

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel      **DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **SLOUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To make the Health Scrutiny Panel aware of the work of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) during 2015/16 and highlight key issues.

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

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

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

This is the second report that has been presented to the Panel following the introduction of the Care Act 2014. This year we have tried to streamline the areas of work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adult's Board and this can be seen in the nature of the current report.

This time the report has focused on the key areas of work identified by the Board's business plan which came out of a result of two Safeguarding Adult Review's as well as other work areas identified by Board members.

The Report focuses on the work undertaken by the Board in regard to five key areas which are as follows:-

1. Improving identification of risk to the individual and management of that risk
2. To ensure improving safeguarding practice
3. Board effectiveness
4. Learning from safeguarding adult reviews and other reviews/investigations
5. Communication and engagement

3a. **Issues in the annual report of specific relevance to the Health Scrutiny Panel**

As expected there continues to be areas of specific common interest and overlap between the priorities of the SSAB and Slough Wellbeing Board and. This is also the case between the SSAB and the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) and this can be seen in relation to areas identified in the Care Act and through Domestic Homicides.

Two of the SSAB's strategic objectives referred to in the Annual Report are emphasised here:

## **Strategic Objective 1; Improving Identification of risk to the individual and management of that risk.**

The identification of risk and the development of strategies to manage such risks are critical to delivering strong safeguarding practice. SSAB has a multi-agency risk guidance which is available to all partner agencies which should in turn inform their own internal risk policies and guidance. Due to the development of the Care Act 2014 the Board has re-looked at this guidance to ensure that it is line with the philosophy of the Care Act and in particular ensure it is person centred and outcome focused. The guidance was then relaunched and there are plans for an audit of partner agencies in 2016/17 with a focus on risk management which will look at how this risk policy is being used within partner agencies.

The management of risk was identified as an area where agencies needed to develop their practice and was highlighted as a specific issue within all three of the Safeguarding Adult Reviews'. Again this is an area that crosses over with the work of the Wellbeing Board in terms of the delivery of care as risk management is not just part of Safeguarding but should be part of all work with vulnerable adults and children.

## **Strategic Objective 4; Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Other Reviews/Investigations.**

There is now a legal requirement for the Safeguarding Board to undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR's) and last year the Board's SAR subgroup organised three reviews relating to Adults. One of these became a Domestic Homicide Review as well as a SAR.

The themes emerging from the SAR's continues to relate across all agencies working with Adults within Slough and is thus relevant to the Wellbeing Board. The main issues that were identified as part of these reviews related to the management of risk, self neglect and inter agency working. These themes form the basis for the Boards ongoing work plan.

There continues to be issues within completion of Deprivation of Liberty Authorisations within the legal time frame due to a lack of internal trained Best Interests Assessors and funding. This is a national issue which is being raised to the Department of Health by ADASS.

### **3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The work of the SSAB directly contributes to the following outcomes in the Council's 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, its 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 2015/16 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 Best Interest Assessors and develop retention strategies.
Increase in Safeguarding Adult Reviews for Self Neglect cases	Further embed risk management 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 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 Slough Wellbeing Board this month and the Safer Slough Partnership in 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 2015 to March 2016

**8. Background Papers**

None