

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

### **FOR INFORMATION**

## **SLOUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To make the Health Scrutiny Panel aware of the work of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) during 2016/17 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 third 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. Improving safeguarding practice when working with people who self neglect/hoard.
3. Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
4. Making Safeguarding Personal and Outcome focussed.
5. Board Effectiveness

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

The period covered in this annual report has been one of further consolidation after the introduction of the Care Act in April 2015. In trying to secure that consolidation there has been a particular focus on two critical factors. These are: effective senior level strategic partnership planning; and the delivery of effective multi-agency learning and development demonstrated in direct work with people vulnerable to safeguarding risk of abuse or neglect.

Additionally, through the year there has been a focus on generating closer understanding and cohesion between adult services and children's services and in the work of the Safer Slough Partnership. There are numerous overlaps and opportunities for shared learning and practice that will improve safeguarding in Slough. We can see this in individual cases, families and in the circumstances faced by people at risk of abuse in the borough.

Additionally The independent Chair of the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board was appointed to the role of Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in September 2016.

### 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, 2016/17 Thames Valley Police has contributed £4,000, the CCG £10,000 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 2016/17 of £52,000. This is largely due to the need to commission external Best Interest Assessors to undertake the backlog of assessments needed to comply with this legislation.

#### **(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 2016 to March 2017

**8. Background Papers**

None.