

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & WELL-BEING CABINET BOARD**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMISSIONING, SUPPORT AND  
DIRECT SERVICES – ANGELA THOMAS.**

**Matter for Monitoring**

**Wards Affected:** All

**Adult Safeguarding and Quality Assurance**

**Purpose of Report**

To provide an overview and status report of the service area:  
Safeguarding Adults and Quality Assurance.

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out the landscape within which the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance team operates. The three key functions of the team are drawn upon to provide a window into day-to-day practice: Adults at Risk, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessments and a Supervisory Body role. Set against these functions this report then looks at the current team: its structure and progress made to date.

**Financial Impact**

*The work is funded by existing revenue budget.*

**Equality Impact Assessment**

*Not Applicable.*

**Workforce Impacts**

*There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.*

**Legal Impacts**

*There are no legal impacts associated with this report.*

## **Risk Management**

*A Risk Matrix for the Directorate has been prepared that incorporates the risk within this service area.*

## **Consultation Outcome**

*Not applicable.*

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

*Not applicable.*

## **Recommendation**

*This item is for monitoring purposes.*

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

*Not applicable.*

## **Implementation of Decision**

*Not applicable.*

## **Appendices**

*Not applicable.*

## **List of Background Papers**

*Not applicable.*

## **Officer Contact**

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# Adult Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Report

## Background

The team was formed in April 2015 following a restructure to reflect the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Coinciding with the new Act, the Supreme Court Judgment, Cheshire West, essentially forced Local Authorities across the UK to revise their approach to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). As a result the Adult Safeguarding and Quality Assurance team was set up to oversee three main functions:

1. Adult Safeguarding – Adults at risk (Previously known as Protection of Vulnerable Adults - POVA)

Safeguarding adults is concerned with protecting those at risk of abuse/harm (Adult at risk) from suffering abuse or neglect. It includes measures to prevent abuse and to protect people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enable them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. The response to such abuse or neglect may be: a joint agency investigation carried out between police and social services, or it may be a single agency 'non-criminal investigation' carried out by social services.

2. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessments

People who are not able to make some or all of their own decisions due to a lack of capacity are protected and empowered by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA). The DoLS were introduced as an amendment to the MCA and came into force in April 2009. The DoLS are additional safeguards to protect the rights of people who are deprived of their liberty to protect their health and safety. A Supreme Court ruling - Cheshire West – made in March 2014 clarified the definition and widened the scope of when someone is being deprived of his or her liberty. This led to an increase in DoLS referrals nationally (England and Wales) from 13,000pa (pre- Cheshire West) to 200,000pa (post Cheshire West), with no increase in resources. The local picture in Neath Port Talbot reflects the national picture: 2014 – 7 DoLS referrals; 2015 – 433 DoLS referrals. In 2017 the local authority received 744 DoLS referrals.

### 3. Supervisory Body role

The role of the local authority to act as a Supervisory Body for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). As a Supervisory Body the local authority or local health board is responsible for considering a deprivation of liberty request and, where all the assessments agree, authorising deprivation of liberty. Locally, the power to authorise DoLS has been passed to four designated DoLS signatories who sit within the Safeguarding team. As a signatory their role is to scrutinise those assessments undertaken for the purpose of DoLS.

#### Team Structure

There is currently:

- 1 x Team Manger (covering the three functions listed above)
- 1 x Deputy Manager
- 4 x Part-time safeguarding coordinators
- 2 x Full-time Best Interest Assessors
- 2 x Social Workers (Safeguarding)

The team is based in Cimla hospital.

#### Safeguarding Team achievements

- Supervision has been at 100% since March 2018.
- Outstanding cases (open more than 3 months) currently stand at 48 (some cases have to remain open for police investigation). It is worth noting that in 2016 this figure stood at 332.
- The Safeguarding team receive on average 65 referrals a month. This increased, as anticipated, following the introduction of the new 'Duty to Report'. In August 2018, 84 such referrals were received by the team. However, due to active demand management and a robust duty/advice system this increase, although sharp, has been well managed.
- New enquiries are dealt with in 7 days.

- A new safeguarding dashboard and IT system is in place to track these cases.
- Coordinators are delivering training directly to providers, partner agencies and social work teams across the service.
- The new determination policy developed by the team, to prevent the aforementioned safeguarding functions becoming overloaded, is now adopted across Western Bay.
- A Significant Incident Review process has been established to ensure lessons from safeguarding are disseminated quickly. This is based on a '*Sound Judgment and Analysis*' model developed by Barrister David Spicer.
- The recruitment of two safeguarding social workers that have taken the lead in non-criminal investigations.
- Other achievements include: continuous professional development promoted through: peer supervision; the Team Development plan, which is linked to appraisals; an outcome/strengths based champion in the team; regular team meetings.
- There are currently two Adult Protection and Support Officers (APSO).

### DoLS achievements

- DoLS backlogs eliminated (Neighbouring authorities have invested significantly more money but still retain high backlogs due to pursuing a different strategy).
- All DoLS cases are now allocated without delay.
- Active engagement with commissioned services and providers.
- Regular DoLS forum hosted and attended by Best Interest Assessors and Section 12 Doctors.
- Reduction in number of cases being taken to court following direct engagement with Advocacy Service (agreed process for escalation).