

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 13th November 2013

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PORTFOLIO Wellbeing

Draft Report of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (April 2012 to March 2013).

1. Purpose of Report

To present the draft Annual Report of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board, that summarises the work of the Board between April 2012 and March 2013, priority areas of work for 2013/14 and the context in which the Board is operating.

2. Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

- a) Note the content of the report of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board
- b) Comment on the developments made by the Board during the period set out in the report.
- c) Note that the draft Care Bill sets out the first statutory framework for safeguarding adults and uses as its terms of reference the report of the Law Commission into adult safeguarding published in 2011. Key elements of the draft Care and Support Bill are:
 - To place safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory basis.
 - Boards will have to report to local communities.
 - Core membership needs to consist of local authority, NHS and Police.
 - There is a duty on partners to cooperate.
 - Strategic Plan to be agreed by the local community.

- The Strategic Plan and Annual Report to be published.

3. **Key Priorities**

This multi agency 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 preventing abuse and protecting people from significant harm, 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 fifth 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 Local Strategic Partnership 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 Adults Partnership Board being presented to Health Scrutiny Panel, summarises the work undertaken by the Board during the period April 2012 to March 2013 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.
- 5.6 Events at Winterbourne View and at Stafford Hospital have highlighted the importance of effective multi agency safeguarding arrangements and Slough has ensured that 'lessons learned' have informed the work that we do.
- 5.7 In 2012/13 the Board commissioned an independent Peer Review which helped us find out how we can improve our processes and procedures. The findings of the Peer Review have been fed into the Board's Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2013 -16.
- 5.8 Safeguarding alerts/referrals increased by 8% compared to the previous year. This included a welcome increase in self referrals, referrals from family, friends and neighbours, referrals from statutory partner agencies particularly NHS, Thames Valley Police and housing services. Over the last five years safeguarding alerts have increased from 278 (in 2008/9) to 499 (in 2012/13).
- 5.9 However there remains concern at the low level of incidents where a home carer was the alleged perpetrator and this can be partly attributable to under reporting or identification of abuse of people receiving home care services, which can be hidden and more difficult to identify. Quality monitoring of domiciliary care services is a priority for 2013/14.

6. 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
- No Secrets Review Consultation, 2008
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