

Decision Maker: ADULT & COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 26th July 2011

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

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Chief Officer: Terry Rich, Director - Adult and Community Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

This report provides members with an overview of the main issues raised from the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) annual report (**Appendix 1**). The BSAB annual report outlines the work of the Board including oversight of joint action to safeguard adults.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

PDS Committee Members are asked to:

1. Comment on the contents of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2010/11.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council. Supporting Independence.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring cost.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Aileen Stamate Quality Assurance Manager, Strategy & Performance
 4. Total current budget for this head: £BSAB funding comes from the partner organisations and is deployed on objectives set by the BSAB. LBB will contribute £19K to the BSAB budget for 2011/12 . BSAB services receive support from the Adult Safeguarding Manager (jointly funded by LBB and the PCT), and support staff The cost of staffing to LBB for this service totals £95K
 5. Source of funding: The cost of BSAB work is contained within current allocated LBB budgets and commitments from partner organisations agreed for 2011/12.
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 2.75 FTE allocated to strategic support for safeguarding adults in Bromley;
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 99 per week
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 523 safeguarding referrals investigated under the adult safeguarding procedures during 2010/11.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) has been responsible since 2008 for the coordination and development of work to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect in accordance with Department of Health guidance “*No Secrets*”. The local authority is required 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.
- 3.2 The recent “*Statement of Government Policy on Adult Safeguarding*” (May 2011), confirms that following public consultation on “*No Secrets*” and the recommendations of the “*Review of Adult Social care Law*” by the Law Commission (May 2011), the government intends to seek to legislate for Safeguarding Adults Boards, making existing Boards statutory. BSAB welcomes this development as well as the promotion of personalised services and outcomes presented in the Government’s “*A Vision for Adult Social Care; Capable Communities and Active Citizens*”. In line with these developments, BSAB is committed to ensuring that services offer safety and choice and emphasise that people should be protected when unable to protect themselves, but this should not be at the cost of peoples’ rights to make decisions about how they live their lives.
- 3.3 The BSAB Annual report gives an overview of the work undertaken by the Board to raise awareness of adult safeguarding, drive improvements in multi-agency work and learn from experience to improve outcomes for service users.
- 3.4 Since 2008 adult safeguarding referrals have increased as a result of awareness raising and the development of performance standards by the Board. Adult safeguarding referrals increased 18 % from 443 in 2009/10 to 523 in 2010/11; fortunately, only a very small number of concerns were serious, making it crucial that the limited resources of all agencies are coordinated and used effectively to manage significant risks. Abuse was substantiated or partially substantiated in 174 (40%) instances which is in line with other local authorities.
- 3.5 The Metropolitan Police in Bromley are fully engaged in the work of the Board and now have a dedicated resource to respond to crime against vulnerable people. There has been a significant increase in the number of adult safeguarding cases where there has been police involvement. The increase has been from 43 cases in 2009/10 to 106 cases in 2010/11.
- 3.6 BSAB recognises the importance of all partners in the protection of people in vulnerable situations and during the year welcomed the London Fire Service as a partner on the Board. Following a house fire in Bromley involving a vulnerable person, BSAB worked with the Borough Fire Commander through training for health and social care staff in identifying fire risks. A referral system has also been developed and this has resulted in 132 vulnerable people benefiting from home safety visits from London Fire Service.
- 3.7 BSAB holds all partners accountable for their safeguarding work and last year received from South London Healthcare NHS trust details of progress on the implementation of the action plan to improve staff awareness of adult safeguarding following the Care Quality Commission report of the September 2010 unannounced visit. By April 2011 63% of Trust front line staff had achieved competence in recognising and reporting abuse.
- 3.8 During 2010/11 BSAB were pleased to receive evidence from an external review which states that the work of the Board is effective in preventing abuse and ensuring that when concerns arise they are dealt with appropriately. In line with this, in November 2010 the Care Quality Commission rated adult safeguarding services in Bromley as “performing well”.

3.9 Since the external review BSAB have directed further developments including:

- The implementation of the Adult Safeguarding Prevention Strategy 2011-14, developed with the involvement of service users and informal carers. The objectives of the prevention strategy will be used to drive the Board's work over the next three years. These are: to further improve awareness about how to spot the signs of abuse and when to report it to the lead agency; to ensure all services that are commissioned, regulated or accredited by BSAB partners adhere to the highest standards of safety for service users; to promote consistent safeguarding practice across agencies, underpinned by robust performance information and quality assurance systems; to support vulnerable adults to maximise their independence and quality of life by encouraging them to take control of their situation and to safeguard vulnerable adults who may lack the ability to make a decision that will safeguard themselves or others from harm.
- The implementation of a comprehensive training strategy to help partners ensure all staff and volunteers in the Bromley health and social care workforce can deliver their safeguarding role effectively. The strategy is underpinned by the Board's competence framework which specifies the knowledge and skills required by staff. Staff are expected to prevent abuse through respect for individual rights and personal dignity; recognise and report abuse and understand whistle blowing. 789 staff from across the partnership received this training. The Board requires all adult safeguarding investigations to be undertaken by staff with the correct skill levels; during 2010/11, performance monitoring confirmed this has been achieved for 100% of investigations. In order to continue to achieve this standard, 69 staff were trained in adult safeguarding investigations and additional 36 staff were trained in interviewing vulnerable service users.
- The first BSAB annual conference in June 2010, with the theme 'Prevention through Partnership'. The conference, attended by 127 people across partner organisations, aimed to improve outcomes for vulnerable people by enhancing knowledge of services available including Safer Bromley Partnership initiatives. The conference was very positively evaluated by delegates. BSAB will hold a further conference in September 2011.

3.10 The full BSAB 2011/12 work plan is at Appendix 1 of the annual report. The Board's priorities for 2011/12 are to:

- Implement 'Safeguarding adults in London, Policy and Procedures' across the Bromley adult safeguarding partnership in June 2011;
- Commission an external agency to maximise the collection of feedback from service users and their advocates, about their experience of the safeguarding process to develop actions to make further improvements to practice and
- Audit health and social care settings to ensure awareness.
- Ensure awareness and compliance with the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The Board will also review our alert, referral and triage arrangements to ensure that safeguarding resources are used to greatest effect.

Members should note a guide to the scrutiny of adult safeguarding has been produced by I&DeA (Implementation and Development Agency). [Members Scrutiny Guide](#)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy, legal, personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	No Secrets Statement of Government Policy on Adult Safeguarding Adult Social Care Law Report Adult Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens