

# SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 13

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Philip Corthorne
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Social Services, Health & Housing
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Nick Ellender, Adult Social Care Lynda Crellin, Independent Chairman of the Board
<b>Papers with report</b>	Annual Report 2012-13

## HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	The Annual Report 2012-13 of the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board (SAPB) 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>	The Council 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. 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).
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no new financial implications. Safeguarding adults work is within the existing budget provision for assessment and care management staff in Adults' Social Care services.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Social Services, Housing and Public Health
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Safeguarding activity covers all Wards.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet note the work of the Partnership Board and safeguarding activity in LB Hillingdon, and to consider the potential implications of the Care Bill on the work of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.**

## **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

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

None

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

This report was considered by Policy Overview Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013

The Committee welcomed the comprehensive and encouraging report which demonstrated that a number of improvements had been made.

The Committee noted that there were 1348 alerts and referrals and activity levels had been high. This is not necessarily a bad sign but can be seen as indicating that more people are aware of safeguarding adults at risk and are willing to report their concerns. The number of repeat referrals was low which indicated that Safeguarding Adults concerns were also being met first time.

The Committee heard that SAPB had continued to develop its local processes and procedures and welcomed the news that it had introduced a new risk assessment framework which would enable it to better assess the effectiveness of interventions.

The Committee noted that this had been the first full year of collaboration with the LSCB and appreciated that this collaboration had enabled the SAPB to work more closely on key issues including the planned Multi-Agency Hub (MASH) and joint work across the Children's and Adult Mental Health Services.

Given that the number of vulnerable adults in the Borough is increasing; the Committee welcomed the approach to develop Teams focussed around the family and a more holistic approach to safeguarding. But the Committee also acknowledged the identified future challenges and improvements which could be made. These include the improved monitoring of those adults in homes or hospitals and the development of improved quality assurance mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of interventions on the ground. This is with particular reference to care homes that look after people with dementia.

The Committee welcomes the improvements which have been made since the last report and especially the continued work which is being done to raise the awareness of adult safeguarding with the public.

## **Supporting Information**

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.

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.

## **Summary of Conclusions**

1. The report presents a retrospective of safeguarding work over the year. Key local developments and service changes in 2012-13 have been:
  - Changes to risk assessment process to better assess the impact of interventions,
  - Continued implementation of the pan London policies and procedures,
  - Dissemination of learning from case reviews,
  - Establishment of sub group to plan and develop response to Winterbourne Inquiry. Compliance with initial phase of Winterbourne action plan,
  - Began work to incorporate response to issues of safeguarding vulnerable adults in development of Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH),
  - Developed relevant local guidance, e.g Deprivation of liberty, Serious case review guidance, Hoarding Policy.

2. The SAPB priorities for development for 2013 onwards have been built around the eight ADASS standards of:

- Outcomes
- Leadership
- Strategy
- Commissioning
- People's Experiences of safeguarding
- Service delivery and effective practice
- Performance and resource management
- Local safeguarding Board

3. Of particular priority is a need to improve our response to abuse, particularly financial abuse, which appears to be growing. The Council also needs 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.

4. All relevant agencies have contributed to the annual report and the Clinical Commissioning Group have begun to actively participate in early 2013.

5. It should be noted that the role, expectation and workload of the Adult Safeguarding Board have increased hugely over the last year and this will continue when the Care Bill becomes law. Resourcing of the Board will become an issue and it seems unlikely that the Government will be prescriptive in terms of expected contributions from partner agencies. Some business management and administrative time will be essential to ensure effective functioning of the Board.

6. The Council is currently transforming adult social care services and a priority is to maintain awareness and investigation of adult vulnerability and abuse.

## **Financial Implications**

None, although it is noted there may be some implications for the future level of support for the Board's work once the Board is placed on a statutory footing, possibly in financial year 2014/15

## **Legal implications**

When the requirements of the Care Bill are passed into statute, the terms of reference and membership of the SAPB will have to be reviewed. Under current arrangements the SAPB is well placed to be compliant with new regulations and guidance as currently understood.

## **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 Chairman and 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 26th of September 2012.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance notes the recommendations in the report and concurs with the financial implications set out above.

### **Legal**

The SAPB Annual Report 2012-13 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.

As identified, the Care Bill, when enacted will place Safeguarding Boards on a statutory footing with proposed responsibilities in line with the current guidance. However, at this stage, the Bill has not been finalised. Under the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet has the appropriate power to agree recommendations proposed at the outset of this report. There are no other significant legal implications arising from this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Care and Support Bill 2012