

Well-Being Partnership Theme Board**Date: 4 March 2008****Report Title: Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures****Report of: Director Adults, Culture and Community Services****Summary**

To update Well-Being Partnership Board on The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy.

Recommendations

- That Well-Being Partnership Board endorse the revised policy and procedures and commend them across all stakeholders for implementation
- That stakeholders across the Borough review internal procedures to ensure that they are aligned to the revised policy and procedures.

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- Haringey has had a multi-agency policy in place since 2002 to protect vulnerable adults. This has been implemented across the Council and partner agencies with varying degrees of success. Over the last three years significant progress has been made in implementing robust procedures across all adult service user groups to ensure that we do all we can to protect vulnerable adults from abuse.
- Building upon work undertaken following the publication of “No Secrets” in 2000, the ADSS have drawn up a National Framework of standards for good practice. The focus of the new guidance seeks to be more proactive in looking to ensure that anyone who may require community care services is able to retain independence, well-being and choice and do so free from risk of abuse or neglect.

- In the light of the change of focus and developments, the Council and partners have reviewed and revised the Haringey Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures to reflect best practice.

Equalities Implications

- This policy and attached procedures are aimed at safeguarding some of the most vulnerable people in the borough. They will be applied on the basis of identified risk, targeting those deemed to be at the most significant and imminent risk. Equalities monitoring of the use of the policy and procedures will take place at least annually (more often if patterns of abuse are suspected).

Consultation

- These policies and procedures have been taken via the Safeguarding Board to all stakeholders.

Background

- Since the Multi-Agency protocol was implemented in Haringey in 2002, there have been significant improvements in training, awareness, reporting and investigating concerns of abuse of vulnerable adults. In 2006/07 there were 172 alerts raised that resulted in 158 formal investigations under the protocol. This was markedly increased from the 78 in the previous year. The figures for 2007/08 to January 25th are 157 alerts (including four serious institutional investigations with many individuals at risk).
- In the light of the increasing awareness of Safeguarding issues and the consequent increase in referrals and investigations, Haringey Council has made a decision to increase its investment in this area and has created a new post to support the current Adult Protection Manager – now to be re-designated Safeguarding Manager, Adults. This will increase our capacity across the Borough to support all stakeholders in raising awareness, identifying potential abuse and ensuring appropriate investigation and support for those who are at risk. Resources for the new post have been identified in budget proposals for next year and we are in the process of recruiting to this post.
- Haringey Safeguarding Adults Partnership has a Zero-Tolerance Policy to abuse. In no circumstance is abuse accepted or tolerated. All agencies across Haringey seek to work in collaboration to ensure that we implement this policy. The primary aim of all partners is to prevent abuse, but where preventative strategies fail; partners will initiate and follow the revised policies and procedures.

Conclusion

- All stakeholders have improved awareness and performance in Safeguarding vulnerable adults. The Well-Being Partnership Board is asked to endorse the proposed revised policy and procedure and commend them for implementation over all partners within Haringey.

Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

- Haringey Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures