

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 18th November 2015

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PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

SLOUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

1. **Purpose of Report**

To make the Slough Health Scrutiny Panel aware of the work of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) during 2014/15 and to present the main areas of common concern to the board.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Panel is requested to note and comment on the report.

3. **The Slough Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report**

Although the annual report has been presented to the HSP in previous years, with the introduction of the Care Act in April 2015 this is the first time that the SSAB has had a statutory responsibility to prepare and present the annual report.

As part of putting Adult Safeguarding on a statutory footing the Care Act also identified the local authority as the lead authority with both the local police force and CCG sharing responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements as core board members.

The six key safeguarding principles outlined in the Care Act underpin all our adult safeguarding work; they are consistent with the Slough Wellbeing Board priorities, particularly in regard to Health, Housing and Safer Communities. These principles are:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

They are described more fully in the introduction to the Annual Report.

As well as describing both national and local developments through the year, this annual report is a retrospective that reflects the work carried out in 2014/15. The report is presented in a different way from previous annual reports focusing on the issues and work carried through in relation to the objectives in the Board's

strategic business plan. By taking this approach our intention is to generate a more readable and coherent picture of the work undertaken, the shared objectives of this work across the partner agencies and their respective contributions.

3a. **Issues in the annual report of specific relevance to the HSP**

As will be expected there are significant areas of common interest and overlap in the priorities of the Slough Wellbeing Board and SSAB. This is also the case between the SSAB and the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), and this was reinforced in the Care Act with the introduction of three new categories of abuse, two of which are directly relevant to the SSP: Modern Slavery and Domestic Violence. This has been drawn out in the report of this annual report to the SSP in November 2015. The third category of Self Neglect will be of significance to this board and has been a consideration in Serious Case Reviews (now referred to as Safeguarding Adult Reviews) and is often a factor in mental capacity assessments.

Two of the SSAB's strategic objectives referred to in the annual report are emphasised here:

Strategic Objective 3: Making Safeguarding Personal

This work has been referred to in last year's annual report but the initiative has been advanced both at the national and local level. This is the national direction for safeguarding work with a lesser emphasis on the safeguarding process and stronger focus on achieving, with the individual, what they would like to see as an outcome from the safeguarding involvement. This is not always easy to progress but contains the potential for a much more effective and relevant service to people at risk. This approach is endorsed and promoted in the Care Act and both the borough council, as the lead safeguarding agency, and the SSAB seek to embed this way of working in all adult safeguarding work, the majority of which is multiagency work with partners.

Strategic Objective 4: All agencies will ensure that there is consistent compliance with the Mental Capacity Act, including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards where relevant

Working within the mental capacity framework is an important aspect of Making Safeguarding Personal. It is a counter to any tendency to want to make risk averse decisions for people rather than the agency working with the person and their families and friends to make positive decisions that may generate greater risk as the outcome of consideration by that person of their own situation and what they want for themselves. There is no doubt that this does require a changed working model that professionals across the agencies have struggled with since the introduction of the Mental Capacity Act in 2007. This view is reflected nationally, and Slough is active in the Berkshire Mental Capacity Implementation Group and awareness raising training underway locally.

There are however, very difficult resource and practice implications in regard to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) as the definition of those subject to DOLS has been extended following judgements in the Supreme Court in 2014. This has led to a significant increase in the numbers of DOLS applications, from 28 in 2013/14 to 391 in 2014/15. It is anticipated that the number in the current year will exceed 400. Each application requires assessment by a limited pool of qualified Best Interest Assessors (BIA).

This is a major national issue with all local authority areas affected, some more than others depending on their demographic and the resources in the area. Slough is working with neighbouring local authorities to share BIA capacity as necessary, and while there is significant local pressure and an unavoidable budget overspend, by careful prioritisation the pressure is being managed though with extended waiting times for assessment where the situation is not urgent.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The work of the SSAB directly contributes to the following outcomes in the Councils Five Year Plan:

- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The Care Act identified the local authority police authority and Clinical Commissioning Group for each area as core members of the statutory Adult Safeguarding Board. As part of their core membership an expectation of funding for the board was set out with each agency making a contribution to the costs incurred in delivering the board's responsibilities. Each agency does make a contribution; for the current year, 2015/16 Thames Valley Police has contributed £5,000, the CCG £5,000 and the borough council as the lead authority meeting the costs of staff members with specific safeguarding responsibilities.

There are clearly significant financial and resource strains for all the partners of the SSAB . While it is not possible to quantify a specific and direct impact on safeguarding work, as agencies continue to make savings it is probable that the risk will be increased if support resources decrease and pressures on staff increases. While the SSAB is aware of this, it's responsibility to seek assurance of the quality of safeguarding within and between local agencies remains of primary importance to the SSAB.

There is a specific financial pressure faced by the borough council from the increased DOLS work referred to above with an overspend in 2014/15 of £15,000. This has been recognised by central government who have agreed a one off increase in the DoLS grant to local authorities this year resulting in an on target budget projection.

(b) Risk Management

In large measure all safeguarding work is about risk management, and as identified above there is a concern that further savings and continuing pressure on resources, for all agencies, will increase safeguarding risks.

Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Increase in safeguarding activity following addition of new categories set out in the Care Act 2014.	Ensure triaging system for receiving safeguarding concerns is thorough with clear management oversight.
Responding to DoLS in a timely fashion	Train more BIAs and develop retention strategies.
Increase in Safeguarding Adult	Further embed risk management

Reviews for Self Neglect cases	training and tools for operational staff.
Increase in costs in relation to Serious Case Reviews	This would be an additional cost pressure to SBC unless partners increased their financial contribution.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The working principle of the Board is that:

“people’s 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”

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken for as and when required for specific programmes of work as directed by the SSAB.

5. Comments of Other Committees

The SSAB has considered and endorsed this Annual Report which will also be presented to the Safer Slough Partnership and the Slough Wellbeing Board at the end of November. Partner agencies of the SSAB will also be presenting to their respective Boards over the next few weeks.

6. Conclusion

The Health Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and note the Annual Report of the SSAB

7. Appendices Attached

A - Slough Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report April 2014 to March 2015

8. Background Papers

None