

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 th July 2008
Subject:	Safeguarding Adults
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director, Adults and Housing Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Barry Macloed-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder, Adults and Housing Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	3 Appendices

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the commitment of Harrow Council and our partner's to Safeguarding Harrow's vulnerable groups from harm, exploitation or abuse.

Recommendations:

- Committee members to note the Council's duties around Safeguarding
- Comment on the Safeguarding Action Plan
- Note progress on implementation

Reason: (For recommendation)

- To strengthen Governance arrangements in relation to Safeguarding
- To engage scrutiny members and invite comment on our current and developing Safeguarding arrangements and agenda.

Section 2 – Report

Following completion of the 2007 Annual Report on Safeguarding, the areas adopted in relation to the Adults and Housing Transformation Programme “Your Future, Our Future”, and following the recent (Jan 08) CSCI Inspection, an Action Plan was developed to set out Harrow’s commitment to safeguarding our vulnerable groups together with how we will deliver on these aims and objectives.

The following documents have been attached for further detail:-

Appendix 1 – Overview of Safeguarding

Appendix 2 – Extract of findings from CSCI Inspection (Jan 08)

Appendix 3 – Local Safeguarding Adults Board Action Plan 2008/9 (incorporating CSCI Action Plan recommendations).

Financial Implications

While the Action Plan can be delivered within existing resources we are seeking a financial contribution from statutory partner agencies to support some of the work and infrastructure of the safeguarding agenda.

Performance Issues

The current CSCI Independence, Well-being and Choice inspection regime, means that safeguarding is now high on the national agenda. As a result local authorities are required to demonstrate a pro-active approach, ensuring that safeguarding has a high profile and is delivered within a multi-agency framework.

As such it is essential to achieving a good star rating for the Council.

Legal Issues

Set out in the Action Plan in Appendix 3

Risk Management Implications

The core principles of Harrow’s Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures are around safeguarding vulnerable adults from harm, exploitation and abuse - central to this theme is that of risk management.

The ethos in adult services is to support individuals to maximise independence, choice and control over their lives and the services they receive. Inherent within these principles are also risk and risk management issues.

The current agenda for example around Self Directed Support affords individuals greater choice and control over their lives; this potentially involves taking (and being supported to take) risks.

The balance therefore is around supporting people to take those risks, ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to manage those risks, while also ensuring that a process is in place for dealing with issues should they arise.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jennifer Hydari	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 27 June 2008		
Name: Helen White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 27 June 2008		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director, Adults and Housing Services
Howard Tomlin, Interim Head of Service, Modernisation and Integration
Seamus Doherty, Harrow's Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Overview of Safeguarding
Appendix 2 – Extract of findings from CSCI Inspection (Jan 08)
Appendix 3 – Local Safeguarding Adults Board Action Plan 2008/9

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES