1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present to members of the Executive Board a copy of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) Annual Report which provides a summary of the key actions and priorities the Safeguarding Adults Board has been working towards in the last year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

1) note the contents of the report; and

2) approves the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013/14 (Appendix 1).

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 All Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to produce an annual report which summarises all of the key achievements and priorities the Safeguarding Adults Board has been working towards over the last twelve months. The report sets out the national and local developments on safeguarding adults at risk.

3.2 Membership of Halton’s Safeguarding Adults Board includes senior representatives from all partner agencies, including Directors; Lead Clinicians and Lead Officers responsible for safeguarding adults in Halton. It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure that we work together as a community, to support and safeguard all adults who are most at risk in society.

3.3 To achieve this, the Safeguarding Adults Board continues to develop and establish strong partnerships to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are safeguarded and are free from fear; harm; neglect and abuse.

3.4 All partners are expected to share the following values, which
underpin safeguarding:

- Everybody within our society deserves and is entitled to, good quality care and support to meet their needs
- Some people have difficulty expressing their needs and require careful consideration of their individual circumstances
- Everybody has a right to live in a safe and secure environment without fear of abuse, harassment or injury
- Everybody has a right to live as independently as they are able
- Everybody has a right to make choices and decisions about their lifestyle, which can involve risk-taking
- Everybody should have access to relevant services for addressing issues of abuse and neglect. This includes the civil and criminal justice system and victim support services.

3.5 Halton’s Safeguarding Adults Board contributes to the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Halton’s Strategic Partnership’s Sustainable Community Strategy. During 2012-13, the Safeguarding Adults Board focused on four key priorities:

1. Promote awareness of abuse and the right to a safe and dignified life – particularly among the “vulnerable” and “at risk”, but also among staff, volunteers and the wider community.

2. Increase the contribution from service users and carers, ensuring their views and experience inform the Board’s work and service developments. Provide individualised services that keep people safe, but permit informed decisions about risk.

3. Ensure there is a strong multi-agency approach to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all adults at risk.

4. Equip employees with the necessary tools and training to safeguard adults at risk and ensure their dignity is respected.

3.6 Keeping people safe and ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect continues to be a high priority for the Council and its partners. In recognition of this commitment, the Council have set up a joint Integrated Adults Safeguarding Unit with the NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group. The Unit undertakes the most complex cases, which include multi-agency Police investigations and multiple abuse allegations within nursing and residential homes. The establishment of the Unit provides support to the Halton Safeguarding Adults Board, the Local Authority and other agencies.

3.7 During 2012/13, work has continued to support the implementation of the 3 year Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Learning & Development Strategy, which was introduced in 2010/11. The strategy is designed to ensure that staff and volunteers across all
organisations who are providing support to adults at risk in Halton, have an understanding about the various factors that can indicate a person is at risk, or maybe being abused and know how to fulfil their responsibilities when abuse is indicated and how to prevent abuse wherever possible. By making the training available to all partners, the outcome will be improved safeguarding practices for Halton’s most vulnerable adults.

3.8 The future priorities for Halton’s Safeguarding Adults Board can be summarised as follows:

- Empowerment
- Protection
- Proportionality
- Prevention
- Partnership
- Accountability

These priorities will be achieved by ensuring that there is a full range of policies, procedures and guidance in place, that provide a framework within which partner organisations can work together effectively, to respond to abuse and neglect. These policies, procedures and guidance, will reflect emerging developments in national guidance and legislation, as well as, national; regional and local learning and new approaches to safeguarding practice.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified.

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**

None.