

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 4th November 2014
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Safeguarding Update
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the Health Policy and Performance Board with an update regarding the safeguarding work being undertaken across the Borough.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note the contents of the report and associated Appendix.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Care Act 2014 has been heralded as ‘an historic piece of legislation that will make a difference to some of the most vulnerable people in society for many years to come’. The Act aims to put adult safeguarding on a statutory footing.

3.2 The main areas of safeguarding adults responsibilities contained within the Act are:

- Make safeguarding adults boards statutory;
- Make safeguarding enquiries a corporate duty for councils;
- Make serious case reviews mandatory when certain triggering situations have occurred and the parties believe that safeguarding failures have had a part to play;
- Place duties to co-operate over the supply of information on relevant agencies;
- Place a duty on councils to fund advocacy for assessment and safeguarding for people who do not have anyone else to speak up for them;
- Abolish, on human rights grounds, councils’ power to remove people from insanitary conditions under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, albeit with recourse to the Public Health Act still possible for nearly the same outcome;
- Re-enact existing duties to protect people’s property when in residential care or hospital;
- Place a duty of candour on providers about failings in hospital

and care settings, and create a new offence for providers of supplying false or misleading information, in the case of information they are legally obliged to provide.

An action plan has been developed to ensure that Halton is compliant and HSAB will monitor progress.

3.3 In addition, all Safeguarding Adults Board are required to produce an annual report, which summarises all of the key achievements and priorities the Safeguarding Adults Board has been working towards over the previous year. In Halton this is an activity that has been undertaken annually and the Annual Report 2012/2013 has been published which focused on four key priorities:

1. Promote awareness of abuse and the right to a safe and dignified life – particularly among the “vulnerable” and “at risk” but also among staff, volunteers and the wider community
2. Increase the contribution from service users and carers ensuring their views and experience inform the Board’s work and service developments. Provide individualised services that keep people safe, but permit informed decisions about risk
3. Ensure there is a strong multi-agency approach to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all adults at risk
4. Equip employees with the necessary tools and training to safeguard adults at risk and ensure their dignity is respected

3.4 An updated Inter-Agency Policy, Procedure and Good Practice Guidance has been produced by the Integrated Adults Safeguarding Unit, in conjunction with members of Halton Safeguarding Adults Board. The document provides all agencies involved with safeguarding in Halton, with a practical and informative policy, which will ensure that procedures between statutory agencies are consistent across the whole of Halton. The policy was last produced in 2010, during this review of the policy the aim has been to revise all working practices to make sure the safeguarding process is clear and easy to follow.

3.5 The Safe in Town project and Halton Speak Out were awarded almost £5k from the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, which was subsequently match funded by the Halton Clinical Commissioning Group earlier in the year. This funding was agreed on the principle that the types of beneficiaries and premises signed up to the scheme would widen.

3.6 The Safe in town scheme is there to help people to keep safe when they are out and about in the community. People who are (14+) and

have a learning or physical disability, people with Alzheimer's or Dementia and people over the age of 60 can sign up for the Safe in town scheme.

They can go into any shop or building in the community that has the safe in town logo show them the card and they will keep the person safe until the carer comes to collect them. To date 457 people have signed up to the scheme.

No of people	Age range
62	14 - 18
201	18 - 60
194	60+

3.7 30 shops in Halton Lea are now safe havens, 17 shops and venues in the Old Town and 18 shops in Widnes Town Centre. An App has been designed for people to download on to their phones and Safe in Town also has its own Facebook page. Publicity has been applied to all public buses in Halton and Hallwood Health Centre advertises Safe in Town on their TV monitor in the waiting room. A full evaluation of the project will be undertaken regarding the sustainability of the scheme.

3.8 The annual report (attached at Appendix 1) describes how organisations and individuals across all sectors are working together to safeguard vulnerable people. As well as reporting on the HSAB's work over the past twelve months, the Annual Report explains the national context in which we are all currently operating and lists the Board's priorities for the coming year.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 It is the responsibility of all Safeguarding Adults Boards to have a current Safeguarding Policy in place, for all agencies to adhere to. If the policy document cannot be agreed and approved, our safeguarding process could be at risk and a standardised approach not followed.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this Report.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The successful implementation of the Inter-Agency Policy, Procedures and Good Practice guidance will ensure that safeguarding processes work consistently well in order to safeguard adults and children in the Borough.

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

There are no implications for Employment, Learning and Skills arising from this Report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The successful implementation of the Inter-Agency Policy, Procedures and Good Practice guidance will ensure that safeguarding processes work consistently well in order to safeguard adults and children in the Borough.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The successful implementation of the Inter-Agency Policy, Procedures and Good Practice guidance will ensure that safeguarding processes work consistently well in order to safeguard adults and children in the Borough.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no implications for Urban Renewal arising from this Report.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues relating to this Report.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.