

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health & Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Update  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the Board and highlight key issues with respect to Safeguarding and the work of Halton's Adult Safeguarding Board (HSAB).

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

**The report be noted**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Following discussions at the HSAB Development Session, concerns were raised as to whether the current membership of HSAB was too large and therefore impacting on the effectiveness of the Board and how it operates. There was agreement obtained to restructure HSAB from September 2016 onwards and to recruit a Board Officer to support the Board. It also agreed to the establishment of a Partnership Forum and a Health sub group in order to support the role of the Board and to take safeguarding in the Borough forward.

3.2 Self-neglect is a complex area of work, arising as it does from a large range of causal factors. The Care Act 2014 recognises self-neglect as a potential safeguarding matter among those who are either in receipt of, or in need of care and support, and when their health and wellbeing or that of others is seriously compromised.

3.3 In order to address and co-ordinate this area of work this HSAB have agreed a policy, procedure and good practice guidance which proposes intervention at a stage when self-neglect and/or hoarding have given rise to significant concerns that an individual (and/or others) may be at risk of serious harm. It sets out clearly that a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to those at high risk is the most effective way to achieve creative and proportionate interventions that respect the individual's right to self-determination. It has also agreed the establishment of a self-neglect panel to draw

together a range of agencies and services with whom the individual is or may have previously been involved with in order to provide an opportunity for multi-agency working of cases.

- 3.4 Nothing is more worrying or distressing than when a loved one or friend goes missing or doesn't return home when expected. For people living with or caring for someone with Dementia, this may be quite common.
- 3.5 The Herbert Protocol is a national scheme adopted by Cheshire Police and other police services across the country. It encourages carers, families, friends or neighbours, to hold information about the person with Dementia that can help the police find them if they do go missing. Cheshire Police are intending to work with local care home providers to introduce it into the Borough.
- 3.6 Halton Borough Council took part in a Peer Review into safeguarding for two days during January 2017. A Peer Review is intended to help Councils by providing a constructive and supportive process with the central aims of helping Council's and their partners to assess their current achievements and identify areas for improvement. The initial feedback was positive noting the commitment of the Council and partners to safeguarding. We are awaiting the final written feedback
- 3.7 The Law Commission undertook a review of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system and asked for responses to a consultation paper. In brief they concluded that There is a compelling case for replacing the DoLS through legislation. The system is currently unsustainable and DoLS has failed to deliver improved outcomes for those lacking capacity and their families. Any new scheme must reduce the administrative burden and costs of DoLS. A more streamlined and flexible scheme will be introduced with the responsibility for establishing a deprivation of liberty shifted to the commissioner not the provider. The commissioner will in many cases be able to rely on existing assessments of capacity and best interests. The publication of their final report and draft bill was due to be published in December; however, it is now expected in March 2017.
- 3.8 Operation Hornsman was a recent European wide operation targeting modern slavery. In total, more than 170 people were spoken to in Halton and Warrington. Although there were no victims locally the operation did flag up that there is a question regarding the potential need for longer term health and support services, should any victims of trafficking or modern slavery be discovered. Many people interviewed appeared to be speaking from a script, and some were working 10 hours plus a day. There are now plans

to work with housing officers to make sure people are safe and well, looking at health and safety and Housing Act Regulations. During the operation, it was found many properties were private, small rentals with landlords associated with the actual car washes that their tenants worked in.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified

#### 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**

None identified

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

None identified

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to consider and address the Statutory duty of the Local Authority could expose individuals to abuse and the Council as the Statutory Body 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