

Adult Social Care
222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR

Report of: Director of Adult Social Care

Meeting of: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 14 March 2023

Ward(s): All

Subject: Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2021/22

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 2021-22, 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.
- 2.2. To commend adult social service staff for their commitment to preventing abuse where possible and responding to concerns of abuses 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:

- ISAB partners provided important feedback through government consultation on proposed changes to the Human Rights Act and the Liberty Protection Safeguards highlighted the crucial role those rights play in the delivery of day-to-day care of our most vulnerable residents and the importance for practitioners of these as core values
- Service user & carer subgroup members became involved in the London Safeguarding Voices Group, raising local viewpoints and lived experience with a wider London level
- Developed guidance for partner organisations on reducing restrictive practices such as restraint and seclusion
- Consulted on and adopted a new 3-year strategy
- Worked on the action plan arising from the 'Gertrude' Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) to ensure that learning from this sad case is fully embedded
- Board partners have agreed to implement a risk escalation pathway for the most complex, challenging case of abuse and neglect by trialling a Creative Solutions Panel
- Our Quality Audit and Assurance subgroup reviewed safeguarding adults data, such as the Covid-Insight report and monitored local trends with particular focus on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on self-neglect cases, provider concerns, hijacked housing and domestic violence
- Preparation work for the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards is underway
- Islington remains one of very few boroughs with no backlogs in Deprivation of Liberty safeguards applications and renewals.

The annual report further details progress on delivering against the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan. The board consulted on a new strategy and will be working towards this over the next 3 years (2022-25).

3.3. The review compares the statistics from 2021/22 with the previous year 2020/21. There has been a decrease in safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 3,353 to 2,844).

Safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have increased since last year (from 322 to 399). 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 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. Neglect cases reduced from 26% last year to 18% this year.

- 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, the board continues to promote modern slavery training to partner organisations.
- 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
- Fire risks
- Lack of professional curiosity

The subgroup agreed that both cases met the threshold for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). One of the SARs, referred to as 'Gertrude' has concluded and the Board has devised an action plan to implement learning from the case. The other SAR, to be known as 'Liam', has not concluded yet.

3.7. **Key national developments**

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards has been postponed 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 health and care sectors were severely impacted by the Covid pandemic. Many care workers left the sector during the pandemic and many care providers are less financially stable than they were previously. ISAB continued its focus on seeking assurances from partners about the quality and continuity of local care provision.
- The Kerslake Commission has reviewed what worked well during the pandemic in tackling homelessness. The Islington Safeguarding Adults Board has sought assurance from partner organisations on the progress made in response to the [Yi SAR](#) which was published in 2019.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and CQC have been calling for action against inappropriate use of force, restraint and seclusion for people with mental health needs. Reflecting on this, our Prevention & Learning subgroup has developed guidance for local partner organisations on reducing restraint.
- The tragic murder of Sarah Everard by a police officer and the inappropriate behaviour of a few police colleagues became a high-profile media story. There is no quick-fix but we will work towards helping our partner organisations review and improve their organisational cultures and recruitment practices in the coming year.

The annual report further details progress on delivering against the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan. The board consulted on a new strategy and will be working towards this over the next 3 years (2022-25).

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

4.1.1. The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2021/22 gross expenditure outturn was £1,202K. Of this, £200,302 related to ISAB expenditure. £17K was contributed by the following organisations:

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

The CCG also contributed to the Safeguarding Adults Unit's funding.

The Safeguarding Adults Unit's 2022/23 gross expenditure budget is £1,315K.

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

4.2. Legal Implications

4.2.1. 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.

4.2.2. 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.

4.2.3. 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**

- 4.3.1. 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. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 4.4.1. 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.
- 4.4.2. Appendix B of the full Islington Safeguarding Adults Board 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 adults 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 2021-22
- Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2021-22 summary

Background papers:

- ADASS Covid Safeguarding Adults Insight Report [COVID-19 adult safeguarding insight project - third report \(December 2021\) | Local Government Association](#)

Final report clearance:

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