

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 15 June 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Adults & Community
SUBJECT: Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the PPB on key issues and progression of the agenda for the protection of vulnerable adults in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

i) That the PPB note and comment on the report's content.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Since the last report to the PPB in March 2010, key issues to report are as follows:

3.1 Locally

3.1.1 Information will be incorporated into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on Safeguarding Adults, including the following:

- Prevalence of Safeguarding Adults referrals
- Relevance of the social context and demography, locally
- Recent local activity to prevent abuse and respond to alleged abuse
- Strategic priorities and planned activity for the current year
- How we seek to engage partner agencies in working with the Council to meet the challenge.

3.1.2 Focus groups have been set up for potential and existing service users and carers, to review safeguarding arrangements and Telecare.

3.1.3 The Halton 2000 survey included questions about Safeguarding Adults.

3.1.4 A Serious Case Review is to be carried out with partner agencies after concerns arose during a Safeguarding Adults investigation.

3.1.5 The interagency Serious Case Review procedure has been revised, taking into account the PAN Cheshire procedure applied in Safeguarding Children services, and learning from research and the case in Haringey of the death of Baby P.

- 3.1.6 A locally agreed Performance Indicator (PI) regarding Safeguarding Adult services is to be included within the forthcoming Business Plan (2010-11).
- 3.1.7 All assessment teams are now using a tested, common approach to track open safeguarding cases, to ensure they are progressed and concluded in a timely way.
- 3.1.8 The Safeguarding Adults Case Recording/Data Collection form has been further revised to support decision-making processes, and guidance amended accordingly.
- 3.1.9 Case File audits have been completed on a number of cases and are ongoing.
- The Case Audit Tool introduced earlier this year has been amended to ensure that it will deliver appropriate responses.
- 3.1.10 Templates have been devised for recording strategy meetings, case conferences and investigating officers' reports, and guidance has been formulated to support these processes, to provide for consistency and other quality standards.
- 3.1.11 Workforce Solutions (NW) Ltd carried out an evaluation of specific areas of the Training and Development Programme, including the return on investment. The areas evaluated include Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Basic Awareness (as a component of the Common Induction Standards) and Referrers courses, & National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Health & Social Care Level 2 & 3 Programme. An action plan is being formulated, in response to recommendations arising from the exercise.
- 3.1.12 Elected Members continue to be invited to Basic Awareness training through the Members' Bulletin.
- 3.1.13 A dedicated Basic Awareness training session will be provided for the Safer Halton Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) considered will consider the need for the following training:
- For the Safeguarding Adults Board
 - Hate Crime
- 3.1.14 Police colleagues provided a dedicated training session for care management team managers, linked to revision of the two agencies' and aimed at improved cooperation and partnership working, and clarity on thresholds for referral and information sharing.
- 3.1.15 Training has recently been provided in the Constabulary, for Police officers, on law practice and procedure and signs and symptoms of abuse (in all age groups).

- 3.1.16 The Protocol between HBC Adult Social Care and Police Public Protection Unit (PPU) has been revised and strengthened. Sign-off is being sought.
- 3.1.17 The Police have provided dedicated training, for managers responsible for safeguarding cases and those running related services. This was linked to the revision of the protocol and aimed at improved cooperation and partnership working, and clarity on thresholds for referral and information sharing.
- 3.1.18 Briefings are soon to be provided for identified HBC managers on the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, a forum chaired by the police to deal with high-risk domestic violence cases.
- 3.1.19 Specialized minute taking training for safeguarding (adults and children) and other complex meetings is being provided for staff who would undertake this responsibility.
- 3.1.20 Safeguarding training providers are being asked to incorporate reference to domestic abuse in safeguarding adults training, to demonstrate the essential links, including access to services and specialist risk management forum.
- Domestic abuse courses have been reviewed, taking into account the need to link to Safeguarding Adults.
- 3.1.21 E-learning is being made available on the Council's intranet and will be accessible to external organizations in due course.
- 3.1.22 'Adult Protection in Halton – Inter-agency Policy, Procedures & Guidance' document is being reviewed and updated. Partner agencies and HBC's Legal Services will be consulted in the process and the review will take account of recommendations made in a Safeguarding Review recently undertaken in NHS Halton & St Helens (PCT).
- 3.1.23 HBC's Supervision Policy, Procedure and Practice document has been further revised. The main changes to the policy are as follows:
- Supervision Record form now includes a section to record any issues regarding Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Children, Health Outcomes and Advocacy.
 - Supervision forms have been revised to reflect safeguarding and advocacy and to strengthen the decision-making process between supervision and case file recording.
- 3.1.24 Feedback letter templates and accompanying guidance have been reviewed, and process reinforced in social work teams.

