

TO: 2gether NHS Foundation Trust Board

FROM: Responsible Director – Director of Nursing, Social Care and Allied Health Professionals

DATE: 30th March 2009

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Adults arrangements

PURPOSE

In November 2008, the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (Commission for Social Care Inspectorate) published a report entitled 'Safeguarding Adults - a study of the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard adults from abuse'.

The report provides a national oversight of the arrangements in place for safeguarding adults as described in 'No Secrets' 2001 (guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse).

This paper considers the arrangements within 2gether NHS Foundation Trust in the context of the county-wide arrangements in Gloucestershire.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Awareness-raising and training in how to access 'Safeguarding' processes is the most important element of successful arrangements. 2gether NHS Foundation Trust has adequate levels of training in place
- Successful 'Safeguarding' processes have engagement from very senior Managers. 2gether NHS Foundation Trust engages with 'Safeguarding' processes at Executive level.
- Policies and procedures need to be consistent across all partner agencies and easily accessible and available for staff. 2gether NHS Foundation Trust is a signatory of the county-wide 'Safeguarding' processes and procedures and adopts them formally. These are available on the intranet.
- Successful processes have an identified lead in each organisation. 2gether NHS Foundation Trust does not have an identified lead. However, advice on 'Safeguarding' can be sought from the 'Safeguarding Children' lead and the Social Care Specialists who have experience in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To note the report
- To endorse the approach taken by 2gether NHS Foundation Trust to training, engagement, and policy and procedure management
- To consider whether an identified lead for 'Safeguarding Adults' would be appropriate for the Trust.

WHICH TRUST KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES DOES THIS PAPER PROGRESS OR CHALLENGE?			
Supporting clinical care	p	Skilled workforce	p
Getting the basics right	p	Using better information	
Social inclusion		Financial efficiency	
Seeking involvement		Legislation	p

WHICH TRUST VALUES DOES THIS PAPER PROGRESS OR CHALLENGE?			
Seeing from a service user perspective			p
Excelling and improving	p	Inclusive open and honest	
Responsive	p	Can do	
Valuing and respectful	p	Efficient	

REVIEWED BY:	
	Date
	Date
Forums / Community groups whose views have been sought	
	Date

1. Context

The 'No Secrets' Guidance 2001 was published in response to the coming into force of the Human Rights Act 1998. It places an obligation on all agencies to cooperate in the identification and management of the protection of vulnerable adults. In 2008, the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate published an oversight of the effectiveness of the arrangements. Although Gloucestershire was not one of the counties included in the supporting survey, it was timely for 2gether NHS Foundation Trust to review its arrangements in the context of the national recommendations.

2gether NHS Foundation Trust has recently been engaged in the Safeguarding Adults process. The trust has also been subject to public criticism for an incident that occurred over 4 years ago for which the 'Safeguarding Adults' process might have been appropriate. For those reasons, and to ensure our processes are robust going forward, it is important that the Board receives assurance on this matter.

2. Current Position

The report makes a number of key recommendations for the successful delivery of Safeguarding Adult process. Many of the recommendations apply to Local Authorities as they are identified as the lead agency in these processes. However, recommendations in the areas of training, engagement, policy management, and governance management are relevant to 2gether NHS Foundation Trust.

2.1 Training

Training in Safeguarding Adults processes and procedures is mandatory for all Team Leaders/Ward Managers and Social Workers with the requirement for them to pass the information on to their teams. Any 'Safeguarding' issues identified by team members are likely to be raised with the Managers in the first instance. Safeguarding Adults processes are also mentioned as part of Induction training.

This level of training in the organisation is considered adequate for a 'non-lead' partner but could be improved upon.

2.2 Level of engagement

The Trust is rarely engaged in formal Safeguarding Adults processes. This is mainly because our client group – whilst vulnerable – are well supported through Care Management processes. Any engagement we do have is dealt with at Executive level. This is recommended as good practice in the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate report.

2.3 Policy and Process Management.

The Trust is a named signatory on the county-wide policy and process. These are checked for compliance with NHSLA and then adopted. Policies and procedures to be adopted by all signatories is recommended as good practice in the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate report.

2.4 Safeguarding Adults lead

The Trust does not have a 'Safeguarding Adults' lead post which is a recommendation of good practice in the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate report. However, the function is implicit in all employees and is part of professional Codes of Practice. It is also an area of expertise covered by the Social Care Lead and the locality-based Social Care Specialists. The board can be assured the function is addressed. However, it may wish to consider the development of an identified post.

Hazel Watson

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