

## MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/2014

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE:**  
**Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**13 February 2014**

<b>Agenda - Part: 1</b>	<b>Item: 9</b>
<b>Subject: Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2012-2013</b>	

**Wards:** All

Director of: Director of Schools and Children Service & Director of Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care

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**Cabinet Members consulted:**  
Councillors Ayfer Orhan & Don McGowan

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Safeguarding Children Board exists as a statutory body and has a range of duties including implementing national policy developments and scrutinising and challenging local child protection and early help practice. Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives for the LSCB as:

- To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and;
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for these purposes

The Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, including local people and those who use services and their carers, committed to preventing and responding to the abuse of adults at risk. The primary aim of the SAB is to work with local people and partners, so that adults at risk are:

- safe and able to protect themselves from abuse and neglect;
- treated fairly and with dignity and respect;
- protected when they need to be; and
- able to easily get the support, protection and services that they need.

The intention of the draft Care and Support Bill is for Safeguarding Adults Boards to be put on a statutory footing.

This report brings to attention the annual reports from both respective Boards for 2012-2013. The annual reports aim to set out a summary of Board activities and its effectiveness in assessing and challenging safeguarding practice which keep children, young people and adults at risk safe.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the progress being made in protecting vulnerable adults and children in the Borough as set out in the annual reports from the Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board..

### 3. BACKGROUND

The Safeguarding Children Board annual report has demonstrated that the Board is carrying out its statutory duties effectively. The Board has a two year business plan running from 2012-2014; a review of the business plan in March 2013 showed that progress was being made against actions.. New and emerging themes were incorporated to reflect the priorities of the Borough as well as nationally, including those arising from Serious Case Reviews and Independent Management Reviews.

The Safeguarding Children Board has a number of sub groups, supported by all agencies.. All sub groups are on track to achieve their objectives. The sub groups are as follows:

- Child Death Overview Panel – reviews the deaths of children and young people. Cases are reviewed and assessed as to whether there were any modifiable factors present i.e. could anything have been done or be done in the future to prevent such deaths.
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Group - this group ensures a focus on child sexual exploitation and has built into its programme for the coming year the issue of missing children. Work undertaken includes a joint conference with Barnet and a risk assessment to enable better co-operation across different agencies when dealing with missing children and young people.
- Training and Development – ensures all staff across agencies have access to development opportunities which contribute to up to date safeguarding practice. This includes any new messages or learning arising from serious case reviews, independent management reviews and case audits. The group ensures that such learning is embedded in training programmes across all agencies.
- Quality Assurance – production and monitoring of a comprehensive data set that highlights activity, trends and key performance data within Enfield.
- Prevention - focuses on awareness raising of safeguarding in the community and the participation of children and young people. Activities in the last year include tackling knife crime in the Borough through in-school training, support of the voluntary sector and other youth fora.
- Serious Case Review Panel - reviews serious cases and ensures lessons are learnt and embedded from serious case and independent management reviews through the creation and monitoring of multi-agency action plans.

Additional key successes over the last year include recruitment of two lay members adding the voice of the community to the Board; high profile and successful events in collaboration with other Boroughs and adult services; creation of a responsive and reflective learning and development programme; improving the involvement of children and young people; and the on-going support from agencies that enables safeguarding concerns to be addressed and actions to be agreed and implemented.

The Safeguarding Children Board also recognises that in a changing environment it needs to adapt to the many challenges ahead. Some of the work areas outlined in the annual report as being undertaken include:

- Involvement of children and young people in the work of the Board – taking into consideration their views, including those who are under child protection. A

number of initiatives including consultation, a shadow board and surveys such as Viewpoint enabling children and young people to express their views are being worked on and developed for completion in 2013-14.

- Planned review of the new Working Together 2013 and the potential impact of this on the role and workings of the Board.
- Inspection frameworks and findings – there is a need to ensure that the work of the Board incorporates any findings in its own work plan and addresses these accordingly.
- Consideration of more cross borough working and sharing of practice in some key areas e.g. training, audits, joint initiatives – this is not only cost effective, but is a way of increasing sharing of ideas and best practice.

The Safeguarding Adults Board reviewed its strategy in 2012 and asked local people what actions we should take to meet the priorities of the Board in the coming three years. The answers from the consultation and other activities in the community have helped to inform the action plan in the Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2012- 2015. This will directly impact on and inform what we do to prevent and respond to the abuse of adults at risk. The strategy action plan for 2013-2015 is project managed by the Council's Safeguarding Adults Service and reported upon progress at each quarterly meeting.

The Board is supported by four sub groups, which are chaired by Board partner agencies. The four groups are:

- Service User, Carer and Patient Group
- Learning and Development
- Policy, Procedure and Practice
- Quality, Safety and Performance

The Safeguarding Adults Board have had a number of key achievements including challenging care and nursing homes to the dignity standards; continued raising of awareness of abuse to adults at risk through partnership events; practice based forums to share learning; initiatives by Board partners to include those who use services in the quality assurance and service development; aiming to improve access to the justice system by joint meetings between Local Authority and Police, as well as new initiatives by the Police to ensure adults at risk are flagged.

Keeping safe adults at risk is receiving increased focus in the media, following high profile cases such as 'Winterbourne View Hospital' and the public enquiry into events at Mid Staffordshire Hospital. In the coming year, we will consult on a policy for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care on the use of overt and covert surveillance to deter and detect abuse, seeking feedback from residents and key stakeholder on its implementation.

