



Report of: Corporate Director of Housing & Adult Social Services

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health & Care Scrutiny	19 October 2015		All
Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt	

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report 2014/15

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This report sets out highlights and progress of the council's leadership of adult safeguarding arrangements in the borough.
- 1.2. The published Annual Safeguarding Review, attached as appendix 1, describes this in more detail.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report and to commend adult social services staff for their commitment to preventing abuse where possible and responding to concerns of abuse or neglect of vulnerable Islington residents.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Care Act 2014, Islington Council has a statutory responsibility to lead the borough in safeguarding adults.
- 3.2 Key achievements
 - We delivered training to 1876 people (an 18% increase on the previous year).
 - Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications surged. In spite of this, we managed to turn around most applications within timescales although we had to take on extra staff to do this.
 - The Government has asked the Law Commission to look at how deprivations of liberty can be improved. Consultation on draft proposals began in July 2015 and will continue until

November 2015. A draft bill is expected in 2016. Current proposals consider extending local authorities' responsibilities for authorising Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in community settings for example supported living placements. Presently these need to be authorised by the Court of Protection. It is not known what will survive into the draft bill.

- We checked whether partners have appropriate policies, procedures and practices in place on non-engagement, refusal of services, carers and domestic violence.
- In addition to the range of safeguarding adults leaflets already available in community languages, a Chinese leaflet is now available.
- More information about the work of the Board is now available in easy read format.
- The views of Islington residents have been sought, both formally and informally, with a significant focus on how partners handled and responded to complaints.
- We got assurance from health partners on work being done to link pressure sores with possible safeguarding concerns.

The annual report further details progress on delivering the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan.

3.3 The review compares the statistics from 2014/15 with the previous year 2013/14. There has been no change in the number of safeguarding alerts from the previous year (1165 alerts). Investigations have increased 12% on last year. This is a positive trend in that it shows people are getting slightly better at knowing when to report concerns about neglect and abuse.

3.4 Physical abuse, financial abuse and neglect have remained the top three categories for several years. The picture is similar across the country.

3.5 The percentage of cases which were substantiated or partially substantiated (that is, the abuse was likely to have taken place) has risen by 20% in the last year.

3.6 Key Developments

- The Care Act 2014 came into effect. New categories of abuse have been recognised in the Act: modern slavery, domestic violence and self-neglect.
- Islington had its first serious case review for a number of years. The serious case review report has been published and can be downloaded [here](#). We are working on an action plan to learn the lessons from this case.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications

The Safeguarding Adults Unit 2014/15 gross expenditure outturn was £565k. Of this, £87k was funded through the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (ICCG).

The Safeguarding Adults Unit 2015/16 gross expenditure budget is £1.02m. This includes a net increase of £450k on the 2014/15 budget due to the recent Supreme Court judgment in the 'Cheshire West' case which extended the definition of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), and has meant the number of people eligible for DoLS assessments has increased significantly.

There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Any plans or strategies derived or agreed in relation to this report should use existing available resources and therefore not create a budget pressure for the Council.

4.2 Legal Implications

The Care Act 2014 (the Act) which came into force in April 2015 established the first statutory framework for adult safeguarding. Sections 42-47 of the Act set out the provisions for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect. Section 42 of the Act imposes a duty on each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area, Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 of the Act requires the SAB to prepare an annual report, and specifies the matters that must be included in the report. The Act did not introduce additional arrangements for SAB's but put the arrangements before April 2014 on a statutory footing.

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4.3 Equalities Impact Assessment

The council must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

Appendix B of the full annual review (attached) sets out the equality impact of work to safeguard adults who are at risk in Islington.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no major environmental impacts associated with the Safeguarding Adults Board. Minor impacts such as transport-related emissions and office-based resource usage (energy, paper etc.) are managed by staff by actions including not printing documents unless absolutely necessary, using video-conferencing and encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport. Some work has the potential to benefit the environment, such as reducing fire risk or referring service users to the SHINE service, which gives advice to residents on saving energy.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

The annual safeguarding review sets out the main achievements in safeguarding vulnerable and disabled adults in Islington and details our aims for achieving our strategy and annual plan.

Attachments:

Appendix 1: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2014-15

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Corporate Director – Housing and Adult Social Services

Date: 13 August 2015

Received by: Head of Democratic Services

Date:

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