

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	CLr Philip Corthorne
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Social Services, Health and Housing
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Nick Ellender – Social Care, Health and Housing
<b>Papers with report</b>	Annual Report 2010-11

## HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	The Annual Report 2010-11 of the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board outlines the partnership’s activity and performance in safeguarding adults at risk, the activity in relation to deprivation of liberty authorisations and the priorities for the year. This is set in the context of national guidance and policy.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	<p>The Local Authority holds the lead responsibility for ensuring collaborative arrangements are in place for the protection of adults at risk of abuse and exploitation in their area.</p> <p>There are links across to the Safer Communities Partnership, Healthier Communities for Older People (HCOP) and the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB). Safeguarding is also linked to the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).</p>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no new financial implications. Safeguarding adults work is within existing budget provision for assessment and care management staff in Adults’ Social Care services.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Social Services, Health and Housing
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Safeguarding activity covers all Wards.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That Cabinet note the work of the Partnership Board and safeguarding activity in LB Hillingdon.**

## **INFORMATION**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

The protection of adults at risk is a critical activity of the Council and a key partnership area of work with health services and the voluntary sector. This report informs Cabinet of this activity.

### **Alternative options considered / risk management**

None.

### **Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)**

The Social Services, Health and Housing Policy Overview Committee conducted a review into safeguarding vulnerable adults in 2008 / 2009 to help address gaps in provision and seek opportunities to strengthen the role and functioning of partnership arrangements.

It is also likely that the Committee will wish to provide comments to Cabinet on this report from their meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Supporting Information**

1. The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is a non-statutory, multi-agency partnership of independent and charitable organisations, statutory agencies and others with an interest or responsibility for safeguarding adults at risk. Local Authorities, as required by Government guidance, are the lead agencies in co-ordinating the response to safeguarding adults at risk, part of which is to ensure an effective Safeguarding Adults Board. The remit of the Board is to oversee the strategic development of safeguarding adults and the effectiveness of local arrangements.
2. Government guidance on safeguarding adults at risk was issued in 2000. This guidance was subject to a national consultation in 2009/10 with a view to reviewing and updating the guidance, for example, incorporating changes in the law around mental capacity. The current Government issued a statement in May 2011 which set out six principles on safeguarding adults at risk, is summarised in the annual report. They also indicated that, as part of adult social care legislation planned for 2012, Safeguarding Adults Boards would be placed on a statutory footing. As yet, the exact responsibilities and remit of these statutory boards is not known, but it is anticipated there will be no significant change but agencies will be placed under a legal requirement to comply with local safeguarding arrangements.
3. Hillingdon is well placed to make this change having, this year, reviewed the functioning of the adult Board. This has resulted in the Board working more closely with the statutory children's safeguarding Board, with one, independent chair covering both Boards and better use of resources to support the work of both children and adult's safeguarding.

4. A significant achievement this year has been the agreement of all London Boroughs to work to one set of pan-London multi-agency procedures for the protection of adults at risk. Previously, whilst all Boroughs complied with the Government guidance issued in 2000, there were major local variations that hindered a consistent response to safeguarding adults and good cross Borough working. Hillingdon has played a central role in promoting this work.

5. Safeguarding alerts and activity in Hillingdon is high, with more referrals being received this year than last. This is seen as positive, indicating the commitment and work of partners plus awareness campaigns that have raised the profile of safeguarding adults at risk. There is more willingness to consider whether something that is happening to a vulnerable adult - maybe abuse or exploitation, and to report it.

6. Physical abuse and neglect forms the main type of abuse referred although reports of financial abuse have significantly increased this year, a picture reflected across other London Boroughs. The Safeguarding Board have identified this area of work as a priority in their business plan.

7. Arrangement for safeguarding adults at risk and compliance with policies and procedures are robust. Hillingdon's safeguarding service was subject to an audit of their work and received a very favourable report. As indicated in the Chairman's introduction to the annual report, the Board has very effective partnerships and whilst the Board is confident adults at risk are protected, the Board wants to evaluate further the impact of its interventions and the success of outcomes for people. This is against the changing background of an increasingly diverse adult social care market, where we are required to promote choice and control, personal budgets for meeting social care needs and to balance safeguarding with positive risk taking.

### **Financial Implications**

None directly from this report.

### **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

#### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

Safeguarding adults at risk remains a high priority for all partners

#### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board annual report is written by the relevant Service Manager in conjunction with the safeguarding leads of partners and members of the Safeguarding Board. All major partners are consulted and contribute. The report was agreed at the Board meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2011.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and is satisfied that there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### **Legal**

The SAPB Annual Report 2010-11 is produced pursuant to statutory guidance issued by the Department of Health in 2000 entitled "*No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse*". The guidance which was issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 places a duty on local authorities to take the lead in co-ordinating work to protect adults at risk. The guidance requires statutory agencies to work in partnership to ensure that effective policies, procedures and systems are established to progress and support this work.

Key recommendations in the guidance included the establishment of adult protection committees (which are now called Safeguarding Boards) to oversee the strategic leadership of the protection of adults at risk. The guidance recommended that lead officers from each agency should submit annual progress reports to their agency's executive management body or group to ensure that adult protection policy requirements are part of the organisation's overall approach to service provision and service development.

There are no other significant legal implications arising from this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL