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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board



Meeting Date	7 th June 2018	Agenda Item	8b
Report Title	<i>Older People's Commissioner for Wales Report – Safeguarding in Hospitals in Wales</i>		
Report Author	Lynn Davison, Safeguarding Nurse Specialist		
Report Sponsor	Virginia Hewitt, Head of Nursing: Safeguarding		
Presented by	Christine Morrell , Director of Therapies and Health Sciences		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	To update the Quality and Safety Committee on key findings from Older People's Commissioner for Wales (OPC) report regarding a Review of Safeguarding of Older People in Hospitals in Wales.		
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive engagement by all Health Boards in the review • Identification of a range of initiatives taken to address the requirements of the Act, many of which are currently implemented within ABMU HB • Adult safeguarding is now within the remit of new generic Safeguarding Teams, has clearer leadership, is somewhat better resourced, and is increasingly embedded within Health Boards' core work. • A number of factors remain which is weakening the approach of the Health Boards, leading to an inconsistent approach to adult safeguarding across Wales • There is a lack of up-to-date Wales policies and procedures, a national competency based training framework and a national data collection tool. <p>For Information All Wales Guidance on Adult Procedures is currently being written and should be completed by December 2018 therefore ABMU HB does not deem it appropriate to produce new guidance. The existing guidance is completed within the framework of the Social Services & well-Being Act. The Royal College of Nursing is currently developing a competency-based training framework for adult safeguarding in line with the existing Intercollegiate Document for safeguarding children .</p>		
Specific Action Required (please ✓ one only)	Information	Discussion	Assurance
	X		

Recommendations	<p>Quality and Safety Committee are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the communication and the report• Requested that Quality and Safety Committee gain assurance for the Board on subsequent actions resulting from the report.
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OLDER PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER FOR WALES REPORT – SAFEGUARDING IN HOSPITALS IN WALES

1. INTRODUCTION

At the end of March 2018, communication was received by the Health Board from Sarah Rochira, Older People's Commissioner for Wales (OPC), presenting her latest report 'Safeguarding in Hospitals in Wales'.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 was enacted in April 2016. One of the aims of the Act was to improve the safeguarding of adults at risk of abuse or neglect by giving safeguarding a statutory footing and placing new duties on statutory agencies. In June 2017, the OPC announced her intention to review the effect the Act is having upon the work of Health Boards, specifically their responses to the requirements under parts 7 and 10 of the Act, and invited Health Boards to participate in the review.

This report provides a summary of the key findings and themes from the review.

2. BACKGROUND

The report notes that all Health Boards engaged positively with the review and were able to identify a range of initiatives they have taken to address the requirements of the Act. Generally, adult safeguarding is now within the remit of new generic Safeguarding Teams, has clearer leadership, is somewhat better resourced, and is increasingly embedded in Boards core work.

From the positive practice examples listed in the report, it was possible to identify that ABMU HB already implements a significant proportion of them, including:

- Safe Care rostering and Patient Watch
- Targeted staff supervision relating to safeguarding
- Falls investigations
- Whistleblowing policy
- Champions for dementia care, falls and pressure damage prevention and care
- 'Board to Floor' approach of 'walk-about' by Board Chair/Deputy and independent board members

The report notes however that there are a number of factors which are weakening the approach of the Health Boards. These factors include

- A lack of up-to-date and detailed national policies and procedures leading to different approaches and variations in practice

- Lack of detailed guidance supporting staff to understand the complex distinctions between poor practice and neglectful and abusive practice and the 'Duty to Report' requirements under the Act.
- A lack of clear standards of training for staff and a reliance on the use of e-learning which does not sufficiently equip staff to understand the complexities in adult safeguarding.
- Inadequate monitoring demonstrating the full engagement by the person and their families in the adult safeguarding process.
- Lack of specific Welsh Government guidance regarding the importance of assessing and enabling people at risk to access advocacy, and which agency shall exercise this responsibility.
- A lack of data collection processes that are fit for purpose that enable Health Boards to learn from their safeguarding work. A consistent regional and national approach is advocated.

The report summarises that 'in spite of evident commitment, leadership and progress, adult safeguarding remains inconsistent across Wales. It lacks the essential underpinning of up-to-date Wales policies and procedures, national data collection tool and a national competency based training framework.

3. GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

There is currently no up to date Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults although this is being reviewed and expected December 2018, which has been under review for some time.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to be considered.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The OPC has requested that Welsh Government Minister and NHS Wales Chief Executive responds to her on behalf of the NHS in Wales, and requests that Health Boards discuss the report in detail by their relevant safety committees. The OPC notes she will communicate again with Health Boards following receipt of these responses.

