

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

Report of: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Meeting of: **Health and Care Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **18 December 2023**

Ward(s): **All**

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## Subject: Safeguarding adults in Islington in 2022/23

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 2022-23, 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:

- Our Quality, Audit & Assurance subgroup has developed a data dashboard of key indicators which will be implemented over the coming year
- We now have a Creative Solutions panel for the most complex, challenging cases of abuse and neglect, which is helping to reduce risk
- Our Service User & Carer subgroup continues to inform and shape the Board's agenda, focus and strategic priorities with their active participation
- Following two serious cases, our Prevention & Learning subgroup developed guidance for partner organisations on choking prevention
- We reflected on the recommendations arising from the 'Liam' Safeguarding Adults Review and have drawn up an action plan to ensure that the learning from this sad case is fully embedded over the next year
- At the suggestion of our Service User & Carer subgroup, we held 2 local hubs for the London Safeguarding Adults Conference in 2022. Nearly 100 local residents attended, and this model of participation is being adopted by other areas
- We continue to be one of the very few places in the country with no backlogs on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications and authorisations.

The annual report further details progress on delivering against the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's 3-year strategy and annual plan.

- 3.3. The review compares the statistics from 2022/23 with the previous year 2021/22. There has been a decrease in safeguarding adults concerns on the previous year (from 2,844 to 2,179 this year).

Safeguarding enquiries (carried out under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) have slightly decreased since last year (from 399 to 322). This means that in roughly 7 out of 8 cases people we were worried about, when we looked into them, we decided not to progress those cases 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, physical, psychological abuse and self-neglect. The proportion of financial abuse cases we carried out safeguarding enquiries on have reduced from 20% to 13%.
- 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. The Safeguarding Adults Review subgroup received no new cases for consideration as a Safeguarding Adults Review under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

**Gertrude SAR:**

During the 2022-23 year, we published a 7-minute briefing of the 'Gertrude' SAR on our website so that key learning points can be disseminated with the with public. The full SAR report was shared with relevant partners and the action plan for this case has been closed off, although work continues on regarding some of the key themes, such as encouraging partner organisations to identify carers and refer them for carer's assessments.

### **Liam SAR:**

The 'Liam' SAR was conducted during the 2022-23 year and the full SAR report was published shortly after year end.

Key recommendations from the report included:

- training all staff who visit people in their homes on fire risks identification
- improving awareness of fire risk mitigations
- routinely linking telecare to smoke alarms
- making use of the London Fire Brigade's Person-Centred Fire Risk Assessment
- escalating high fire risk cases to an appropriate multi-agency forum or panel
- recording and responding appropriately to refusal of care.
- The report also identified that there may need to be a change in the law to allow fire brigades to apply for a fire safety prevention order when adults have mental capacity but refuse fire prevention support when the fire risks are high. We are working with the London Safeguarding Adults Board and National Chairs Network to raise this through the National Fire Chiefs Council.

The Board has developed an action plan based on the recommendations made in the Liam SAR report. Several partner organisations had already identified steps they could take to improve fire safety prevention and fire hazard identification and began implementing changes before the SAR report was even published.

As there is still work to do in implementing the recommendations, we will continue to hold partners to account in achieving change over the coming year.

### **Liverpool Mr A SAR**

The Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board carried out a SAR following the death of Mr A during the 2022-23 year, which was published shortly after year end. Because Mr A was previously a resident in Islington and had been placed in Liverpool under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act, the SAR author made some recommendations for the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board and partners to implement. The Islington Safeguarding Adults Board published a response accepting the recommendations of the SAR.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court has clarified the law around ordinary residence as it applies to Section 117, which puts a different slant on some of the report recommendations. Nevertheless, we are committed to learning from this case and ensuring practice improvements around Section 117 cases and choking prevention.

### 3.7. **Key national developments**

- Many public services have been criticised – from the Baroness Casey Review of the Police to the Ombudsman’s and CQC findings that people are not getting the care they need. We will continue to see assurances from partners that they are continuing to focus on people’s safety and wellbeing.
- New Online Safety laws aim to make social media companies take more responsibility for the safety of adults and children online by removing harmful, illegal or exploitative content from their platforms. The government has recently published guidance on how these laws are to be implemented.
- Our new Board website was launched and will be further developed to provide useful safeguarding adults resources and guidance for the general public, practitioners and partner organisations. See [www.islingtonsab.org.uk](http://www.islingtonsab.org.uk)
- The government has announced an indefinite delay to the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards legislation. Much preparation work had been done for this. Until it becomes clearer what the government’s intention is for LPS, our partners will continue to work in line with DoLS and strive to achieve best practice within the current systems.

We will continue to work on these developments over the next year.

The annual report further details progress on delivering against the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board’s 3-year strategy and annual plan.

## 4. **Implications**

### 4.1. **Financial Implications**

4.1.1. The Safeguarding Adults Unit’s 2022/23 gross expenditure outturn was £1.255M. Of this, £204,227 related to ISAB expenditure. £17K was contributed by the following organisations:

- £5K London Metropolitan Police
- £6K Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust
- £6K Whittington Health
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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 2022-23
- Appendix B: Islington Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Review 2022-23 summary.

**Background papers:****Final report clearance:**

Signed by: *J Everson*

**John Everson**  
**Director of Adult Social Care**

Date: 30 November 2023

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