

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Corporate Director, Adult and Community
Services

To
Cabinet

on
6 November 2012

Report prepared by: Mike Boyle, Head of Commissioning

Southend-on-Sea Vulnerable Adults Board
Annual Report 2011/12

Executive Councillor: Councillor Lesley Salter

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs the Community Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee of the publication of the Annual Report of the Southend-On-Sea Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (SVAB). Although the Council is the lead agency, safeguarding responsibilities fall across all local agencies including Health and the Police. The Board has an independent Chair, who also chairs the Safeguarding Board for Children and Families.
- 1.2 This matter was considered at a pre Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on the 18 September 2012.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes and endorses the publication of the Annual Report and, in particular, the work being undertaken by all local agencies to safeguard our most vulnerable citizens.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Department of Health requires all local authorities to have robust arrangements in place to protect vulnerable adults from exploitation and abuse. Although there is no statutory framework for these requirements, the draft Care and Support Bill contains proposals to establish Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Boards on a statutory basis and to require local authorities to make 'enquiries' where there are concerns about possible abuse or exploitation. The Bill, if enacted, will make it a requirement for Safeguarding Boards to publish an annual Strategic Plan.

- 3.2 The Southend-on-Sea SVAB has been in place since 2002 and is well established. The Safeguarding Board meets 4 times a year and is supported by an Executive Committee and a number of task and finish Action Groups.
- 3.3 The Safeguarding Board agreed the Annual Report for 2011/12 at its meeting on the 11 September 2012 – this is attached as **Appendix 1**. Members will observe the significant activity that took place during the year. Key points of interest include:-
- 856 staff, from various agencies, undertook training during the year.
 - In October 2011 Councillors sitting on the Disciplinary and Appeals panel received training on safeguarding procedures.
 - The Council received 621 safeguarding alerts during 2011/12; an increase of 9% from the previous year.
 - Most alerts were about concerns for older people, relating to either financial abuse or neglect.
 - A third of alerts were in relation to standards in care homes.
 - During 2011/12 the Board undertook its' first Serious Case Review and the Executive Summary of this review was published on the 11 September 2012.
- 3.4 The Committee will note the key priorities for development this year and progress on these objectives will be regularly reported to Safeguarding Board meetings and will feature in the publication of that Board's next Annual Report.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 None.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 It has been good practice since the formation of Safeguarding Boards for the Annual Report to be published and for Councils to scrutinise how effectively the partnership is discharging its responsibilities.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Safeguarding makes an important contribution to creating a safer and healthier Southend.

- 6.2 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report but discharging our safeguarding responsibilities does place significant demands upon the overall budget for care management and adult social care.

6.3 Legal Implications

The Council is required to have robust arrangements in place to safeguard vulnerable adults and it is anticipated these requirements will be enshrined in legislation once the Care and Support Bill has made its passage through Parliament.

6.4 People Implications

The Council is required to ensure that staff across the care sector, including staff working for independent providers, are aware of safeguarding procedures and how to report any concerns they may have.

6.5 Property Implications

There are no property implications arising from this report.

6.6 Consultation

The Annual Report has been widely discussed with our local partners and was agreed by the SVAB on the 11 September 2012.

This matter was considered by the pre Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on the 18 September 2012. That Committee had a number of observations to make and these have been fed back to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board. The Committee also suggested that, to enable greater Councillor engagement in supporting our Safeguarding responsibilities, the membership of the Board should be extended to include one Councillor from each of the current 3 Scrutiny Committees. This suggestion will be considered at the next meeting of the Safeguarding Board.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

There are no direct equality and diversity issues arising from this report but there are close links and interdependencies between safeguarding responsibilities, domestic violence and hate crime.

6.8 Risk Assessment

There are no direct risks arising from the publication of the Safeguarding Annual Report. However, our safeguarding duties are among the most important responsibilities of the Council and any serious failure in this area would result in severe reputational damage.

6.9 Value for Money

Not applicable for this report

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults makes an important contribution towards the Council's vision of creating a safer Southend.

6.11 Environmental Impact

Not applicable for this report.

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

The Draft Annual Report of the Southend-On-Sea Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board.