



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/3
Report to	<i>Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel</i>
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, Safeguarding Adults Board Manager and Bharat Ayer, Head of Safeguarding Partnerships</i>
Ward(s) affected	
Key Decision Number	<i>Non key</i>
Classification	<i>Part 1 Public</i>
Reason for exemption	N/A

Purpose of Report

- 1) The report is being presented to note the Safeguarding Adults Board's (SAB) activity to protect adults at risk in 2022-23. It highlights the positive actions taken to prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation against adults at risks, includes data to demonstrate the impact of these actions, and states the key priorities for the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for the 2023-24 period. The report also provides safeguarding updates on work undertaken by agencies during 2022/23.

Recommendations

- I. To note the Annual Report. Noting the report at Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council enables Enfield Council to demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding adults at risk throughout the organisation. The report is a partnership document and as such is agreed at the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Background and Options

- 2) There are statutory duties for publishing an annual Safeguarding Adults report. These duties apply to the Safeguarding Adults Board. The duties require specific information to be provided. The actions taken to address the requirements are in italics below.
- 3) For the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Care Act requires that the report includes:
 - a) what it has done during that year to achieve its objectives and strategy (*the information in the report is organised by the priority areas of the strategy*);
 - b) what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy (*this is done through the partner statements in the appendix*);
 - c) information on Safeguarding Adults Reviews, including information on referrals received, on-going reviews and key learnings from reviews that have been published (*this is detailed in the learning from experience section*).
- 4) Across the Safeguarding Adults Partnership, our primary responsibility is to provide a way for local agencies to work together to safeguard those at risk, and to ensure that the arrangements in place are working effectively.
- 5) This report highlights the work of the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board over 2022-23 and also includes brief updates from our partner agencies on their work.

The summary of the key issues or achievements of the year highlights:

- 6) **Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs):** During 2022/23, two SARs were completed – giving all partners a wealth of learning and areas to make improvements. All published SARs can be found on the Enfield Safeguarding Adults pages on Enfield MyLife
- 7) **Safeguarding Adults concerns** –numbers of concerns remain high with a total of 3,501 received across the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and the

Mental Health Trust teams compared to 2,305 in 18/19. This is a huge challenge that staff continue to meet.

- 8) **Enfield's work with Assistive Technology** was shortlisted for the Municipal Journal (MJ) Digital Transformation Award (2023) and continues to explore inventive ways to improve the lives of Enfield's vulnerable residents – primarily by adding isolation for a growing population that lives alone but also through PainChek, an innovative programme that supports carers to recognise levels of pain in those who may struggle to communicate.
- 9) **LeDeR reviews** - 13 deaths of people with learning disabilities were notified to the Learning Disability Learning from Lives and Deaths Programme (LeDeR) in 2022/23. Work continues to examine the learning from these sad deaths and improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities in Enfield. This is slightly more than the pre-pandemic 5 year average.
- 10) **Multi-agency Thematic Learning Event Chaired by Professor Michael Preston-Shoot in January 2023:** inspiring learning and discussion around the partnership response to adults who self-neglect.
- 11) **Infection Control:** Work across the partnership continues to train care providers around infection control. Training has reached 120 front-line staff members with spot visits to residential care homes and presentations to provider forums.
- 12) **Modern Slavery:** In recognition of the Modern Slavery team's outstanding efforts, they have been nominated for the 2023 Local Government Chronical Awards. This prestigious nomination reflects the significance of the team's work in tackling modern slavery and their commitment to making a lasting impact. What impact?
- 13) **The Quality Checkers and the Community Engagement Group:** The Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board continues to work with adults and community groups to keep their views and needs at the centre of the work that the Board does. This includes interventions both large and small such as consulting on the Enfield MyLife Safeguarding pages or highlighting key concerns such as carer hesitation around vaccination for discussion at the Board.
- 14) **Supporting the development of Multi-disciplinary panels to discuss high risk cases and ensure partners work together:** this includes the Safeguarding Information Panel, Hoarding Panel and High Risk Advisory Panels (all of which are discussed further later in the report) amongst others. This ensures that information is shared and agencies work together promptly – a key piece of learning from SARs.

Important areas of work for 2023-24:

- 15) In 2023, we will be developing the 2023-2028 Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy – incorporating feedback from partners, members of the

public and users of services as well as providers – to help guide and structure our work over the next 5 years. The proposed priorities have been developed in consultation with Board Members and the Community Engagement Group but broader ranging consultation will be beginning in September.

Safeguarding Priority 1: Preventing Abuse.

- 16) Ensuring that members of the public are informed about types of abuse and how to prevent and report this by:
- 17) Updating our webpages and information available, including revising the Safeguarding Factsheets available and creating a 'What Happens After You Report Abuse' leaflet/page. These sites should also give an opportunity for adults to feedback on their experiences.
- 18) Ensuring our Community Engagement Group is reaching our local community through regularly meeting with voluntary and community groups such as Quality Checkers and reporting their priorities and concerns back to the Enfield SAB via Quarterly updates.
- 19) Continuing to work with Rise Mutual around behaviour change in domestic abuse cases for those at risk of being perpetrators as well as supporting survivors and working to ensure all partners are aware of this.
- 20) Develop a Task and Finish group to enhance and support the work of partners around adults who may self-neglect.