Easy Read versions of the templates are being devised.

- 3.1.25 The Safeguarding Adults webpage on HBC's Safeguarding/Adult Protection website has been revised to make it more user friendly, especially for the general public. Information about the Safeguarding Adults Board has been added.

Partner agencies have been asked to ensure their websites provide a link to the webpage.

- 3.1.26 Articles have been published in recent months, to raise awareness of abuse and how to respond to concerns:

- 'In Touch' – HBC staff magazine
- Staff Brief [HBC] – article published
- Halton 1 Magazine [delivered to Halton households]
- Health 'e' Times published by Halton Voluntary Action

- 3.1.27 Safeguarding Adults events have been held in April/May, for:

- Self Advocates - two events about keeping yourself safe, including Hate Crime and Safeguarding;
- Third Sector – event to raise awareness and encourage sector groups and organizations to consider the impact of what they do on safeguarding adults.

Feedback from the events is being collated to take to the People's Cabinet and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (regarding the former event) and Safeguarding Adults Board (regarding both events). Any learning points arising from the events will be actioned.

- 3.1.28 Information leaflets for the general public and for staff & volunteers, including easy-read versions of the former, have been updated and are in the process of being re-branded. Public leaflets were revised in consultation with service user groups and self advocates.

- 3.1.29 Improvements have been made to the mainstream advocacy service, but more work is required in terms of access and quality. The SAB will monitor progress.

- 3.1.30 The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is expected to conduct the inspection of Adult Social Care in September. A date is yet to be confirmed, but the Council will be notified 12 weeks in advance. The process is expected to focus on:

- Older people as a service user group
- Safeguarding, across all adult groups
- Improved Health and Wellbeing
- Increased Choice and Control

- Maintaining Personal Dignity and Respect
- Commissioning and Leadership, including use of resources

3.2 Regionally

3.2.1 Nine members of the SAB & sub-groups attended a Safeguarding Adults Conference hosted in Halton by the North West Safeguarding Adults Coordinators Network. The programme included a 'No Secrets' review response update, Safeguarding Adults Boards survey/research findings, and workshops – including Serious Case Reviews, Personalisation and Quality & Performance.

3.3 Nationally

3.3.1 The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) & Centre for Public Scrutiny (Cfps) have recently published an Adult Safeguarding Scrutiny Guide aimed at local Councils.

The guide is written for officers and members involved in the Overview and Scrutiny process and for Independent Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards who may be requested to participate in the work of OSCs.

It considers how local arrangements work to safeguard adults in the local authority area and how Overview and Scrutiny Committees can contribute to better safeguarding in this complex and sensitive area of public service.

It is designed to assist officers and members (and Independent Chairs) in shaping and developing the best way to exercise their responsibilities locally. This guide does not claim or aim to provide all the answers, but it is intended to signpost the options available and provide OSCs with issues to consider.

The guide is available below and from:

IDeA
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG
telephone 020 7296 6880
facsimile 020 7296 6666
email ihelp@idea.gov.uk
www.idea.gov.uk



L10-254-adult
safeguarding v 5.pdf

4.0 **POLICY, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy, legal or financial implications in noting and commenting on this report.

4.2 All agencies retain their separate statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding adults, whilst Halton Borough Council's Adult and Community Directorate has responsibility for coordination of the arrangements, in accordance with 'No Secrets' (DH 2000) national policy guidance and Local Authority Circular (2000) 7/Health Service Circular 2000/007.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

5.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Safeguarding Adults Board membership includes:

- The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and
- Divisional Manager for the Children's Safeguarding Unit in the Children and Young People's Directorate.

Safeguarding Children Board membership includes adult social care representatives.

Joint protocols exist between Council services for adults and children.

The SAB chair, sub-group chairs and lead officers for related services will meet regularly and will ensure a strong interface between, for example, Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Children, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Community Safety, Personalisation, Mental capacity & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

5.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

5.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The safeguarding of adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse is fundamental to their health and well-being. People are likely to be more vulnerable when they experience ill-health.

5.4 **A Safer Halton**

The effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults arrangements is fundamental to making Halton a safe place of residence for vulnerable adults.

5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Failure to address a range of safeguarding adults issues could expose individuals to abuse and leave the Council vulnerable to complaint, criticism and potential litigation.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 It is essential that the Council addresses equality issues, in particular those regarding age, disability, gender, sexuality, race, culture and religious belief, when considering its safeguarding policies and plans.