

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 17 September 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing; Community Safety
SUBJECT: Safeguarding Adults Update
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on key issues and progression of the agenda for safeguarding 'vulnerable adults' (i.e. adults at risk of abuse) in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board: note the contents of the report

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Integrated Adult Safeguarding Unit is now fully operational and funded jointly with the CCG. The Unit operates with a multidisciplinary team, including: Social Workers, Positive Behavioural Analyst, GP, Registered Nurse and Pharmacy Technician. This integrated approach ensures that the unit has the right mix of skills and knowledge to enable them to lead on the investigation of complex safeguarding investigations across Health and Social Care.

3.2 Events at Winterbourne have highlighted the particular vulnerability of people with learning disabilities/Autistic Spectrum Disorder who challenge services. There is now a strong and growing evidence base for the effectiveness of behaviour analytic approaches and these have been shown to significantly reduce the frequency, intensity and duration of challenging behaviour. Having a Positive Behaviour Analyst within the Unit helps to focus exclusively upon that group of people who are funded (in part or fully) by the NHS and who exhibit behaviour that challenge services.

3.3 The Unit are currently undertaking a 6 month service user/carer engagement pilot which will help to identify improved approaches to raising public awareness and learning from service user experiences.

3.4 From 1st April local authorities became the Supervisory Body for the

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in hospitals - a role previously undertaken by Primary Care Trusts. Hospitals apply to local authority Supervisory Bodies where they think they may need to deprive a patient of their liberty to treat them. Preparation for the transfer of the Supervisory Body responsibility from hospitals to the local authority has been ongoing since 2012. This has also included a joint review with St Helens local authority of the role of the MCA co-ordinator. The MCA steering group has developed and led a transition group which has overseen the safe transfer of all necessary functions of the role.

- 3.5 An initial meeting has been held which brought together leaders from different faith groups, HBC staff and key partners. It was noted that meaningful engagement with the faith sector would help HBC achieve some of our own policy goals around community empowerment, integration, encouraging active citizenship, responsible service delivery and even poverty reduction and safeguarding agendas. These meetings are to be developed and to continue.
- 3.6 As part of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Learning and Development Strategy, a Safeguarding Adults E-learning course was developed and is available via the HBC Internet website. Since 2010-11, the E-Learning course has constituted our Basic Awareness training course and the completion rates have steadily increased to 499 during 2012/13.
- 3.7 Further E-learning modules have been developed to provide training on Dignity in Halton, Safer Recruitment, and Children Safeguarding Basic Awareness. Such training has the potential to prevent abuse, promote safe practice, reduces the time away from the workplace and can be completed at a convenient time to the individual.
- 3.8 Seven Elected Members have attended Safeguarding Adult's/Children's Alerter training and further dedicated training is planned for 2013/14
- 3.9 From September 2012 the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) have merged into the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and CRB checks are now called DBS checks. The new Disclosure and Barring Service helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. The changes have been staggered across the intervening year and the whole process has yet to be fully implemented.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A review of existing policies and procedures will be completed this year.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) membership includes a Manager from the Children and Enterprise Directorate, as a link to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Halton Safeguarding Children Board membership includes adult social care representation. Joint protocols exist between Council services for adults and children. The SAB chair and sub-group chairs ensure a strong interface between, for example, Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Children, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Community Safety, Personalisation, Mental Capacity & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

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

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 It is essential that the Council addresses issues of equality, in particular those regarding age, disability, gender, sexuality, race,

culture and religious belief, when considering its safeguarding policies and plans. Policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding Adults are impact assessed with regard to equality.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.