

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

Title of report	CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2015/16
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community No
Contacts	Councillor Trevor Pendleton 01509 569746 trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Director of Services 01530 454555 steve.bambrick@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Community Services 01530 454832 john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of report	That Members are informed of Adults, Children and Young People's Safeguarding actions undertaken by NWLDC during 2015/16
Reason for Decision	To comply with the Council's statutory duty to ensure compliance with safeguarding duties as detailed in the Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2015
Council Priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	The District Council is a partner of the Local Safeguarding Boards and has to monitor safeguarding practice through the Safeguarding Board's Performance and Assessment Framework. District and Borough Councils in Leicestershire work collaboratively on ensuring good practice and procedures for Safeguarding.
Financial/Staff	The Head of Community Services is the lead professional safeguarding officer for the Council. There are a further 11 members of staff who act as Designated Safeguarding Officers, who manage concerns and help develop and promote good safeguarding practice.
Link to relevant CAT	NA
Risk Management	Safeguarding will now appear on the corporate risk register.

Equalities Impact Screening	N/A
Human Rights	Human rights is considered as part of the Safeguarding process
Transformational Government	N/A
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	Corporate Leadership Team
Background papers	<p>- the Children Act 2004 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents</p> <p>-Working Together 2015 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2</p> <p>-No Secrets 2012 has been replaced by Care and support Statutory Guidance Chapter 14 – Safeguarding. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance/safeguarding</p>
Recommendations	THAT CABINET NOTE AND SUPPORT THE SAFEGUARDING PROGRAMME

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on 2015/16 Safeguarding statistics as required in the Children Act 2004 practice guidance “Working Together 2015”. Section 11 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.2 To ensure that Cabinet retains an awareness and overview of Safeguarding systems and structures in the Council.

2.0 OPERATIONAL UPDATE

2.1 Safeguarding Lead Service and Lead Officers

The responsibility for Safeguarding within the Council changed during 2015/16 following the departure of the lead officer who was based within the Housing service. An internal review concluded that Safeguarding should be embedded within Community Services, in the Stronger & Safer Team and specifically the Community Safety team. The responsibility for safeguarding has been subsequently included in the job descriptions for the Community Safety Team Leader and Community Safety Officer posts.

There are strong and obvious links to our work on Domestic Abuse through our Vulnerable Adults officer and with the police on a variety of community safety issues. By moving the lead role to Community Safety this creates a logical and sustainable location for this important work moving forward.

2.2 Kayleigh Hayward

The Kayleigh Hayward case will forever be a reminder of the importance of safeguarding within North West Leicestershire and the priority that must be attached to it. The District Council will if requested contribute to any case reviews that will follow the outcome of the court case and embed any learning into systems and procedures.

2.3 Implementation of Working Together 2015 and Section 11 Audit

The practice guidance that sits alongside the Children Act 2004, Working Together to safeguard children, was updated and refreshed in March 2015. The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Boards have implemented this new practice guidance and refreshed monitoring and auditing processes to ensure that partner agencies are compliant with standards. All District and Borough Councils participated in a countywide Section 11 Safeguarding Children audit in 2015/16 to test compliance. The feedback from the audit will be presented to Districts at a joint meeting in September 2016. The Council will implement any recommendations that are relevant for our Council as soon as practically possible and within the financial year 2016/17.

2.4 Training competency framework

The Local Safeguarding Boards of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, have been working together to draw up a framework of expected competencies for Safeguarding Training. The Senior HR officer and the Head of Community Services are responsible for ensuring an annual training plan is created, implemented and reviewed annually commencing in 2016/17. A training needs analysis is currently underway, free external training is being accessed wherever possible and on the job training by working in teams, on cases and at Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) meetings is being delivered.

2.5 E- Learning

The Council have continued to use Learning Pool, our online learning resource, to ensure that all staff have a baseline level of safeguarding awareness. This will be re-released for refresher training in quarter 2 2016/17. A review to identify which staff have not accessed the course and how they can be encouraged to do so will take place in quarter 3 2016/17. Some staff will still require a more in depth level of training

in line with the new competency framework, this will mostly be delivered in house as part of the Silver and Gold safeguarding courses, but some staff such as DSO's may need to access more in depth multi agency training.

2.6 Disclosure and Barring Service

Our safe recruitment practices incorporate the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Corporate Leadership Team have agreed to upgrade and register all appropriate staff and this will be undertaken in 2016/17.

2.7 New Designated Safeguarding Officer's (DSO's)

In 2015/16 4 DSO's left the Council, but 5 additional DSO's were recruited and trained through the NSPCC training course which has increased our complement to 14 although 6 are relatively inexperienced.

