

London Borough of Enfield

Cabinet

Meeting Date: 11th November 2020

Subject: Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2019-20

Cabinet Member: Cllr Alev Cazimoglu and Cllr Rick Jewell

Key Decision: Not applicable

Purpose of Report

1. The report is being presented for Cabinet to note the Safeguarding Partnership's activity to protect adults and children in 2019-20.
2. It highlights the positive actions taken to prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation against adults at risks, children and families, includes data to demonstrate the impact of these actions, and states the priorities of the partnership for the 2020-21 period.

Proposal(s)

3. The Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2019-20 is being presented to Cabinet in order to draw attention to the key safeguarding risks facing vulnerable residents and to raise the profile of the initiatives being carried out to prevent and combat these issues. Members should take note of the successes and challenges that have risen from safeguarding activity in the period 2019-20, to help inform future priorities and take effective action in the 2020-2021 period.

Relevance to the Council Plan

Safe, healthy and confident communities

4. The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council's priority of "Safe, healthy and confident communities".
5. The purpose of safeguarding work is to protect children, young people, adults at risk, and their carers and families so that they can all thrive in the borough. The Partnership's approach to safeguarding focusses on well-trained staff who can effectively engage and manage the risks that may be present.
6. For Children, there is an emphasis on improving services for those children, young people and families that require prevention and intervention from safeguarding services across a broad spectrum, from early help to statutory interventions.

7. For Adults, as part of the 'Prevent Abuse' priority, the Partnership will be developing our IT/ Social Media offering alongside a community engagement programme, via the Community Awareness Raising group. The aim of both these areas of work is to improve the awareness of abuse, understand how to report it, and also to reduce isolation, an issue which is known to increase levels of vulnerability. There is also ongoing work with local adult social care providers, which will ensure we support local providers to maintain the standards and minimise the risk of services becoming unsafe.

Background

8. There are statutory duties for publishing an annual Safeguarding Adults Report and a Safeguarding Children Partnership report. These duties apply to the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children's Partnership respectively. The duties require specific information to be provided. The specific actions taken to address the requirements are in italics.

9. For the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Care Act requires that the report include:

- what it has done during that year to achieve its objectives and strategy;
(the information of the report is organised by the priority areas of the strategy)
- what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy
(this is done through the partner statement in the appendix)
- information on Safeguarding Adults Reviews, including information on referrals received, on-going reviews and key learnings from reviews that have been published.
(this is detailed in the learning from experience section)

10. For Safeguarding Children, Working Together requires that the report include:

- what the Safeguarding Partnership have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice *(the arrangements are highlighted in report, as are the safeguarding practice reviews).*

11. In addition, the report should also include:

- ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision *(for example Safeguarding Ambassador feedback on new website).*
- Safeguarding partners should make sure that the report is widely available, and the published safeguarding arrangements should set out where the reports will be published.
(Report will be published on website, promoted through newsletter and shared on twitter).

- A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.
- The three safeguarding partners should report any updates to the published arrangements in their yearly report and the proposed timescale for implementation (*section on Children's safeguarding arrangements will cover this when necessary*).

Main Considerations for the Council

12. The summary of the key issues or achievements of the year highlight:

- Safeguarding response during COVID-19 across the Partnership. This involved carrying out many positive initiatives to protect vulnerable residents, including daily calls to care homes and thousands of welfare calls, with 2000 calls to our Learning Disability clients.
- Work carried out to combat Modern Slavery – including development of strategy, a multi-agency conference, and ongoing training and awareness raising.
- The development and launch of the Social Care Centre of Excellence.
- New arrangements to safeguard children, including meeting statutory deadlines for changes to be in place.
- National work on Safeguarding Adults thresholds.

13. Across the Partnership, our primary responsibility is to provide a way for local agencies to work together to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk, and to ensure that they do so effectively.

14. 2019/20 has been a busy year for the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership. Despite numerous changes, agencies across the partnership have continued to demonstrate their strong commitment to the Partnership and its activities. Whilst this report provides anecdotal partner updates of work carried out in response to Covid-19, a full analysis of these initiatives will be included in the 2020-21 report.

