

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/2015 REPORT NO. 79

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:
Cabinet – 22 October
2014

REPORT OF:
 Director of Schools and
 Children's Services &
 Director of Health,
 Housing and Adult Social
 Care

Agenda – Part 1	Item 6
	Subject: Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2013-2014
	Wards: All
Cabinet Member consulted: Councillor Don McGowan	

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY1.1 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

1.2 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 passage of the Care and Support Bill to the Care Act 2014 has now placed Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing.

1.3 This report brings to attention the annual reports from both respective Boards for 2013-2014. 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

3.1 The Safeguarding Children Board annual report for 2013 - 2014 has demonstrated that the Board is carrying out its statutory duties effectively, with a focus on outcomes and impact against locally and nationally defined objectives and work streams in its Business Plan. The Board has a new 2year business plan in place for 2014 – 16 and impact of this will be measured over the coming year.

3.2 New and emerging themes were incorporated in the work of the Board in 2013 - 14 to reflect the priorities of the Borough as well as nationally, including those arising from Serious Case Reviews and Independent Management Reviews. The report has been written taking into account new guidance from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013. The development of the ESCB website and Community handbook has enabled the ESCB to further raise its profile and share the importance of safeguarding and how to access help amongst the community.

3.3 To carry out its objectives, the Safeguarding Children Board has a number of sub groups, supported by all agencies. 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, Missing Children 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 has included an extensive programme of training and awareness and the development of protocols and risk register
- Training and Development – ensures all staff across agencies have access to development opportunities which contribute to up to date safeguarding practice, including the introduction of e learning programmes. 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. Also monitors, updates and develops policies and procedures
- 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 and learning events. A new process has been develop for carrying out Serious

Case Reviews taking into consideration the requirement to utilise a systems methodology

- Female Genital Mutilation task and finish group – focuses on tackling FGM by raising awareness, and planning in longer term actions to support victims and potential victims

3.4 Additional key successes over the last year include; high profile and successful learning events around child sexual exploitation and familial sexual abuse; creation of a responsive and reflective learning and development programme; improving the involvement of children and young people through the development of the Young Persons Board; and the on-going support from agencies that enables safeguarding concerns to be addressed and actions to be agreed and implemented.

3.5 The Safeguarding Children Board also recognises that in a changing environment it needs to adapt to the many challenges ahead. Its new Business Plan for 2014 – 16 focuses on additional areas including:

- Continued Involvement of children and young people in the work of the Board – taking into consideration their views, including those who are under child protection. The Young People's Board is already working on projects affecting young people such as bullying
- 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.
- Closer collaboration with other Boards on joint initiatives such as FGM, Mental Health and Domestic Violence
- A close consideration of how we measure the impact of what we do and what difference the ESCB makes – this takes place within a learning and improvement framework
- Continued focus on FGM as a local and national issue
- Continued work to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation

3.6 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 following 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 2012-2015 is project managed by the Council's Central Safeguarding Adults Service and reported upon progress at each quarterly meeting.

3.7 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

3.8 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.

3.9 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.

3.10 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.

3.11 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.

3.12 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.

3.13 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 continue 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. With this in mind, a joint Safeguarding Children's and Adults Sub Group of both Safeguarding Boards is being set up to tackle cross cutting issues including mental health and substance misuse.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable. The Annual reports are being presented to Members for information.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To advise Members of the progress being made in protecting vulnerable adults and children in the Borough.

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 will require contributions from partners. Primary support to the Board is provided via LBE through the Councils Central Safeguarding Adults Service. Spend was contained within budget in 2013/14 for the Safeguarding Adults service. However, additional pressures will be faced in 2014/15 due to the upwards trend in the number of safeguarding referrals.

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 framework in existence that creates, regulates or defines the role of a Safeguarding Adults Board ("SAB"). However, local authorities have been responsible for safeguarding adults for many years and this role has been defined by the publication of government guidance, case law and linked to other areas of the law such as the Human Rights Act 1998 and Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The 'No Secrets' (Department of Health, 2000) statutory guidance suggests that local authorities establish a multi-agency management committee (adult protection) that has a clearly defined remit and lines of accountability with agreed objectives and priorities for its work. The guidance goes onto say that "such committees should determine policy, coordinate activity between agencies, facilitate joint training, and monitor and review progress".

In addition, the general power of competence set out in s1(1) is likely to provide the local authority with the power to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board and to publish a report.

Notwithstanding the absence of any statutory framework, the preparation and publication of the report of the Adults Safeguarding Board is done in accordance with the above and the council's current policies.

It should be noted that The Care Act 2014 (when it comes into force in April 2015 approx.) will for the first time create a statutory framework for how local authorities and other agencies should work together to protect adults. The Act will require local authorities to set up a SAB in their area which must include the local authority, CCG and Police to meet regularly, to develop shared plans for safeguarding and working with local people to decide how best to protect adults in vulnerable situations, and publish a safeguarding plan and to report annually on its progress.

6.3 Property Implications

No property implications noted.

7. KEY RISKS

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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 – the result of this was a reshaping of the Board which has shown to be effective in facilitating challenge between agencies to tackle issues of concern such as FGM. Needing to deliver in times of austerity, for both Boards, will be mitigated through an emphasis on joint work between children and adult services.

7.4 During 2013/14 we saw the number of referrals for safeguarding adults increase to 957, of which 733 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 needs 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 COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

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 though 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.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Child Death Overview Panel is chaired by a senior officer within the Public Health Team to ensure that learning and trends can be actioned.

Safeguarding of adults at risk and children is recognised as a significant public health issue; preventing abuse and promoting of choice will increase wellbeing within these populations.

Background Papers

None