



**Report of: The Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Services**

<b>Health and Care Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b> 14 December 2017	<b>Ward(s):</b> All
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**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2016/17 – a review of key achievements and priorities going forward

## 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 Adults Review, attached as appendix A, describes this in more detail.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To receive the Annual Safeguarding Adults Review and the contents of this report  
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**
  - Together with London Fire Brigade, we held a well-attended community fire safety awareness-raising event. This followed on from local fire safety learning reviews.
  - Islington has been part of the Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDER) pilot conducted by Bristol University which is looking at avoidable deaths, diagnostic overshadowing and

issues that are not being picked up in a timely way.

- An awareness-raising plan about familial financial abuse was developed and implemented during the year.
- A Safeguarding Adults Review into the care of [Ms BB and CC](#) was published and an action plan to implement the learning from this review has been developed.
- Social isolation and loneliness is a theme that has emerged from discussions at the service user and carer subgroup.

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 2016/17 with the previous year 2015/16. There has been a **6%** increase in safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 1,464 to 1,555). Safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have increased 11% on last year.

3.4 In nearly 6 out of 10 cases (58%), people were worried about an adult but when we looked into it, we decided not to progress it to a formal safeguarding enquiry. This is a higher percentage than the previous year where only 4 out of ten (40%) of cases did not end up in an enquiry.

We are not clear on the reasons for this, but suspect that it may be related to professionals adapting to the Care Act 2014 which came into effect in 2015. London-wide guidance was issued in 2016. The guidance clarified thresholds for formal safeguarding enquiries.

3.5 Physical abuse, financial abuse and neglect have remained the top three categories for several years. The picture is similar across the country. However, the proportion of neglect cases has increased considerably from 20% to 36% in one year. We will be seeking explanations for this trend during the course of the next year.

3.6 The Care Act 2014 has lowered the threshold for reviewing serious cases. The Safeguarding Adults Board has held multi-agency reflective workshops about 2 cases and a Safeguarding Adults Review is underway for another case.

### 3.8 **Key national developments**

- A Homeless Reduction Bill was debated in parliament. Homelessness and safeguarding are inter-related on many levels. Homelessness can be a consequence of self-neglect, which in certain circumstances under the Care Act, may now require a safeguarding response. Homelessness can also put adults with care and support needs at greater risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness has prompted a national conversation about the scale and impact of loneliness in the UK. Adults with care and support needs are more likely to be socially isolated; and social isolation in turn puts those people at greater risk of abuse and neglect.
- Since October 2016 NHS trusts are expected to have a 'Freedom to Speak Up Guardian'. This aim of this initiative is to enable and encourage whistleblowing in the NHS and follows on from the enquiry of Robert Francis QC into failings at Mid-Staffordshire NHS Trust.
- The Law Commission shone a light on the 'crisis' in the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system as many councils failed to cope with a tenfold increase in cases. Backlogs in processing cases and breaches of statutory timescales were common across the country, although Islington Council is one of the few councils that has managed to stay mostly within timescales. Widespread failings nationally triggered a government-ordered review by the Law Commission.

The Commission has now delivered its final recommendations and drafted legislation for a replacement system of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). The aim of the LPS scheme is to give human rights protections to a wider group of people and settings than is currently the case with the DoLS system. The proposed LPS system is intended to be less onerous for councils to implement, because it would involve a two-tier system of checks and protections requiring a best interest assessment only in cases where the care arrangements are against the person's wishes.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications:**

The Safeguarding Adults Unit 2016/17 gross expenditure outturn was £1.179m. The following contributions were received:

- £86.6k was funded through the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (ICCG)
- £5k was received from the London Metropolitan Police towards the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board (with a further £500 from the London Fire Brigade).

The Safeguarding Adults Unit 2017/18 gross expenditure budget is £1.116m. This includes a net increase of £21k which was added to the budget in 2016/17 to fund pressures arising from costs associated with Safeguarding Adults Reviews and the Supreme Court judgment in the 'Cheshire West' case. This landmark case extended the definition of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), and has meant the number of people eligible for DoLS assessments has increased significantly in recent years.

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:**

There are no legal implications arising as a direct result of the SAB annual report. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's statutory duty under the Care Act, Schedule 2 (Safeguarding Adults Boards) which requires the SAB to as soon as feasible after the end of each financial year publish an annual report on the matters specified at paragraph 4 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 4.1 (a – g) of Schedule 2, Care Act 2014 details the type of information which must be included with the SAB annual report; this includes details of what it had done that year to achieve its objective; what it has done during that year to implement its strategy; the findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (safeguarding adults reviews) which have concluded in that year; the reviews which are ongoing in that year; what it has done during that year to implement the findings of reviews arranged by it; where it decides not to implement a finding of a review arranged by it, the reasons for this decision.

When finalised, the SAB is under a duty to send a copy of the report to various individuals/organisations including the Chief Executive, leader of the local authority; the local policing body; the Local Healthwatch organisation and the Chair of the Health and Well-being Board (paragraph 4.2., Schedule 2, Care Act 2014).

#### 4.3 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.

#### 4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, 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 as Appendix A of this report) sets out the equalities impact of our work to safeguard adults.

### 5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 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.

#### Appendices

- Appendix A: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2016-17
- Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2016-17 summary

#### Background papers:

- Safeguarding Adults Review into the care of Ms BB and CC

[https://www.islington.gov.uk/~/\\_media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/healthandsocialcare/information/guidance/20162017/20170308sarabridgedreportmsbbandmsccfeb2017.pdf](https://www.islington.gov.uk/~/_media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/healthandsocialcare/information/guidance/20162017/20170308sarabridgedreportmsbbandmsccfeb2017.pdf)

#### Signed by:

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