

HILLINGDON SAFER ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cabinet Member	Councillor Phillip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Social Services, Health and Housing
Contact	Stephen Ashley, Independent Chairman of Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB)
Papers with report	Annual Report

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	The annual report of the Hillingdon Safer Adults Partnership Board (HSAPB) is a statutory requirement from April 2015. This annual report covers the year 2014/15 for which the production of an annual report was discretionary. The annual report describes the work of the partners engaged in Adult Safeguarding in the Borough, for the year ending 31 st March 2015. It will be published and available to view on the Council's website. It is reported to Cabinet for noting.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People.</i>
Financial Cost	There are no direct costs applicable with the publication of this annual report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Services, Health and Public Health
Ward(s) affected	All

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet notes annual report of the Hillingdon Safer Adults Partnership Board for 2014/15.

Reasons for recommendation

The annual report is a statutory requirement from April 2015. It covers the period 2014/15 when it was discretionary but the production by Adult Safeguarding boards of annual reports is considered good practice. Cabinet are asked to note the importance of adult safeguarding. The

report is a partnership document containing information specific to the work undertaken in the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

Policy Overview Committee comments

The Committee welcomed the report which highlighted that services across Hillingdon were supporting residents and safeguarding vulnerable adults.

The Committee noted that the establishment of the Care and Governance Board and the Vulnerable People Panel had created positive bodies which enhance multi -agency communication and information sharing.

Partnership working was also strong. However, the Committee raised questions in a number of areas. In particular, it was noted that staff were not confident about using the Mental Capacity Act and that further improvements were required in relation to information sharing regarding high risk transition points such as admission and discharge from hospital. The Committee noted that there had been a significant rise in the number of authorisation requests for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards compared to the previous year. In addition, the Committee raised concerns about commissioning processes and the separation of responsibilities across the Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England and noted that NHS England had yet to be represented on the Board.

Given 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. The Committee also agreed that the implementation of Making Safeguarding Personal across all agencies, as well as raising public awareness of Safeguarding were important aspirations which would contribute in a positive way to the service currently provided.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

Background and context

The annual report reflects activity from over one year ago, as it is for the period April 2014-March 2015. It is the report of the Board Chairman and in this case it marks the final one of the previous incumbent's tenure. The new Chairman has articulated a clear strategy for how the Safeguarding Adults Board will develop going forward.

Steve Ashley was appointed to the role of Independent Chairman for the Adult and Children Boards in April 2015 and began work in June. The Care Act 2014 has put Adult Safeguarding on a statutory footing similar to Children's Safeguarding. An external peer review was undertaken in the light of the Care Act in January 2015. This recommended changes to the board and the creation of an independent support hub for both the Adult and Children safeguarding boards.

The new Chairman wishes to work with partners to ensure that the Board is effective in ensuring that vulnerable adults in Hillingdon are protected.

The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is a multi agency partnership comprising of statutory, independent and charitable organisations with a stakeholder interest in safeguarding adults at risk.

The Boards objective is to protect and promote individual human rights, independence and improved wellbeing for vulnerable adults in Hillingdon.

The Board welcomes the comments of the Policy and Overview Committee. The Board is in the process of commissioning training in relation to the Mental Capacity Act to increase the workforce competence in this area, particularly in light of the recent changes. In addition, training for social workers has been commissioned to attain Best Interest Assessor qualification which will widen the pool of people available to undertake these assessments required under the Deprivation of Liberty statute and guidance. These staff will act as "experts" within teams to further develop the competence of the workforce in respect of the Mental Health and Mental Capacity Acts.

Report Summary

Review of Safeguarding Adults:

In January 2015 the SAPB commissioned a review to assess its effectiveness as a Board. The review followed the Local Government Association peer review/challenge methodology.

Key recommendations for the Board to be Care Act compliant are:

1. The Board should establish a revised structure with senior members from each agency to demonstrate commitment and importance of the board and enhance its ability to operate effectively.
2. Resourcing of the work of the Board and infrastructure that effectively ensures delivery of core functions and the work programme should be agreed between the statutory partners and reviewed annually.

Effectiveness of Local Safeguarding Arrangements

A number of multiagency workshops have been held to clarify and promote a better understanding about safeguarding thresholds in order to achieve a more consistent and proportionate response and the Council have developed a range of reports to facilitate effective performance monitoring. These are:

1. Dashboard, a report to improve performance and quality information available to the SAPB.
2. Monthly reports to enable Service Managers and Team Managers to manage performance in their area.
3. Provider performance reports to facilitate operational and strategic oversight of safeguarding practice of providers.

Serious case reviews

One serious case review was carried out in 2014-15. All actions from the review have now been completed. The key learning points are:

1. The need for clear communication between agencies at critical points: for example, when a patient is brought to A&E by ambulance there must be a clear handover to hospital staff.
2. Non attendance at health appointments should be followed up more rigorously.
3. Agencies should remain vigilant for indicators that a carer might be in need of a carers assessment.
4. Discharge should not be the default position when contact cannot be made with a vulnerable patient.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in publishing this report.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The publication of this report will not directly affect service users.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The report contains reports from each of the agencies that form the partnership.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation that Cabinet note and comment on the content of this report.

Legal

In accordance with Care Act 2014 and Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Hillingdon Safer Adults Partnership Board must publish an annual report detailing what it has done during the year to achieve its main objective (i.e. to help and protect adults in its area) and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews or on-going reviews.

There are no specific legal implications arising from the report.

6. BACKGROUND Papers

Previous Annual Reports