

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2013**

**UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS ARRANGEMENTS**

Report of Director Health and Community Services

Author: Sue Darker, Assistant Director Learning Disability and Mental Health

Tel: 01992 588820

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board annual report for 2012-2013.
- 1.2 A copy of the report is attached at appendix 1.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) has been established for three years and significant advances have been made in joint working across all agencies to safeguard those most vulnerable in Hertfordshire's communities. This is evidenced by the work commissioned and produced by the HSAB as well as data on safeguarding activity and safeguarding case work.
- 2.2 In line with other local authorities with social care responsibilities Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) produces an annual report summarising the Board's progress against the Safeguarding Business Plan, including the achievements of the individual partner agencies. The report includes information on safeguarding activity and trends during 2012 – 2013. Case examples are provided to illustrate good practice.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board's annual report for 2012-2013.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 Hertfordshire County Council has the lead responsibility for ensuring effective arrangements for safeguarding of adults across the county. Health and Community Services (HCS) leads this work and in that capacity chairs the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB).
- 4.2 HSAB consists of senior representatives from agencies working with vulnerable adults in Hertfordshire. Its work is supported by four subgroups and the Head of Adult Safeguarding (Health and Community Services).
- 4.3 HSAB oversees the partnership approach to safeguarding in Hertfordshire, commissioning and producing pieces of work that will further enable partner agencies to work together and to raise awareness of safeguarding adults across groups of professionals and members of the public.
- 4.4 A key priority in 2012 -13 for the HSAB was to commission an external audit to identify the effectiveness of the partnership and how well safeguarding adults practice was embedded in each member organisation. Overall the audit findings graded HSAB as good with all individual agencies performing well.
- 4.5 Key areas for development were:
- The Board to take a more strategic role and less of an operational role in steering safeguarding arrangements.
  - The Board's decision making to be made more accessible to the public
- 4.6 For the year 2013 -14 the board will focus on expected outcomes, how these are measured and how they contribute to meeting the boards' strategic objectives. This will ensure that HSAB is an effective safeguarding partnership board with joint accountability.
- 4.7 All agencies working with vulnerable adults have a responsibility to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place within their organisation. All agencies have a responsibility to refer alleged cases of abuse to the investigating teams in Health and Community Services and the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- 4.8 Safeguarding adults' data for 2012-2013 suggests that the Board's

awareness raising activities and adult safeguarding training initiatives have been successful. Investigating teams received a total of 2948 safeguarding adults' alerts in this year of which 1388 progressed to referral stage. This represents 34% increase in alerts and a 19.4% increase in the number of alerts leading to an investigation compared to the same period last year.

- 4.9 Compared with 2011 -2012 data, trends with regards to prevalence of abuse by age, nature of abuse, client group and gender are largely similar and in line with national data.
- 4.10 35.9% of abuse took place in the adult's own home and 37.2% in a care home. The percentage of referrals investigated in care home has increased by nine percent from last year, with the figure from health settings increasing by eight percent.
- 4.11 There are a number of contributory factors. The continued media focus on adult abuse had a positive impact. It has increased awareness of safeguarding issues and the number of concerns being reported. There appears to be more confidence in whistleblowing/reporting concerns processes with both the police and the investigating teams noting more referrals from staff.

## **5. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report