

Manchester Older Peoples Network Meeting - October 29 – Cross Street.

Notes based on the discussions at the meeting re: **Safeguarding Adults.**

Present : Emma Sleith & Jenny Merron – Alzheimers Society
Ahmed Lambat – LMCP
Dr BC Das – Indian Senior Citizens
Eileen Moore & Damien Deplaca – Link Age
Janet Tysoe – Tree of Life
Carmel O’Conner – Irish Community Care
Tony Murray – Catholic Welfare
Mike Wild & Mary Duncan- MACC

Apologies : Maggie Walker, John Taylor, Admiral Nurses

Personalisation and Safeguarding

Setting the Scene

‘Putting People First’ sets out the conditions needed for the social care reforms to work. The broad concepts are those of choice, control, personalization and citizenship. The Government Reforms are now well under way with the publication of the official evaluation of the 13 pilots for Individual Budgets, (IBSEN) and the Green Paper on the future funding of social care due to be published in the Spring.

The pace of change is rapid, particularly here in Manchester, where 1900 people are now in receipt of their own Individual Budgets and The findings from the pilots were positive, except for many older people who are reported as finding the planning and managing of their own support difficult. There is also some question over the improvement of outcomes for older people on IBs. The rush to personalisation could deny people access to quality services and give them less choice.

See Connections –MACC report from the VCS meeting 14.05.08

The Green Paper on funding social care is due to be published next Spring. Options being discussed include the preferred partnership model between the State and the individual, insuring for social care needs and free social care (as in Scotland) but we know that the Government are not going to consider the latter. There still exists the need for clarity over what social care should provide, but this ongoing debate has been lost in the political stampede to introduce the reforms.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) have recently published a review of eligibility criteria for social care called **Cutting the Cake Fairly**

The first part of the Local Authority's duty is to carry out an assessment of a person's needs- legally, this is not affected by the changes to the financial systems which self directed support is bringing about, but we do know that FACS is used to control budgets and efficiency savings by Councils tend to come from older age budgets.

We know that tighter eligibility criteria denies more and more people who may need the services, access to them. We were therefore pleased to hear CSCI say ' that the key issue is not simply the interpretation of the criteria used to assess people's eligibility for publicly funded care and support, but the amount of resources currently allocated - the size of the cake itself '
Cutting the Cake Fairly October 2008. www.csci@accessplus.co.uk

Consultation on No Secrets Guidance

The Local Authority has a duty to take responsible steps to safeguard individuals from abuse or life threatening events. (articles 2 & 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights) Manchester, like other Councils leads on the safeguarding work for children and adults, but it is clearly ***everybody's business***, not just the City Council's. It is important to remember that the ultimate intention of safeguarding policies is to prevent the abuse of children and vulnerable adults. This is the main reason (but not the only reason) why the VCS should participate in the safeguarding boards.

The Department of Health, the Criminal Justice System and the Home Office have recently published a consultation document on the review of the '**No Secrets' Guidance for safeguarding adults**. Comments have to be in by **January 31st**. Initially the Government wanted to revise the guidance without introducing a new legislative framework, and yet, as we have mentioned, the drive to personalisation and the social care reforms forces people away from legislatively protected services and into an unregulated market governed only by guidance (well argued by Action on Elder Abuse)

There is now a real opportunity to contribute to the debate and for organisations to involve service users and carers in the consultation.
The meeting agreed to discuss further and therefore MACC has organised a meeting in the MACC office to discuss the proposals on:

Wednesday November 26th at 10am until 11.30 am, in the MACC office.

The key demand from Action on Elder Abuse is for adult protection legislation. You can read their policy paper at www.elderabuse.org.uk/apcoords.htm
The call for legislation has been debated but not acted on in the past.

MACC's theme for our last Connections was Safeguarding.(Autumn 2008) In this edition you will find articles on the new Independent Safeguarding Authority, MCC'S decision to ask all people who use Individual Budgets to ensure that their personal assistants must be CRB checked, and an article on Safeguarding and Advocacy.

Social workers are calling for compulsory regulation of people employed directly by service users but the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) fear that this would not be practical or workable.

The Manchester Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) members are meeting to discuss the draft guidance on November 24th, so we should be better informed! (VCS members include Hanif Bobat, Jane Barcoe, David Williams and myself, Mary Duncan. Jaya Graves attends the meetings on behalf of the Valuing Older People's Board.)

We have been asked to appoint a deputy from each of our organisations to share the workload with us and attend when we cannot.

Advocacy and Safeguarding – the MSAB has accepted the principal that advocacy makes an important contribution to safeguarding, especially as a preventative tool. Teresa Bell from ADASS who has a joint lead on safeguarding is quoted as saying 'improved advocacy was crucial to reconciling personalisation and safety.'

By responding to the Government's consultation we have an opportunity (once again) to argue that advocacy makes an important contribution to safeguarding, especially as a preventative tool. Through the MSAB we need to get this message over to commissioners. As we are aware, commissioning plays a major part in personalisation and we need to support and develop the right kind of services locally that not only provide choice and control for individuals, but can protect vulnerable adults from abuse.

Training is also crucial to the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding. Workforce Planning and Development have arranged training on understanding abuse and neglect as well as policies and procedures. A list of training opportunities has been circulated and is available on the MACC website. In case you have missed this, please turn the page!

[Adult Social Care Workforce Planning and Development Service.](#)

Course for the Voluntary, Independent and Community Sectors.

**Safeguarding Adults, Level 1 : Recognising and Responding to Abuse
Friday 5th December.**

**Contact Victoria Willshaw, 0161 203 2274, email
victoria.willshaw@manchester.gov.uk**

**Safeguarding Adults, Level 2: Investigating Allegations of Abuse
Friday 28th November.**

Contact Victoria Willshaw for further information (as above)

Safeguarding for Managers of Services :

**Thursday 4th December 12.30-4pm at Cornbrook Enterprise Centre.
70 Quenby St, Hulme. (one place left!)**

**And Thursday 15th January 2009 fro 9.30-1.30 at Victoria Mill
(Advocacy Services will be given priority places)**

There is also a conference in Manchester on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
On Wednesday December 3 at the Manchester Conference Centre. Though
the programme sounds interesting the fees are £290 for VCS organisations.
Contact Healthcare Events 020 8541 1399 for further information.

**If you can attend the No Secrets consultation meeting at MACC, please
confirm with us on 0161 834 9823. or email mary@macc.org.uk.**

Mary Duncan 02.11.08