

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD: ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Cabinet Member	Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Social Services, Health and Housing
Officer Contact	Lynda Crellin, Independent Chairman Tony Zaman, Adult Social Care Services
Papers with report	Annual Report 2013-14

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	The Annual Report 2013-14 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.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Putting our residents first: <i>Our people</i> The Local Authority holds the lead responsibility for ensuring partnership 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 Hillingdon Partnership, 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).
Financial Cost	There are some potential costs in ensuring that the Board is equipped to fulfil the responsibilities of the Care Act from April 2015. This will be negotiated across partnerships
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Services, Housing and Public Health
Ward(s) affected	Safeguarding activity covers all Wards.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet:

- 1. Notes the 2013-14 Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board 2013/14.**
- 2. Notes the work of the Partnership Board, safeguarding activity in Hillingdon and supports work with partner agencies to ensure that the Board meets the requirements of the Care Act 2014.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The protection of adults at risk is a critical activity of the Council and partners as such it is a key partnership area of work with health services and the voluntary sector.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

The Committee welcomed the report which demonstrated that the multi-agency system in place to safeguard adults in Hillingdon was working well and a number of improvements had been made.

The Committee noted that 170 cases were addressed. Officers indicated that this meant positive action had been taken to address safeguarding concerns.

The Committee welcomed the establishment of a vulnerable person's panel and the creation of a Care Governance Board to oversee the quality of local provision and coordinate action to improve services. The Committee also noted the work that was underway within adult social care to ensure that safeguarding was embedded across the whole operational service.

The Committee raised concerns about hospital discharge at night. Officers confirmed that to improve matters, the Council was working in partnership in hospitals at an earlier stage so that appropriate discharge plans were in place.

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. This will mean that residents will have the support of a number of different professionals working together to support them to ensure that they only have to tell their story once. The Committee acknowledged that the Board was reviewing the frequency of audits and inspections and how these should be monitored in the future. In addition, the

Committee suggested that future reports could be improved by providing further details about closures and the actions arising from this classification.

The Committee welcomed the improvements which had 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, statutory partners and voluntary sector have a responsibility to follow Department of Health guidance. The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) has been established in line with the Department of Health "No Secrets" guidance (2000). Currently "No Secrets" guidance identifies Local authorities to be the lead agency in coordinating the multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse in their area.

The Care Act 2014 will require all councils to establish with partners a Safeguarding Adults Board from April 2015. The Hillingdon SAPB in keeping with best practice and ahead of the new statutory requirements of the Care Act produces an Annual report, which the Cabinet is asked to note.

The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) leads on strategy, monitoring and reviewing the safeguarding arrangements in Hillingdon. It is a multi agency partnership where statutory independent and voluntary organisations are represented. The Annual report, details what the partnership has achieved over the year, local and national developments and it presents new priorities.

The Annual report is presented to Cabinet and will also go to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership in February along with the Health and Wellbeing Board in March. The Care Act 2014 will, from April 2015, set safeguarding 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.

Summary of Conclusions

1. The report presents a retrospective account of safeguarding work over the year 2013/14. The year has seen good progress in the development of the Board and the wider multi agency safeguarding arrangements in the Borough. Key local developments and service changes in 2013-14 have been:
 - The establishment of a vulnerable person's panel that acts as a forum for professionals to discuss cases that are a cause for concern, such as hoarding or self neglect and formulate effective management plans.
 - The creation of a Care Governance Board made up of senior managers within Adult services to oversee the quality of local provision and coordinate action to improve services that fall below the quality threshold.

