



Report of: Interim Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Health and Care Committee	Date: 15 November 2018	Wards: All
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SUBJECT: Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2017/18 – 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. Recommendation

- 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 the Board's service user and carer subgroup, we held a well-attended social isolation and safeguarding event. The service user and carer subgroup continues to explore the relationship between social isolation and safeguarding risk. At their suggestion, we held an event to raise awareness of scams, in particular romance scams.
 - A Safeguarding Adults Review into the care of [Ms BB and CC](#) was published and an action plan developed in 2017. During the year, learning from the review has been implemented and

monitored. Some further work on this action plan is still needed and will be carried forward into the 2018/19 year.

- The Making Safeguarding Personal approach has been implemented within Adult Social Services and across partner organisations. Shifting culture to this way of working takes time and so work on this will continue in the next year.
- We held a month-long series of different awareness-raising events with conferences and pop-up information stalls at various places in the borough.
- The police have set up a dedicated mental health team with the aim of approaching mental health needs in the community in a more holistic way.

The annual report further details progress on delivering the final year of Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan. After consulting widely, the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board has developed a new 3-year strategy for the next 3 years ahead (2018-2021). The strategy has been aligned with those of the Safeguarding Adults Boards in the North Central London cluster (Enfield, Haringey, Camden and Barnet).

- 3.3 The review compares the statistics from 2017/18 with the previous year 2016/17. There has been more than a doubling of safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 1,555 to 3,618).

However, safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have decreased 27% on last year (from 655 to 479). This means that in more 8 out of 10 cases (88%) people were worried about, when we looked into it we decided not to progress it to a formal safeguarding enquiry.

- 3.4 Some of the reasons for this change in trend is related to professionals adapting to the Care Act 2014 which came into effect in 2015. London-wide guidance was issued in 2016. The guidance increased the categories of abuse for formal safeguarding enquiries which has led to an increase in awareness and referrals generally. We have also updated our electronic recording system and processes linked to safeguarding adults this year which has resulted in a clearer triage process at the start of a safeguarding episode resulting in a higher number of concerns being recorded as safeguarding adults cases initially.
- 3.5 Physical abuse, financial abuse and neglect have remained the top three categories for several years. The picture is similar across the country has been noted in previous years in Islington too. For example, the proportion of neglect cases at 33% has remained similar to last year's at 36%.
- 3.6 Some new categories of abuse, such as modern slavery, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and self-neglect, are now recognised in law. We are working to raise awareness of these types of abuse. Our recording systems have been modified so that it is easier to collect data and monitor trends of these newly recognised types of abuse.

In the last year we did not carry out formal enquiries into any suspected cases of sexual exploitation or modern slavery. As the signs of modern slavery and sexual exploitation can be hard to spot, the Board will continue to raise awareness about these hidden types of abuse.

- 3.7 During the year, the Board's subgroup considered two new referrals as to whether they met the criteria for a Safeguarding Adults Review under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014. One of these cases did not meet the threshold; at the time of writing the review the other needed further information before a decision could be reached.

3.8 **Key national developments**

- The Homelessness Reduction Action came into force to address increasing street homelessness. 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.

- Mental Health issues such as suicides in detention and the use of seclusion are coming under the spotlight both nationally and internationally. The government has conducted a survey of experiences of the Mental Health Act and we await the outcome.
- Parliament is debating draft legislation which proposes to replace the current system of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) with a broader but less onerous system of Liberty Protection Safeguards. Many councils have struggled to cope with a tenfold increase in cases in recent years and backlogs and breaches of statutory timescales were commonplace across the country, although Islington Council has been one of the few councils that has managed to stay mostly within timescales. However, the proposed new Liberty Protection Safeguards will need to strike a balance between human rights protections and making the scheme lighter touch.
- The government appointed a Loneliness Minister to continue the work started by the Jo Cox Commission. Loneliness can affect anyone at any stage of their life, but adults with care and support needs are more likely to be socially isolated. Eight out of ten family/friend carers describe themselves as lonely. We also know from research (echoed by feedback from our service user and carer subgroup) that loneliness and social isolation are risk factors for adult abuse and neglect.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2017/18 gross expenditure outturn was £1.422m. The following contributions were received:

- £87k 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's 2018/19 gross expenditure budget is £1.235m.

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

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 objectives; 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 2017-18

Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2017-18 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>

Signed by:



Interim Corporate Director of Housing & Adult Social Services

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