

London Borough of Enfield

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date – 24th March 2021

Subject: Adult Safeguarding Annual Report Priorities
Cabinet Member: Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Key Decision:

Purpose of Report

1.

Each year local Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to publish their annual report. The Care Act requires, that as part of that report, the Safeguarding Adults Board should highlight the work undertaken during the year and the priorities for the coming year.

This report, the Safeguarding Enfield Annual report priorities for 2021-22 and update on 2020-21, sets out the safeguarding partnership activity for adults.

It highlights actions taken to prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation against adults at risks. The priorities are part the Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report, which covers both Adults and Children's Safeguarding. In the attached priorities report, both adults and childrens information is presented, to highlight the areas we are seeking to implement together and the learning we are sharing.

This is partnership report and is being presented to Scrutiny as part of a consultation with partners for comments on the 2021-22 priorities. The priorities will then be presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Childrens Partnership's Executive meeting for agreement and sign-off.

Proposal(s)

2.

Please note the activities of the Safeguarding Adults Board 2020-21 and provide feedback on the priorities for 2021-22.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3.

Relevance to the Council Plan

4.

Safe, healthy and Confident communities

The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council's priority of Safe, healthy, Confident communities.

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.

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 our 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

5.

There are statutory duties for publishing an annual Safeguarding Adults Report. The duties require specific information to be provided. 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;
- what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy
- information on Safeguarding Adults Reviews, including information on referrals Received, the on-going Reviews and key learning from Reviews that have been published.

Main Considerations for the Council

6.

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

- Safeguarding response during COVID-19 across the Partnership, including:
 - Regular contact with care homes,
 - welfare calls by our quality checkers
 - analysis of concerns during lockdown
 - contributing to London wide work – insights
 - Extra-ordinary Safeguarding Adults Board meeting held.
- New Safeguarding Enfield website launched
- Training included: Substance misuse and hidden harm, PREVENT and modern slavery.

- Safeguarding Adults Review learning themes developed through action plan analysis.

Important areas of work for 2021-22

- Detailed data analysis work in Enfield and regionally to better understand the impact of COVID and trends around abuse
- Introduction of network of safeguarding champions through the Community Awareness Raising group.
- Pilot project extended to include 250 devices (Amazon Echo Shows) to connect service users with their family and friends.

Across the Partnership, our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local agencies to work together to safeguard those at risk, and to ensure that the arrangements in place are working effectively.

2020-21 has been a busy year for the Safeguarding Adults Board. Despite numerous changes, agencies across the partnership have continued to demonstrate strong commitment to the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board and its activities, through the Activity groups.

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

At Enfield Council, we are adopting a strengths-based approach (3 conversations model) when working with service users which is an important part of preventing abuse. The approach is highlighted in our Early Help Strategy, which also details other preventative work across the Council.

Safeguarding Implications

7.

The report highlights the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board to safeguard adults at risk in Enfield. The safeguarding implications of this work are:

For Enfield Council – as lead agency for adults, 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.

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

8.

Important public health aims are to enable 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.

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.

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

9.

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

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

10.

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

11.

Highlighting, and contributing, to the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board ensures Enfield Council can demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding. It also mitigates reputational risk, demonstrating openness and transparency about how the Safeguarding Adults Board 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

12.

None

Financial Implications

13.

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

Legal Implications

14.

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.

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.

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

Workforce Implications

15.

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

16.
None

Other Implications

17.
None

Options Considered

18.
Producing two annual reports (including these priorities), one for the Safeguarding Adults Board and another for the Safeguarding Children Partnership, was considered.

Feedback from residents is that they are more likely to engage with one report and one conversation about abuse and risk, rather than two.

Conclusions

19.
Please note the report.

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Appendices

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

The Adult Safeguarding Annual Report priorities for 2021/22 and update on 2020/21 work.