

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 14 January 2014  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health & Wellbeing; Community Safety  
**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Adults Update  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the Board on key issues and the progression of the agenda for safeguarding 'vulnerable adults' (i.e. adults at risk of abuse) in Halton.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That: The Board note the contents of the report**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 An internal peer challenge review was undertaken during June 2013 – August 2013 based on the 'Standards for Adult Safeguarding Peer Reviews'. A Peer Challenge Team was formed along with a number of Lead Officers identified to take forward the review. As part of the review, Lead Officers undertook a self-assessment against the Adult Safeguarding Standards and produced a report for the Challenge Team. A outcome report was presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

3.2 The recommendations from the report have been converted into an action plan which will be worked on throughout 2014 and its progress monitored by Halton Safeguarding Adult Board.

3.3 In November 2013 Halton were invited to participate in the Making Safeguarding Personal Programme.

3.4 This work aims to provide a commitment to improve outcomes for people at risk of harm. The key focus is on developing a real understanding of what people wish to achieve, recording their desired outcomes and then seeing how effectively these have been met.

3.5 Halton will be using two different methods to:

- Establish what outcomes the person want at the outset and then

- a review of the extent to which they have been realised, and
- Gather feedback from people who use services on their experience of the safeguarding adult process.

A briefing paper outlining the initial findings will be available by the end of February 2014

3.6 With an increasing focus on preventing abuse of older people in residential and nursing homes the Integrated Adult Safeguarding Unit has built upon national research and developed a local model – Early Indicators of Concern – which uses a range of indicators across a range of themes which identify risks and act as an indicator of potentially failing resources.

3.7 This is currently being trialled with two local nursing homes where services were perceived to be failing and where increased complaints were being voiced by families and visiting practitioners. A full detailed report will be available by February 2014.

3.8 The Health and Social Care Information Centre has published figures that reflect an increase in alleged abuse allegations across 151 Councils nationally. This trend has been reflected locally with an increase in the safeguarding referrals to the Council for quarters 1 and 2 by 73% and to the Integrated Safeguarding Unit of 40% as compared to the same quarters for 12/13.

3.9 The data also identifies:

- A higher incidence of abuse alerts in respect of females 64% (61% nationally) as opposed to males.
- Nationally and locally adults aged 75 and above still account for the highest number of alerts and emphasises the increased vulnerability of older people.
- Nationally and locally people with physical disabilities continue to be the client group most prevalent with safeguarding investigations continuing to reflect that this is the largest client group within adult services.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 A review of existing policies and procedures will be completed in light of the Social Care Bill.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Integrated Safeguarding Unit is co-funded through the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

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

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

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

None identified.

## 6.3 **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.

## 6.4 **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.

## 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

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

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 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.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.