

**REPORT TO:** Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 17 November 2009  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community  
**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To present the Annual Report of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board, for the year 2008/09, and to brief the PPB on key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

- i) That the PPB note and comment on the content of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board 2008/09 and recent/current key issues.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)**

The Annual Report outlines the strategic framework and operation of the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding adults in Halton who are vulnerable to abuse. The report provides details of work undertaken from April 2008 to March 2009 and summarises priorities and planned activity for the year April 2009 to March 2010.

The report is made available on Halton Borough Council's website and is sent to lead officers and senior managers in partner agencies in all sectors.

3.2 **Up-date**

Since April 2009, key issues to report are:

3.2.1 **Locally:**

- Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and sub-group terms of reference and work plans have been reviewed & updated.
- The operation and chair of the SAB is under review.
- The local authorities of Halton, St Helens & Warrington, together with Halton & St Helens PCT and Warrington PCT have agreed in

principle to work towards a multi-area approach in commissioning substance misuse and alcohol services. The Joint Service is due to commence in April 2010 and will potentially help to prevent abuse of those whose circumstances exacerbate their vulnerability.

- An additional Detective Inspector post has been created in the Northern Public Protection Unit of Cheshire Constabulary, thereby providing a dedicated DI for Halton instead of covering both the Halton & Warrington areas. A dedicated vulnerable adults officer has also been appointed at Detective Constable level.
- The PPU formally responded to recommendations of HBC's 2008 Scrutiny Review of the Safeguarding service.
- A Dignity Coordinator has been appointed. The Coordinator has joined and will regularly report into the SAB, to ensure that the essential links between dignity and the recognition and prevention of abuse are made and sustained. The Coordinator has also joined the NHS Trusts/HBC sub-group.
- A Dignity Champions' Network has been established, with membership including local representatives from the health, voluntary, independent and statutory sectors. The chair of the Network is the Older People's Champion, Doreen Shotton.
- Development of 2-way secure email facility is being progressed, between Halton Borough Council and the Police, for Safeguarding and Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) correspondence particularly, and if possible between HBC and local NHS Trusts.
- The Local multi-agency Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS) steering group is reviewing governance arrangements, training arrangements, understanding of the law and policies, procedures & guidance. Guidance on implementing the MCA has been provided for the Police.
- Usage of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) service is under review and steps being taken to raise awareness and ensure access.
- Steps have been taken to raise awareness of the Intermediary (vulnerable witness support) service, among Police and HBC officers.
- Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have appointed the Director of Nursing & Governance as Lead Safeguarding Adults manager, who has joined the SAB membership. The Trust also secured funding to invest in a whole time equivalent Safeguarding Adults Matron post.
- NHS Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust has appointed both a Safeguarding Adults Lead manager, who has joined the SAB, and Safeguarding Adults Coordinator.

Developments are ongoing in both Trusts.

- The links and tensions between Safeguarding and arrangements to extend Self Directed Support are under consideration by both the SAB and HBC, to ensure access to adequate safeguards are available to those who choose to direct their own support arrangements, without eroding their right to self determination and independence.
- The Investigators training course target group has been extended to incorporate (4) NHS Trusts' staff who participate in investigations, and learning outcomes & course content reviewed in consultation with the Trusts.
- A Train the Trainer course has been launched to provide full and comprehensive grounding and ongoing support for people with responsibility to cascade basic awareness training.
- HBC is working towards providing better training attendance analysis.
- The Police (PPU) have committed to providing input on an increased number of Referrers and Investigators courses provided by HBC this year, and the content and format of Referrers and Investigators courses reviewed with regard to Police input.
- The Training & Development sub-group has reviewed voluntary sector training needs.
- A multi-agency Publicity & Community sub-group has been set up and terms of reference and work plan agreed.
- Displays of publicity and information were sited at a number of venues during national Carers' Week and on Disability Awareness Day.
- A publicity material distribution to local recipients has begun.
- Tragedies occurring in other localities have been utilized to benchmark local services and provide opportunities for learning and development. These included the death of Baby Peter in Haringey and a housing situation in Hounslow involving adults with learning disabilities and their family.
- An external audit of safeguarding within HBC Adults Services has been undertaken, focussing both on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and, where there were Child Protection concerns, the interface issues with children's services. All recommendations were progressed through an action plan and will be monitored through the HBC Safeguarding Performance Group. Additionally, a protocol for joint working has been set up in HBC.
- Adult Social Care reviewed their internal arrangements regarding the MARAC and produced a report containing recommendations, which were all progressed, including some about governance of the MARAC and reporting mechanism.
- Contractual agreements and service specifications applied to substance misuse services and advocacy services have recently

been reviewed and now incorporate further standards and measurable indicators relating to specifically to safeguarding vulnerable adults. Service standards include protection from abuse, compliance with legislation, training, staff recruitment and selection, and supervision. Providers are specifically required to ensure that staff trained to recognise safeguarding issues.

***Nationally:***

3.2.2

- Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board submitted a comprehensive consultation response to the second phase of the review of 'No Secrets' (DH 2000) national guidance on safeguarding adults.
- Halton /Borough Council responded to a consultation on the review of 'Ordinary Residence' guidance, which includes reciprocal arrangements for dealing with safeguarding concerns arising when residents reside outside of their funding authority area.
- The Law Commission plans to review adult social care legislation, including that which applies to safeguarding adults, during 2010.
- HBC has incorporated a national data for safeguarding adults into its client record recording system and is furthering development of an electronic recording system. Partner agencies are taking steps to facilitate their providing internal safeguarding adults data to the SAB.

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.

5.0

**IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

5.1

**Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

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 policies; physical, emotional and economic to make 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.

6.2 The scrutiny report makes recommendations to mitigate risks for vulnerable adults in Halton.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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