

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 29 May 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Adults

**SUBJECT:** Intimate Relationships and Sexual Health Needs for Adults Policy, Procedure and Practice

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the Health Policy and Performance Board with the revised Intimate Relationships and Sexual Health Needs for Adults Policy, Procedure and Practice, for information.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the contents of the report and associated document**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The original policy "Sexual Health Policy, Strategy and Guidelines" was developed in 2003, with subsequent reviews undertaken in 2009 and 2010.

3.2 The policy reviews are undertaken to ensure that all managers, staff and volunteers within the Communities Directorate have current and concise procedures, for addressing a range of sexual health issues that staff members may encounter with service users.

3.3 The policy has been reviewed and developed by a Policy Officer within the People and Communities Policy Team and in consultation with Divisional Managers, Principal Managers, Practice Managers, Safeguarding Adults Coordinator, Dignity in Care Coordinator and Legal Services.

3.4 Following this consultation, the amendments made to the policy include:

- (i) More detail added to the Mental Capacity Act sections to provide clarity and include reference to Independent Mental Capacity Advocates
- (ii) Legal references checked and updated where necessary following consultation with Legal Services

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This policy should be used in conjunction with and is not intended to replace, the Safeguarding Adults in Halton Inter-Agency Policy, Procedure and Guidance 2010, where there are concerns about sexual abuse.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 No implications identified at this time.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The purpose of this policy is to set the context/framework for a consistent approach by Halton Borough Council staff in addressing the personal, intimate relationships and sexual health needs of adults engaged in services commissioned or delivered directly by Halton Borough Council.

The policy endeavors to guide professionals who need to assess and manage matters of rights, responsibilities and risks in regard to intimate and sexual relationships.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Through the implementation of this policy, by using a consistent approach to addressing the sexual health of service users, this will enhance the protection of adults who use care services.

#### 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Vulnerable adults have the right to have the same opportunities in life as others. This policy aims to support this by taking a proactive

approach to deal with sexual health and relationships of service users.

8.2 An associated Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.