



**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,
Executive Director Adult Care and Community Wellbeing**

Report to:	Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Date:	9 October 2019
Subject:	Team Around the Adult – Multi-Agency Prevention Initiative

Summary:

The Assistant Director of Specialist Adults Services and Safeguarding within Adult Care and Community Wellbeing has been asked by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and the Lincolnshire Public Protection Board (PPB) to lead the development of a multi-agency early intervention and prevention initiative called "Team Around the Adult".

The "Team Around the Adult" initiative will focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable adults with complex needs who may not meet the thresholds for an Adult Safeguarding Section 42 enquiry and/or may for various reasons be "hard to reach" in terms of engaging them in traditional service delivery models.

There will be an initial focus on adults exposed to multiple risk factors including mental illness, drug and/or alcohol dependencies, victims and/or perpetrators of crimes and homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Actions Required:

The Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the presentation to be provided by the Assistant Director of Specialist Adult Services.

1. Background

In 2014, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) received information relating to thirty-four people who were considered to be victims of financial exploitation in a Lincolnshire market town. It was believed the people had been targeted because of their vulnerabilities. Lincolnshire Police worked with the multi-agency safeguarding partnership to investigate the alleged offences and to safeguard the victims involved. This investigation revealed individuals had been subject to exploitation for many years.

The LSAB commissioned a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) to identify if there were lessons regarding how agencies had worked together to safeguard individuals experiencing financial exploitation in these preceding years. The SAR was titled TH19. TH19 looked in detail at the experience of ten people. Their stories detail some harrowing accounts of their day-to-day lives. This was not a hidden picture and their abuse was known to the agencies working with them.

The review identified many examples of committed practitioners and agencies, working hard to help the individuals reduce risks. The review also identified valuable learning regarding how well agencies worked individually and collectively to safeguard those ten people. In particular the review identified that:

The cohort of people within the scope of the review had complex needs with multiple risk factors. For example, the learning from the review reflects the inter dependency between mental health needs, problematic drug and alcohol use, homelessness and financial exploitation. Mental health needs and problematic drug and alcohol use are also often associated with life circumstances that may further increase risk. This includes loneliness, dependency, impaired decision making and susceptibility to coercive control. Financial exploitation often co-exists with other forms of abuse. Some of the people who were subject to this review also experienced physical and sexual abuse, psychological abuse and self-neglect. There were therefore particular challenges for services in keeping the person engaged in care. This contributed to the person's level of vulnerability and the ability of services to reduce risk of harm;

Much of the work to protect the vulnerable adults was completed outside of the formal LSAB Adult Safeguarding Procedures which focus predominately on those people who are eligible for a section 42 safeguarding enquiry in line with Care Act statutory guidance. This was because safeguarding referrals were not always made, not all people met the threshold for a section 42 enquiry, not all people were willing, able or ready to participate in a section 42 enquiry or in some instances willing to accept wider help. Terms that have been utilised to describe the characteristics of some of these people are "Non Engaging Adults" or "Hard to Reach Adults".

It was also identified that there are multiple partnership forums in place that currently operate outside of the remit of the LSAB formal policy and procedures. Whilst these forums were utilised to provide a level of co-ordination of help and support to the TH19 cohort, there was inconsistency in how well these forums were understood and utilised by key stakeholders. Police efforts to gather information and secure prosecutions was severely impaired by the limited information recorded by agencies about the alleged perpetrators and the lack of witnesses.

A review of Housing Related Support Services in Lincolnshire has identified that there are a cohort of people with similar characteristics to those identified in the TH19 SAR who agencies are currently finding it difficult to co-ordinate support for. Many of these Adults are considered by Vulnerable Adult Panels (VAP) operated by district councils but similar to the TH19 review many of these people do not want to engage with a formal safeguarding process or may not be eligible.

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) and Lincolnshire Police working together have also identified a number of High Intensity Service Users with very similar risk profiles.

What we are doing about this

Lincolnshire Adult Safeguarding Board and the Lincolnshire Public Protection Board have agreed an aspiration to develop a "Team Around the Adult" initiative with similarities to the Team Around the Child (early help model) that is in operation in Children's Services in Lincolnshire. The Assistant Director of Specialist Adult Services within Adult Care and Community Wellbeing has been asked to chair a Multi-agency Programme Board that will lead on the development of this initiative. The ambition is to have a Team Around the Adult process operating across each district council area within Lincolnshire by July 2020.

Resources have now been secured to fund a Programme Manager and a program team to provide oversight to a number of projects across districts that will inform the operating procedures and eligibility criteria for the Team Around the Adult support.

District Councils have expressed a wish to explore the development of the Team Around the Adult process linked to the existing Vulnerable Adult Panels (VAPs). LSAB has agreed to strengthen the existing local Safeguarding policies and procedures to support the development of Team Around the Adult and attendance at related forums.

Our aspiration is that this initiative could be expanded to support wider cohorts of vulnerable adults in the future. The initiative will be reviewed in April 2021 once it has had 9 months of operation.

2. Conclusion

The initiative will help to prevent the needs of vulnerable adults escalating and will provide a joined up multi-agency response to people with entrenched and complex needs that will deliver better outcomes for the individual.

3. Consultation

There are currently no identified consultation requirements.

4. Background Papers

Serious Adult Review – Financial Exploitation TH19	https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lisab/safeguarding-adults-reviews/131855.article
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This report was written by Justin Hackney Assistant Director, who can be contacted on 01522 554259 or via Justin.Hackney@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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