

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 15th November 2017
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PART I

FOR DISCUSSION

SLOUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

1. Purpose of Report

To present the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) Annual Report for 2016/17 and highlight key issues.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Wellbeing Board is requested to note and comment on the report.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

- The work of the SSAB contributes to the Joint Wellbeing Strategy and JSNA with a particular emphasis on priority 3: *Improving mental health and wellbeing*.
- Actions carried out by the SSAB and the continuing focus on assurance of good safeguarding practice and procedures by agencies working in partnership across Slough are of critical importance in delivering effective coordinated service.
- This is the third report that has been presented to the Wellbeing Board following the introduction of the Care Act 2014. This year we have tried to streamline the presentation of the areas of work undertaken by the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) in this annual report.
- This report has focuses on the key areas of work identified by the Wellbeing Board's business plan which incorporates learning from two Safeguarding Adult Reviews 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. 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.

This is a national problem which all local authorities are struggling to contain.

- (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 - This is recognised in the Terms of Reference for the SSAB, particularly in the following point:

“Recognise the public duty to protect the human rights of all citizens including those who are subject of concern but who are not covered by the Safeguarding Adults Procedures. This duty falls on each of the board’s member organisations who will offer signposting, advice and support as appropriate.”

- (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. Summary

Members are asked to note the work that has been undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the SSAB’s key activities and achievements during 2016 /17 for inclusion in their third annual report to the Wellbeing Board following the introduction of the Care Act 2014.

6. Supporting information

6.1 The period covered in this annual report has been one of further consolidation after the introduction of the Care Act in April 2015.

6.2 In trying to secure that consolidation there has been a particular focus on two critical factors. These are:

- i) effective senior level strategic partnership planning;
- ii) the delivery of effective multi-agency learning and development demonstrated in direct work with people vulnerable to safeguarding risk of abuse or neglect.

6.3 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 (SSP). 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.

6.4 The independent Chair of the SSAB was also appointed to the role of Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (SLCSB) in September 2016.

7. Comments of Other Committees

The SSAB has considered and endorsed this Annual Report which was presented to the Slough Health Scrutiny Panel on 10 November 2017. Partner agencies of the SSAB will also be presenting this annual report to their respective Boards over the next few weeks.

8. Conclusion

The Slough Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and note the Annual Report of the SSAB.

9. **Appendices Attached**

A - Slough Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report April 2016 to March 2017

10. **Background Papers**

None.