

**REPORT TO:** Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 16 March 2010  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community  
**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults  
**WARDS:** All

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To update the PPB on key issues and progression of the agenda for the protection of vulnerable adults in Halton.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

- i) That the PPB note and comment on the report's content.
- ii) PPB note and comment on the reviewed Anti-Bullying Policy, Procedure and Practice document attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Since the last report to the PPB in November 2009, key issues to report are:

3.1 **Locally**

3.1.1 Dwayne Johnson, Strategic Director, took over the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to increase the level of leadership, link in more firmly with related forums and take forward the Portfolio.

3.1.2 The SAB terms of reference, sub-groups, structure and reporting arrangements were reviewed in January 2010 and a Policy & Procedures sub-group has been established.

3.1.3 Safer Recruitment is being considered in terms of sub-group remits and will be and incorporated since a gap was identified.

3.1.4 Dignity and Personalisation leads report regularly to the SAB, including Self-directed Support/Safeguarding Adults Task Group updates.

3.1.5 SAB chair and sub-group chairs will begin to meet regularly early in 2010 and will ensure a strong interface between safeguarding adults, safeguarding children, domestic abuse and mental capacity & deprivation of liberty safeguards.

3.1.6 Regular reports of the SAB activity will be brought to the Safer Halton

and Healthy Halton PPBs from early 2010.

- 3.1.7 St Helens & Knowsley NHS Hospitals Trust recently appointed to a new post of Safeguarding Adults Coordinator and the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust to a new post of Senior Safeguarding Adults Practitioner.
- 3.1.8 A Safeguarding and Personalisation specific task group is being established, to address this emerging agenda.
- 3.1.9 Riverside College have recently reviewed and updated their Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedure. The college Safeguarding Lead will be attending Safeguarding Adults courses, to enable him to ensure the safeguarding training he delivers to college staff is current. In addition, the College have been asked to join the Safeguarding Adults Board again.
- 3.1.10 Voluntary sector training needs have been considered [with HVA Training lead] who confirmed that courses available would meet training needs. Further follow up being undertaken, to confirm whether any dedicated or evening session[s] are needed.
- 3.1.11 Consideration is being given to whether customised training is needed for the Local Involvement Network (LINKs) Board.
- 3.1.12 An event specific to the voluntary sector will be hosted in May 2010.
- 3.1.13 Course outline and objectives for courses related to Challenging Behaviours have been revised and updated to ensure they are in line with a newly developed [draft] Restrictive Physical Interventions Policy, Procedure and Guidance, which will be implemented by HBC and the PCT.
- 3.1.14 The SAB considered training attendance April – Sept 2009. Action taken includes:
- HBC's Quality Assurance Manager reported that many of the Supporting People providers have their own training departments and access a wealth of training courses; HBC is in the process liaising with its training departments and the Supporting People providers to encourage greater take up of training, in particular the safeguarding courses.
  - Residential Social Landlords (RSLs) are being contacted about low attendance rates.
- 3.1.15 The easy read/accessible version of public/service user information leaflet has been updated and revised (in draft). It will be distributed, but later also launched at an event in April 2010.
- 3.1.16 An easy read/Accessible Hate Crime leaflet being produced [will be

launched at an event in April 2010]. Police are being consulted in its content.

- 3.1.17 Demonstration/information packs are taken to prospective clients of the Community Alarm (Lifeline) service, following a request or referral for the service, contain public information flier [Safeguarding]. HBC complete a demonstration and installation where leaflets and paperwork are left with the client [who is in need of community alarm] and their family.
- 3.1.18 The task group being set up to focus on safeguarding and personalization will consider information and awareness-raising. Draft booklets intended for DP/PB recipients have been considered in respect of safeguarding.
- 3.1.19 CQC have confirmed that an Inspection of Adult Social Care, including an emphasis on Safeguarding, will be undertaken in 2010. Further details will be reported when confirmation is received.
- 3.1.20 The multi agency Anti Bullying Policy, Procedure and Practice document has been updated, after consultation. A copy of the draft document is attached as Appendix 1 and comments are invited from the PPB.
- 3.1.21 The Adult Protection Committee approved the original Anti Bullying Policy & Procedure in March 2006. The refreshed document will go to the Halton Safeguarding Adults Board to be ratified after any further comments have been received. A sub-group of the SAB will consider 'roll out'. This policy interfaces with and should be used in conjunction with, 'Adult Protection in Halton Inter-Agency Policy, Procedures and Guidance'.

## 3.2 **Nationally**

- 3.2.1 It was recently announced that, in response to the Government's consultation on strengthening protection for vulnerable adults, new legislation will be introduced to enshrine in law the need for every local area to have in place a Safeguarding Adults Board - a body made up of the local social services authority, the police, the NHS and working with all other groups involved in protecting vulnerable adults. The board will ensure that vulnerable adults who suffer abuse will have quick and easy access to the people who can help them best.
- 3.2.2 The Government, working with stakeholders, will now set in train a programme of work to lead and support all agencies involved in safeguarding adults. It will ensure that everyone involved in the care of vulnerable adults has the skills to protect them.
- 3.2.3 There will also be a new cross Government Ministerial group which will oversee the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, set priorities, work up new policy and provide national leadership.

3.2.4 The Government is also working with the General Social Care Council on a system of registration for home care workers. This will strengthen protection of vulnerable people, raise the quality of care provided and help prevent abuse.

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

4.1 There are no policy, legal or financial implications in noting and commenting on this report.

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

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

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

Review of the SAB and sub-groups took account of the need for strong links between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children & young people, to ensure they are robust.

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

None identified.

##### 5.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The safeguarding of vulnerable adults is fundamental to their health and well-being.

##### 5.4 **A Safer Halton**

The effectiveness of Adult Protection/Safeguarding Adults arrangements is fundamental to making Halton a safe place of residence for vulnerable adults.

##### 5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

#### 6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Failure to address a range of safeguarding adult issues could expose individuals to abuse.

#### 7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 It is essential that the Council addresses equality issues, in particular those regarding race, gender, sexuality, age and disability when considering its safeguarding policies.