- The implementation of the Winterbourne View plan, by reviewing current commissioning arrangements and intensive case management to ensure those people in inpatient NHS settings move to appropriate local provision.
 - Reorganisation of adult social care to ensure that adult safeguarding is embedded across the whole operational service, rather than a single team.
 - Convened the serious case review subcommittee to conduct a review and complete a multi agency action plan.
 - Increase in the conversion rate of notifications to referrals indicating increased awareness of adult safeguarding
2. The SAPB priorities for development for 2014 onwards have been built around the eight Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (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. In preparation for the implementation of the Care Act requirement to establish a statutory Adults Safeguarding Board, the SAPB is held on a different day from the Children's Board, thus allowing more time for the challenging agenda. There is a joint sub group that discusses issues that are of relevance to both Boards. The Council and partners have also commissioned an independent review into the functioning of the SAPB and its cross over with LSCB, in order to ensure that we are completely prepared for Care Act implementation.
4. The Care Act 2014 requires a Safeguarding Adults Board to be set up in each local authority area. The core members of the Board are the Local Authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The guidance also lists a number of other potential members including NHS provider trusts, probation and voluntary sector organisations. The Boards must produce a three year strategic plan, an annual report and convene serious case reviews as required. The Act places a duty to co operate on the core members of the Board to carry out the work of the board and the conduct of safeguarding inquiries. In preparation for implementing the requirements of the Care Act the Council has commissioned external consultants to undertake a review of the current arrangements and to review the SAPB. It is expected to report shortly, which will ensure that we are able to meet the requirements of the Care Act.
5. The Board has identified the following priorities:
- To improve its response to abuse where the social care market is becoming more diverse and fragmented and also to ensure that people are safeguarded at key transition points, such as hospital discharge.

- The Board also need to ensure that the positive commitment to personalisation and choice happens, with good risk enablement practices that keep people safe but extend their choice and control over services. There is good evidence to support positive outcomes for service users from personalisation.
 - The need to increase performance and quality control mechanisms across the partnership.
 - To implement the local Winterbourne View Action plan
 - To work across agencies to improve and embed the Mental Capacity Act into practice.
 - Implement the Making Safeguarding Personal initiative in Hillingdon to , increase user satisfaction and achieve improved outcomes.
6. The evidence indicates that Hillingdon responds appropriately across agencies to concerns about adults at risk. However, there are some important challenges:
- Local demographic data suggests the number of vulnerable adults in the Borough will rise.
 - The Making Safeguarding Personal agenda is the thread running through the Care Act implementation and this will present a challenge to all staff to ensure that it is fully embedded in work with vulnerable adults.
 - A recent court judgment has greatly increased the workload and consequential costs in respect of deprivation of liberty assessments for local authorities.
 - The actions arising from the Winterbourne Review are still ongoing and the challenge remains of ensuring the safeguarding people with learning disabilities in long term care, whilst planning their move into community settings.
7. It should be noted that the role, expectation and workload of the Adult Safeguarding Board has increased hugely over the last year and this will continue when the Care Act is implemented in April 2015. Increased resourcing of the Board by all statutory partners will be required. The Care Act guidance is not prescriptive in terms of expected contributions from partner agencies but does recognise the need for statutory partners to ensure that statutory boards are adequately resourced to undertake their responsibilities. Some business management and administrative time will be essential to ensure that the Board can be the effective monitoring and quality assurance body that is expected in the Care Act regulations and guidance.

Financial Implications

It is noted there may be some implications for the future level of support by partners for the Board's work once the Board is placed on a statutory footing from April 2015.

Legal implications

The role and remit of the SAPB is currently under review to ensure that it will meet the requirements of the Care Act. Under 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 Independent Chairman and Head of Service, 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 by the Board meeting in December 2014.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

In 2014/15 the Council received £125k of funding to support the implementation of the Care Act from 2015/16. Of this funding £20k has been used to support the review of the current Adult Safeguarding Board in order to comply with the requirements of the Care Act.

For 2015/16 additional resources have been made available through the new burdens funding of £838k within the Better Care Fund to support the delivery of the councils new responsibilities set out in the Care Act. These include the responsibilities set out in paragraph 4 to set up a statutory Adults Safeguarding Board from April 2015. The actual cost of the operation of the Board in 2015/16 has still to be quantified and it is noted there may be some implications for the future level of support by partners for the Board's work once the Board is placed on a statutory footing from April 2015.

Legal

Cabinet are being asked to note the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board's annual report for the year 2013-14. The report sets out: the partnership's activity and performance in safeguarding vulnerable adults; activity in relation to deprivation of liberty authorisation and; the Board's priorities for the year.

There are no specific legal implications arising from the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL