



Report of: Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health and Wellbeing Board	15 October 2014	Item	All

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SUBJECT: Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board; Annual Report 2013/14

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 Annual Safeguarding Review, attached as appendix 1, describes this in more detail.

2. Recommendations

- 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 on vulnerable Islington residents.

3. Background

- 3.1 Islington Council has a statutory responsibility to lead the borough in safeguarding adults. Local authorities, along with other public agencies, are required to submit an annual review of safeguarding arrangements to their Executive Board, as part of the No Secrets statutory guidance.
- 3.2 Achievements this year:
Audits
We have established an audit framework for care management teams. Teams have been auditing cases for a year and findings have revealed strong practice in keeping people safe from the beginning

of a safeguarding investigation. Auditors have been taking learning from the audits back to teams to further improve practice.

Financial abuse toolkit

In light of the prevalence of financial abuse we have produced a financial abuse toolkit for service users and carers to help keep themselves safe.

Working with Trading Standards

We have started working with trading standards on supporting victims of scams and doorstep criminals.

Domestic Violence

We have continued to work closely with colleagues in community safety improving the number of MARAC referrals and creating a safeguarding adults and domestic violence flowchart for practitioners.

Sprinklers

Following a fatal fire in 2013 involving an adult at risk, we are working to install domestic sprinklers into homes for the people most at risk.

Hoarders

We have created a forum to address the needs and issues of hoarding. The aim of this group is to develop local policies and procedures and interventions to address and reduce the risks from hoarding behaviours.

Home fire safety visits

During 2013-14, London Fire Brigade received from agencies within Islington, the highest recorded number of home fire safety referrals of any Borough across London. The majority of these came from partners represented on the Adult Safeguarding Board. As a result, 2093 home fire safety visits were carried out in the Borough, smoke alarms were fitted where needed and 98% of these visits were carried out in the homes of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Community Risk MARAC

We are working closely with colleagues in the Police and Community Safety to address concerns resulting from anti-social behaviour where the victims are vulnerable and at risk of serious abuse or harm. The aim of this group is to prevent incidents like those experienced in the high-profile case of Fiona Pilkington.

SAPB partner safeguarding meetings

Moorfields Eye Hospital, Whittington Trust and Camden and Islington Mental Health Trust have all established senior level Safeguarding Adults meetings.

CCG involvement in Safeguarding Adults Unit

The CCG has contributed funding to the Safeguarding Adults Unit and has produced a work plan that addresses areas of learning and development for commissioners, compliance with regulations and updating of policies and procedures.

Themed SAPB meetings

We have introduced themed Board meetings which have resulted in some very interesting presentations from partners about how they contribute to the safeguarding agenda.

- 3.3** The review compares the statistics from 2013/14 with the previous year 2012/13. There has been an increase of 43% in alerts from the previous year and an increase in investigations by 4%. These figures are positive in that they show that professionals and members of the public are reporting safeguarding concerns about adults to us. We have been working hard to increase awareness among members of the colleagues and public and the increase in alerts may reflect this.

Physical abuse, financial abuse and neglect have remained the top three categories for several years. The picture is similar across the country. Since last year, neglect and financial abuse have been nearly equal in the number of investigations completed (at 32% and 28% respectively).

- 3.4** The percentage of cases which were substantiated (that is, the abuse was likely to have taken place) has remained the same as the previous year at 30%.
- 3.5** During 2013/14 a serious case review was held in Haringey relating to an Islington resident placed in a Haringey care setting. As a result of the review comprehensive training around choking has been set up and a new protocol has developed between Islington and Haringey around transfers of care arrangements.

Also during 2013 we participated in a Domestic Homicide Review. Actions to come from this review include reviewing the safeguarding policies to ensure that domestic violence is appropriately included, carers issues are addressed and non-engagement and refusal of service policies are reviewed. The action plan is currently being quality assured by the Home Office.

Our Establishment Concerns process was invoked for three care homes during the year. All three care homes have since demonstrated significant improvements and worked to detailed improvement plans.

- 3.6** The report looks at the use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in Islington. Most referrals are for people who have dementia. Overall, application levels were similar to previous years, with more referrals from care homes and fewer referrals from hospitals.

In March 2014 the Supreme Court made a long awaited decision in a case known as 'Cheshire West' concerning the living arrangements of three mentally incapacitated individuals. It decided that all three were subject to a deprivation of their liberty. This judgment is important because it clarified the law around DoLS and introduced an 'acid test' to work out whether or not a deprivation of someone's liberty is taking place. We anticipate DoLS applications to increase significantly in 2014/15 as a result of the Cheshire West judgement.

- 3.7** The report details progress on delivering our 3-year Board strategy. An annual plan set out specific actions for the year to be carried out by the four subgroups of the Board. All actions have either been achieved or are on course to be achieved.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications

The Safeguarding Adults Unit 2013/14 gross expenditure outturn was £540k. Of this, £87k was funded through the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (ICCG) contribution towards the service.

The Safeguarding Adults Unit 2014/15 gross expenditure budget is £510k. With 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. This has led to a pressure of £500k for the 2014/15 financial year, which will be contained within the Adult Social Services department.

4.2 Legal Implications

The DoH Guidance 'No Secrets; guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse' requires the Council to co-ordinate the development of local policies and procedures for the protection of adults from abuse. Paragraph 3.18 requires the multi-agency management committee (the Safeguarding Adults Board) to undertake an annual audit to monitor and evaluate policies, procedures and practices for the protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. The paragraph specifies that feedback on performance to all agencies should be a key feature of the audit process.

The "No secrets" guidance is issued under 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which means that local authorities are required to follow the guidance unless local circumstances indicate exceptional reasons which justify a variation. Failure to comply with the guidance may be challenged by way of judicial review.

The Care Act 2014, the relevant sections of which come into force in April 2015, establishes the first statutory framework for adult safeguarding. Sections 42 - 47 set out the provisions for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect. Section 42 imposes a duty on the Council to establish a SAB for its

area. Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 requires the SAB to prepare an annual report, and specifies the matters that must be included in the report.

4.3 Equalities 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) sets out the equality impact of work to safeguard adults who are vulnerable in Islington.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no major environmental impacts associated with the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. Minor impacts such as transport-related emissions and office-based resource usage (energy, paper etc) are managed by staff. 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

- 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.

Background papers:

Appendix 1: Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership: Review 2013/14

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008486

Attachments:

Final Report Clearance

Signed by



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Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social
Services

Date: 30th
September 2014

Received by

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Head of Democratic Services

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Date

Report author: Elaine Oxley

Tel: 0207 527 8180

Fax:

E-mail: elaine.oxley@islington.gov.uk