

# OXFORDSHIRE VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING BOARD

Health & Well-Being Partnership Board  
presentation

# Establishing Vulnerable Adults Boards

- ▣ “No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse” (DH, 2000)
  
- ▣ The followed well publicised concerns in respect of:
  - Residential care homes for the elderly
  - Services for adults with learning difficulties
  - The abuse of adults with physical disabilities
  - Domiciliary care provision

# Definition of adult abuse

- ▣ “... a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to a vulnerable person. This abuse can be translated into various forms: physical, psychological/emotional, sexual, financial, or simply reflect intentional or unintentional neglect.”

# The aims of the Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Board

- ▣ enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control in their lives
- ▣ promote the wellbeing, security and safety of vulnerable people consistent with their rights, capacity and personal responsibility, and prevent abuse occurring wherever possible
- ▣ ensure that people feel able to complain without fear of retribution
- ▣ ensure safeguarding is integral to the development and delivery of services in Oxfordshire
- ▣ ensure that all incidents of suspected abuse or neglect are reported and proportionate action is taken to safeguard the rights, welfare and best interests of the person concerned.

# Membership

- ▣ Oxfordshire County Council
- ▣ Thames Valley Police
- ▣ Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust
- ▣ Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
- ▣ Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Mental Healthcare Trust
- ▣ The Ridgeway Partnership (learning disability) NHS Trust
- ▣ Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust
- ▣ The Care Quality Commission
- ▣ Oxfordshire Citizens Housing Association
- ▣ Probation
- ▣ Representatives of Service user Organisations

# Structure

- ▣ The Board
  
- ▣ Sub-Committees
  - Policy and Procedures
  - Training
  - Serious Cases

# National context

- ▣ Review of 'No-Secrets'
- ▣ The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) was introduced to create the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) which registers all those eligible to work with vulnerable adults or children and manages a vetting and barring system.
- ▣ The Implementation of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 ensures protection for those vulnerable people who cannot make decisions for themselves.

# National context

- ▣ Personalisation, or Self Directed Support
- ▣ Learning from the review of children's Safeguarding by Lord Laming

# Priorities for the Board for 2009/10

- Understanding and addressing the reasons for lower rates of referrals from some groups.
- Improving the quality of case recording which is currently inconsistent.
- Improving public awareness.
- Improving performance management.
- Consistent multi-agency policies and procedures available from the intranet and Safe from Harm website.

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# Priorities for the Board for 2009/10

- ▣ Adequate arrangements for young people who are approaching transition into adulthood.
- ▣ Improved information on outcomes of Safeguarding referrals and on personal outcomes of those cases.
- ▣ Improving our targeting of hard-to-reach groups.
- ▣ Improving quality by making sure 90% of registered care services in Oxfordshire will be awarded as a 'good' or 'excellent' provider by 2012.

# Auditing

- ▣ Monthly audit of 30 cases
- ▣ February
  - 77% assessed as adequate or good
  - no cases identified as un-safeguarded
  - Shortfall has been recording or communication issues
  - There is feedback to managers

# Provisional priorities for 2010/11

- ▣ To improve safeguarding outcomes for vulnerable adults
- ▣ Improve training on working together to safeguard vulnerable adults
- ▣ Strengthen the contribution of agencies to Vulnerable Adults Board
- ▣ Improve completion rates for safeguarding referrals
- ▣ Identify performance indicators for the Board

# Volume

- ▣ 403 referrals for safeguarding in 2009/10
- ▣ 903 so far this year
- ▣ 124% increase on year

# Review of No Secrets

- ❑ the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group (IDMG) on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult
- ❑ producing new, comprehensive, multi-agency guidance clearly setting out the roles and responsibilities for all those involved in safeguarding vulnerable adults by autumn 2010 and
- ❑ the introduction of new legislation to strengthen the local governance of safeguarding by putting Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing