

Paid Home Carers and Safeguarding

- 1.1 Paid Home Carers are often alone in the home with an adult with care and support needs, so there is an inherent risk with regards to safeguarding concerns. To mitigate this risk, homecare agencies are subject to regulatory frameworks and inspections from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and work is ongoing with the Quality Monitoring Team within the County Council to ensure high standards of care from homecare providers can be achieved.
- 1.2 There is an established system within the County Council of raising a safeguarding concern and of responding appropriately to these concerns, through Health and Social Care Connect. Police and other agencies are alerted wherever this is required for appropriate joint action and enquiry, to safeguard vulnerable adults.
- 1.3 The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has undertaken safeguarding awareness campaigns for professionals and the public alike, with relevant information of where to contact if people have a safeguarding concern, including those where paid home carers are an alleged perpetrator or source of risk, to try to ensure such concerns are detected, referred and appropriately responded to.
- 1.4 For the six month period from February to July 2017, 8.5% of all safeguarding concerns raised for alleged abuse of an adult in their own home identified a paid home carer as the perpetrator or source of risk; this figure is 14.7% for concerns that led to a full safeguarding enquiry. This is considered to be a proportionate level for safeguarding enquiries, given the inherent risk described above for home carers.
- 1.5 The SAB will be able to review data regarding paid home carer activity over a full twelve month period within next year's report and will plan further training and awareness where required.
- 1.6 Homecare representation continues to be in place on the SAB, to allow specific areas of concern or action to be addressed.