

**REPORT TO:** Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board  
**DATE:** 16 September 2008  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community  
Directorate, Halton Borough Council  
**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults  
**WARD(S)** Boroughwide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To present the Annual Report of Halton's Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board, for the year 2007/08, and to brief the PPB on key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the PPB note and comment on the content of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board 2007/08 and recent/current key issues.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**3.1 Annual Report of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board (SVAPB)**

The Annual Report outlines the operation of the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable adults in Halton, providing details of the work undertaken from April 2007 to March 2008 (including referral rate data) and summarising planned activity for the year April 2008 to March 2009. The report is made available on Halton Borough Council's website and is sent to lead officers and senior managers in partner agencies.

The production of the Annual Report is prioritised along with other items in the SVAPB work plan and is influenced by available resources. The Adult Protection Coordinator drafts the report for the SVAPB and was off work for several months during 2007-08, returning on a part time basis during which time other work took some precedence. Slippage has largely been recovered and the Coordinator has subsequently returned to full time work.

**3.2 Up-date**

Since April 2008, key issues to report are:

**3.2.1 Locally:**

- The joint all party scrutiny group of Elected Members, which was commissioned by the Healthy Halton and Safer Halton Policy and Performance Boards, is (at the time of writing this report to the SHP), drafting its report and recommendations.

- Representatives from Adult Social Services have joined a Safer Recruitment sub-group of the Halton Safeguarding Children Board, to prepare for implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This legislation will have implications for some of the partner agencies represented on the Safer Halton Partnership, as it extends current vetting and barring arrangements.
- A Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults conference was held in July and was well received by those attending. Its primary purpose was to feed back the findings of research undertaken by the University of Liverpool, into service users' and carers' experience of Halton's multi-agency adult protection/safeguarding service, and Halton's response to the research. All participants in the research were invited, along with key people from partner agencies. Plans are underway to publish, nationally, learning points from the report.
- Halton's framework for operation of the service, 'Adult Protection in Halton – Inter-agency Policy, Procedures and Guidance', has been comprehensively revised and distributed. The distribution group has been extended to include, for example, all GP practices, libraries, community centres and the fire service.
- Managers are looking at options for making best use of resources available for operating the safeguarding service.
- In a positive response to a request for funding, partner agencies have committed the following contributions to the budget:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Share (%) REQUESTED</b>	<b>Training (£) 2007/08</b>	<b>Adult Protection Co-ordinator post (£) 2007/08</b>	<b>Total committed (£) 2008/09</b>
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5	238	2,295	2,533
Halton & St Helens Primary Care NHS Trust	25	1,190	11,475	12,665
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	5	238		238

### 3.2.2 Nationally:

- Halton participated in the first phase of a national review of 'No Secrets' (DH & Home Office 2000). Further consultation is due in Autumn 2008.
- A number of localities are participating in a pilot of draft national data reporting standards. Halton Borough Council is not participating in the pilot, as the current priority locally is to improve the standard of data collection and reporting.

#### **4.0 POLICY, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no legal, policy or resource implications in endorsing the Annual Report or in this report to the PPB.

All agencies supporting the multi-agency arrangements retain their separate statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable adults and adult protection, whilst Halton Borough Council's Health and Community Directorate has a lead responsibility for coordination of the arrangements.

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

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Not applicable

#### **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

6.1 Not applicable

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

7.1 Not applicable