

Safeguarding Adults

‘Everyone’s Business’

Ed Thompson
Asst Director – Adult Social Care



"I want people to be as outraged by the abuse of an older person as they are by the abuse of a child. Sadly we are nowhere near that as a society but that culture has to change"

(Ivan Lewis MP Care Services Minister - 2007)



Background

'No Secrets' (DOH – 2000)

Gov. guidelines on multi-agency working with Local Authority as lead agency

'Safeguarding Adults' (ADASS -2005)

From 'vulnerable adults' & 'adult protection' to Safeguarding Adults

Review/consultation period

New legislation/responsibilities?



What is Safeguarding?

Abuse is

' A violation of an individuals human and civil rights by any other person or persons'

DH 2000 No Secrets'

Safeguarding is:

"all work which enables an adult who is or may be eligible for community care services to retain independence, well being and choice **and** to access their human right to live a life that is free from abuse and neglect"



What is Safeguarding? 2

The current definition for a vulnerable adult is:

“A vulnerable adult is defined as a person aged 18 or over who is or who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or who may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation”

- Strong links to Dignity in Care
- Some groups of adults experience a higher incidence of abuse



Main forms of abuse

- Physical
- Emotional/Psychological
- Neglect/Deprivation
- Sexual Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Discrimination
- Institutional Abuse



Where might abuse happen?

- Residential or nursing homes
- Sheltered housing
- People's own home
- Hospitals
- Workplaces
- Day centres
- Public places



What is the Incidence?

National Study focused on older people published in 2007

- 4% (342,000) reported neglect or abuse
Perpetrator was known to the person

If applied to Central Bedfordshire

- 4% = 1456 older people
Other groups of people??

Strategic Direction



- Joint Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board
- Performance Improvement Plan
- Recruit to Safeguarding Manager Post
- Robust collection of data to aid intelligence
- Individual budgets – increased risk
- Joined up work with partners
- Increase training across partnership
- Improve general awareness - publicity



Key Messages

Safeguarding is 'Everyone's Business'

Everyone needs to be aware of:

- Operating zero tolerance of abuse
- Understanding what is abuse
- Different types of abuse
- Recognising signs and symptoms of abuse
- Know how to report suspected abuse
- Sharing intelligence about possible adults at risk
- Prevention through promoting good practice

We want people to be as outraged by the abuse of any vulnerable person in our society as they are by the abuse of a child.



What is the role for Elected Members?

- Safeguarding Champion
- All to be champions
- Promote corporately
- Role as community leaders
- Community engagement
- Scrutiny and governance

Safeguarding Adults

'Everyone's Business'