

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
AND SCRUTINY SUB-  
COMMITTEES**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 July 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2009/10
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director Adults and Housing
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member area:</b>	Councillors Ann Gate and Vina Mithani, Scrutiny Lead Members for Health and Social Care
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 - Harrow Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2009/10

**Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report provides Scrutiny Committee Members with an overview of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Annual Report for 2009/10.

The annual report summarises safeguarding activity undertaken throughout the year by the Council and its key partners, sets out the progress made against priorities, statistical information which analyses the referrals received and outlines priorities for the current year.

**Recommendations:**

Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the work that has taken place in 2009/10 and the action plan for 2010/11.

**Reason: (for recommendation)**

Preventing and appropriately dealing with the abuse of vulnerable adults is a key priority for the Council. Presentation of the Annual Report at this Committee allows for scrutiny of this critical statutory function.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This is the third Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and a copy is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

The LSAB oversees the work of the Council and its partners in protecting vulnerable adults from abuse. For the purposes of this work, vulnerable adults are defined as:

- people with learning disabilities
- people with physical disabilities
- people with sensory impairment
- people with mental health needs, including dementia
- people who misuse substances or alcohol
- people who are physically or mentally frail

### **2.2 National Context**

The Department of Health (DH) state that local authorities are required to:

Collaborate with public, voluntary, private sector agencies and with users and carers and involve them in developing an inter agency response to Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults continues to increase in priority nationally and the annual report should be seen in the context of a number of national developments:

- Review of the “**No Secrets**” (Department of Health) guidance first issued in 2000 which requires local authorities to take a lead in developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures. Although formal changes to the “No Secrets” guidance are still awaited, the response to the consultation included some key messages, which are that “safeguarding requires -
  - empowerment/the victim’s voice

- empowerment is everybody's business but safeguarding decisions are not
  - safeguarding adults is not like Child Protection
  - the participation/representation of people who lack capacity is also important"
- The **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)** under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 ensures protection for those vulnerable people who cannot make decisions for themselves
- The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been created to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults by working in partnership with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and other delivery partners. The Secretary of State announced on 15 June 2010 that she has halted the start of voluntary registration with the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) which was due to begin on 26 July. The government has decided to maintain those aspects of the Scheme which are already in place, but not to introduce further elements.  
In the meantime it still remains a criminal offence for individuals barred by the ISA to work or apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wide range of posts – including most NHS jobs, Prison Service, Education and Childcare. Employers face criminal sanctions for knowingly employing barred individuals across a wider range of work areas
- the **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** has recently announced a reduction in the amount of areas that Councils will be required to submit to assessment each year as part of their performance judgement. However "Dignity and Respect" which includes safeguarding vulnerable adults will be one of the three remaining areas
- the pan-London procedures are still awaited and the LSAB will oversee their introduction in Harrow. These will be welcome as they will provide a more uniform approach to this area of work across all the London Boroughs
- there are a range of key documents that the LSAB will keep under review in taking forward its work programme in 2010/11. They include:
  - national training competencies
  - the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) standards in safeguarding adults
  - the ID&eA peer review findings
  - CQC "learning the lessons" findings
  - Department of Health Dignity in Care campaign
  - NHS changes, including possible increased role of GPs

## 2.3 Local Context

In November 2009, the CQC judgement on the safeguarding adults work in Harrow during 2008/9 was that it was “adequate”.

Much was done in 2009/10 to improve that rating (which will be known in November 2010) and the attached Annual Report provides detailed information on the range of work that was carried out.

