

PART 1 - PUBLIC

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Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY, POLICY
DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 20TH Sept 2011

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

Title: BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2010/11

Contact Officer: Susannah Simpson, Adult Safeguarding Manager
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Chief Officer: Terry Rich, Director - Adult and Community Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for the report

This report provides members with an overview of the main issues raised from the 2010/11 annual report of the Bromley Adult Safeguarding Board (BSAB) attached in Appendix 1. This annual report outlines the work of the Board and highlights developments in adult safeguarding with regard to Community Safety and Public Protection.

2. Recommendations

PDS Committee Members are asked to:

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: There are no cost implications arising from this report. 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): 2.7 FTE specifically 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: N/A

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. “*No Secrets*” emphasised abuse should be prevented where possible, but if the prevention strategy fails there should be robust inter-agency procedures to protect vulnerable people.
- 3.2 The “*Statement of Government Policy on Adult Safeguarding*” (May 2011), confirms following public consultation of “*No Secrets*” and the “*Review of Adult Social Care Law*” by the Law Commission (May 2011), the Government intends to seek to legislate Safeguarding Adults Boards, making existing Boards statutory. 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*”, is welcome. BSAB is committed to ensuring services offer choice, people are protected and safe when unable to protect themselves and peoples’ rights to make decisions about how they live their lives are promoted.
- 3.3 During 2010/11, BSAB were pleased to receive evidence from an external review confirming the Board is effective in preventing abuse and where concerns arise they are dealt with appropriately. In addition, in November 2010 the Care Quality Commission rated adult safeguarding services in Bromley as “performing well”.
- 3.4 The BSAB Annual Report 2010 gives an overview of the work undertaken to raise awareness of adult safeguarding. It details how the Board has driven improvements in multi-agency work and how it has learnt to improve outcomes for service users. The aim of the Board is to ensure vulnerable people in Bromley have full access to information and initiatives to keep them safe. To achieve this, BSAB and the Safer Bromley Partnership work together in preventing and responding to crimes against vulnerable people.
- 3.5 Since 2008, adult safeguarding referrals have increased, this is as a result of successfully raising awareness. 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 resources from all agencies are co-ordinated effectively to manage significant risks. The number of cases where abuse was substantiated, or partially substantiated totalled 174, this is 40% of all investigations with this outcome, in line with our comparator authorities.

Key areas relating to public protection and safety

- 3.6 The Metropolitan Police in Bromley are fully engaged in the work of the Board and have a dedicated resource of four staff to respond to crime against vulnerable people. There has been a significant increase in the number of adult safeguarding cases with police involvement, from 43 cases in 2009/10 to 106 cases in 2010/11. Since January 2010, the police have set standards to respond to partners seeking advice before making a referral, (within 3 days).
- 3.7 The Board recognises the key role of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in contributing to the safety of vulnerable people. The Safeguarding Adults Practice Standards group is a multi-agency forum where operations and case work are discussed in order to improve standards of response to allegations.

- 3.8 During the year the London Fire Service was welcomed as a partner on the Board. Following a house fire in Bromley involving a vulnerable person, BSAB worked with the Borough Fire Commander to develop training for health and social care staff to identify fire risks. A referral system has also been developed for home safety visits from London Fire Service; resulting in 132 vulnerable people receiving advice and practical support.
- 3.9 Bromley Appointeeship and Deputyship service assists vulnerable people who lack mental capacity to manage their financial affairs; Deputies are appointed by the Court of Protection. During 2010/11, the service was involved in 12 safeguarding cases, 3 cases were referred to the Court of Protection as an intervention to protect the vulnerable person. Where possible the service seeks to recover money due to service users from individuals and organisations. In one case a service user received a £15k reimbursement (of client contributions) after a Court of Protection hearing, due to misappropriation of funds by their previous Deputy. In another case, the service identified a client had not received the full amount of his entitlement and received £25k in back payments.
- 3.10 BSAB has continued to link with other services and partnerships to develop communication and promote adult safeguarding. Initiatives with the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board and the Domestic Violence Forum include raising awareness across these sectors. All trading standards officers have received level 1 adult safeguarding training and new staff attend as part of their induction programme.
- 3.11 The first BSAB annual conference '*Prevention through Partnership*' was held in June 2010 and workshops included effective responses to domestic abuse and protection from rogue traders. A second conference will be held on the 22nd September; the Safer Bromley Partnership has been involved in the design of this event and will participate in the market place with their exhibition.
- 3.12 The Board has implemented its '*BSAB Adult Safeguarding Prevention Strategy 2011-14*', which was developed with the involvement of service users and informal carers. The objectives of the prevention strategy will drive the Board's work over the next three years.
- 3.13 The Board's priorities for 2011/12 are to:
1. Implement '*Safeguarding adults in London, Policy and Procedures*' across the Bromley adult safeguarding partnership in June 2011.
 2. 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.
 3. Audit health and social care settings to ensure awareness and compliance with the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.
 4. The Board will also review alert, referral and triage arrangements to ensure that safeguarding resources are used to greatest effect.

Future developments:

- 3.14 BSAB aims to ensure vulnerable adults are protected by the positive engagement, contribution and commitment of all partner agencies, including the voluntary sector. This will be achieved by continued promotion of the roles of the NHS, Police, Fire Brigade, Community Safety and the wider community in safeguarding, to minimise the risks faced by vulnerable people by:

1. Planned work by the Safer Bromley Partnership, particularly in terms of the initiative by Trading Standards to prevent older and vulnerable consumers becoming victims of commercial crime and rogue traders, through delivery of talks to fifty groups of older people.
2. Continuation of work to support victims of domestic abuse and ensure full access to available services by vulnerable people.
3. The further promotion of endorsed providers of personalised services, using an accreditation system, to promote the safety of vulnerable people.
4. Continued partnership work to reduce harassment of vulnerable people and minimise risks to those living in vulnerable situations.

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