2.8 Domestic Abuse Services

A total of 14 Council staff were trained in 2015/16 to carry out risk assessments using a tool called Safelives DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence). Trained staff include members of the housing, homelessness, and community safety teams. Three of the trained officers are also DSO's. A further awareness training session will be delivered in quarter 4 2016/17 to customer service staff focussing on the importance of assessing those who present with domestic abuse issues. A list of those trained to carry out DASH has been shared with frontline staff and is listed on the council intranet.

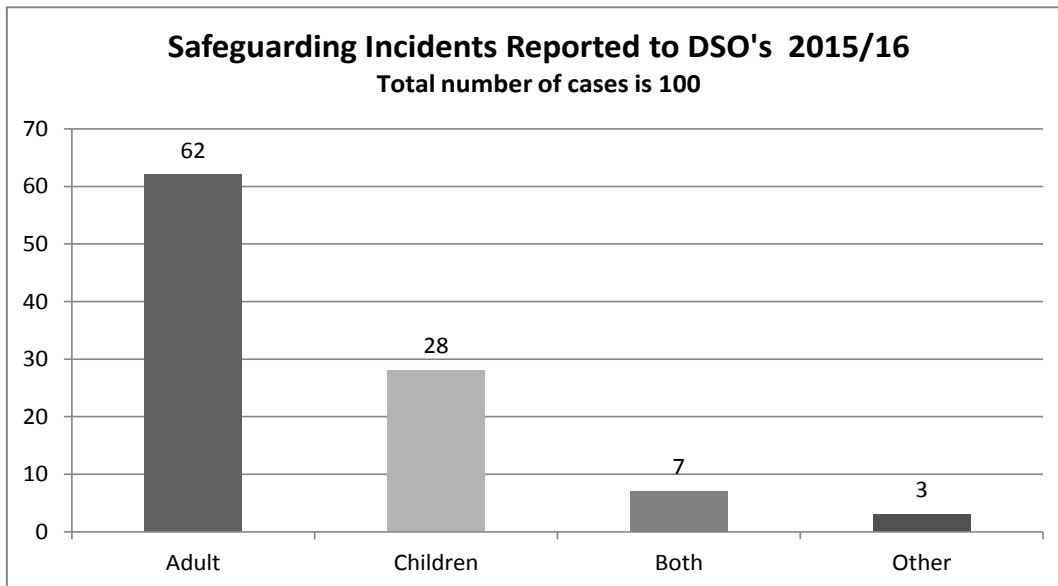
2.9 Risk Register and Continuous Improvement

As the number of referrals increased, learning was captured from our experiences and advice and practices were updated and refreshed. It was noted that a lack of feedback from Adult Social Care (ASC) following referrals was a cause for concern. This led to a change in our reporting processes to ASC, we now request an "assessment" on the client, pointing out the concerns and risks identified. GP's surgeries were also trialled in 2015/16 as a method of information sharing when ASC reported that the concern/referral did not meet their thresholds, this will be developed further during 2016/17. Safeguarding will also feature in the Corporate risk register from 2016/17 with mitigations and actions being regularly reviewed through the Corporate risk group.

