the Corporate Director, Adult and Community Services.

1. The conference was held to improve the work currently being done in the safeguarding of adults and to ensure that councillors and decision makers are kept abreast of developments in delivery services.
2. It covered such issues as abuse - physical, sexual, psychological, financial, material, neglect and discriminatory (racist, disability, sexist etc). It was emphasised that all councillors have a responsibility in relation to safeguarding adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable, in the roles as scrutiny committee members Executive and lead service champions.
3. Abuse, delegates were told can happen anywhere - work, college hospital day centre, or leisure centres. There was a need to learn from inspection reports, and to provide person-centred support. Safeguarding adults enables them to retain their independence, well being and choice, and "to access their right to a life free from abuse and neglect".
4. TIM HIND, Senior Policy Consultant, LGA: Abuse is something which can be done to a person or can be neglect, or an act of omission. Need to enthuse councillors who may not be aware of safeguarding or its need and implications. He suggested setting up neighbourhood community schemes and to persuade parish councils to become involved.
5. RICHARD JONES, Exec Director of Adult and Community Services, Lancashire CC and Vice President of Adult Social Services: Still a significant way to go with the public in safeguarding adults. Need to pull together safeguard procedures.
6. GILL POOLE, NHS Confederation, Hull and East Riding: Adult services are 15 years behind those affecting children. There is little participation of GP's and little NHS leadership. All parts of the NHS need to be involved.

Future issues include the creation of designated health leaders, training to be mandatory, setting up of regional forums on safeguarding, clarifying incident reporting.

7. CATHIE WILLIAMS, Adult Safeguarding Lead, IDeA: Adult safeguarding needs strong leadership and multi-agency working. It impacts upon community safety, hate crime, domestic violence, human rights and vulnerable people. IDeA is involved in a Peer Review on training, and developing a scrutiny toolkit.
8. Challenges for 2010 include possible new legislation and guidance, support for abused people, and developing new models of social work.
9. PENNY FURNESS-SMITH, Safeguarding Network Chair, Adult Social Services: Safeguarding is a priority. The "No Secrets" guidance is being updated. There is a need to share best practice with agencies and authorities.
10. Various workshops were held on how successful safeguarding boards and partnerships work; supporting people who have experienced abuse; community leadership; and developing confident safeguarding practice.
11. If anyone would like further information, please let me know.

County Councillor David Jeffels
Chairman
Safe and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 February 2010

Background Documents: Nil