

**HERTFORDSHIRE ADULT PROTECTION
ANNUAL REPORT**

APRIL 2006 – MARCH 2007

REPORT FOR THE:

HERTFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS COMMITTEE

1 ADULT PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

February 2000 to March 2007

	EPD	LD	MH	TOTAL
Feb 2000 – March 2001	88	144	8	240
April 201 – March 2002	19	76	0	98
April 2002 – March 2003	20	65	1	86
April 2003 – March 2004	20	50	4	74
April 2004 – March 2005	32	54	7	93
April 2005 – March 2006	35	110	24	169
April 2006 – March 2007	236	58	31	325
February 2000 – March 2007	470	557	75	1102

Comment:

In the last year there has been a marked increase in the number of investigations that have been reported by teams for older people and people with physical disabilities (EPD Teams). The apparent reduction in Learning Disability (LD) cases is due to data quality issues.

An accurate picture of the number of investigations being carried out by the investigating teams is yet to be achieved, which continues to make it difficult to analyse adult protection activity in Hertfordshire.

A Safeguarding Adults from Abuse referral and monitoring screen is being developed which should make it possible to capture information from the electronic client record systems, IRIS and Care notes, (see work plan).

2 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS FROM ABUSE POLICY

- The revision of the policy is largely complete, subject to consultation and minor alterations.
- The name of the policy has been changed reflecting the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) guidance on safeguarding adults and to reduce confusion between Adult Protection and the Department of Health (DoH) Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) guidance.
- The Adult Protection Committee is now called The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Committee.
- The revised policy has been structured as follows:

Part 1:
The Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Policy:

- (a) Section 3 has been rewritten to further clarify roles and responsibilities of the investigating teams.
Providers
Police
CSCI
- (b) Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Strategy Meetings to be held within 3 working days in an emergency or 10 working days (Section 4).
- (c) Mental Capacity Act requirements in Sections 4 & 5.
- (d) The process of decision making in Serious Concerns Meetings has been clarified (Section 6) and the name changed to Serious Concerns (about service providers to vulnerable adults).
- (e) Additional guidance has been added in Section 8 concerning the death of a vulnerable adult, false allegations and serious case reviews.

Part 2:
Essential Guidance:

10 appendices including:

- (a) POVA and adult protection
- (b) The role of the Principal Officer
- (c) The role of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)
- (d) Mental Capacity
- (e) Updated Legal Section

Templates for Strategy Meetings have been updated. Serious Concerns Meetings template and Serious Concerns Action Plan template have been added.

**Part 3:
Additional Guidance:**

Contains national guidance for reference; this includes:

- a. No secrets (DoH)
- b. Safeguarding Adults (ADSS)
- c. Safeguarding Adults (CSCI)
- d. IMCA and Safeguarding Adults (ADSS)
- e. Achieving Best Evidence (Herts Police)

Distribution:

Parts 1 and 2 of the policy will be available in hard copy by request, although use of electronic copies will be encouraged.

Part 3 will only be available electronically. It is anticipated that new national guidance concerning safeguarding adults will be added to part 3 on a continuous basis.

The policy will be available to Adult Care Service staff on Herts Connect; other services will use their own intranet sites.

For the first time the policy will be available on the Hertfordshire County Council public website, Herts Direct.

3 ADULT PROTECTION DATABASE

The database has now been set up. Electronic/paper copies of the Monitoring Form sent to the Principal Officer, Safeguarding Adults, are added when received.

The Department of Health have yet to provide details on the national database.

4 HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE

The role of the Police and the investigating teams has been clarified in the revised Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Policy.

The Western, Central and Eastern police areas continue to make specialist police officers available in relation to vulnerable adults.

There is a need for information to be shared by the police in relation to the number of allegations that fall within the safeguarding adults remit.

5 TRAINING

The training work group has identified the enormous task required to ensure that anyone who works with vulnerable adults receives awareness training.

- a. Consideration is being given to an E Learning Programme which could be made available via the internet (see work plan).
- b. Face to face training has continued to be available to :
- c. Investigating teams (ACS) – ½ day induction and adult protection update (Alan Hadwin and Christine McNally).
- d. Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust – training for staff organised by Anne Payne.
- e. Providers ACS and P & V Sector – awareness training presented by Christine McNally and individual providers by Alan Hadwin.

6 MENTAL CAPACITY ACT

Mental Capacity Act guidelines for the Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Policy have been written by Ann Norway, Principal Officer.

7 POVA REFERENCE GROUP (DoH)

Hertfordshire continues to be represented at this DoH reference group which convenes 3 to 4 times a year.

Feedback given on POVA referrals - the main issue being the variable quality of information given by employers. This leads to delayed decision making as to whether or not an employee should be included on the POVA list.

The national vetting and barring scheme will be implemented in the autumn of 2008. Extensive consultation concerning the operation of the scheme will take place in the next year.

8 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The signing of the MOU between the County Council and the Hertfordshire Care Providers Association (HCPA) prompted the inclusion of HCPA on the Safeguarding Adults Committee. The information pathway that this has opened has been seen by the independent sector and the council as being very beneficial.

**9 HERTFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN
APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008**

Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Policy:

Launch event July 2007

Policy to be implemented on 1 September 2007.

Policy to be made available on hertsdirect.org and employer intranet sites.

Contracted Provider services to be written to with details of how to access the policy and to be sent a laminated display summary.

Action by: Alan Hadwin

Training:

Training group to consider commissioning a Safeguarding Adults E Learning Programme from Kwango, which will be amended to meet the requirements of the Hertfordshire multi-agency policy.

Action by: Alan Hadwin, Martin Wigg, Christine McNally, Anne Payne, Richard Whickman.

Training on the revised policy for Managers and Senior Practitioners of the investigating teams.

Action by: Alan Hadwin

Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Referral and Monitoring Screen:

Develop the referral and monitoring screen which incorporates referral information and monitoring form requirements.

Action by: Alan Hadwin, Trish Orme, Debbie Peaty and Lesley Houghton.

Hertfordshire Action on Elder Abuse Project:

The 6 months project will run between April 2008 to October 2008. Three home care block contract providers within the Watford, Three Rivers and Dacorum area will contact service users informing them they can contact Action on Elder Abuse if they have concerns about abuse. Family carers and staff will also be given the same information. A project group will lead work to establish the project, and will monitor referrals and issues arising.

Action by: Alan Hadwin, Steve Goodlad, ACS Contracts, Alison Brown.

DoH POVA Reference Group:

Continue to attend meetings concerning POVA and the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Respond to consultation on the vetting and barring scheme.

Action by: Alan Hadwin, Trish Orme

Public Information Leaflet:

Following implementation of the Safeguarding Adults from Abuse Policy, revised public information leaflet to be prepared.

Action by: Alan Hadwin, Trish Orme, and Alison Brown.

Police:

Develop consistent referral system for police involvement in safeguarding adults from abuse investigations.

Actioned by: Alan Hadwin, Vulnerable Persons Unit.

**ALAN HADWIN
PRINCIPAL OFFICER SAFEGUARDING ADULTS**