

## SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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### PART I FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

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

##### 1. Purpose of Report

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

##### 3. Key Priorities

- a) This multi agency strategic partnership contributes to the following Council and partner agency key priorities as defined in the Slough Wellbeing Strategy:

###### **Safer Communities – 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.

###### **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.

- b) In addition, the Partnership contributes to the following cross-cutting theme:

**Civic Responsibility (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.

**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 Care Act 2014 has now enshrined Safeguarding Adults into legislation. The Act focuses on four main areas:-
- Make safeguarding adults boards statutory;
  - Make safeguarding enquiries a corporate duty for councils;
  - Make serious case reviews mandatory when certain triggering situations have occurred and the parties believe that safeguarding failures have had a part to play;
  - Place duties to co-operate over the supply of information on relevant agencies
- 5.3 Slough Borough Council has already established a Safeguarding Adults Board, with the aim of strengthening priority setting and improvement planning to meet the specific needs of Slough residents and to strengthen local accountability.
- 5.4 The Board is now in its sixth 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; and
  - connectivity and accountability to the LSP via the Health & Wellbeing Partnership Delivery Group and through representation on the Safer Slough Partnership.

- 5.5 The Board will continue to produce an Annual Report which will be available to the Health Scrutiny Panel to discuss safeguarding issues. 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 2013 to March 2014 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.

#### Main points in the report (Appendix A)

- 5.6 The report focuses on work done on promoting the new “Making Safeguarding Personal” agenda. This is a programme devised by the LGA and ADASS and Slough took part in the pilot last year at the Bronze level and is continuing this work at Silver level this year.
- 5.7 Following on from the Serious Case Review in 2012/13, this report looks at the work done both by Slough Borough Council in terms of managing positive risk and this can be seen in work done by individual agencies as well as through the training strategy.
- 5.8 The Adult Social Care Survey showed that people felt safer in Slough as a result of receiving services and this was mirrored by a reduction in Safeguarding referrals from 499 to 452. The reduction in referrals was also due to work being done to redirect inappropriate referrals and this can be particularly seen in the area of pressure ulcers. In 2012/13 all pressure ulcers were reported into adult safeguarding, during 2013/14 training and education was provided by the tissue viability nurse to ensure that only those pressure ulcers which directly related to abuse were reported into the system thus reducing referrals.
- 5.9 Over 2013/14 work also was undertaken to reinvigorate the board and its subgroups. The board subgroups were formed over the last year and have already started working on areas of development including communication and work with other partner agencies such as housing and children’s services and this can be seen in more detail within the report.

#### **6. Appendices**

- A - Draft Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report 2013-14

#### **7. Background Documents**