

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 6th November 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Adults; Community Safety

SUBJECT: Adult Safeguarding : Halton's Integrated Safeguarding Unit and Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2011/12

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report presents the Board with Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) Annual Report 2011/12 and an update of the progress on the establishment of Halton's Integrated Safeguarding Unit.

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

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

HSAB Annual Report 2011/2012

3.1 Keeping people safe and ensuring that they are treated with respect and dignity continues to be a high priority for Halton Borough Council (HBC), Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) and Partner agencies who are committed to continue to build on the excellent results achieved in the 2010 Safeguarding Inspection to ensure Safeguarding and Dignity are central to the work that we do as a Health and Social Care Economy.

3.2 The annual report (attached at **Appendix 1**) describes how organisations and individuals across all sectors are working together to safeguard vulnerable people. As well as reporting on the HSAB's work over the past twelve months, the Annual Report explains the national context in which we are all currently operating and lists the Board's priorities for the coming year.

3.3 In terms of the Annual Report's content:-

- The **Forward** references the on-going commitment to safeguarding and now references the link to the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board;
- The **Vision** for the Board which hasn't changed from previous years;
- In terms of section 3, **National Context** – relevant developments have been referenced such as the Law Commission's Review, Standards for Adult Safeguarding and the Equality and Human Rights Commission's inquiry into Home Care;

- The **Structure and Reporting Arrangements** section now incorporates recent changes in the reporting structure and also references the new Integrated Adult's Safeguarding Unit and its role;
- The **Outcomes Section** references the new national outcomes frameworks and a handful of case studies;
- The **Board Priorities** reflect the priorities agreed by the Board for 2012/13 as part of its work plan;
- Section 7 outlines the **Safeguarding Data** available from both the Local Authority and Public Protection Unit;
- The **Key Developments and Local Activity** section has been developed with input from Partner agencies.
- The next 6 sections of the report concerned with :-
 - Learning & Development
 - Publicity and Communications
 - Quality and Performance
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Practitioners Network
 - Safer Workforce

All focus on the activity around the various sub groups.

Integrated Safeguarding Unit

- 3.4 On 1st April 2012, HBC and the HCCG established, initially as a 12 month pilot, a new Integrated Safeguarding Unit (ISU). It was agreed that financial support for the unit of £284,596 per annum was to be split 50:50 between the two organisations. A previous report was presented to the Board on 29th May 2012 regarding the establishment of the Unit.
- 3.5 The team, which is based at John Briggs House, Widnes, has a good skill mix and knowledge base to ensure they are effective at delivering on a multi-disciplinary basis. In leading on safeguarding across the Health and Social Care economy, the team have been dealing with cases which have a complex safeguarding element to them.
- 3.6 The ISU have completed one major investigation since their establishment which, in terms of their role, was very successful. The investigation involved four separate safeguarding referrals that had been received from different sources in connection with a care home in Widnes. Initially, these were investigated by individual social workers from the Initial Assessment Team and Complex Care Team in Widnes. The social worker involved in the final of the four referrals recognised similar issues with the cases and raised concerns with the Principal Manager of the ISU.
- 3.7 As a multi-disciplinary team, the ISU were able to investigate the cases in an integrated way, using the skill mix of the new team. The ISU investigated these four complex cases and identified the following similar issues with all cases: neglect; pressure sores; and

poor communication.

- 3.8 Since its establishment, the ISU have developed an operational Thresholds Guidance document (**Appendix 2**). This guidance is directed at providers/practitioners and aims to ensure all adult protection issues and concerns are reported and investigated at the appropriate level and to broker consistency of approach across agencies. New documentation for investigating cases has been created and is currently being benchmarked against recent cases to ensure it is fit for purpose prior to being approved. Implementing this guidance will help to strengthen procedures, promote consistency of approach across all agencies as well as ensuring the ISU are fully informed of all safeguarding investigations to enable thorough monitoring to take place. The draft documentation can be found at **Appendix 3**.
- 3.9 As the ISU went live on 1st April 2012, it has been agreed that an evaluation of the Unit will take place just before the end of the first year of establishment, i.e. January/February 2013. To support the evaluation process as the team only currently capture some basic data, such as referrals, a more detailed performance framework will be developed in conjunction with the Performance team with measurable outcomes based on the objectives of the team. This will support a more meaningful evaluation to be completed and decisions made as to whether the pilot should continue beyond one year.
- 3.10 Since the establishment of the Unit, there have been 55 referrals, indicating that there is an increase in the number of safeguarding cases coming through the system, in particular complex cases from care homes that require a multi-agency response. **Appendix 4** shows a more detailed breakdown of the cases.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Safeguarding Adults Inter-agency Policy that was developed during 2010 was scheduled for review during 2012, however due to the establishment of the new Integrated Adult's Safeguarding Unit; it is now the intention for the review to take place following the first year evaluation of the Unit.

This will ensure that where procedures/systems have been identified as needing to change, or ways of working require changing, these can be incorporated into the revised policy.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The pilot Integrated Safeguarding Unit was established on a 50:50 funding basis with Social Care and Health, each committing £142,929. In terms of associated Council funding, appropriate funds were already in the budget and it was therefore not necessary to invest any additional resources to establish the Unit.

The funding arrangements associated with the Unit will be reviewed as part of the evaluation exercise.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Strong connections continue to be developed between the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards, as it is being increasingly recognised that there are issues which

are common to both Boards. A number of individuals are members of both Boards, but this informal relationship is being strengthened by the development of a formal protocol between the Boards.

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

None identified.

6.3 **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.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults arrangements is fundamental to making Halton a safe place of residence for adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There were capacity risks associated with the previous structure. The ISU has given us the opportunity to re-assess how we support the Safeguarding and Dignity agendas, thus ensuring we are appropriately resourced to effectively protect those least able to protect themselves.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
No secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse (March 2000)	People & Communities Policy Team	Louise Wilson