

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 23rd September 2010

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PORTFOLIO Health and Wellbeing

Full Annual Report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board (April 2009 to March 2010).

1. Purpose of Report

To represent the first full report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board, that sets out the work of the Board between April 2009 and March 2010 and the context in which the Board is operating.

2. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- a) Note the content of the full report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board
- b) Comment on the developments made by the Board during the period set out in the report, and the priority actions for 2010/2011 as stated in the detail of the report.
- c) Note the Annual Report will now be reported to Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis, with an additional half year progress update.
- d) Note that the legal framework for regulated social care changes on 1st October 2010 with the implementation of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009

I. Key Priorities

Ensuring effective multiagency strategic partnerships lead the development of improved safeguarding arrangements and practice, and will contribute to the following Council and partner agency key priorities as defined in the Sustainable Community Strategy:

a) **Community Cohesion – celebrating diversity, enabling inclusion**

The role of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is to take strategic leadership of the safeguarding agenda. It is to increase awareness, understanding, reporting of and protection from abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults, who due to age, disability, frailty and long term illness are amongst the most isolated, excluded and vulnerable people living within our communities.

b) **Community Safety – being safe, feeling safe.**

Safeguarding adults is about protecting people from significant harm and who are unable to protect themselves. The desired outcome is that people *feel safe* and *are safe*. The work of the Board will contribute to and are included in the wider safer communities, crime and disorder agenda and endorsed by the LSP.

c) **Health and Wellbeing – adding years to live and live to years.**

The key component of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is for all agencies and organisations, statutory, independent sector and third sector to work collaboratively and collectively with local people to tackle abuse and neglect. The experience of abuse or neglect has a significant impact on a person's health and wellbeing. The misuse of power by one person over another by its very nature will impact upon a person's physical and emotional health and independence. Neglect can prevent a person who is dependent on others for their basic needs exercising choice, control over fundamental aspects of their lives, causing humiliation and loss of dignity.

II. Other Implications

a) Financial

The Board is working collaboratively to maximise the use of resources available to each partner member and explore opportunities to pool resources to improve awareness of safeguarding, joint working practices, and outcomes for local vulnerable people.

b) Human Rights Act (HRA) and other Legal Implications

‘Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons’, No Secrets (DH 2000).

The working principle of the Board is that:

“Peoples’ human and civil rights should be protected, and they have a right to be able to live their lives without fear of abuse or intimidation, in an environment where individuality, independence, privacy and personal dignity are respected”.

c) Workforce

It is the responsibility of all agencies and organisations, statutory or otherwise, to ensure that their respective workforce is appropriately trained and deployed to identify and respond to the risk of abuse and neglect, and that each organisation’s operational and human resource policies and procedures promote and protect the public through safe recruitment and working practices.

The work of the Slough Board includes workforce development and in particular address the improvements required to ensure safe practices and increase workforce awareness, understanding and competency.

5. Supporting Information

Background

- 5.1 The Department of Health document ‘No Secrets’¹, was the first document to provide guidance to Councils with social service responsibility, Health, the Police and partner organisations on protecting vulnerable adults. Identifying social services departments as holding the ‘lead’ co-ordinating responsibility for adult protection services, the guidance advised Councils to establish local multi-agency Adult Protection Committees (now called Safeguarding Boards) and to develop and implement multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse.
- 5.2 In response to ‘No Secrets’, the Councils of Berkshire and related agencies revised and updated local procedures into a single Berkshire-wide document and established two multi-agency safeguarding boards, East and West, to oversee the workings of the procedures and to develop and improve local multi-agency safeguarding practices.

¹ No Secrets (March 2000) Guidance on Developing and Implementing Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures to Protect Vulnerable Adults from Abuse’ (March 2000)

- 5.3 The Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board came into being in April 2009 following agreement that each unitary authority should have its own sovereign board. The Board has consolidated its role since. In particular it has worked on improved partnership working and awareness across the many agencies in Slough and where appropriate East Berkshire. The work has included:
- Local strategic leadership, necessary to deliver required safeguarding standards and performance improvements at a local level.
 - Strengthened multi-agency and partner strategic planning and joint working.
 - Shared strategic priorities that promote the health and wellbeing of vulnerable residents, and support the local crime reduction and community safety agenda.
 - An agreed safeguarding strategy, compiled by all agencies, and supported by a strategic delivery plan, that is overseen and monitored by partners and that reflects locally agreed priorities.
 - Connectivity and accountability to the LSP
- 5.4 'No Secrets' sets out the requirement for local Safeguarding Boards to publish an annual report, to be endorsed through each statutory agency's governance committee. In addition the constitution of the Slough Board states that the Board will report to Health Scrutiny Panel twice a year to discuss safeguarding issues.
- 5.5 The report being presented to Panel provides the first full year report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board. An interim report for the first six months between April 2009 and October 2009 was presented to Health Scrutiny Panel in February 2010.
- 5.6 The first year of the Board has been extremely busy, based upon the Board establishing its role and developing and implementing its work plan, as well as responding to issues that have arisen. The full report of the Board builds upon the interim report and provides a full year overview. It sets out:
- The development of the new Board arrangements.
 - The strategic priorities identified, defined and scoped by the partnership
 - Progress against these priorities
 - The priority actions of the Board in 2010/11
 - Case examples of good practice
 - The statistical profile of safeguarding reports to Adult Social Care services.

The details of the work of Board as summarised above are set out in the full report attached.

- 5.7 Concurrently with the development of the Board, and implementation of its work plan, regulated health and social care services that vulnerable people of Slough use have been preparing to be compliant with the new Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009.
- 5.8 Residential, domiciliary care and some other services have been required to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in accordance with the Care Standards Act 2000. This includes services which Slough Borough Council Commissions and some which it provides.
- 5.9 With effect from 1st April 2010, some health services have, for the first time, been required to be registered with CQC. With effect from 1st October 2010, social care services referred to in paragraph 5.8 (i.e. residential and domiciliary care services) and other designated services (including those providing supported living services and intermediate care services) have to be registered in accordance with the new regulations. All SBC in-house services will have submitted their applications in accordance with the process. All services SBC contracts with will also have had to have done this to continue to supply services to Slough.

6.0 Appendices

'A' - Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board-
Annual Report April 2009 to March 2010