15. The Safeguarding Enfield Partnership remains committed to a programme of scrutiny, monitoring and, assuring the quality of safeguarding activity across Enfield. This programme of robust analysis and challenge will continue to ensure that children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or harm are identified and responded to speedily and effectively.

Safeguarding Implications

16. The report highlights the work of the Safeguarding partnership to safeguard adults at risk, children and families in Enfield. The safeguarding implications of this work are:

17. For Enfield Council – as lead agency for adults and with joint responsibility with Police and the CCG for Childrens, it is important that we highlight how we work together with our community and partners, and detail what we are learning and how we improve current provision.

18. For the community - improvements in understanding how to stay safe, how to recognise abuse and how to report it.

For our partners – good communications so that any issues with joint work (which is essential to effective safeguarding) can be escalated, managed and improved.

Public Health Implications

19. Important public health aims include enabling young people to ‘start life well’ and for older people to ‘live and age well’. Ensuring that the most vulnerable are safe and enabled to thrive is therefore very relevant.

20. The Safeguarding Enfield Partnership has strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board. Public health officers are also members of the Safeguarding Adults Board and Children’s Activity Groups, to enable joined-up work with a focus on prevention.

21. The priorities identified in this strategy will support work with local people and partners to promote approaches that improve the quality of life for vulnerable children, young people, adults and families.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

22. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018-23. This report provides progress against the Adults strategy.

23. It should be noted that partners that we engage with are required to assist us in meeting our obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

24. There are no environmental implications. However, the COVID-19 lockdown and the improved use of technology has enabled us to become paperless; and removed the need for travel.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken.

25. Noting the Annual Report helps Enfield Council to demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding. It will also mitigate reputational risk, demonstrating openness and transparency about how the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership will address issues of abuse and exploitation in Enfield.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

26. None

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

Children:

28. Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 requires safeguarding partners (which include the local authority) to set up safeguarding partnerships to work together to exercise their functions, so far as these are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children in their area.

29. Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period on what the safeguarding partners have done as a result of the safeguarding partnership arrangements, and how effective the arrangements have been.

30. Guidance on children's safeguarding partnerships is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018) and explains the detail that should go into the annual report.

31. The matters set out in this report comply with the above statute and guidance.

Adults:

32. 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. A 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.

33. Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 of the Care Act requires a SAB to publish an annual report as soon as feasible after the end of each financial year about what it has done during that year to achieve its objectives, implement its strategy, the findings of safeguarding adults' reviews which have been concluded and which are ongoing. In addition, to publish what it has done to implement the findings of reviews and where it is decided not to publish the findings of a review, the reasons for that decision.

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

Workforce Implications

35. The report refers to work carried out in response to Covid-19 pandemic. The Council is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its' workforce. The following measures have been put in place to support staff during the COVID pandemic to enable the continuing provision of services to the residents of Enfield;

- Assessment of work activities and the environment and taking measures to reduce the risks as far as practicable.
- Deployment of staff to alternative roles to support vulnerable residents.
- Providing Coronavirus FAQ updates for staff with input from Human Resources, the Public Health Team and other teams across the Council, including links to Government, Public Health England and NHS guidance and information.
- Enabling remote working .
- Supporting staff's mental health and wellbeing by signposting to support such as the EAP Helpline.
- Providing continued access to learning and development opportunities by promoting remote learning and providing virtual learning and development events and workshops.

Property Implications

36. None

Other Implications

37. None

Options Considered

38. Producing two reports, one for the Safeguarding Adults Board and another for the Safeguarding Children Partnership, was considered. As we have a joint Chair, a shared business unit, and numerous Activity Groups which are shared, there would be significant duplication. Feedback also suggests that residents are more likely to engage with one report and one conversation about abuse and risk, rather than two.

Conclusions

39. Please note the report.

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Date of report 11th November 2020

Appendices

Appendix 1 - The Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2019-20 is attached.

Background Papers

None.