

## MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/2017 REPORT NO. 9

### MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

**Cabinet**  
**15 June 2016**

### REPORT OF: Ray James

Director of Health,  
Housing and Adult Social  
Care

**Agenda – Part: 1**

**Item: 7**

**Subject: London Multi-Agency Adult  
Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**  
**Wards: All**  
**Non Key**

**Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr A Cazimoglu**

Contact officer and telephone number:

Georgina Diba, Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service, tel: 020 8379 4432

E mail: Georgina.diba@enfield.gov.uk

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 In line with the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance, the previous pan London policy and procedures to protect adults at risk has been updated. Titled 'London Multi Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures', these were considered by the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board and agreed for implementation from April 1, 2016.

1.2 These have been developed across London to ensure a consistent approach to adult safeguarding. The revised policy and procedures sets a collaborative and collegiate approach to safeguarding, for all organisations and not just the local authority. The principles of safeguarding are set out – empowerment, protection, prevention, partnership, proportionality and accountability – all within the context of working together with adults at risk of being harmed. There is an increased emphasis on wellbeing, as we know being safe is only one outcome of many that adults may wish to achieve. The actual safeguarding process is focused on best practice, with a reduction from seven stages to four. In addition, a process for managing provider concerns is included, based on Enfield model which is well embedded.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Cabinet are being asked to note and adopt the new London Multi Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A pan London policy and procedure for safeguarding adults was first developed and launched in 2011. Since this time with the introduction of the Care Act 2014, a number of changes to how we work with adults at risk and provide victim focused support to achieve recovery and resilience, has created the need for revised guidance.
- 3.2 The London Multi Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were launched across London February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016; Enfield partners delivered one of the workshops at this event focused on the development of outcomes for safeguarding. All London Safeguarding Adults Board were asked to agree the implementation commencing April 1, 2016. The Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board confirmed this at the March meeting.
- 3.3 There are a number of changes to note from this revised documentation. Firstly, the tone is set for a collaborative and collegiate approach, where all organisations have a responsibility towards adults whom may be at risk of harm or abuse. Reference is made to many of the changes included in the Care Act, including Safeguarding Adults Boards being on a statutory footing, cooperation and information sharing – with joint accountability/ prevention and links to Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnerships – and ensuring that wellbeing forms the basis to which we support adults experiencing abuse.
- 3.4 Section 2 of the Policy sets out an interpretation of the Care Act, so that there is a consistent approach across London to adult safeguarding. Safeguarding is defined as ‘protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.’ There is an emphasis on all partners preventing abuse. Clarity is provided on who safeguarding duties apply to, including wider definition of the types of abuse, such as domestic violence, disability hate crime, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour based violence, human trafficking, mate crime, modern slavery, and sexual exploitation. The requirement for Safeguarding Adults Reviews (previously referred to as Serious Case Reviews) is set out.
- 3.5 Section 3 focuses on adult safeguarding practice, including the key areas of mental capacity and consent, advocacy and support, managing risk, record keeping and organisational learning. Section 4 are the adult safeguarding procedures, which sets out the changes in adult safeguarding from a process driven stand-alone entity, to one where adult safeguarding is part of everyday practice about managing risk and supporting adults who are unable to protect themselves. It

provides the reader with a framework that can be adjusted to meet individual need:

- 4 stages instead of 7
- Making Safeguarding Personal runs through the procedures
- Timescales are indicative and performance data should not be reliant on timescales
- Concern stage emphasis the role of all organisations to take action and decisions, not just send a concern to the local authority
- Enquiry – section 42 with different approaches to manage the concern
- Links Enquiry Type and Risk Management to desired outcome
- Safeguarding Plan and Review differentiates between care management review
- Closing down stage looks at whether it has achieved the outcome that the adult wants and how do they evaluate the intervention

- 3.6 The last section focuses on working with care and support provide, setting out how commissioners work with providers so that adults receive high quality safe services. It details how good commissioning and effective contract monitoring can support providers to take early action to reduce risk and the need for adult safeguarding. Emphasises working with providers so that there is a reduced risk of challenge from providers and market shaping is considered.

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

This policy and procedures helps to ensure consistency across London and compliance with changes to safeguarding as brought about by the Care Act 2014 and the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda.

