

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 8th March 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Community & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Halton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on key issues and progression of the agenda for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Health Policy and Performance Board note the contents of the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Care Act requires that all Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to produce an Annual Report, (Appendix 1) which summarises all of the key achievements and priorities the Safeguarding Adults Board has been working towards over the last twelve months. The report sets out the national and local developments on safeguarding adults at risk.

3.2 Membership of the Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board includes senior representatives from all partner agencies, including Directors; Lead Clinicians and Lead Officers responsible for safeguarding adults in Halton. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we work together as a community to support and safeguard all adults who are most at risk in society. To achieve this, the Board continues to develop and establish strong partnership to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are safeguarded and are free from fear; harm; neglect and abuse

3.3 Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board contributes to the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Halton's Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy. During 2014/15, the Safeguarding Adults Board 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 Halton has joined the Anti- Slavery Network, a multi-agency group that is committed to working together to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking. Nationally, it is a very disturbing and complex problem. Breaking the lives of the vulnerable and voiceless, it represents a grave abuse of human rights and basic dignity. Many have come from broken families, leaving them less protected from attachments to those who wish them harm. Some have been unable to find work, leaving them more vulnerable to exploitation. Others are serious addicts, some struggle with unmanageable debt and many have never experienced decent education.
- 3.5 Modern slavery exists in the UK and destroys lives. It manifests in an appallingly wide range of forms. Adults and children – UK nationals and those from abroad – are exploited in the sex industry, through forced labour, domestic servitude in the home, and forced criminal activity. Nationally there have been numerous cases of exploitation in factories, fields, construction sites, brothels and houses.
- 3.6 The Local Government Association and ADASS (Directors of Adult Social Services) published an evaluation of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). This is the approach embedded within the Care Act and has moved safeguarding investigations from a process driven approach to one which focusses on outcomes for the person involved.
- 3.7 Halton worked with MSP at bronze level and presented the work undertaken at the ADASS Spring Conference in 2014, prior to the implementation of the Care Act, and are advanced in our progress. We have undertaken a whole service redesign to incorporate person centred involvement and the capturing of outcomes. A full programme of workshops has been held to support both practitioners and managers and a MSP group established. The new IT system went live in July 2015 and the first report on outcomes was presented to HSAB.

3.8 A task and finish group was established to look at developing a Financial Abuse Toolkit which is intended to be used by practitioners and members of the public to provide information to anyone concerned that someone they know maybe a potential victim of financial abuse. This has been agreed by Halton Safeguarding Adult Board and an e learning programme is now being developed which will enhance this further.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified

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

None identified

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Annual Report highlights the key actions undertaken and the priorities that the Safeguarding Adults Board have worked towards during the last twelve months

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Annual Report highlights the key actions undertaken and the priorities that the Safeguarding Adults Board have worked towards during the last twelve months

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.