

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 8 March 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Adults & Community
SUBJECT: Safeguarding Adults
WARDS: All

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To update the Board on key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

i) **That the Board notes the contents of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 An action plan has been progressed in response to recommendations made after the Care Quality Commission's inspection of Adult Social Care.

3.2 An email has been distributed by the Chair of the SAB/Strategic Director, to all Adults & Community Directorate staff, to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children, for example:

- familiarising themselves with relevant protocols, procedures and guidance;
- undertaking relevant training;
- making sure that Safeguarding (for both children and adults) is a standing item at all team meetings.

3.3 Steps have been taken to strengthen links between Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children training, for example:

- Periodic meetings between the Training & Development Manager, Safeguarding Adults Coordinator and Safeguarding Children Board Manager;
- Joint review of the Transport Division SAFER Training programme.

3.4 A Safeguarding Adults E-learning course has been developed and is now available via the HBC Internet website and intranet. Consideration has been given to how to ensure people know about it and how to access it. The 'flier' (Appendix 1) is attached for Members' information, with a request that they disseminate it among their contacts in order to

encourage usage of the course.

The flier will be distributed widely along with adverts for Basic Awareness courses, once the latter have been commissioned for 2011-12.

Usage of the E-learning course will be monitored and analysed.

- 3.5 Three brief follow up courses on Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment and referral processes took place recently, for assessment/care management staff and managers. 89 staff attended (86 HBC & 3 from 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust).
- 3.6 Safeguarding Adults was incorporated into the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) procedures recently agreed.
- 3.7 A number of initiatives have been introduced to support the personalisation agenda and to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for service users, including:
- A comprehensive Handbook devised for Personal Assistants, incorporating Safeguarding standards.
 - A workshop for Personal Assistants
- 3.8 The Council's Confidential Reporting Policy has been reviewed using the Safeguarding Adults policies & procedures audit tool and was subsequently updated, making specific reference to Safeguarding. A recommendation was made to other agencies that they perform a similar exercise.
- 3.9 Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service has devised a written guidance document and policy for their staff and Worked closely with Safeguarding Adults and Domestic Abuse leads to streamline the service's internal referral procedures.
- 3.10 The Marketing Plan has been reviewed and updated, after analysis of surveys, referral data and other intelligence. Dignity will be incorporated into the plan.
- 3.11 A Serious Case Review (SCR) was carried out during 2010. The independent chair of the review has briefed the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) on key findings and learning points arising from individual agency management reviews that contributed to the SCR. The Executive Summary of the SCR report will be shared with local organizations and published on the Internet.
- 3.12 The SAB's priorities and Work Plan have been reviewed and updated, incorporating recommendations arising from the SCR and the Adult Social Care Inspection.

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 staff and volunteers require to undertake their duties, may not be achieved and therefore impact negatively on vulnerable adults.

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

4.3 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.

Halton Safeguarding Children Board membership includes adult social care representatives.

Joint protocols exist between Council services for adults and children.

The HSAB chair, sub-group chairs and lead officers for related services 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.