Models of Safeguarding Study

Social Care Workforce Research Unit

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short summary of the research

• From a literature review and interviews with up to 30 local authority adult safeguarding coordinators, we will identify common models of safeguarding being employed.

• We will then compare the processes, outcomes and costs in six volunteer local authorities which have adopted different safeguarding models.

• In-depth research in the six sites will add deeper understandings of the meanings of safeguarding for practitioners, people using services and carers. We will also explore links between safeguarding and other areas of social work and social care practice.

• By combining these elements of the research we will provide (fingers crossed) evidence about how and why the different models produce different outcomes.
context of the research

• A White Paper principle is that ‘People are treated with **dignity and respect**, and are safe from abuse and neglect’ (p18).

• Increased emphasis on the role of adult safeguarding in local authorities, with potential increased powers and duties on local Adult Safeguarding Boards (Section H, ’Keeping people safe’ p43).
Social context
Political context

• ‘In too many instances, people are widening the definition of safeguarding to a ridiculous degree. Abdicating responsibility and covering their own backs instead of taking responsibility and sorting the problem’.

• Paul Burstow MP., 21 February 2012
Up to 3 key practice development issues emerging so far

• How to observe and record the practice of safeguarding (elastic term)?

• How to causally relate outcomes to intervention?

• Weighing different interventions in different types + scales of abuse
Up to 3 key research issues emerging so far

• Change in safeguarding from policy + legislation

• Recruiting volunteer local authorities – building on and fostering good will (local and national), birth announcements...

• Hopeful that this subject is still one eliciting enthusiasm and interest...
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