

## MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/2015

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE**  
**Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**14 April 2015**

**Report of:** Ray James: Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care

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<b>Agenda - Part: 1</b>	<b>Item: 6</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Adult Safeguarding Strategy	
<b>Wards: All</b>	
<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Care Act has placed Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing from April 1, 2015. One of the Board's three core duties is to publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what members will do to achieve this. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the local Healthwatch organisation.

The Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board have had a strategy since 2009 and are currently consulting on the Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2015-2018. The plan which supports this strategy will be reviewed yearly to remain evidence based.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Feedback is sought from the Health and Wellbeing Board on the content of this strategy and action plan.

### 3. BACKGROUND

The strategy aims to be free from jargon and in plain English, with an easy read version to be developed once agreed. This is in line with Care Act requirements

The aims of the strategy are:

- Preventing abuse from occurring
- Ensuring adequate support where dignity is respected
- Providing support which is person centred once harm occurs and works to achieve the aspirations and outcomes of the adult at risk

The strategy and its action plan relate to the 6 key principles set out by the Government and included in the Care Act which are:

- Empowerment- people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent
- Protection – support and representation to those in greatest need

- Prevention –it is better to take action before harm occurs
- Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- Partnership – local solutions through services working with their communities
- Accountability- accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

The strategy sets out how we work with local people and partners, but most importantly those who use services. This includes not only co-production and challenge to the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board, but with adults at risk who have been abused and learning from practice.

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

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 each member of the SAB will take to deliver the strategic plan and protect better. This plan could cover 3-5 years in order to enable to Board to plan ahead as long as it is reviewed and updated annually.

The Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board have taken a decision to produce a three year strategy.

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

The Safeguarding Adults Board would like to hear the views of the Health and Wellbeing Board around the aims and priorities set out in the strategy, the outcomes the Board will report on and the content of the action plan.

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

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

The strategic plan requires consultation with a range of individuals and partner organisations. The current cost of the consultation for this financial year is £500, which excludes the staff time of employees based in the Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service.

The current actions set out in the Safeguarding Adults Strategy are being managed within the resources of the various partners, primarily through input from members of staff. Those actions which have a cost, such as publicity and the development of risk panel, can only be progressed with agreed Safeguarding Adults Board funding. The issue of partner contributions towards these costs was raised at the March 2015 meeting of Board partners and a decision is still pending on this.

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

Under The Care Act 2014 each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (an “SAB”) for its area. The main objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults in its area. The Care Act 2014 also place a duty on a SAB to publish each financial year a plan (its “strategic plan”) which sets out its strategy for achieving its objective, and what each member is to do to implement that strategy. In preparing its strategic plan, the SAB must also consult the Local Healthwatch organisation for its area, and involve the community in its area.

## **7. KEY RISKS**

Delivering on the strategy action plan is a key priority for the Board and risk has been mitigated through identifying a project manager in the Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service. The Board's action plan will be reviewed at each quarterly meeting, which will highlight progress against each action.

Co-production and challenge on safeguarding adults is crucial and a clear requirement in the Care Act. This risk has been mitigated by the Service User, Carer and Patient sub group of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

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

### **8.1 Ensuring the best start in life**

There is representation on the Safeguarding Adults Board from safeguarding children, with a joint sub-group to enable issues which cross over to be addressed. While not explicit within the strategy, this group ensures that wellbeing and safety from abuse is considered across all ages, such as joint working between adults and children's services when parents or carers have mental ill health and/or drug and alcohol problems.

### **8.2 Enabling people to be safe, independent and well and delivering high quality health and care services**

The strategy aims state clearly that we will work with local people and partners to promote an approach that concentrates on improving the life for the adults concerned; being safe is only one of the things people want for themselves and there is a wider emphasis on wellbeing. The strategy emphasizes prevention of abuse and work within services that provide care to evidence engagement with those who use services.

### **8.3 Creating stronger, healthier communities**

Safeguarding practice includes working with people to resolve their circumstances, recover from abuse or neglect and realise the outcomes they want. In addition, we are setting ourselves the target of working with those who have harmed in an effort to prevent further abuse and contribute to safer communities.

### **8.4 Reducing health inequalities – narrowing the gap in life expectancy**

The Strategy does not directly reduce health inequalities. It is intended that the actions directly taken to support adults at risk of harm and abuse through the safeguarding adults process will have an emphasis on an individual's well-being, which can include improved health outcomes.

### **8.5 Promoting healthy lifestyles**

The strategy has set out action towards reducing social isolation within high risk groups which may be at risk of abuse.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

An equalities impact assessment has been started and will be completed upon development of the final strategy document. The assessment to date has indicated that

the strategy as it stands, with an emphasis on prevention of abuse, enabling and empowerment of individuals and working towards self identified outcomes, contributes towards promoting equalities for those most disadvantaged in Enfield. For example, work being undertaken by the Service User, Carer and Patient Group intends to focus on improving experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered individuals accessing care services in Enfield.

### **Background Papers**

None identified.