Safeguarding Priority 2: Protecting Adults at Risk.

- 21) Working with Board partners to develop and implement multi-agency audits to give assurance about the work we do.
- 22) Map out the different multi-agency meetings run by partners to discuss safeguarding risks to ensure that there is correct attendance and a lack of duplication.
- 23) Work together as partners to develop agreements around how best to handle concerns in specific areas – for example, Slips, Trips and Falls and Pressure Care.
- 24) Develop an Escalation Protocol so that partners have a clear route to escalate concerns with each other.

Safeguarding Priority 3: Learning from Experience.

- 25) The Safeguarding Adults Board will develop a new process to ensure that Safeguarding Adults Reviews are dealt with more promptly.
- 26) A Learning and Development framework will be developed for the Safeguarding Adults Board to incorporate learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, Multi-agency audits, single cases and other experiences.

- 27) All SARs published will have a 7-minute-briefing and learning materials made available to partners.
- 28) The Practice Improvement Group will continue to meet regularly and report on its activity and areas of practice improvement to the Board.

Safeguarding Priority 4: Supporting Service Improvements.

- 29) The Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to support Provider Concerns processes in Enfield and highlight concerns to providers via the Provider Newsletter (published by the Enfield Local Authority).
- 30) Work with partners across the North and Central London region on ensuring that information for, and expectations of, services are consistent and clearly communicated. A key piece of work in this area will be looking at when individuals are placed across borough boundaries.

Preferred Option and Reasons For Preferred Option

- 31) Publishing this report is part of the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board's statutory duties, and not doing so would mean we would be in breach of these.
- 32) As mentioned above, noting this partnership report at Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council enables Enfield Council to demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

- 33) The work of the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board meets the Council's priority of "Strong, healthy and safe communities".
- 34) The purpose of safeguarding work is to protect adults at risk and their carers so that they can all thrive in the borough. The SAB's approach to safeguarding focusses on well-trained staff who can effectively engage and manage the risks that may be present.

Financial Implications

- 35) This report is not requesting any additional financial resources and therefore there are no specific implications for the budget of noting the Annual Safeguarding report. However, it is important to note that the costs of safeguarding adults are increasing and this places significant cost pressures on the Council as reflected in the Council's medium term financial strategy.

Legal Implications Rosalind Wing 24 August 2023

- 36) Section 43 (1) Care Act 2014 (“the Care Act”) requires each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (“SAB”) for its area. The statutory objective of an SAB is to safeguard and protect vulnerable adults in its area. A SAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective.
- 37) Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 of the Care Act requires a SAB to publish an annual report as soon as feasible after the end of each financial year about what it has done during that year to achieve its objectives, implement its strategy, the findings of safeguarding adults’ reviews which have been concluded and which are ongoing. In addition, to publish what it has done to implement the findings of reviews and where it is decided not to publish the findings of a review, the reasons for that decision.
- 38) This report complies with the above legislation and guidance.

Equalities Implications – confirmed by Lucy Nasby, 13th July 2023.

- 39) Anti-discriminatory practice is fundamental to the ethical basis of safeguarding and care provision and critical to the protection of people's dignity. The Equality Act protects vulnerable adults and children receiving our care and the workers that provide it from being treated unfairly because of any characteristics that are protected under the legislation.
- 40) In Fairer Enfield 2021-25, we clearly outline our commitment to the Equality Act and the policy provides clear principles and guidance for staff and service users on how we will ensure we are complying with the Act. This annual report outlines how we are delivering inclusive services to safeguard adults at risk in Enfield.

HR and Workforce Implications

- 41) There are significant staffing challenges across adult social care nationally, regionally, and locally. The care sector has vacancies caused by changes in employment patterns, particularly increased competition for domiciliary care staff. We have Social Work and Occupational Therapy vacancies across all teams. The staffing pressures are resulting in increased caseloads for current staff at a time when demand is also increasing. The rising demand will compound our current difficulties concerning recruitment and retention of permanent staff.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 42) The Safeguarding Partnership works across the Council to deliver positive outcomes for vulnerable residents, this includes improving housing conditions so people are safe, as well as improving health outcomes including through active and sustainable transport improvements.

Public Health Implications

- 43) Important public health aims include enabling young people to 'start life well' and for older people to 'live and age well'. Ensuring that the most vulnerable are safe and enabled to thrive is therefore very relevant.
- 44) The Safeguarding Adults Board has strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board. Public health officers are also members of the Safeguarding Adults Board Activity Groups, to enable joined-up work with a focus on prevention.

Safeguarding Implications

- 45) The report highlights the work of the Safeguarding partnership to safeguard adults at risk. The safeguarding implications of this work are:
- 46) For Enfield Council – as lead agency for safeguarding adults, it is important that we highlight how we work together with our community and partners, and detail what we are learning and how we improve current provision. The report does highlight areas of work for the coming year also.
- 47) For the community - improvements in understanding how to stay safe, how to recognise abuse and how to report it.
- 48) For our partners – good communications so that any issues with joint work (which is essential to effective safeguarding) can be escalated, managed and improved.

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Appendices

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23

Background Papers

Departmental reference number, if relevant: