

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 OCTOBER 2013

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL ABUSE OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE BRIEFING

Scrutiny Members met on Friday, 20 September 2013

Present:

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors: John Ennis, Helen Grant, John McCartney, John Savage

Voluntary Sector Representative: Jon Carling

Officers: Ruth Andrews (Trading Standards), Sally Anderson (HAS), Ian Spicer (HAS), Ray Busby

1. Members received a briefing on the various ways vulnerable people can suffer financial abuse and its impact upon individuals, services and communities.
2. After this briefing, Members believed their work could follow three inter-related approaches:
 1. Ensure the Board had the right policies, effective processes were in place and activity to protect people was effective.
 2. Raising awareness of the prevalence of financial abuse at a strategic level.
 3. Invite strategic leaders to confirm their commitment to this agenda and that they were confident it was receiving the appropriate degree of attention within their organisations.
3. The Project Plan was therefore considered an appropriate means by which to start the work which would focus in on the key themes in paragraph 2.1:
 - Consider the extent of the problem of financial abuse against vulnerable adults

- Examine the range of strategic actions being undertaken to combat and reduce the threat
 - Are safeguarding processes sufficiently developed and is best practice being followed?
 - Are preventative measures and responses being tailored to take account of the nature of the perpetrator, the detail of the crime; level of vulnerability of the adult and the potential impact on the vulnerable person.
4. In the short-term Members encouraged officers to prepare a project approach which would combine visits and discussions with key organisations to determine current practice and activity. Separating out various facets of financial abuse might help plan the project more easily.
 5. In making this report to Committee the Members present also encourage further Members of the Committee to indicate they would wish to take an active part.
 6. The likely timescale for completion of the review was set somewhere in the region of six months.

Recommendation

1. That the Committee note the discussion of the first meeting.
2. Approve the Project Report as final.
3. Await further information along the lines suggested. Any Members who were not able to take part in the briefing meeting on 20 September are invited to indicate whether they would wish to take an active part in this review.

Ray Busby
Corporate Development Officer

24 September 2013