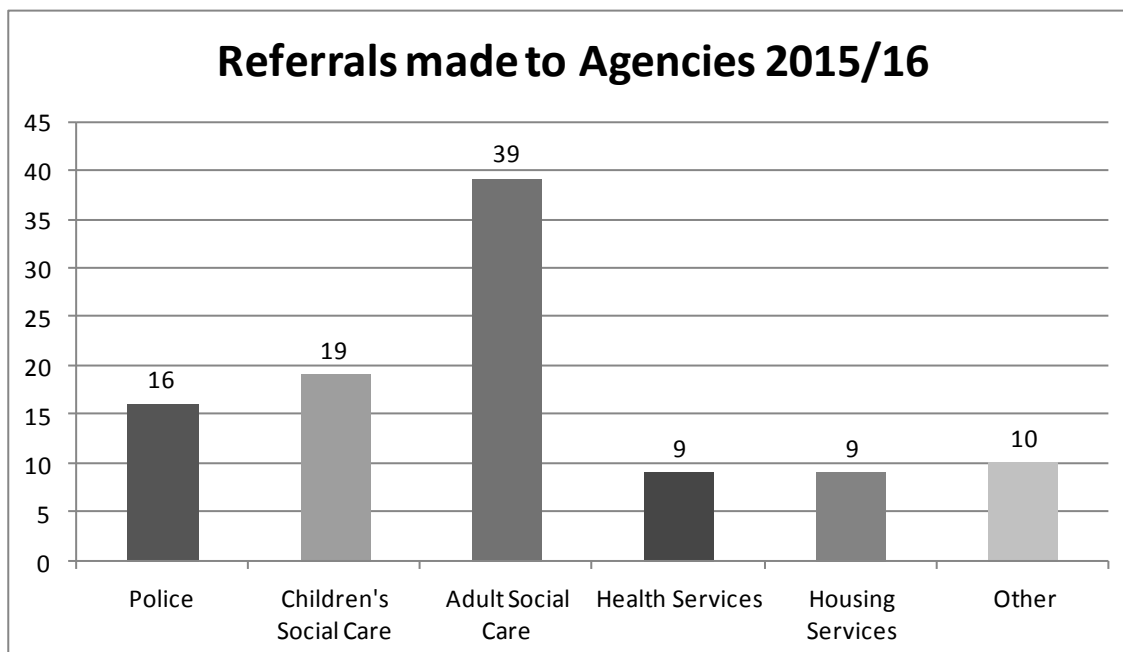
3.0 SAFEGUARDING STATISTICS

3.1 2015/16 Safeguarding Incidents

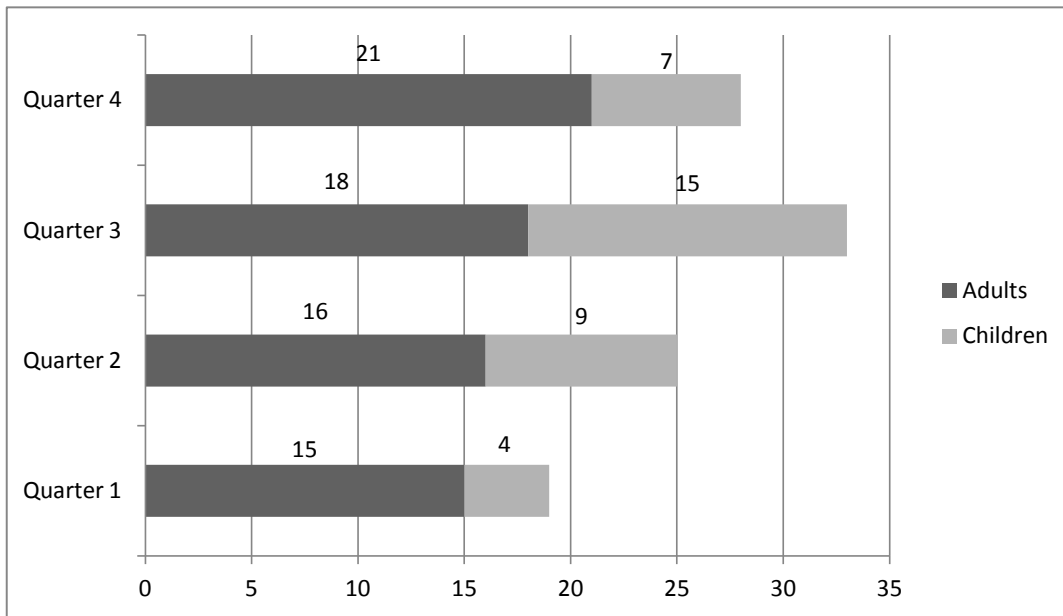
The following chart details the total number of incidents or concerns reported to DSO's in 2015/16



