



Report of: The Director of Adult Social Care

Health and Care Scrutiny	Date: 16 December 2021	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2020/21 – 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 2020-21, 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:
 - Criminal abuse rose across the country during the pandemic but Central North London saw one of the lowest increases. Police detection rates for domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual assaults improved.

- 167 verified local rough sleepers were accommodated as part of the national 'Everyone In' initiative. This has been a positive step towards addressing the local rough sleepers' multiple needs and reducing some safeguarding risks.
- A further 93 'hidden homeless' cases were accommodated, some of whom would not normally be eligible for homelessness assistance because of their immigration status. Against, this reduced some safeguarding risks for this cohort.
- We updated staff, volunteers and local residents about novel and emerging scams, such as scammers charging people for covid tests and vaccinations.
- Partner organisations worked together to ensure care homes were fully prepared, particularly around infection control. We sought assurances around the viability of commissioned services and the safeguarding of service users during the pandemic.
- A comprehensive system of welfare telephone checks for shielding residents or those with care and support needs was set up, with follow-up welfare visits, organising food boxes and making referrals, including safeguarding referrals, where needed.
- As staff could not visit people in care homes, measures were put in place to ensure that any new authorisation of a deprivation of liberty would take account of the fact that the person hadn't been seen face-to-face.
- Our service user and carer subgroup continued to run successfully during the pandemic and is positively influencing the decisions of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The annual report further details progress on delivering against the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan (2018-2021). The strategy was extended for a further year, because it would have been difficult to undertake meaningful consultation in care homes and other settings during the pandemic. An additional objective was added to the current annual plan seeking assurance from partner organisations on Covid-related safeguarding adults issues.

- 3.3 The review compares the statistics from 2020/21 with the previous year 2019/20. There has been a slight increase in safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 3,228 to 3,353). From the ADASS Covid Insight reports, this increase appears to be broadly in line with national and London safeguarding adults trends during the pandemic.

Safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have decreased since last year (from 371 to 342). 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. Again, this is similar to national trends during the pandemic.

- 3.4 The most common types of abuse in Islington during the last year were neglect, financial, physical and psychological abuse. The pattern for financial abuse and neglect being the leading types of abuse has been noted in previous years. However, it has been noted that during the pandemic the complexity of cases has increased.
- 3.5 The number of safeguarding concerns about modern slavery or sexual exploitation of adults with care and support needs remains low. As the signs of modern slavery and sexual exploitation can be hard to spot, Board is planning to promote modern slavery training to partner organisations in the coming year.
- 3.6 Two cases were referred to the Safeguarding Adults Review subgroup for consideration as a Safeguarding Adults Review under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

The issues raised in the referrals included concerns about:

- Neglect, poor care and out-of-date care plans
- Self-neglect and refusal of care
- Poor communication between agencies
- Mental health and mental capacity
- Pressure ulcers

The subgroup agreed that neither case warranted an independently authored, full Safeguarding Adults Review. But because there is some valuable learning to be extracted from these two cases, the Safeguarding Adults Review subgroup will hold multi-agency learning events and relevant recommendations will be published in next year's annual report.

3.7 Key national developments

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards has been postponed to April 2022 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 reflecting on learning from the pandemic.
- The Domestic Abuse Act has been passed into law. We will continue to work with partners to prevent and address domestic abuse experienced by adults with care and support needs.
- Nationally, there were reports of blanket Do Not Assist Cardiac Resuscitation orders on groups of patients. We will make it clear this is an unacceptable practice and seek assurances that this never happens locally.

4.1 Financial Implications:

The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2020/21 gross expenditure outturn was £1,056K. £17K was contributed by the following organisations:

- £5K London Metropolitan Police towards the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board
- £6K Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust
- £5K Whittington Health
- £1K London Fire Brigade towards the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2021/22 gross expenditure budget is £1,299K.

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 2020-21

Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2020-21 summary

Background papers:

Signed by:



Date 7 December 2021

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