



## Report of: Director of Adult Social Services

<b>Health and Care Scrutiny</b>	<b>Date: 21 November 2019</b>	<b>Ward(s): All</b>
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## **SUBJECT:** Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2018/19 – 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 2018-19, 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:
  - We were selected by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) to pilot a scheme to raise awareness in the borough around Lasting Powers of Attorney. Lasting Powers of Attorney are an important preventative protection against financial and other types of abuse for

people who lose the ability to make decisions about their finances, health and wellbeing. This collaboration with the OPG will continue into the next financial year.

- As part of its strategy, the Board continues to encourage partner organisations to focus on the link between homelessness and risk of abuse and neglect. Islington Council has taken active steps to reduce the homelessness crisis by recruiting to a number of additional posts. Grants also allowed the Council to open up winter shelters providing additional bed spaces for rough sleepers.
- A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) into the care of Mr Yi was commissioned jointly by the Safeguarding Adults Boards in Islington, Lambeth, Newham and Hackney under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014. The SAR report was published in August 2019 and the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board is working on an action plan to implement recommendations and learning from the review.
- 157 organisations in the borough have signed up to the Hate Crime pledge to help support the reduction in hate crime, which includes disability hate crime.
- Our service user and carer subgroup continues to run successfully and is positively influencing the decisions of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- During Safeguarding Awareness month in June, we held a series of events with pop-up information stalls at various places in the borough.
- Over the past year, a new safeguarding structure has been introduced in the police service which means that Islington now has dedicated safeguarding police officer posts.

The annual report further details progress on delivering the first year of Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan (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). The Boards within the cluster have been collaborating where it makes sense to do so, such as holding a joint Challenge event around Board assurance work.

3.3 The review compares the statistics from 2018/19 with the previous year 2017/18. There has been a 15% increase in safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 3,618 to 4,159).

However, safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have decreased since last year (from 479 to 435). This means that in roughly 9 out of 10 cases (90%) people we were worried about, when we looked into it we decided not to progress it to a formal safeguarding enquiry. The low conversion rate is as a result of adjustments we have made to our safeguarding processes so that they are more aligned with requirements set out in the Care Act 2014. This year ADASS have produced additional guidance to assist local authorities when making decisions about whether or not a safeguarding concern should proceed to a section 42 statutory enquiry. The new guidance sits exactly alongside Islington Council's current ways of working. We are one of the few councils in London that works this way and it is really good news because it means we have been interpreting the law correctly and we do not need to make substantial changes to our procedures now that this new guidance has been issued. Islington's conversion rate is recognised across the London region to be proportionate and appropriate. Other local authorities will now start to record much lower conversion rates also as they embed this guidance into their practice.

Our referral rates for concerns remains at a level we are comfortable with, it reflects the impact of awareness raising on members of the public, service users, carers and professionals. We will always expect a difference between the number of concerns received and the number of enquiries undertaken due to the specialist nature of safeguarding work and changes in case law, best practice and pan London policies.

We continue to carry out regular case file audits to make sure that thresholds are being applied appropriately and proportionately by practitioners.

3.4 The three most common types of abuse in Islington during the last year were neglect, financial and psychological abuse. The pattern for financial abuse and neglect has been noted in previous

years. For example, the proportion of neglect cases at 30% remains similar to last year's at 33%. But cases of psychological abuse have exceeded the number of physical abuse cases which usually formed the third highest category of abuse in previous years. Last year only 14% of cases involving psychological abuse reported were taken to enquiry whereas this year 24% of those cases were taken forward. This may be as a result of more awareness about identifying and reporting hidden forms of abuse amongst staff and service users. Additionally, psychological abuse can also occur alongside any of the other categories listed above.

3.5 There were no cases that involved formal enquiries into any suspected cases of modern slavery or sexual exploitation of adults with care and support needs. We are working to raise awareness of these types of abuse. Our recording systems have also been modified so that it is easier to collect data and monitor trends in these fairly new 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.

3.6 During the year, the Board's subgroup considered 7 referrals, but 6 referrals did not meet the threshold for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014. The only SAR that was conducted and published during the year, related to Mr Yi.

### 3.7 **Key national developments**

- The Stalking Protection Act came into force in March 2019 support us to protect people at risk of stalking
- The Liberty Protection Safeguards are due to replace Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in October 2020. We continue to be one of the few local authorities with no backlogs on DoLS and are well-placed to transition smoothly into the new law.
- Taking action against human trafficking and modern slavery continues to be a top priority nationally and internationally.

### 4.1 **Financial Implications:**

The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2018/19 gross expenditure outturn was £1.287m. 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 2019/20 gross expenditure budget is £1.363m.

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 and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:**

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:**

##### **Please retain this standard paragraph and add relevant text about specific impacts and mitigation below:**

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 2018-19

Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2018-19 summary

### **Background papers:**

- Supporting Adults at risk in need of accommodation based support - Report into the Safeguarding Adults Review of Mr Yi - Prepared by Fiona Bateman, Independent Author - November 2018  
<https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/adultcareservices/information/adviceandinformation/20192020/20190823yisarreportaugfinal.pdf>

### **Signed by:**

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Service Director (Adult Social Services)

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