



Report of: The Director of People's Services

Health and Care Scrutiny	Date: 26 November	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2019/20 – 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 2019-20, 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:
 - The action plan to implement recommendations and address learning from the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) into the care of Mr Yi was completed. The SAR was commissioned jointly by the Safeguarding Adults Boards in Islington, Lambeth, Newham and Hackney

under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014. Further work to ensure the lessons have been embedded will continue.

- Some board partners recruited to additional posts to support the homelessness crisis. Additional grants allowed Islington council to open up winter shelters providing additional bed spaces for rough sleepers.
- 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.
- Having been selected by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) to pilot a scheme to raise awareness in the borough around Lasting Powers of Attorney in 2018, we continued this work in 2019-20. 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.

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 collaborated 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 2019/20 with the previous year 2018/19. There has been a decrease in safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 3,724 to 3,228). We are not sure about the reasons for this but we have noticed some variation in the number of safeguarding concerns reported to us each year depends on how much safeguarding has been in national media headlines.

Safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have decreased since last year (from 435 to 371). This means that in roughly 9 out of 10 cases people we were worried about, when we looked into it we decided not to progress it to a formal safeguarding enquiry. 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 28% remains similar to last year's at 30%.
- 3.5 The number of safeguarding concerns about modern slavery or sexual exploitation of adults with care and support needs remains low. 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. 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 did not consider any case met the threshold for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014. The SAR that was conducted and published during the previous year, related to Mr Yi. The Board worked on the action plan to implement recommendations and address learning arising from the Yi SAR.

3.7 **Key national developments**

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards have been postponed to 2021 by the government. We continue to be one of the few local authorities with no backlogs on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and are well-placed to transition smoothly into the new law.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has brought challenges and risks for adults with care and support needs and the services supporting them. We will be focusing on seeking assurance that our partners are mitigating those safeguarding risks over the coming year.
- Restraint & seclusion gained public attention following a BBC expose of the treatment of 'Beth' who was kept in solitary confinement in an assessment and treatment unit elsewhere in the country. In response, various regulators are now including this aspect in their monitoring regimes.
- 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 2019/20 gross expenditure outturn was £1,206K. £39K was contributed by the following organisations:

- £22K North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Quarter 1. After this, it was agreed that the CCG would no longer contribute to the Safeguarding service.
- £6K from Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- £5K was received from Whittington Health Trust
- £5K London Metropolitan Police towards the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board
- £1K London Fire Brigade towards the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2020/21 gross expenditure budget is £1,358K.

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; what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy; the findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (safeguarding adults reviews) which have concluded in that year (whether or not they began in that year); the reviews which are ongoing in that year (whether or not they began 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.(a-d), 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 Islington Safeguarding Adults Board annual review (Attached as Appendix A of this report) which 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 2019-20

Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2019-20 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:

C Littleton

Carmel Littleton
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Date 11 November 2020

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