

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/2019 REPORT NO. 121A

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

**Cabinet – 12 December
2018
Council – 30 January
2019**

REPORT OF:

Executive Director of
People

Agenda – Part: 1**Item: 10**

**Subject: Safeguarding Adults Strategy
2018/23 & Safeguarding Adults Annual
Report 2017/18
Wards: All
Key Decision No: KD 4781**

**Cabinet Member consulted:
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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 Safeguarding Adult Board members will do to achieve this.

The Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018- 23, which is our strategic plan has an emphasis on prevention and awareness of abuse. The priorities were developed by a project lead by service users and carers and our Quality Checkers, and include feedback from Safeguarding Adults board members, Adult Social Care professionals, Service users and carers.

The aims of the Board are compliant with the Care Act and focus on:

- Preventing Abuse, Protect adults at Risk, Learn from experience, Improve Services

Strategy consulted on from May to August 2018. 224 responses received, with approximately 80% agreeing with our priority areas.

The Annual Report 2017/8 highlights the key work undertaken by the Board and its partners to keep adults at risk of abuse and harm in Enfield, safe during the financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To approve the Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018-23 as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 December 2018.
- To note the work detailed in the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2017-18 to keep Adults at Risk in Enfield safe.

3. BACKGROUND

The strategy and annual report aim to be free from jargon and in plain English. This is in line with Care Act requirements. The documents have been designed in a way that will make them easy to read for Enfield Residents. The Board's Service User, Carer and Patient Sub-group have led on the development of this approach.

3.1 Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018-23

The Strategy consultation took place between May and August 2018. The Key priorities are detailed below. The Consultation was used as a way of raising awareness and the information in the document is organised so that it helps people recognise and report abuse, as well as describe the work of the Board, its partners and our priorities over the next 5 years. The aim of this design is that it should help with all of our awareness raising work over the next 5 years.

The priority actions identified so far are:

Prevent Abuse

- Engage with our community, to promote a culture where abuse and neglect are not tolerated
- Use technology and social media to engage with our community, professionals, providers and voluntary organisations
- Work to reduce isolation
- Work with people alleged to have caused harm to prevent further abuse

Protect Adults at Risk

- Make sure our community knows how to recognise and report abuse
- Make sure professionals are appropriately trained, with a focus on Making Safeguarding Personal
- Develop ways to help people protect themselves from abuse and harm
- Develop online tool to make sure everyone knows how to access or make referrals to different services

Learn from Experience

- Check that the way we are managing adult safeguarding is working properly
- Learn from the advice of our Service Users, Carers and Patients
- If things go wrong, review what happened and learn lessons
- Learn from the experiences of other local authority areas

Improve Services

- Ensure we have effective arrangements in place to intervene when provider quality drops below expected standards (Provider concerns/improvement)
- Ensure partners share information and intelligence about poor quality services
- Online space for providers
- Consistent policies with neighbouring boroughs

During the consultation, 224 responses were received.

The Strategy consultation publicity included: Our Enfield (back page advert), Facebook and Twitter posts, and using Enfield Connected emails. The Strategy draft was presented at numerous meetings/ events, including: Friendship Matters event, Over 50s Forum meeting, Safer Neighbourhood Board, Older People's Partnership Board, Quality Checker feedback meeting, Enfield Mental Health Service User Group meeting, Safeguarding Adults Managers meeting and Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to name a few.

Approximately 80% agreed that the priorities are correct. The suggestions made were around themes that are already part of our priorities. These include:

Raising awareness:

about what the Safeguarding Adults team does; how people can report abuse; what happens during the call, and what will happen after the call; how people can protect themselves (from things like fraud).

Better communication in the process:

this includes communication with the families of Adults at Risk (where appropriate), with the referrer of the concern so they know what is happening (again, where appropriate), and between teams providing services to the person.

Community Engagement:

some felt this was important enough to be its own priority; more grass roots work to help build relationships and a network of people who can raise awareness and help people self-protect; this work was seen as an important activity to balance the developments in IT and Social Media.

These suggestions will be integrated into our action plans over the coming years.

3.2 Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2017/18

Publishing an Annual Report is a statutory requirement under the Care Act. The Annual Report must include: what it has done during that year to achieve its objectives and strategy; what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy; and a section on Safeguarding Adults Reviews, including information on referrals Received, the on-going Reviews and key learning from Reviews that have been published.

