

Embedding making decisions on the duty to carry out Safeguarding Adults enquiries framework across London

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Overview

Building on the four workshops delivered across London based LAs, the session will

1. Overview on the guidance
2. Findings from the previous 4 workshops
3. Discuss the pros and cons of consistency and the practicalities of rolling the guidance out across London

ADASS / LGA Decision Making Framework

- ▶ The Framework considers:
 - Day to day practice and
 - The recording and capturing of data and information that flows from that practice.
- ▶ The Framework considers the core aspects and principles for robust decision-making alongside how to report on this.
- ▶ Accountability and assurance are crucial. Accountability means, in part, being clear about how and why a particular approach is taken.
- ▶ This framework will support practice and outcomes for people that are fair, lawful and reasonable. It can also give confidence and empower staff.
- ▶ This framework offers a way of achieving that clarity.

Purpose

- ▶ The purpose of this framework is to offer support in making decisions about whether or not a reported safeguarding adults concern requires an enquiry under the Section 42 (S42) duty of the Care Act (2014). It offers a framework to support practice, recording and reporting, in order to impact positively on outcomes for people and the level of accountability for those outcomes.

Overview of the four regional workshops

- ▶ Six scenarios and a set of slides were circulated to the PSW and Safeguarding Professional Steering Group network members asking them to run a pre-workshop and capture the views of the audience and send them to LondonADASS.
- ▶ 12 responses were received with the feedback used to inform the workshops.
- ▶ Each workshop was for 3 hrs. and 1.5 hrs. were dedicated to case studies.
- ▶ The maximum capacity for each workshop was 24, between 19 and 24 attended each workshop

Proposals of what next or what else would help

Feedback from the four regional workshops

- ▶ More workshops to reach further in terms of number and type of attendees (i.e. Senior management, performance)
- ▶ Introduction of a wider variety of case studies (i.e. modern slavery, county lines) more representative of the current safeguarding concerns in London Councils
- ▶ Exploration of areas such as:
 - What is a concern? This is on hand by Jane Lawson
 - 'having care and support needs'
 - 'reasonable cause to suspect'
 - Types of abuse

Key issues raised

Feedback from the four regional workshops

- ▶ Some councils have timeframes, performance indicators, and/or policies and procedures that are not entirely compatible with law requirements.
- ▶ IT systems are designed in a way that drive practice rather than enabling it, and sometimes do not facilitate or difficult to follow the law/guidance. Many people raised that the way record systems are set up it was very difficult if not impossible to:
 - Be flexible in timescales and therefore proportionate (i.e. 24 hrs deadlines)
 - Record appropriately S42(1) in a meaningful way that could identify trends
- ▶ Acknowledgement of a general misunderstanding around Section 42 and the duties under part (1) and part (2)
- ▶ Sometimes existence of very rigid processes that disable professional judgement

Local experience

- ▶ Numbers of s.42(2) in Haringey very low against other local authorities.
- ▶ Opportunity to have a more consistent approach to determining what qualified as a s.42(2)
- ▶ Opportunity to evidence the safeguarding actions that are taking place.
- ▶ Practitioners have been receptive to having some clear guidance in place.
- ▶ However, there have been concerns around the additional time this will take on limited resources in the team.
- ▶ System working against practitioners not working for them.

Discussion

1. Local experience of implementing the ADASS / LGA Decision Making Framework – challenges and opportunities
2. Pros and cons of consistency in relation to decision making
3. Is there an appetite for rolling this out across London and if so, how?