

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

30 January 2018

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Stephen Hayes
Portfolio Holder for Adult Services**

SUBJECT: Q2 Adult Services Safeguarding Report

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Summary

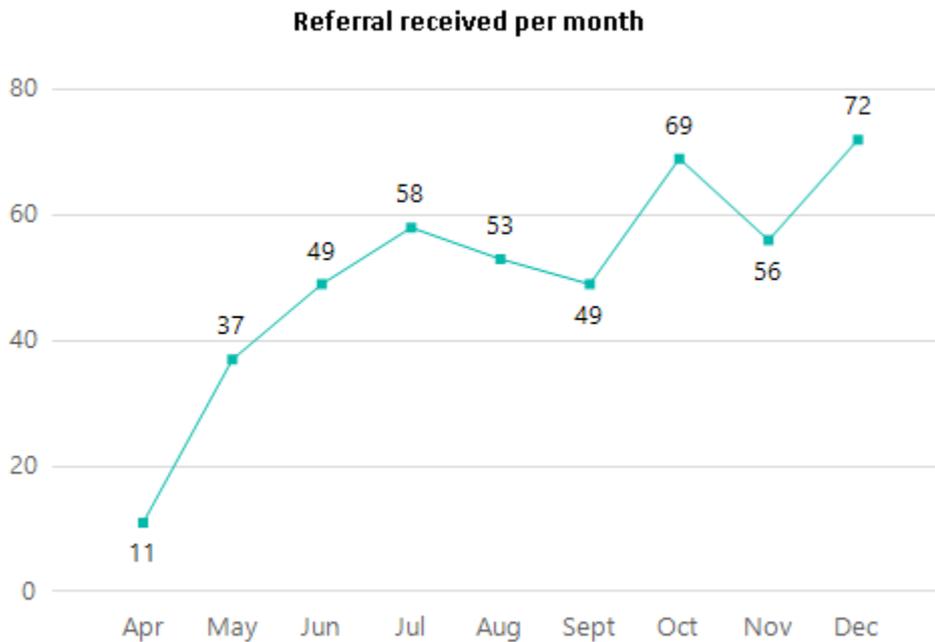
1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update in respect of work done in Quarter 2 (2017/18) to safeguard adults in Powys itself and as part of the Mid and West Wales Region.

2. Proposal

2.1 Since the last quarter, adult social care has seen fluctuating demand in terms of referrals, from 58 in July (37 in June) to 49 in September. Awareness raising in terms of safeguarding continues and there has been a significant number of safeguarding enquiries. Since the last quarter, the region has focused on getting consistent approach to the way in which enquiries are closed. This work has been crucial in terms of achieving closures in a timely way. However, the increasing demand for enquiries means that this is not achieved well enough.

2.2 The tables below show the data year to date for safeguarding referrals.

	Adult Protection
2017 Year Total	<u>454</u>
Total	<u>454</u>



2.3 We continue to work with the region to develop a document that will help staff to make good decisions about whether referrals require further enquiries. This will help to promote a common language and consistent approach across agencies and areas. This draft is likely to be available before the end of 2017.

2.4 Safeguarding training such as awareness raising and the responsibilities of designated lead managers continues to be delivered across the Authority.

2.5 **National Safeguarding Week**

A Community Event took place in Newtown on 13th November 2017, again to raise awareness of safeguarding issues. Powys also hosted a multi-agency learning event in which information was shared from research developed by Cardiff University. Public information was shared through the means of Social Media and regional factsheets were produced.

2.6 **MAPPA / Wisdom**

The National Probation Service are one of the partners under Part 7 of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014. The team are fully involved in meetings and processes where information is shared between agencies, including:

- WISDOM – Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management
- IOM – Integrated Offender Management
- MOSAVO – Manager of Sexual and Violent Offender
- MARAC – Multi-agency risk assessment conference

2.7 **Domestic Incident Notifications (DIN)**

Work is underway with our regional partners to agree a pathway for managing Domestic Incident Notifications. Currently Powys does not include DIN's in our collation of statistics. Clarification is being sought in terms of ensuring a consistent approach on a regional basis.

2.8 **Actions from the Regional Board**

CSSIW have communicated with the Regional Board and asked them to consider the questions below.

1. How can the involvement of people at risk and family representatives in the safeguarding process be strengthened?
2. Is mental capacity being properly considered as part of safeguarding process?
3. Are DLMs in your area well trained, confident and competent with sufficient capacity to undertake the role?
4. Is there a problem in your area in distinguishing between safeguarding and poor care which is causing safeguarding systems to become overloaded?
5. Is learning taking place based on the experience and outcomes of the cases being managed within safeguarding?

The questions set by CSSIW will be incorporated within the practice of the Safeguarding team.

2.9 **Challenges**

Recruitment remains a problematic area in the social work posts in the older person's service south as well as the specialist post within the safeguarding team. This continues to have an adverse impact. Recruitment is underway for all posts.

2.10 **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) team continue to manage the process for both Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board (each are known as supervisory bodies within the DoLS process).

On behalf of the two supervisory bodies, the DoLS Co-ordinator is working in partnership with other local authorities and statutory agencies in the region (Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Hywel Dda Health Board) to identify common areas to enable a consistent approach.

Following a court ruling in 2014, the threshold for DOLS was reduced, generating a significant increase in application rate throughout England and Wales. All areas are experiencing challenges in managing the considerable amount of additional demand.

In Quarter 2, there were 134 applications to the DoLS Team for both supervisory bodies.

To assist with the backlog of outstanding applications, Action First have been employed. This has seen an effect on numbers but significant challenge remains. The DoLS Coordinator is currently working to identify further resources to enable this external work to continue.

Powys County Council are providing training courses and information resources for those organisations involved in applying for DoLS. This guidance will help to ensure that applications are appropriate and completed correctly.

2.11 The Office of the Public Guardian made an assurance visit to the Appointeeship / Deputyship Unit on 18th October. See appendix A.

3. Options Considered / Available

3.1 Not applicable.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Impact Assessment

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

6.1 Safeguarding is everybody's business and links to objectives within the Corporate Improvement plan.

7. Local Member(s)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

If so please provide their comments:

The Powys Local Safeguarding Group engages with frontline staff/services through its child protection fora. Both the PLOG and PLOGA have active training programmes co-ordinated by the local authority and attended by staff from all agencies. The Safeguarding team give advice and information to managers and staff working with children and adults' at risk from all sectors.

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes/No

Have they made a comment? If Yes insert here.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1 Legal – Legal Services continue to provide support and advice to Adult Services and the DoLS Team.

10.2 Finance – The Finance Business Partner notes the content of the report.

10.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate)

10.4 HR – as per 2.9 above, HR & Recruitment Teams are actively providing support to the Service in order to fill vacant posts.

10.5 ICT (if appropriate)

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No

If Yes what version or date of report has been scrutinised?

Please insert the comments.

What changes have been made since the date of Scrutiny and explain why Scrutiny recommendations have been accepted or rejected?

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Head of Financial Services (Acting Section 151 Officer) notes the contents of the report.

12.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”.

13. Members’ Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

14. Future Status of the Report

(This section must be completed if the report is a confidential/exempt report)

Members are invited to consider the future status of this report and whether it can be made available to the press and public either immediately following the meeting or at some specified point in the future.

The view of the Monitoring Officer is that:

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
In accordance with its safeguarding responsibilities, that Cabinet accepts the safeguarding update.	Safeguarding is everyone's business and this report provides assurance to Cabinet that effective work on important safeguarding matters is underway both locally and regionally.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Agency Representatives
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	N/A

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Background Papers:

Appendix A – Office of the Public Guardian Letter