



## **Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)**

### **Key Messages – Wednesday 15 August 2012**

#### **Winterbourne View Serious Case Review**

The Board received details from the recent Serious Case Review into the abuse and neglect at Winterbourne View Hospital. The review was commissioned by the Safeguarding Adults Board following the disclosure last year of the abuse of adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Recommendations include a call for greater investment in community-based care in order to reduce the need for in-patient admissions at assessment, treatment and rehabilitation units such as Winterbourne View Hospital.

The report highlights the need for outcome-based commissioning for hospitals detaining people with learning disabilities and autism and says that the use of restraint in which patients are laid on the ground with staff using their body weight to restrain them should be discontinued in any care setting.

The report also calls for notifications of concern, including safeguarding alerts, hospital admissions and police attendances, to be better co-ordinated and shared amongst safeguarding organisations to allow earlier identification of potential problems and earlier action to be taken.

The recommendations from the report will continue to be considered by the Board and implemented where appropriate.

Details of the SCR can be downloaded from the following website <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/exeres/DDE51D39-E8AC-4343-8DDA-7F08B03CBA10>

#### **White paper 'Caring for our Future'**

The Board received an update about the White Paper which includes proposals and the Governments vision for the future. The key themes and challenges that relevant to the Board include:

- An increased legal duty placed on local authorities around prevention and early intervention.
- Establishing a national minimum eligibility threshold.
- A national approach to providing information about care and support.
- Enhancing multi-agency integrated care provision.
- Personal budgets and self directed care.
- Placing dignity and respect at the heart of new codes of conduct and introducing minimum trainings standards.
- A commitment to improving the quality of the social care workforce.

The Government will also legislate to make Local Safeguarding Adults Boards statutory which will clarify the responsibility of Board members and the requirement for agencies to work together to prevent abuse.

The White Paper has set out a range of actions which the Government and local agencies will take forward immediately to reform care and support. Other actions will be implemented over the next three to five years.

The Board will continue to focus on the reforms and develop actions as appropriate.

### **Homes of Multiple Occupations**

The Board received an update about the local issues relating to Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Locally there are 41 HMOs offering 519 beds. They are not commissioned services, but privately run businesses that attract vulnerable adults.

The particular safeguarding concerns include:

- Housing standard issues
- Anti-social behaviour
- Exploitation
- Additional vulnerabilities e.g. substance misuse

In Blackburn with Darwen a multi-agency group has been established to identify the HMOs, involve key agencies in assessing levels of risk and improving the standards and facilities.

To date the group have developed HMO standards, consulted to planning application processes, information sharing protocols, inspection visits and have contributed to the removal of high risk HMOs from the Government sponsored accommodation list.

The next steps in relation to monitoring HMOs in Blackburn with Darwen include:

- Investigating housing benefit claims;

- Deterring inappropriate out of Borough referrals;
- Improvement plans for high risk HMOs;
- Raising awareness of safeguarding expectations and standards within the HMOs; and
- Strengthening the multi-agency involvement and support.

The Board agreed to establish a link to the multi-agency group and continue to include HMOs in the annual business plan.

### **Consultation on New Safeguarding Power**

The Board received a consultation document from the Department of Health to seek views as to whether new powers should be introduced to support local authorities to have power of entry, when they are making enquiries where they have safeguarding concerns about an adult.

Given the complexity of the topic the Board agreed to convene a 'task and finish' group to consider the consultation document and feedback to the Board in due course.