



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	<i>Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2023-28 (draft for consultation).</i>
Report to	HASC Scrutiny
Date of Meeting	<i>20th September 2023</i>
Cabinet Member	<i>Cllr Alev Cazimoglu</i>
Executive Director / Director	<i>Tony Theodoulou</i>
Report Author	<i>Elspeth Smith (Elspeth.smith@enfield.gov.uk) Bharat Ayer (bharat.ayer@enfield.gov.uk)</i>
Ward(s) affected	ALL
Classification	<i>Part 1 Public</i>
Reason for exemption	N/A

Purpose of Report

1. Under the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adults Boards have 3 core duties – one of which is to publish a strategic plan for each financial year which sets out how it will meet its objectives in the next year and how Safeguarding Adult Board Members will work to achieve this.
2. We are in the process of consulting on a draft 5-year Safeguarding Adults Strategy (2023-2028) and would like to make Scrutiny aware of the consultation and promote across the Council.

Main Considerations for the Panel

3. The Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2023- 28 is a strategic plan with an emphasis on prevention and awareness of abuse.
4. The priorities, which carry over from the previous strategy, were developed by a project lead by service users and carers and our Quality Checkers, and include feedback from Safeguarding Adults board members, Adult Social Care professionals, Service users and carers.
5. The actions attached to those priorities have been developed by the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board. They have been developed from:
 - The learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (particularly around the need for stronger collaborative working between partner agencies and particular forms of training),
 - Trends in safeguarding data (for example the increase in adults living alone and self-neglect as a type of abuse), and
 - Quality Assurance exercises such as an external audit by Red Quadrant last year which recommended multi-agency audits to encourage challenge, and
 - Feedback from professionals and residents of Enfield (such as the need to develop escalation protocols and heighten awareness of safeguarding processes in the community).
6. These priorities are compliant with the Care Act and focus on:
 - Preventing Abuse,
 - Protect adults at Risk,
 - Learn from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and other cases
7. The strategy and annual report aim to be free from jargon and in plain English. This is in line with Care Act requirements. The documents have been designed in a way that will make them easy to read for Enfield Residents. The Board's Community Engagement Group led on the development of this approach.
8. The Consultation is designed both as a way of gaining feedback about the Strategy itself but also to raise awareness of how to recognise and report the abuse of adults at risk in Enfield. It will also offer the opportunity for members of the public to request information about becoming Lay Members of the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board.
9. Consultation is still under way on this document.

Background and Options

10. The priority actions identified to be consulted on are:

Prevent Abuse

- Engage with our community, to promote a culture where abuse and neglect are not tolerated – this is primarily through the active Safeguarding Community Engagement Group
- Use technology and social media to engage with our community, professionals, providers and voluntary organisations – this is an on-going priority.
- Work to reduce isolation and self-neglect – this priority particularly originated from Safeguarding Adults Reviews in the Borough and an increase in the number of concerns that feature self-neglect as the type of abuse in Enfield in 22.5% of cases (a percentage that is steadily increasing – up 4% in 5 years).
- Work with people alleged to have caused harm to prevent further abuse – this reflects practitioner concerns about how best to work with this group as well as concern about rates of repeated safeguarding incidents.

Protecting Adults at Risk

- Make sure our community knows how to recognise and report abuse – this is always a key priority for the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Make sure professionals are appropriately trained, with a focus on Making Safeguarding Personal – this priority comes from learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews about differences in training/ perception across professional groups can impact how they work together. Target areas for training are identified.
- Develop escalation processes and networks to make sure professionals are able to work together well in high risk cases – for example by developing a partnership escalation protocol and mapping the multi-agency discussion forums to ensure information sharing and multi-agency working.

Learn from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and other cases

- Check that the way we are managing adult safeguarding is working properly – developing multi-agency audits to support learning throughout the partnership and using these as part of the new Learning and Development framework which is being developed for the Board. This will incorporate learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
- Learn from feedback – particularly feedback from those using services or caring for those who do. This also involves checking that all partners have actioned learning from Quality Checkers, feedback from those who have experienced safeguarding etc.

- If things go wrong, review what happened and learn lessons – the Care Act places a statutory duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (sometimes known as SARs) and take action following the learning. A new system (SARs in Rapid Time) is being put in place to ensure that this process is prompt and learning put in place. Lessons can also be learned from national or local reviews (both adults and children) and the auditing process.
 - Learn from our neighbours – working together with North and Central London as well as national groups to ensure that we are learning from their experiences in working with individuals and providers also.
11. Consultation on the final Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy will involve both paper and digital surveys.
 12. The Consultation offers the opportunity for respondents to suggest new priorities or specific actions to the Board.
 13. The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager and Community Engagement Group of the Safeguarding Adults Board will be visiting Partnership Boards, professional team meetings across partners, Voluntary organisations and community groups. The consultation will also be publicised via social media and the Enfield Council Consultation pages.
 14. The Care Act places a duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards to publish its strategic plan each financial year. Guidance states this plan should address both short and longer-term actions and it must set out how it will help adults in its areas and what actions the SAB will take to deliver the strategic plan and protect adults better.
 15. This plan has historically been for a 3-year period; however, the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board have agreed for a 5-year plan (as with the previous strategy); to enable more ambitious consultation and projects to be developed.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

16. The previous Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy and its priorities are directly referenced in the Council's Independent Living Strategy and some of the actions mentioned are linked – such as the promotion and development of assistive technology options to aid independence and avoid isolation.
 17. The Council Plan 2023-2026 sets out the five overarching priorities, five principles and six future outcomes for Enfield and the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy compliments these (particularly 'Strong, healthy and safe communities', 'Fairer Enfield', 'Collaboration and Early help' and 'Residents live happy, healthy and safe lives').
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Appendices

Background Papers

Departmental reference number, if relevant: