

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 26th September, 2023
REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adults
PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care
SUBJECT: Safeguarding Update
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board and highlight key issues with respect to Safeguarding in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

i) Note the contents of the report

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Government announced on 5th April 2023 that the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) will be delayed 'beyond the life of this Parliament'. Whether the LPS are introduced depends very much on what the incoming Government wants to do after that election. The view was LPS would offer a streamlined alternative to the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system.

3.2 Between April 2022 and March 2023 Halton received 894 DoLS applications. A 6% increase on last year's figures. This has resulted in the increased use of Independent Best Interests Assessors (BIAs) in order to keep pace with the increase in demand and, to ensure the DoLS backlog list is kept below 12 months as reportedly suggested by CQC. Therefore, we have worked with the Regional ADASS DoLS group to explore different strategies in order to streamline the internal DOLS process. This work is ongoing; the aim being to increase the DoLS assessments that are completed by Halton Council's BIAs and reduce the requirement for Independent BIAs.

3.3 Key Safeguarding Facts 2022 – 23

- 1096 safeguarding concerns were raised during the year. This is 10% down from last year
- 436 became s 42 enquiries (40%). This is 19% increase on the numbers from last year
- 59% were women and 41% males
- The majority were from the 18 -64 age group

- 227 concluded s.42 enquiries involved allegations of neglect
- 105 concluded s.42 enquiries involved allegations of financial abuse
- 218 concluded s.42 enquiry allegations occurred in the victim's own home
- In Halton, an adult at risk is most likely to be female aged 65 or over living in their own home and will suffer from neglect or acts of omission perpetrated by a service provider

3.4 The first round of multi-agency audits took place in September 2022 and there is an ongoing programme.

Theme of Audit	Resultant Action
Financial Abuse	Financial Abuse Toolkit was reviewed and updated
Self-Neglect	Learning will influence the review of the Self Neglect Policy and toolkit and the introduction of the MARAM process which is underway
Acts of omission in a person's home	Planned for 19 th September – 21 st September
Safeguarding and EDT	tba

3.5 Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington Safeguarding Adults Boards, Safeguarding Children's Partnership's and the four area Community Safety Partnerships are committed to protecting children, young people and adults from exploitation. We know in order to do this effectively, we must develop a shared approach to our exploitation reduction strategies and intervention models.

3.6 A consultant has been working on behalf of the Boards and Partnerships to develop the first pan Cheshire All Age Exploitation Strategy 2023 – 2025. Traditionally, adult and child safeguarding procedures have been separated, with divergent strategic and operational approaches. The aim is to take a more flexible approach, exploring how safeguarding children and young adults could be undertaken fluidly and learning from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and preparing young people for their adult lives. The strategy will be out for consultation shortly.

3.7 The Safeguarding website www.halton.gov.uk/adultsafeguarding has been updated and contains a range of resources for use:

Toolkits:

- Financial Abuse
- MSP Toolkit
- Self Neglect & Hoarding
- Modern Slavery

7 minute briefings

- Adult Grooming

- Creating Safer Places
- Organisational Abuse
- Safeguarding & Wellbeing
- Safeguarding in your Community
- Sports and Activity
- Understanding Safeguarding Legislation
- Modern Slavery

3.8 There are also videos available and links to training and is a great resource for all.

A peer review is in the process of being undertaken in respect of the Safeguarding Adults Board the results of which will be published once completed.

There were four headline key lines of enquiry (KLOE) developed, which have shaped the review process. The KLOE were:

1. Is the Safeguarding Adults Board able to meet its intended function under the Care Act 2014 around safeguarding assurance and improvement?
2. How do Halton adult safeguarding partners ensure there is multi-agency collaboration around safeguarding?
3. Does the SAB promote and enable a safeguarding learning and improvement culture?
4. Is the 'voice of the adult' and lived experience of neglect/abuse/harm discussed and considered by the SAB?

3.9

The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Forum set up a task finish group to consider the issues around domestic violence and older people. They have developed a Domestic Violence toolkit including a dementia checklist to support care providers and those supporting people with dementia and their carers. This is due for publication shortly and will be included on the safeguarding website.

3.10

The care home market in Halton consists of 22 registered care homes. Nine specialist homes offering 67 beds and 13 older people's homes offering 639 beds. (Oak Meadow is not included in these figures). There is currently one home that is subject to a suspension and they and a further home being supported by an MDT approach.

3.11

There are currently no homes within Halton that CQC have rated as inadequate, however, there is one home that has been rated as inadequate in the domain of Safe.

3.12

Adult safeguarding is a critical part of everyday life in looking after vulnerable people in either care homes or in their own homes in the community. From a safeguarding perspective the majority of the concerns and s.42 enquiries within older peoples care homes to date are predominantly in relation to Neglect and Acts of Omission (66%) with 75% of those converting to s 42 enquiry. The majority of these are in relation to medication errors and are predominantly within the two homes that are now being supported via an MDT approach.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 New policies in respect of LPS will be developed once the Code of Practice is published.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified at present.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) membership includes a Manager from the Children and Enterprise Directorate, as a link to Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership (HCYPSP). Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership 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

N/A

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

N/A

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to consider and address the Statutory duty of the Local Authority could expose individuals to abuse and the Council as the Statutory Body 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 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is for information only, therefore there are no environmental or climate implications as a result of this report.

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

10.1 There are none under the meaning of the Act.