

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 24th September 2014

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WARDS(s) All

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SLOUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2014)

1. Purpose of Report

To present the draft Annual Report of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board, that summarises the work of the Board between April 2013 and March 2014 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 Board
- b) Comment on the developments made by the Board during the period set out in the report.

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 guidance given in No Secrets will be replaced by The Care Act 2014, which gives the first legislation on the protection of adults from abuse. The Care Act also requires the creation (or continued existence) of multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Boards.
- 5.3 The report of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board being presented to the Wellbeing Board and the Health Scrutiny Panel in October, summarises the work undertaken by the Board during the period April 2013 to March 2014 and includes:
 - National developments and the local context
 - The work of Slough Borough Council and partner agencies over the last 12 months
 - Case examples of good practice
 - The statistical profile of safeguarding reports to Adult Social Care services.

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#

The Care Act 2014

7. Appendices

Draft Annual Report of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board (in Appendices Pack)