

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 15 November 2011  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities  
**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Adults  
**WARDS:** All

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To update the Board on key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the contents of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Most actions arising from the plan that was developed following the **Care Quality Commission inspection of Halton Borough Council's Adult Social Care** in September 2010 have been completed. The action plan has been monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board.

3.2 **Events** were held locally on 5<sup>th</sup> October, focusing on **Hate Crime and Hate Incidents**. More than 120 people attended the two half day events, which were organised jointly by the Safeguarding Adults Board, and Safeguarding Children Board and the Safer Halton Partnership.

3.3 Delegates attending were brought together to learn to recognise risk factors that give rise to these incidents, learn the difference between hate incidents and hate crimes, discuss real case studies and the impact these have on the victims. Attendees also learned how to report these incidents and what support is available for the victims.

3.4 The sessions also covered the issue of elder harassment which whilst not one of the Home Office categories for hate crime is an area of rising concern and would be dealt with via safeguarding methods.

3.5 A hate incident is any non-crime incident which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, whereas a hate crime has a similar definition but which constitutes a criminal offence. It can be disability-related hate, race hate, faith hate, homophobic hate or transphobic hate. The crime can take the form of physical attacks, threats of attack (including offensive letters, telephone calls or online activity) or verbal abuse or insults.

Speakers at the one-day event included Bernard Byrne from Merseyside and Cheshire Crown Prosecution Service who leads on Hate Crime, and

two representatives from Cheshire Police, Chief Inspector Beverley Raistrick who leads on Diversity for the force, and Deborah Arden who provides the hate crime reporting centre training.

3.6 Delegates attending the event were asked to make an undertaking to take one action, after attending. Their responses are given in Appendix 1.

3.7 A **marketing plan** has been agreed for 2011-12, which aims to raise awareness of Adult Safeguarding and ensure people know what to do when they have concerns. The plan includes the following advertising schedule:

- Press  
Weekly News Quarter Page Advert October to March  
Inside Halton Magazine half page advert December & March
- Transport  
6 Branded Taxis to run for 3 months commencing November
- Internal  
InTouch HBC staff magazine regular advert/article  
Intranet and internal communication regular updates  
Regular website updates  
Wage slip advert where possible  
Account officer will explore any other areas / publications which the campaign can be promoted on an ongoing basis
- Print & Distribution  
Reprint of leaflets and posters and use existing stocks for further distribution around the communities and partner organisations.

3.8 **Cost free opportunities for promoting awareness** are taken where possible, for example:

- **Partners** such as Cheshire Constabulary and NHS Trusts are asked to assist in the campaign by displaying posters / leaflets in their workplaces and via their staff newsletters
- An **information stand was provided at the GP consortium Protected Learning Time event** in September 2011 and presentation slot will be sought at future events.
- Free of charge adverts at **GP surgeries, walk in centres and hospitals with display screens.**

3.9 Work is being undertaken which aims to incorporate the recently developed Safeguarding Adults **Competency Framework** into HBC processes including Employee Development Review and Supervision, to encourage its implementation on a cross-directorate basis.

3.10 A multi-agency **Safeguarding Adults Induction Booklet** intended for all new employees has been drafted and will be disseminated widely and recommended to partner agencies, on completion.

3.11 **HBC's Safer Recruitment training course**, available to managers with

responsibility to appoint to positions in contact with vulnerable adults, is under review. Safer recruitment principles and practice are already embedded in the existing course modules, but the content is being developed to help raise awareness of the importance of Adult Safeguarding, especially for those who have infrequent contact with 'vulnerable adults'.

3.12 In May this year **Panorama** showed an investigative programme that highlighted the abuse of people with learning disabilities in Winterbourne View, an NHS assessment and treatment residential service. As a consequence, **Winterbourne View** was closed.

3.13 The Department of Health has recently (6<sup>th</sup> October) asked all Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England to complete a review of similar NHS funded placements and the information is then to be returned to Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Senior Managers in the Communities Directorate are working closely with the PCT to ensure that all service users (especially those placed out of Borough) are appropriately placed and that robust review processes are undertaken.

3.14 **Halton Speak Out** (self-advocacy organisation working with people with learning disabilities) held an event in September 2011 around the **Panorama programme about Winterbourne View/Castlebeck**.

#### 4.0 **POLICY, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy, legal or financial implications in noting and commenting on this report.

4.2 All agencies retain their separate statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding adults, whilst Halton Borough Council, through its Communities Directorate, fulfils its responsibility for coordination of the arrangements. These arrangements are in accordance with 'No Secrets' (DH 2000) national policy guidance and Local Authority Circular (2000) 7/Health Service Circular 2000/007.

#### 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 5.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) membership includes a Manager from the Children and Enterprise Directorate, as a link to the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Halton Safeguarding Children Board membership includes adult social care representation.

Joint protocols exist between Council services for adults and children.

The SAB chair and sub-group chairs meet regularly and will ensure a

strong interface between, for example, Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Children, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Community Safety, Personalisation, Mental Capacity & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

## 5.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

## 5.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The safeguarding of adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse is fundamental to their health and well-being. People are likely to be more vulnerable when they experience ill-health.

## 5.4 **A Safer Halton**

The effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults arrangements is fundamental to making Halton a safe place of residence for adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse.

## 5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## 6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Failure to address a range of Safeguarding issues could expose individuals to abuse and leave the Council vulnerable to complaint, criticism and potential litigation.

## 7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 It is essential that the Council addresses issues of equality, in particular those regarding age, disability, gender, sexuality, race, culture and religious belief, when considering its safeguarding policies and plans. Policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding Adults are impact assessed with regard to equality.

## 8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act

## **APPNDIX 1          Hate Crime Event Pledge Wall Comments (verbatim)**

### **• *Within my organisation – 8 comments***

- To go back and address this issue with the young people that I work with within the youth offending team and talk to colleagues
- Feedback to my work team and seek more training
- Will invite you in to play DVD to LHT staff and pass what I have on to housing staff to ensure we report and provide support.
- I'm a school gov. will ask what is being done with young people
- Brief at team meeting
- Ask for briefing session and DVD at my team meeting
- Broader safeguarding training to include hate crime sessions
- Share what has been learnt from conference with team

### **• *Raising Awareness – 7 comments***

- Possible community project
- Raise my own awareness of hate crime
- Tell others
- Raise awareness
- Spread the word
- Share the knowledge
- Discuss at Halton Disability forum

### **• *Encourage Reporting – 4 comments***

- Encourage people in community to report hate crime and inform people where to report
- Encourage people to report hate crime
- Increase confidence in reporting to police
- Share knowledge of reporting centre to service users

### **• *Miscellaneous – 3 comments***

- Re-evaluate some safeguarding reports as hate incidents. Will review in future. – confidence in reporting.
- Need access for deaf / hdh people
- I will audit provisions referrals