

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 21 September 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Adult & Community
SUBJECT: Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2009-10
WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the Annual Report of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board, for the year 2009/10, and to brief members of the Policy & Performance Board (PPB) on key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- i) **That members of the PPB note and comment on the content of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board 2009/10 and recent/current key issues.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

The Annual Report outlines the strategic framework and operation of the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding adults in Halton who are vulnerable to abuse. The report provides details of work undertaken from April 2009 to March 2010 and summarises priorities and planned activity for the year April 2010 to March 2011.

The report is made available on Halton Borough Council's website and is sent to lead officers and senior managers in partner agencies in all sectors.

3.2 Update

Since April 2010, key issues to report are:

3.1.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board has published its Annual Report covering the period 1 April 2009-31 March 2010. It is available as Appendix 1 of this report and on the website:

www.halton.gov.uk/safeguardingadults

An Easy Read version is being prepared.

The report will be presented to a number of forums, including Policy & Performance Boards (Safer Halton and Healthy Halton), the People's Cabinet and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

The Board recommends that partner agencies present it to their respective Boards.

3.2.2 The Board's Work Plan has been updated in line with agreed Priorities, as detailed in the Annual Report.

3.2.3 Services that have an impact on Safeguarding report to the Board. The following developments have been reported recently:

- Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS):
 - Training and other awareness raising activities provided
 - Access to Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy services
 - Policies and Procedures 'refreshed'
- Dignity in Care:
 - Halton Speak Out has been commissioned to produce easy read information regarding Dignity
 - A Dignity Issues Log has been set up.
- Personalisation:
 - Multi-disciplinary Risk Management arrangements are being set up
 - Positive Risk Taking Policy being developed
 - Commissioning training for Personal Assistants (PAs)
 - Risk Assessment training being provided
- Domestic Abuse:
 - 77 local staff with a safeguarding role recently attended a dedicated training session

3.2.4 Briefings have been provided for Halton Direct Link Advisors and Supervisors, to clarify referral procedures and ensure effective arrangements in place at the interface between callers and lead safeguarding staff.

3.2.5 NHS Trusts are arranging to report Serious Untoward Incidents (that involve Safeguarding Adults elements) to the Board's Quality and Performance sub-group, in recognition of the key learning opportunities they can afford.

3.2.6 An action plan arising from last year's appraisal of learning opportunities for Halton from the Hounslow Housing judgment was brought to the

Quality & Performance Sub-group in May 2010 and will be tracked for progress.

- 3.2.7 The Quality and Performance sub-group terms of reference have been revised to incorporate serious case reviews and dignity matters.
- 3.2.8 Safeguarding Adults Case audits are being undertaken on a regular basis.
- 3.2.9 A Serious Case Review is still in progress, working to a planned timescale.
- 3.2.10 Publicity & Communications sub-group have taken responsibility within their terms of reference for strategy for the Board's response to media enquiries.
- 3.2.11 Carers Week and Disability Awareness (DAD) Day used as a conduit for distributing publicity materials.
- 3.2.12 A dedicated awareness raising event was held on 28 July, for the Safeguarding Adults Board, providers and partner agency staff.
- 3.2.13 All marketing materials have been reviewed, updated and re-branded with a common branding.
- 3.2.14 A marketing campaign has recently been undertaken during July 2010 and will be refreshed. Includes a wide distribution of written materials (including easy read versions), banner stands in public facilities, and taxi and bus adverts.
- 3.2.15 A number of GP surgeries have agreed to provide safeguarding adults details on plasma screens placed in patient waiting rooms.

Halton Hospital has agreed to put a display screen in place.
- 3.2.16 A multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Training Strategy has been developed.
- 3.2.17 A new evaluation tool and attendee personal action plan is being piloted (for completion during the course being attended), to strengthen the likelihood and provide a potential measure of the difference that training makes, to practice.
- 3.2.18 A MARAC briefing has been provided for Halton Borough Council (HBC) Assessment team managers, to raise awareness of processes and services, and strengthen procedures in adult social care.
- 3.2.19 HBC's Adult Social Care Workforce Grant currently funds all of the learning interventions. However, the grant funding is set to finish in March 2011 and no alternative/replacement has been announced at the

time of writing the report. The Council is seeking to move towards a more coordinated and multi-agency response to the future learning and development needs of the partner agencies, initially through a multi – agency plan which can begin to inform long term needs and required resources.

- 3.2.20 Extra training dates have been arranged for Basic Awareness & Referrers Training, due to increased demand. An additional date for Train the Trainer course might be needed.
- 3.2.21 Safeguarding Adults has been incorporated into the Prevention & Early Intervention Strategy.
- 3.2.22 The revised version of the document ‘Safeguarding Adults in Halton - Inter-agency Policy, Procedures & Guidance’ document has been distributed to over 400 agencies and groups operating in Halton. It is available on the website:
www.halton.gov.uk/safeguardingadults
- 3.2.23 An Audit Tool has been developed and recommended to related services, to be used to evaluate Safeguarding specific and Safeguarding related policies, procedures and service specifications, evaluate agencies’ arrangements for checking their impact on safeguarding adults and the standards they contain. The document was piloted against HBC’s Confidential Reporting Policy, which was revised as a result.
- 3.2.24 The Care Quality Commission (CQC) are in the process of conducting an inspection of Adult Social Care, with fieldwork taking place between 7th and 16th September 2010. The process is focusing 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

4.0 **POLICY, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A key issue is sustainability of the Training and Development activity once current funding is no longer available. If the key issues are not addressed the level of knowledge and skills that colleagues require to undertake their duties, may not be achieved and therefore impact negatively on vulnerable adults.
- 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.