

<b>23 March 2011</b>	<b>Item 7</b>
<b>Health &amp; Well Being Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>	
<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE SAFEGUARDING UPDATE</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Cllr Tony Fish, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> N/A	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Les Billingham, Acting Head of Transformation & Independence	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Lorna Payne, Corporate Director, Community Well-being	
<b>This report is</b> Public	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To update Overview & Scrutiny of current and future safeguarding developments within Adult Social Care.	

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is to update Overview & Scrutiny on the work of the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Board. The Board meets quarterly and is co-chaired by Graham Carey (Independent Safeguarding Champion) and Les Billingham (Acting Head of Transformation & Independence).

The report also asks Overview & Scrutiny to note the improved judgement by the Care Quality Commission regarding the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults in Thurrock, contained within last years Annual Performance Assessment moving from 'adequate' to 'good'.

Finally the report recommends that a full audit of safeguarding is undertaken across the Council in 2011/12.

Thurrock is a place where every adult, in every home, in every community, matters. Our vision is:

**“To work in partnership, preventing abuse and ensuring excellent practice and timely responses to the safety and protection of individuals or groups within our communities.”**

Thurrock’s Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAP) Annual Plan sets out how agencies will work together, how practice will improve our response to reported abuse and how our policies and procedures will underpin and provide a systemic framework to protect vulnerable adults in our community. The objectives of the Annual Plan are

set out below. Also listed below are some more current issues and recommendations:

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1.1 The Safeguarding Board recommends a full audit of Adult Safeguarding across the Council, similar to the audit that took place within Children’s Service in 2010.**
- 1.2 That Overview & Scrutiny note the contents of the Safeguarding Annual Plan 2011/12.**

**2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

2.1 Safeguarding is everyone’s business and the vision of the Board is shared by all our partner agencies. It cannot be delivered by agencies acting in isolation. It can only be achieved by agencies working together, through common plans and strategies.

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- 2.2 The work of Safeguarding Vulnerable adults in Thurrock has continued to develop and improve over time. This improvement was acknowledged in last years’ Annual Performance Assessment by the Care Quality Commission, moving from a score of adequate to good against Outcome 7: Safeguarding people who use services from abuse.
- 2.3 Thurrock’s Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Business Plan sets out how agencies will work together, how practice will improve our response to reported abuse and how our policies and procedures will underpin and provide a systemic framework to protect vulnerable adults in our community. The objectives of the Business Plan are attached.

**3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:**

3.1 The Annual Plan, attached in full as Appendix A identifies a range of issues and objectives. The key areas for development are:

**3.2 Financial Stability-**

This is an area of some risk given the difficult financial situation being faced by Councils, and by all key partner agencies. Previously the work of the Board had been resourced by contribution from Partners, alongside core funding being provided by Thurrock Council. Both sources of funding are now

at risk, and it is vital that a sustainable financial strategy is developed for the future.

### **3.3 Confirmation of partnership arrangements-**

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults can only be successfully delivered through a robust partnership agreement with key agencies. The Thurrock Board has been very effective in creating a strong partnership to oversee the work. However, the difficulties facing public services, particularly the reduction in personnel will place a strain on all agencies ability to stay involved. It is crucial that partnership continues, and that there is development in areas such as consistency of approach and information sharing during this period of change.

### **3.4 Quality and monitoring-**

The need to evidence achievement and provide quality information is fundamental to safeguarding. There is now a robust quality monitoring process in place, but this will need to continue to develop to include all partner agencies in 2011/12.

### **3.5 Communication-**

There is a need to improve communication across the Council, partner agencies and to the public at large to ensure awareness of potential risk to vulnerable adults is improved. The audit of safeguarding recommended within this report will focus upon the level of awareness evident across the Council and indicate the actions necessary to improve this, where relevant.

## **4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 4.1 This report to Over and Scrutiny builds upon the previous Cabinet report of September 2008.

## **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

None specific

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

**Implications verified by: Funké Nana**  
**Telephone and email: 01375 652 451**  
**fana@thurrock.gov.uk**

The report is an update, regarding the arrangements for developing and implementing the Thurrock safeguarding strategy for Adults Social Care. The actions identified in the attached Appendix A will be met from within existing resources. However Members are advised the further work is required in

order to develop a robust sustainable financial strategy for the resourcing of this work stream.

## 6.2 **Legal**

**Implications verified by: Lee Bartlett**  
**Telephone and email: 01375652167**  
**lbartlett@thurrock.gov.uk**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## 6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

**Implications verified by: Samson DeAlyn**  
**Telephone and email: 01375652472**  
**sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk**

Safeguarding covers all vulnerable people and therefore does not discriminate against any of the groups covered by the Equality Act 2010. The Southend, Essex & Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding guidelines which inform safeguarding practice in Thurrock have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, which has tested the processes and policies to ensure that they are accessible to all and able to meet any individuals safeguarding needs irrespective of the individuals' specific situation.

Therefore this Annual Plan, which is informed directly by the SET Guidelines puts in place a series of developments for safeguarding, which build upon current practice and which have been analysed to ensure that they do not impact adversely against any individual or group.

## 6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

## 7. **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The work of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Thurrock Continues to improve, however there are significant risks to this achievement which the Annual Plan seeks to identify and address. Overview and Scrutiny have a key role in overseeing this work. The Annual Plan should be noted by Overview and Scrutiny along with the recommendation to undertake an Audit of safeguarding in 2011/12.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:**

- EIA for SET Guidelines

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- Annual Plan 2011/12

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