

**WARWICKSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY - 22nd April
2009**

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Protective Services and Business Improvement

Protecting Vulnerable People

Report by Angela O'Boyle

Purpose and Supporting Documents:

To provide an update on arrangements for protecting vulnerable people

Recommendation:

The Authority discusses and notes this report

- 1.1 Warwickshire Police leads on all criminal investigations involving the abuse of vulnerable adults. This is done in consultation with other agencies including the Local Authority and the Commission for Social Care. Vulnerable adults include the infirm, the elderly and members of minority groups. Referrals concerning their abuse have more than doubled in the past year. The number has risen from 56 between April '07 and March'08 to current figures which exceed 112. Police officers take firm action against perpetrators and use a referral system to record the nature and extent of abuse across the County. Inter-agency work identifies and implements strategies for the prevention and reduction of abuse.
- 1.2 A Warwickshire Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board is in its formative stages and mirrors some of the best practice of the local Safeguarding Children Board. Recently appointed lead officer, DI Mumford, represents the Force.
- 1.3 At a recent and very successful multi-agency conference on safeguarding vulnerable adults, ACC Holland provided a succinct and reassuring account of the role of the Police. Other officers facilitated an informative workshop on hate crime. Good partnership links were evident.
- 1.4 As the population of Warwickshire grows there are an increasing number of elderly and vulnerable adults. It is apparent that to reduce the risk of harm to them and to address crimes committed against them, considerable allocation of attention and resources are needed.

Angela O'Boyle