The summary of the key achievements of the year highlight:

- Managing increase in reports of concerns, whilst maintaining high levels of outcomes being met or partial met.
- Fire Safety work –including seminar for providers, attended by 120 delegates
- Work with nursing homes
- Communications project – which has started by changing the language in our reports and is led by our Service User, Carer and Patient sub-group.

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 has historically been for a 3-year period; however, the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board have agreed for a 5-year plan; to enable more ambitious consultation and projects to be developed.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Developing a 5-year strategy has meant that we were able to be more ambitious to in our Consultation work. We received 224 responses, which is more than the previous two consultations.

The 5-year strategy also enables us to develop more complex, longer term projects, which we will need to meaningfully develop our Community Engagement, IT and Social Media and Isolation projects.

6. COMMENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Overview & Scrutiny comments

The Strategy document was complimented as being very clear for people to understand, and there was positive feedback about how easy it was to understand. Advice was given in terms of Consultation work, including making sure Facebook and Twitter messages were sent again so that residents on the east side of the Borough were made aware. OSC also asked that the consultation be shared with the Youth Parliament members. Both of these actions were completed.

6.2 Financial Implications

There will be no additional finance costs as a result of this strategy or annual report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 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. An SAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective. The specific objectives are set out in Section 1 and 3 of this report.

6.3.2 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 of the Care Act places duty on a SAB to have a strategic plan for achieving its objectives. In preparing a strategic plan it must involve the community and consult the Local Healthwatch organisation in its area. The strategic plan must be published each financial year. The Care Act Guidance 'Care and Support Statutory Guidance', updated 1 October 2018, states that a strategic plan may cover a period of 3-5 years so long as it is reviewed and updated annually.

6.3.3 Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 of the Care Act requires an SAB to publish an annual report as soon as feasible after the end of each financial year about its activities during the year, including information on Safeguarding Adults Reviews current during the year and actions to implement the strategic plan.

6.3.4 The recommendations set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

7. KEY RISKS

A failure to have and publish the Safeguarding Adults Strategy and Annual Report would lead to non-compliance with a Care Act duty (section 43). The Strategy and Annual Report will also mitigate the reputational risk that Enfield Residents might feel we are not being open and transparent about how the Safeguarding Adults Board will address issues of Adult Abuse in Enfield.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES – CREATING A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITIES IN ENFIELD

8.1 Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

As part of the Prevention priority, the Board will be developing our IT/ Social Media offering alongside a community engagement programme. The aim of both these areas of work is to improve the awareness of adult abuse, understand how to report it, and also to reduce isolation, an issue which is known to increase levels of vulnerability.

8.2 Sustain strong and healthy communities

Protecting Adults at Risk, and their carers, families or friends can continue to thrive in the borough. The Board's approach to safeguarding focusses on well-trained staff, who focus on the desired outcomes of the Adults at Risk (an approach known as Making Safeguarding Personal) as well as managing the risks that may be present.

8.3 Build our local economy to create a thriving place

The priority to with People Alleged to Have Caused Harm (PATCH), will ensure that everyone can reach their potential. The work in the Improve Services priority, will ensure we support local providers to maintain the standards to minimise the risk of services becoming unsafe.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The Act gives people the right not to be treated less favourably because of any of the protected characteristics. We need to consider the needs of these diverse groups when designing and changing services or budgets, so that our decisions do not unduly or disproportionately affect access by some groups more than others.

It is recommended that a Predictive Equalities Impact Assessment be undertaken on the Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018-23 to ensure that the strategy benefits the community and that it is fully accessible particularly by those in the protected characteristic groups.

10. PERFORMANCE AND DATA IMPLICATIONS

Data and performance will play a crucial role in checking that our priorities are being delivered. The improvements over the period of the Annual Report have helped to confirm that Desired Outcomes are still being met even though concerns being reported has increased.

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a defined data set and will continue to evaluate and ensure that performance improves, this is likely to now extend into deep dives, so that we can explore issues such as abuse in people's own homes, and monitoring reports of abuse types (including, Modern Day Slavery, Domestic Abuse, Financial Abuse and others).

11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

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

To deliver the priorities in the strategy we will work with local people and partners to promote an approach that concentrates on improving the quality of 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.

The Annual Report highlights the work around Fire Safety, with Nursing home providers, and improvements in communication so that our messages are more accessible.

Background Papers

None.