

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST MARCH, 2024

SUBJECT:

ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) (2022/23)

Purpose:

To receive the Annual Report relating to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Consider and comment on the Authority's Annual Report relating to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

Reasons:

This report relates to the Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards activity during the financial year (2022/23). It summarises the national, regional and local context of adult safeguarding and provides a variety of information including:

- National and Regional position
- Local Operational arrangements
- Performance and Activity Information

At the time of presenting this report, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (Statutory Guidance) have been firmly embedded into practice. The Regional Safeguarding Board which is responsible for setting the strategic direction and governance arrangements for adult safeguarding in the Mid and West Wales region continues to benefit from excellent strategic leadership and strong partnership working arrangements.

The Board has strengthened Carmarthenshire's approach to ensuring every person has the right to live a life free from abuse and neglect, and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we work together to support and safeguard the most vulnerable in society.

The proposed new legal (safeguarding) framework for scrutinising and authorising Deprivations of Liberty has yet to be finalised and circulated by the Department of Health & Social Care.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health and Social Services Portfolio Holder)**

Directorate: Communities Name of Head of Service: Avril Bracey Report Author: Cathy Richards	Designations: Head of Adult Social Care Senior Manager Safeguarding/DoLS	Tel Nos.: 01267 228849 / 01267 228995 E Mail Addresses: ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk CRichards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT:

ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) (2022-23)

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the role, functions and activities undertaken by the Local Authority in relation to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The Report explains the current context of Safeguarding/DoLS and details the arrangements the Local Authority has established to respond effectively to such reports and applications received. As the statutory organisation responsible for adult safeguarding, the Authority is required to have effective arrangements in place to ensure adults at risk are protected from harm. The Local Authority undertakes this role in close partnership with Dyfed Powys Police, Hywel Dda University Health Board and other statutory and non-statutory organisations. The report itemises some of the key performance activity in relation to the statutory duties set out in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

The Local Authority is also the Supervisory body for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards which ensures some of our most vulnerable citizens are properly safeguarded. This report details the current DoLS arrangements and the proposed forthcoming changes.

This report aims to reassure the committee that Carmarthenshire County Council is well placed to fulfil its statutory duties relating to Adult Safeguarding and DoLS upholding the key principles of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales Act 2014) and the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Avril Bracey** **Head of Adult Social Care**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Legal

We continue to review our processes to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wales Safeguarding procedures. We have systems in place to prioritise DoLS applications and scrutinise the quality of assessments undertaken.

2. Risk Management Issues

We have identified that there are risks associated with the waiting list for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards authorisations which has reduced. We continue to make improvements in this area each year. We currently have no DoLS assessments awaiting authorisation as all have been authorised where appropriate. Although the financial and reputational risks remain, we have introduced robust processes to mitigate these risks.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE