

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director for People
to
People Scrutiny Committee
On
26th November 2013

Report prepared by: Sarah Range
Safeguarding Adults Strategic Manager

Agenda
Item No.

7

Southend-On-Sea Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board Annual Report 2012/13

Executive Councillor: Councillor Lesley Salter
A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

This report informs the People Scrutiny Committee of the impending 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 Southend Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes 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, when enacted, will make it a requirement for Safeguarding Boards to publish an annual Strategic Plan as well as an Annual Report.
- 3.2 The Southend-on-Sea SVAB has been in place since 2002 and is well established. The Board meets 4 times a year and was supported until early 2013 by an Executive Committee and a number of task and finish Action Groups.

3.3 The Safeguarding Board agreed the Annual Report for 2012/13 at its' meeting on the 19 September 2013 – the current DRAFT annual report is attached as **Appendix 1**. Members will observe the significant activity that took place during the year. Key points of interest include:-

- Staff from various partner and commissioned agencies undertook training during the year.
- The Safeguarding Adults Board launched a number of initiatives with partner agencies in 2012/13 to increase service user's feelings of safety.
- The Council received 682 safeguarding alerts during 2012/13; an increase of 9.8% 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, which compares to recent year trends.
- 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.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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, can work toward preventing abuse from occurring and how to report any concerns they may have.

4.4 Property Implications

There are no property implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultation

The Annual Report has been widely discussed with our local partners and was agreed by the SVAB on the 19 September 2013.

4.6 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.

5. **Background Papers**

None.

6. **Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report 2012 / 13