

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS IN HILLINGDON – ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

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REASON FOR ITEM

The aim of safeguarding adults at risk is to help adults at risk to live a life that is free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes - but is not limited to - arrangements for responding to allegations of abuse.

Local Authorities have a responsibility to follow the Department of Health guidance outlined in “No Secrets” (2000) and to be the lead agency in coordinating the multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse in their area. As part of this, the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) leads on strategy, monitoring and reviewing the safeguarding arrangements in Hillingdon. It publishes an Annual Report, detailing what the partnership has achieved over the year, local and national developments and it decides the service priorities.

The Care and Support White Paper and draft Bill proposes to set safeguarding adults at risk on a statutory footing, placing a duty on Local Authorities to carry out enquiries into any allegations of abuse or exploitation. Having a SAPB will become a statutory requirement requiring the co-operation of agencies to work together to protect adults at risk.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To note and comment on the Safeguarding Annual Report 2011-12, prior to presentation at Cabinet in November 2012
2. To ask for further information to be included within the Annual Report format.

INFORMATION

1. The Hillingdon Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is a multi-agency group responsible for the strategy and performance of the partnership in the prevention of, and response to, the abuse of adults at risk in Hillingdon. The Board has an independent chair, Lynda Crellin, who also chairs the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB). Whilst each Board maintains its own identity, collaboration between the two Boards is seen as a key, positive development.

2. The terminology 'Safeguarding Adults at Risk' has been widely adopted nationally and locally but this area of work is still sometimes known as: Adult Protection, Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA), Protecting Vulnerable Adults and in some cases just 'vulnerable adults'.
3. The report presents a retrospective of safeguarding work over the year. Key local developments and service changes in 2011-12 have been:
 - The change to the SAPB structure and the collaborative model of working with the LSCB
 - Implementing the London multi-agency safeguarding adult policy and procedures, strengthening cross boundary work and ensuring a common understanding of responding to allegations of abuse.
 - Improve collaboration and partnership across agencies.
 - In consultation with stakeholders, re-aligning the Board's priorities to reflect the changes in adult health and social care.
 - Focussing more on successful outcomes for people rather than just on compliance.
4. The SAPB priorities for development for 2012 onwards have been built around the six Government principles of
 - Empowerment
 - Protection
 - Prevention
 - Proportionality
 - Partnership
 - Accountability
5. Of particular priority is a need to improve our response to abuse, particularly financial abuse, which appears to be growing. We also need to ensure that the positive commitment to personalisation does not lead to increased risks. There is no evidence so far that this will be the case. The SAPB also wishes to increase its quality control mechanisms and to test our local practice against national concerns such as the Winterbourne events. The SAPB is well positioned to comply with the likely statutory requirements of the Care and Support Bill.
6. Because of their key role in supporting vulnerable adults we are keen that GPs as providers should be involved in the SAPB, along with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Hillingdon Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report 2011-12 and appendix.

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Social Services, Health and Housing POC - 9 October 2012