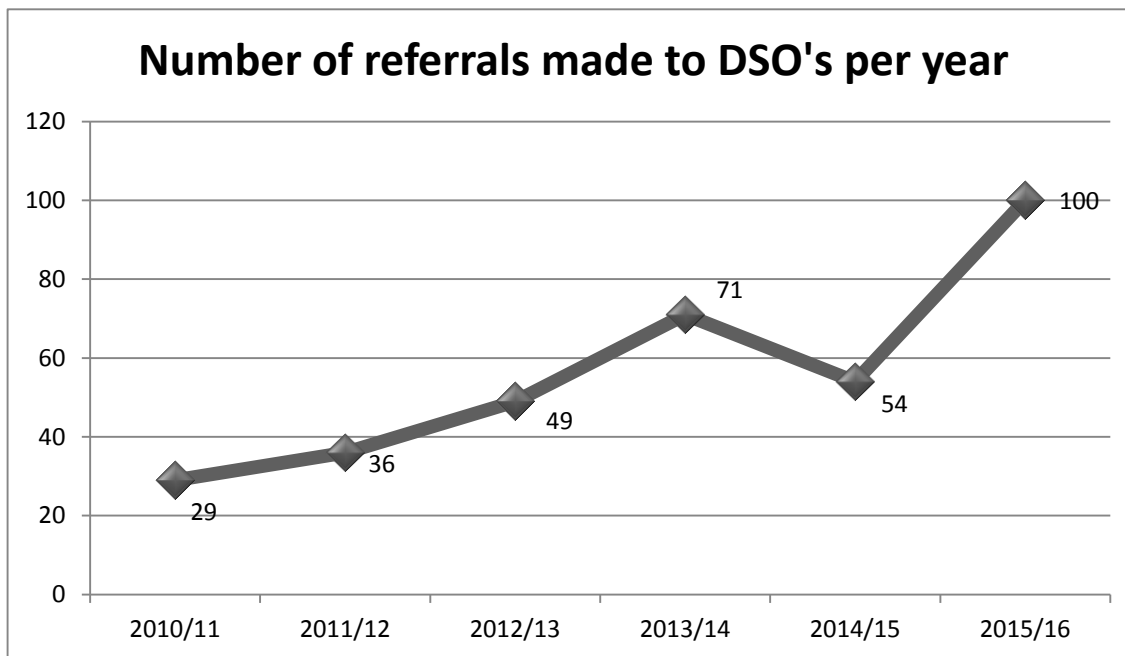
3.2 This chart details the number of referrals made to agencies from DSO's or other officers. The number of referrals out maybe higher than the number of referrals in as one incident form could lead to more than one referral being made, e.g. to the police, social care and to Domestic Abuse (DA) services.



3.3 This graph shows the quarterly breakdown of referrals made to Social Care for 2015/16. This is higher than the number of cases as some of the 'Both' category of 3.1 were reported to both Adult and Childrens Social Care.



3.4 Annual referral numbers for comparison over recent years.



The graph at 3.4 demonstrates a continual upward trend (apart from in 2014/15). This is from staff being trained in service areas previously without a Designated Safeguarding Officer such as Customer Services and Licensing, it could also relate to the promotion of the PREVENT (hate crime) agenda and staff becoming more aware of their responsibilities and how to report concerns following internal awareness sessions and training.

The increase of 56 in the year is broken down into 32 adults, 16 children and 8 families.

4.0 STAFFING AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate lead for Safeguarding changed in 2015/16 to reflect the internal move of Safeguarding into the Community Safety Team as mentioned at 2.1. The Corporate lead is now the Head of Community Services.
- 4.2 The lead officer co-ordinates the Designated Safeguarding Officer group which meet quarterly to discuss internal procedures, issues, good practice, training requirements and to consider individual cases.

Current Designated Safeguarding Officers are:

Name	Title	Ext.
John Richardson	Head of Community Services	832
Chris Brown	Stronger & Safer Team Manager	696
Paul Collett	Community Safety Team Leader	719
Gillian Haluch	Vulnerable Adults Officer	490
Charlotte Keedwell	Community Safety Officer (ASB)	831
Amanda Shakespeare-Ensor	Senior HR Advisor	524
Andrea Cave	Administration Supervisor	534
Jason Knight	Leisure Services Team Manager	602
Mary Chapman	Customer Services Officer	407
Bhavana Short	Licensing Assistant	823
Andy Cooper	Licensing Officer	596
Dea Stanley	Housing Officer	793
Duncan Gibb	Commercial Manager	328
Alison McCafferty	Housing Choices Advisor	569

- 4.3 There is also a quarterly meeting of the Safeguarding Action Group who manage the Safeguarding information and undertake a review of all cases to ensure that the council continue to provide the best possible service for vulnerable residents and that our Safeguarding responsibilities have been discharged.
- 4.4 Briefings are held as required with the Portfolio Holder, six monthly with the Chief Executive and Corporate Leadership Team and information is reported annually to Cabinet.
- 4.5 Officer time for DSO's to undertake their roles on top of their substantive work and job role (including attending relevant training courses and case management) is supported by the Corporate Leadership Team.

4.6 There is also a limited budget of £2,000 which has been established for the costs associated with training DSO's, the budget is held within Community Safety and is reviewed annually. It is likely to increase next year to £5,000 to include the purchase of a secure internal governance/document system.

5.0 OPERATIONAL FOCUS IN 2016/17

5.1 Await the feedback from the Countywide Section 11 audit of Districts and Boroughs and implement any recommendations as soon as practically possible within the financial year.

5.2 Develop the annual Safeguarding training plan for implementation annually from 2016/17.

5.3 Continue to register identified staff with the Disclosure and Barring service.

5.4 Continue to identify staff who have not completed refresher training and support staff to undertake appropriate safeguarding training.

5.5 Identify and develop proposals for a secure internal governance/document system.