



Review of Safeguarding Adults Services in Devon County Council

An independent review of Devon County Councils Safeguarding Adults services has been carried out by David Taylor, Chair of Devon Safeguarding Childrens Board and a former local authority Chief Executive. The review included consultation with a number of internal and external stakeholders including Safeguarding Adult Board Members.

The review identified a number of strengths with the current safeguarding adults services, but found that further improvement could be made by reducing the number of stages and people involved in the process for managing alerts, and by having specialist safeguarding staff more locally deployed and ultimately more locally managed.

Two of the 18 recommendations relate to how safeguarding services are configured in DCC:

- The Safeguarding Hub staff should be deployed on a single agency basis; more locally together with CDP teams and take a more active role in linking with local teams and assisting in the investigation of more complex cases.
- Create a single manager to cover both the Safeguarding Hub and SAOs, to have a key role in ensuring consistency of practice and application of the agreed threshold. Their operational management responsibility over time would diminish.

Work on these recommendations is being managed as a work stream of the wider Adult Social Care Operational Remodelling Project. This will help ensure that there is coordination with other service and organisational structural changes.

The review also highlighted the importance of having more effective arrangements for preventing safeguarding concerns in care services. The number of whole service investigations into care services has been reducing and a Quality Assurance Improvement Team to support quality improvement in commissioned care services is being developed within Social Care Commissioning.

Source: Senior Manager, Safeguarding Adults