

TOPIC BRIEF TEMPLATE (Part I)

TOPIC TITLE ...ADULT PROTECTION IN HALTON

PPB(s) responsible: ...Safer Halton and Health
Officer Leads: Peter Barron Tel: 3507 and Howard Cockcroft Tel: 4031

Planned start/end dates September 2007 / March 2008
Target PPB meeting April 2008

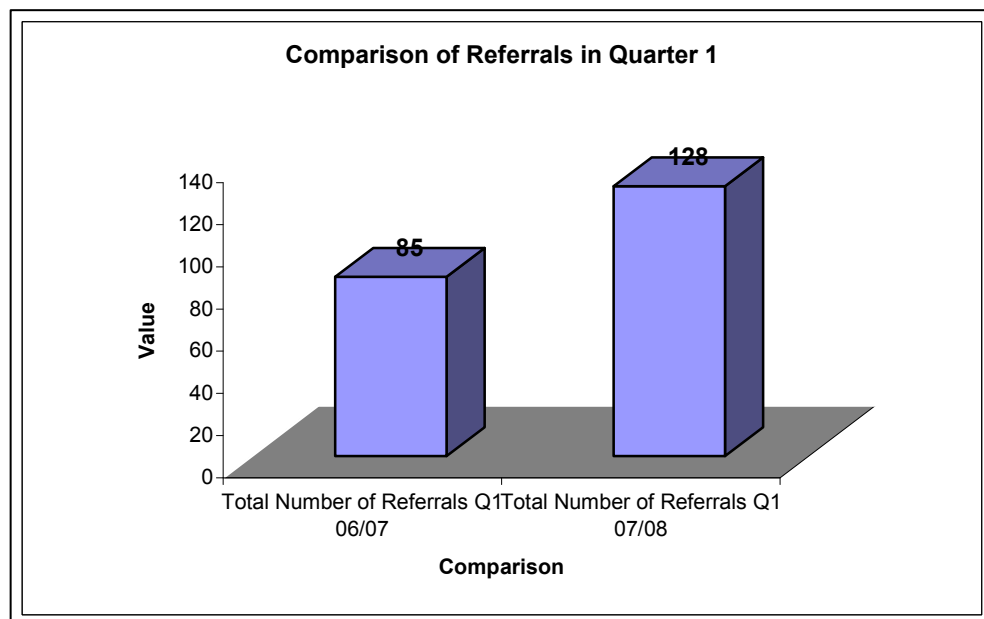
Part I of this template should be completed for ALL topics. Completion and agreement of this brief is designed to ensure that the PPB and the Members and/or officers commissioned to work on the topic are clear from the outset about the issue(s) to be examined, the nature/timing of expected outcomes, and the approach to be taken.

An initial project plan will also be required where an in-depth look at more complex topics requires a project management approach (see Part II). A guidance note is provided.

Topic description and scope

The Health Select Committee Inquiry into elder abuse noted that most abuse remains unreported, as people are 'too frightened, ashamed or embarrassed to speak out'.

Referrals of alleged abuse of vulnerable adults received by Halton Social Services have again risen, a trend that has continued year on year. Quarter 1 of the current fiscal year saw a 59% rise over the same period last year, as follows



3909 service users had an open service package with Halton Adult Social Services during this period, of which the 128 abuse allegation referrals would constitute 3.65%. National prevalence figures suggest a likely rate of 4%, however Halton has

the highest level of referrals out of any other North West Local Authority, and is among the highest in the UK.

On the face of it this rise in referrals could be a cause for significant concern. Of course it is not good that there is abuse, but comparable information from the development of child protection, which is several years ahead of the adult agenda, shows that high reporting levels do not necessarily mean higher prevalence and is more a reflection of local action on raising the profile.

Social services have a lead coordination role, but the system is multi-agency and dependent on effective communication and shared understanding as outlined in No Secrets. All agencies retain their own statutory responsibilities.

TARGETS

Why this topic was chosen

The rates of referral in Halton are higher than comparator authorities, in so far as direct comparisons can be made. It is important to understand what this means about either the level of abuse in Halton or the operation of Adult Protection policies and procedures.

Key outputs and outcomes sought

- An understanding of the local data and information as to what that signifies about Halton;
- To examine the effectiveness of the local Adult Protection policies; procedures, and processes, including multi-agency working;
- An understanding of the outcomes for vulnerable adults following investigations;
- Consider national best practice and research;
- Consider the resources available;
- An agreed set of recommendations for consideration by the Halton Adult Protection Committee.

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve

Safer Halton

- Key Objective A: To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- Key Objective B: To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents
- Key Objective D: To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms

Healthy Halton

- Key Objective C: To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being, and help prevent and efficiently manage illness

Children and Young People

- Key Objective B: To ensure all children and young people in Halton grow up and thrive in safe environments, communities, homes and families

Nature of expected/desired PPB input

Scrutinise service.

Preferred mode of operation

Joint Scrutiny Working Group between Safer Halton and Healthy Halton PPB, involving secondees from partner agencies and hearing evidence from relevant professionals.

Media/communication implications

There is likely to be some media interest in this topic and

Agreed and signed by:

PPB Chair **Officer**

Date:..... **Date:**.....