## 2.4 Key Messages

Some of the key messages are:

- significant expansion of the training programme with more courses, greater number of attendees and a broader range of topics, including specialist sessions
- strengthening of quality assurance processes with 90 cases audited and resulting findings actioned. In all cases examined there was evidence that the client had been protected
- improved “star” ratings of local home care and residential/nursing care providers
- positive user views about “feeling safe” in a range of surveys (e.g. MORI survey) gives some reassurance about progress
- extra financial investment in the Safeguarding Adults Team and Service in 09/10

## Statistics

- referral numbers** – a 6% rise from 356 in 2008/9 to 378 in 2009/10. This is seen as a positive position due to increased awareness brought about by more publicity campaigns, training and outreach activity
- predominant area of abuse** – the majority of cases (15% of all referrals) were older people living in their own home with the alleged perpetrator being a partner or other family member
- the female/male ratio** is 60:40 which mirrors the national picture
- BME referral rate** has (further) increased by 3% from 35% to 38% which is still slightly under-representative of Harrow’s population (41% at last census)
- where abuse took place** – the largest numbers are in the person’s own home (up 28% on previous year). There was a slight reduction in referrals about care homes

- vi. **the abuser** - in previous years the main issue was about paid care workers (29%), but this year the greatest numbers are family members (31%)
- vii. **client group** – there was a 46% reduction in referrals about people with a physical disability and an increase in referrals (by 96%) from mental health. The latter is to be welcomed as there was previously significant under-reporting in this area and a lot of work has been done in 2009/10 to brief staff. There were 11% and 8% increases in referrals from older people and learning disability respectively
- viii. **types of abuse** - remain largely unchanged from previous years with the predominant types being physical and financial abuse
- ix. **outcomes** – this is the first year that the data collection system has allowed for analysis of outcomes following the abuse investigation. It is very positive that this information is now available as it allows managers to have an overview of practice. One notable feature is that there was no use of the Court of Protection in Harrow in 2009/10 – so more will be done with staff this year to raise awareness of the services that the Court can offer.

## 2.5 Action Plan for 2010/2011

There are 12 actions for 2010/11 the majority of which build on progress already made in 2009/10.

### Aims and Objectives/Priorities

- 1.) Implement year one of the Business Plan
- 2.) Implement year one of the Training Strategy with agreed competencies
- 3.) Implement year one of the Prevention Strategy
- 4.) Continue to work towards full compliance with the ADASS Standards for Safeguarding Adults
- 5.) Follow up the outcomes of Safeguarding Adults investigations in writing to service users
- 6.) Continue joint working with the Police on issues such as Community Safety and Hate Crime
- 7.) Run targeted awareness raising sessions with HIV and Drug & Alcohol Services where no referrals were received in 2009/10
- 8.) Further embed Dignity in Care and the 10 Dignity Challenges across all Services in Harrow

- 9.) Further refine electronic systems to ensure Harrow meets the requirements of the National Data Set (NDS) and provides the required returns to the Information Centre
- 10.) Analyse the data from the 2009/10 NDS and the 2010/11 NDS and use the learning from this analysis to target awareness raising sessions where most needed
- 11.) Develop a system to gauge the success of the various publicity campaigns i.e. asking referrers details of where/how they found our number or how they knew where to call – use this feedback to further refine future awareness raising sessions
- 12.) Continue to target harder to reach groups so that safeguarding adults' referrals are more in line with Harrow's demographic
- 13.) To continue and further develop the Safeguarding Adults Quality Assurance processes and to incorporate a mechanism for User/Carer feedback into these processes
- 14.) To ensure all the LSAB's Work Streams have clear action plans in line with the above objectives

### **Section 3 Financial Implications**

The Council has already invested an additional £150k (in 2009/10) to strengthen local safeguarding adults arrangements and respond to the increasing number of referrals.

### **Section 4 Risk Management Implications**

Risk included on Directorate risk register?      Yes

Separate risk register in place?                      No

#### **Potential risks:**

- failure to ensure local safeguarding arrangements are robust could lead to a serious untoward incident e.g. death of a vulnerable person

### **Section 5 Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not required.

## **Section 6      Contact Details and Background Papers**

Contact: Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director Adults and Housing  
(0208 424 1361)

## **Section 7. Background Papers:**

Harrow Local Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2009/10