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

Cabinet are asked to note the changes and agree adaptation of the policies and procedures, supporting this consistency in practice across London. This will further enhance the collaborative and partnership process to safeguarding adults at risk.

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

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

Given the changes in policy and procedures there will inevitably be financial implications in terms of development of the health and social care workforce, but these are not quantifiable at this stage of the process.

The Service confirms that the current safeguarding adults training plan has been reviewed and courses are being amended or revised in line with the new policy and procedures. To prevent any additional cost to the current training budget for 2016-2017, some of this training is being

delivered internally by staff from the Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service in LBE.

## **6.2 Legal Implications**

The Care Act 2014 puts adult safeguarding onto a statutory footing for the first time. Local authorities are now under a statutory obligation to ensure vulnerable adults are kept safe from abuse and neglect.

This latest version of the London Multi Agency Adult safeguarding Policy and procedures have been introduced following the commencement of the Care Act 2014 and implements the safeguarding principles and functions under the Act. The procedures help to ensure there is a consistent approach to safeguarding and that practice is in accordance with the law. Broadly speaking the procedures encourage a multi-agency approach to safeguarding, management of risk, appropriate information sharing and co-operation from partners, and that safeguarding is person centred and outcome focused.

Under paragraph 1.1 of the procedures asks that London Safeguarding Boards adopt the policy and procedures so there is consistency across London in the way in which adults are safeguarded from neglect or abuse. For that reason the council should agree to follow these procedures and failure to do so could well give rise to legal challenge or a complaint.

## **6.3 Property Implications**

None identified.

## **7. KEY RISKS**

Key risks have been identified in the area of staff training, practice support and data collection. All key risk in relation to implementation for LBE have been mitigated through action taken up to the launch date of April 1, 2016 and forward planning for 2016-2017. This includes the following actions:

- Updating complete of all local practice guidance to be consistent with this policy (as well as the Care Act and Making Safeguarding Personal)
- Updated all templates in line with the Policy, such as setting out an 'enquiry report' template and updating the alert form to a 'safeguarding concerns' form consistent with the new language.
- Briefings to the Best Practice Forum in Jan 2016 and April 2016
- Setting up training to adult social care and mental health staff who receive and may act as the safeguarding adults manager (April 2016 dates).
- Reviewing the training requirements for 2016-2017 so that they include any additional areas set out by the policy.

- Complete review and re-write of the data collection requirements and IT systems to correspond to this

## **8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

### **8.1 Fairness for All**

The policy and procedures strongly support the Council's priority of Fairness for All. They aim to support those adults who may be most vulnerable to abuse, through both a preventative model by means of robust risk management and multi-agency initiatives, to a person centred response when abuse does occur. The actions taken with respect to those at risk of harming aims to reduce inequalities, particularly for those receiving a service in care homes or from agencies providing care and support.

### **8.2 Growth and Sustainability**

The policy and procedures do not directly impact on the priority of Growth and Sustainability.

### **8.3 Strong Communities**

The policy and procedures emphasise strong partnership working and collaboration, which contribute towards ensuring Enfield is a safe and health place to live. The wellbeing principles, and focus on adults not just being safe but meeting their desired outcomes, helps to build individuals capacity to care for themselves and others.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

As a policy and procedures written for all London Boroughs, an equalities impact assessment was completed through London Councils.

## **10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

All performance management implications have been considered and we will continue to use quarterly audits, external audits and practice support from the Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service to review the implementation of these new procedures.

Data collection via the Councils Care First system has been amended to ensure that the data collected is in line with the new policy requirements, including national data requirements for the Safeguarding Adult Collections 2016-2017

## **11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

The safeguarding of adults with care and support needs is a public health issue; preventing and responding to abuse ensures that health

and wellbeing can be addressed and that recovery and resilience has priority. The wellbeing principles set out in the Care Act and carried through this policy ensure that any actions we take with adults should include focus on the outcomes they desire and that being safe may only be one of these. The data collection for safeguarding adults in the Local Authority has been amended to ensure that we collect themes emerging from adults identified outcomes in terms of the nine wellbeing principles, enabling us to focus more appropriately our resources and areas of practice.

### **Background Papers**

The London Multi Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures have been developed as an online version, with associated links. These can be accessed at:

<http://londonadass.org.uk/safeguarding/review-of-the-pan-london-policy-and-procedures/>.

Reference copies are available in the Members' Library and Group Offices.