

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board.		
DATE:	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	SUMMARY REPORT - WEST OF BERKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR EDEN	PORTFOLIO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE
SERVICE:	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS	WARDS:	ALL
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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the information contained within the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) Annual Report 2013-14.
- 1.2 The SAPB Annual Report 2013-14 provides an overview of the Board's activity and progress in 2013-14 and its priorities in 2014-15. The data within the report is sourced from the statutory AVA (Abuse of Vulnerable Adults) return for 2012-13.

**2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board to note the contents of the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report 2013-14, for which a summary is provided below.

### **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 The SAPB covers the geographic areas of Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire and is a multi-agency partnership that leads the strategic development of Safeguarding Adults work across the West of Berkshire. The SAPB holds individual agencies to account on their effectiveness in delivering their responsibilities under Safeguarding Adults policies and protocols.
- 3.2 'Safeguarding Adults' relates to all work that enables 'Adults at Risk' to be able to live a life that is free from abuse and neglect. An Adult at Risk is a person who is 18 years or over and who is, or may be, in need of community care or health care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.
- 3.3 An Adult at Risk may therefore be a person who:
- Is elderly and frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment;
  - Has a learning disability;
  - Has a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment;
  - Has mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder;
  - Has a long-term illness/condition;
  - Misuses substances or alcohol;
  - Is a carer such as a family member/friend who provides personal assistance and care to adults and is subject to abuse; or
  - Is unable to demonstrate the capacity to make a decision and is in need of care and support.
- (This list is not exhaustive)
- 3.4 Safeguarding Adults practice includes working with those people who are assessed as being able to purchase all or part of their community care services, as well as those who are eligible for community care services but whose need - in relation to safeguarding - is for access to mainstream services such as the police. Safeguarding Adults is about preventing abuse and neglect as well as promoting good practice for responding to concerns on a multi-agency basis.

### **4. KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2013-14**

- 4.1 A guidance document around Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Reviews of Serious Cases was developed by a pan-Berkshire working group, and adopted by the SAPB for the West of Berkshire. This guidance clarified expectations on partners within a Serious Case Review.
- 4.2 Health partners underwent some reorganisations which served to streamline Safeguarding Adults work and responses. During the reporting year, the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Safeguarding Team was re-located allowing the team to be based together. The Berkshire Clinical

Commissioning Groups (CCGs) developed a pan-Berkshire Safeguarding Committee which meets four times a year to address safeguarding children and adults issues, to review action plans from serious case reviews, and to share information and learning about safeguarding matters at a senior level.

- 4.3 The annual Joint Adult and Children's Safeguarding Conference, planned with the three West of Berkshire locality Safeguarding Children's Boards, took place on Friday 27 September 2013 at Sindlesham Court. The focus of the conference was the various forms that the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults can take.
- 4.4 The SAPB participated in a pilot run by Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) on the Learning Together Model. During the reporting year, the Board also commissioned a Learning Together review into the sad death of "Mrs E". The findings from the SCIE pilot and the Mrs E Review were taken forward as areas for development within individual organisations, whereas those findings that had clear implications for multi-agency working were embedded into the Business Plan for 2014-15.
- 4.5 Using an audit tool, partner agencies completed a self-assessment in order to assure the SAPB that each has in place robust strategic and operational arrangements to safeguard adults. Common findings were shared at the Board's Business Planning Day in January and key areas were incorporated either into the work plans of the Subgroups or into the Board's Business Plan for 2014-15.

## 5. PERFORMANCE IN 2013-14

- 5.1 Much of the data provided within the report represents combined data for Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham local authorities and is sourced from the statutory AVA (Abuse of Vulnerable Adults) return for 2012-13. More detail can be found within the report.
- 5.2 Across the three local authority areas the total number of referrals continued to increase in 2012-13. Referrals for Reading were high: 560 compared to 220 (comparator group average) and 260 (national average).
- 5.3 Reading's activity was in line with its comparator group for the number of alerts per 100,000 population and the breakdown of primary client groups. Reading had a higher number of referrals for alleged abuse occurring within the person's own home and for protection plans accepted than was the case for others in Reading's comparator group. Across the area, the two most prevalent types of abuse were physical abuse and neglect. This was followed by financial and psychological abuse.
- 5.4 Most alerts in Reading were received for people over the age of 65 who had a physical disability, followed by those for adults between the age of 18 and 64 who had a learning disability. Reading had slightly more repeat referrals

than the England average, and a slightly higher than average number of referrals where the adult was previously known to the Council.

- 5.5 Social Care staff continued to be the most common source of referrals across the area. However, the percentage of referrals in Reading from Social Care, Health, Police and Housing colleagues is lower than the percentage for Reading's comparator group and the national average. 31% of referrals in Reading were made by family, friends and neighbours compared to a national average of 11%, illustrating a good awareness of safeguarding procedures within the community. BHFT (Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust) raised 176 alerts with Reading between in 2013-14 compared to 93 for Wokingham and 54 for West Berkshire. However, the Mental Health Hospital is based in Reading which may partially explain these much higher numbers. More work is required to understand this better.

## **6. PRIORITIES FOR 2014-15**

- 6.1 One of the Board's priorities for 2014-15 is to develop expertise amongst a wider group of staff to become accredited Lead Reviewers for SCIE Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Partner agencies nominated staff to participate in a three-day training course by SCIE which took place in August 2014.
- 6.2 The Board has recognised the need to manage the pressure on safeguarding teams arising from the dramatic increase in the number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding applications. Following a Supreme Court judgement on cases in Cheshire West and Surrey, there is now a broader interpretation of what circumstances of care might constitute a Deprivation of Liberty. In contrast, throughout the 2013-14 year, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding application numbers continued to be extremely low in the West of Berkshire.
- 6.3 The Communication and Publicity Subgroup is currently working to commission a website provider, with the aim of launching the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Website by the end of 2014-15.

## **7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 7.1 The work of the SAPB contributes to meeting the following priorities set out in Reading Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18:
- Ensuring that all vulnerable residents are protected and cared for;
  - Enabling people to live independently, and also providing support when needed to families;
  - Ensuring care and support provision is effective and of good quality;
  - Promoting resilience for children, young people and adults who are at risk of harm
- 7.2 The SAPB also works to the value of 'fairness' as described in the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18, particularly in its efforts to ensure protections are

extended to all members of the community. The SAPB has worked to develop a Multi-Agency At Risk Pathway for working with those who do not engage with services, and adopted a revised 'Difficult to Work With' protocol to reflect recent learning from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE).

## **8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 8.1 The SAPB Annual Report 2013-14 is a public document. However, the Board recognises that the publication of an Annual Report needs to be supplemented by additional work to raise public awareness of the issues involved in as well as the benefits of supporting adults at risk. A detailed communications strategy is to be developed in 2014-15.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not applicable to this report and its contents. The contents of the SAPB Annual Report describe Safeguarding Adults work across the West of Berkshire to protect and promote the best interests of all Adults at Risk. Older adults and adults with disabilities are more likely to be the subject of Safeguarding Adults work, but not to their detriment. There should not be any differential impact on different racial groups, people of different genders, people of a particular sexual orientation, or people holding particular religious or other beliefs.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the SAPB Annual Report. However, it is worth noting that the Care Act will put Safeguarding Adults Boards onto a statutory footing from 2015. The Care Act will set out core membership and make mandatory a yearly strategic plan along with a legal duty to conduct a Safeguarding Adults Review into certain cases.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report 2013 - 14.