The Board is particularly keen to learn from the experiences of people who use services. To ensure we keep people central to the safeguarding adults process, where their views and experience drive practice, the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Service are developing methods for feedback which can be translated into service improvement.

Nationally, we are also seeing major changes in the political and economic context in which services and activities are planned and provided. We have the impact of the national and internal budget deficits, coupled with the impact of poverty and health inequalities faced by some groups. All of this will affect the capacity of individuals and whole communities to care well for themselves and the more vulnerable residents. The Boards will face these challenges to ensure that children, young people and the most

vulnerable are kept safe from harm and that the routine analysis of abuse takes into consideration trends associated with these political and economic changes.

The above national changes may also impact on carers and families, so we need to improve our understanding of the stress faced by families, in order to be able to take a holistic approach to care and risk planning. By improving our understanding and working across adult and children's services, where necessary, we can help alleviate the strain placed on families and the potential for harm.

Work between the Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board is an important part of how we keep everyone safe. In addition to joint events, the two Boards will need to consider how we can join up projects and initiatives which keep all communities safe and taking into account the need for smarter working and better use of resources. The extension of the existing Community Help Point Scheme for young people to also be open to adults at risk, in March 2013, was an example of this and further projects will be considered in 2013/14.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not applicable.

#### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

##### **6.1 Financial Implications**

Under Working Together 2013 the statutory partners on the Safeguarding Children Board contribute to a Board budget. The need to make best use of the resources and contributions from partners is paramount, while also recognising the need to maintain or increase contributions as the demands on the work of the SCB increase. The annual report provides details of the income of the Board, including agency contribution, other incomes and expenditure. This does not include the additional contribution from LBE for staffing of the Business Unit.

The Safeguarding Adults Board, currently non-statutory, does not have access to partner contributions or a budget at present. Primary support to the Board is provided via LBE through the Councils Safeguarding Adults Service.

##### **6.2 Legal Implications**

Section 13(1) of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for their area. Section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objective of a Local Safeguarding Children Board as being to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established; and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Section 14A of the Children Act 2004 requires Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in

its local area at least once in every 12 month period, and to submit a copy of that report to the local Children's Trust Board.

The preparation and publication of the report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is done in accordance with these requirements.

There is no statutory provision for a Safeguarding Adults Board but paragraph 3.4 of the guidance 'No Secrets' (Department of Health, 2000) suggests that it may be helpful to establish a multi-agency management committee which 'should determine policy, co-ordinate activity between agencies, facilitate joint training, and monitor and review progress'.

The general power of competence set out in s1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 gives a local authority power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Section 4 (c) of the Localism Act 2011 gives a local authority power to do an act 'for ...the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area'.

The general power of competence set out in s1(1) above gives the local authority the power to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board and to publish a report although there is no specific statutory authority to do so.

### **6.3 Property Implications**

No property implications noted.

## **7. KEY RISKS**

The raison d'être of both the Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board is to manage risks in relation to vulnerable children and adults respectively. Mitigation of these risks is demonstrated in both reports.

Restructure across a number of agencies, such as police, health and council services, will need to be considered and carefully managed to minimise the impact on children, young people and vulnerable adults. Both Boards have quality assurance mechanisms to consider the contribution from partners to keep people safe and are able to manage risks within this.

The Boards are required to work effectively within resources, while continually striving to achieve innovative services. Partners of the Safeguarding Children Board held a development day to discuss and agree the future operation of the Board, which would enhance efficiency and effectiveness of joint working, including membership and commitment. Needing to deliver in times of austerity, for both Boards, will be mitigated through an emphasis on joint work between children and adult services.

During 2012/13 we saw the number of referrals for safeguarding adults increase to 797, which of these 660 proceeded to the safeguarding adults process. The coming year will also see the Police use Merlins, which are a reporting system for adults coming to the notice of police personnel. This may result in a higher number of referrals to adult social care, which need to be screened and assessed to ensure the safety of individuals and to determine whether they require progression under safeguarding adults procedures. In response to these two factors, the Council's Safeguarding Adults Service are working with Adult Social Care Teams, to review the resources needed to effectively and safely manage safeguarding alerts.

## **8. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

### **Fairness for All**

Both Boards are committed to tackling inequalities and ensuring those disadvantaged and at risk of abuse are provided support and opportunities to protect themselves from harm and improve their well-being.

### **Strong Communities**

Both Boards have strong leadership for independent chairs. In addition, partners on all Board are of appropriate seniority to promote the vision that 'safeguarding is everyone's business.' The work of the Boards must be responsive to the needs of local people and those who use services; this is achieved through a range of activities and quality assurance mechanisms.

Above all, the Boards work in partnership to improve safety of people in Enfield, linking to issues such as hate crime and domestic violence.

- 8.1** Healthy Start – Improving Child Health
- 8.2** Narrowing the Gap – reducing health inequalities
- 8.3** Healthy Lifestyles/healthy choices
- 8.4** Healthy Places
- 8.5** Strengthening partnerships and capacity

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

The annual reports are not equality impact assessed; work undertaken by the Board which may require assessments are done on an individual basis, such as policy or strategies produced.

## **10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Council Services supporting children are inspected through rigorous regulatory inspection frameworks and conducted by Ofsted and HMI Probation (young offenders). In 2015 the regulatory framework will be extended to inspect the roles played by other statutory partners including Health services and the Police.

### **Background Papers**

None