

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel      **DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

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**WARDS(s)**      ALL

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

#### **REPORT OF THE SLOUGH SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD (APRIL 2010 TO OCTOBER 2011)**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To represent the annual report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board, that sets out the work of the Board between April 2010 and October 2011 and the context in which the Board is operating.

##### **2. Recommendations**

The Panel is requested to:

- a) Note the content of the 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 four year priority plan contained in the Board report.
- c) Note that the legal framework for regulated social care changes on 1<sup>st</sup> 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

##### **3. Key Priorities**

This multiagency strategic partnership contributes 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.

**4. Other Implications**

a) Financial

The Board works collaboratively to maximise the use of resources available to each partner member and will 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 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', 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 The Councils of Berkshire established two multiagency committees, one for social services departments and statutory partners responsible for delivering health and social care services to residents living in the East of Berkshire, and one for those living in the West. However, in April 2009 Slough Council established The Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board, with the aim of strengthening priority setting and improvement planning to meet the specific needs of Slough residents and to strengthen local accountability.
- 5.3 The Board is now in its third year and has focussed on:
  - Effective strategic leadership, necessary to deliver required safeguarding standards and performance improvements at a local level.
  - Strengthening multi-agency planning and joint working to better respond to abuse and neglect.
  - Shared strategic priorities that promote the health and wellbeing of vulnerable residents, and support the local crime reduction and community safety agenda.
  - Connectivity and accountability to the LSP via the Health & Wellbeing Partnership Delivery Group and through representation on the Safer Slough Partnership.
- 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 annually to discuss safeguarding issues.
- 5.5 The report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board being presented to Health Scrutiny Panel, summarises the work

undertaken by the Board during the period April 2010 to October 2011 and includes:

- Background of the Board arrangements.
- The strategic priorities of the Board over a four year period
- Progress against these priorities
- Case examples of good practice
- The statistical profile of safeguarding reports to Adult Social Care services.

## **6. Appendix**

‘Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board: Public Report April 2010 to September 2011’

## **7. Background Documents**

- No Secrets (March 2000) Guidance on Developing and Implementing Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures to Protect Vulnerable Adults from Abuse’ (March 2000)  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4008486](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008486)
- No Secrets Review Consultation, 2008  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_089375](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_089375)
- The Law Commission Report: Adult Social Care, May 2011  
[www.justice.gov.uk/lawcommission/docs/lc326\\_adult\\_social\\_care.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/lawcommission/docs/lc326_adult_social_care.pdf)
- Earlier reports of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board: Interim Report September 2009, and, the Annual Report April 2009 to March 2010  
[www.slough.gov.uk/services/20542.aspx](http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/20542.aspx)