

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee 4 September 2012

BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of the main issues raised from the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report (**Appendix 1**), which outlines the Board's work to drive improvement in multi-agency action to safeguard vulnerable adults.

2. THE BRIEFING

- 2.1 The Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board has been responsible since 2008 for the coordination and development of work to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect in accordance with the Government guidance, *No Secrets (Department of Health 2000)*. This requires the local authority to act as 'lead agency', holding partner agencies accountable, whilst emphasising the responsibility of all agencies to work in partnership to plan, implement and monitor adult safeguarding work.
- 2.2 Oversight of the work of the Board has been provided in 2011/12 by Councillor Robert Evans, portfolio holder and Councillor Roger Charsley, Adult and Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee. Dr Nada Lemic, Public Health Director succeeded Mr Terry Rich as the Chair in August 2011. The *BSAB Adult Safeguarding Prevention Strategy 2011-14* details outcomes BSAB have prioritised for local safeguarding services and last year the main achievements included:
- The launch within Bromley of *Protecting Adults at risk: London multi-agency procedures 2011*. BSAB supported this development which brings greater consistency to safeguarding responses and practices across London. To underpin the new procedures BSAB also developed the *Safeguarding Adults in Bromley Multi Agency Practitioners Toolkit* which supports local inter-agency work and enables staff to easily access local resources. Implementation included an extensive training programme across the partnership and revision of data collection

systems. BSAB retained local procedures for cases of severe self-neglect in addition to the London procedures.

- In 2011 the Board reported that it intended to ensure resources of partner agencies were used effectively to protect those service users most at risk. The Care Services Directorate has concentrated skilled resources on the screening of referrals. This resulted in a reduction of 30% in accepted safeguarding referrals from the previous year (523 in 2010/11 to 365 in 2011/12). Where a case did not meet the threshold for a safeguarding referral, the Care Services Directorate ensured that in line with BSAB procedures, proportionate action was taken to manage any risks to the service user, including consideration of eligibility for a community care assessment.
 - The largest reduction, in accepted referrals for safeguarding this year has been in relation to older people which was 46% (from 361 to 195), whereas referrals about younger people with mental health problems have increased (from 31 to 48). This follows work by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust as previously it was acknowledged that referrals were under reported in this area.
 - Referrals about physical abuse have decreased by 45% (from 231 to 126), as a result of more rigorous screening in terms of evidence of significant harm. In contrast, there is more initial evidence of financial abuse in Bromley, with a reduction of only 8% from 118 to 108.
 - The most frequent location of alleged abuse continues to be the service user's own home which was the location of 47% of alleged abuse (172 of 365 cases). There was a large reduction in referrals from care homes with nursing of 68% (from 71 to 23). This trend will be monitored to ensure there is no under-reporting of safeguarding concerns.
- Further development of partnership work in safeguarding resulted in improved access to justice for vulnerable people. Operations led by the Metropolitan Police Service Bromley Operational Command, Safeguarding Adults at Risk Team which was established in April 2011 have led to a number of successful prosecutions. Board objectives have been assisted by Safer Bromley Partnership activities to protect older people from crime, (particularly the prevention of door-step crime). In addition, health and social care staff have been trained to refer vulnerable people with increased risks due to disabilities or a cluttered home to make priority home safety visits from the London Fire Service.
- During 2010/11 the Board delivered its multi-agency training programme to a total of 652 staff across partner organisations to ensure high levels of staff competence and skills to deal with safeguarding investigations. Raising awareness of adult safeguarding issues has been promoted through the widespread distribution of newsletters to 358 agencies, including voluntary organisations and by a mail-out to seventy five faith groups.

2.3 The Board oversees work to ensure the safety of services and continues to receive information on the implementation of multi-agency actions to manage identified risks.

One care home was the subject of an adult safeguarding investigation in 2011/12.. Where there are multiple concerns about a domiciliary care service (for example about missed visits) a safeguarding investigation about the safety of the service is commenced. This process was initiated twice in 2011/12. Members are due to receive quality monitoring reports on domiciliary care services and care homes in November 2012 and January 2013 respectively.

- 2.4 The BSAB strategic work plan for 2012/13 is detailed in the annual report. Key priorities for this year are: the oversight of action plans regarding the recommendations of Serious Case Reviews commissioned in 2011/12; E learning implementation across partners and review of future training requirements and ensuring adult safeguarding is prioritised in new healthcare commissioning arrangements.
- 2.5 The provisions of the recent *Draft Care and Support Bill (Department of Health 2012)* set out Government plans for new legislation to provide further clarity on the responsibilities of public services to collaborate and work together to safeguard vulnerable adults. Core membership of Boards is specified and this will be the local authority, the NHS and the police. The local authority is required to set up the Board and, in consultation its members, appoint as the Chair a person considered to have the required skills and expertise. Guidance will be issued on the obligations of Boards and will include the development of its own strategic plan with the local community and publication of an annual report on its progress against that plan, to ensure the activities of local agencies are effectively co-ordinated. Current arrangements mean BSAB is well placed to meet all these requirements.
- 2.6 Following on from the successful BSAB 2012 annual conference with the theme '*adult safeguarding: getting it right?*' which was attended by 142 people across partner organisations, this year's event entitled '*balancing risks and choices*' will be held on 9th October 2012.

3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

3.1 **Appendix 1** Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2011/12.

3.2 Supporting documents listed below can be found on the Bromley Council adult safeguarding webpage http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/731/safeguarding_vulnerable_adults

- *Draft Care and Support Bill (Department of Health 2012)*
- *Abuse of Vulnerable Adults 2010-11 comparator report for Bromley (NHS Information Centre 2012)*
- *BSAB Adult Safeguarding Prevention Strategy 2011-14*
- *Protecting Adults at risk: London multi-agency procedures 2011.*
- *Adult safeguarding scrutiny guide (Improvement and development agency 2010)*