

London Borough of Enfield

Cabinet Report

Meeting Date – 15th September 2021

Subject: Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2020/21

Cabinet Member: Cllr Alev Cazimoglu / Cllr Uddin
Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Key Decision:

Purpose of Report

1. The report is being presented for Cabinet to note the Safeguarding Partnership's activity to protect adults and children in 2020-21.
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 2021-22 period.
3. The report also provides Safeguarding updates on responses by agencies during 2020/21 relating to the pandemic.

Proposal(s)

4. The Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2020-21 is being presented to Cabinet to note, 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 tackle these issues.
5. Members should note the successes and challenges that have risen from safeguarding activity in the period 2020-21.
6. Cabinet is asked to commend the Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2020-21 to Council. The report will be presented at the 17th November 2021 Council meeting.

Reason for Proposal(s)

7. Noting the Annual Report at Cabinet and Council enables Enfield Council to demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding adults at risk, children and young people throughout the organisation.

Relevance to the Council Plan

Safe, healthy and Confident communities

8. The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council's priority of "Safe, healthy and 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 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.

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

9. 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.

10. 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)

11. 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*).

12. 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

Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2020/21

13. 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.

14. 2020-21 has been a busy year for the Safeguarding Enfield Partnerships and all of our partners. The impact of COVID has had a profound effect on many of our agencies, both in terms of pressures and also in terms of having to adapt to new ways of working. Despite the numerous changes and challenges, agencies across the partnership have continued to demonstrate strong commitment to the work of safeguarding Enfield residents.

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.

16. The Safeguarding Enfield partnerships have a priority on learning from experience. To facilitate this, we draw on learning from a number of different review processes (including, Safeguarding Adults Reviews, children's safeguarding Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews).

The reviews from 2021/22 will be reported in next year's annual report, this will include learning from the review on forced marriage.

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

Covid-19 response

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, we received 3,278 safeguarding adult concerns
- Extra-ordinary Safeguarding Adults Board meeting held.

Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Hub was launched in May 2020. Over 214 calls have been received. 85 calls have been from victims.

Serious Youth Violence

We held a Partnership event in February 2021 to consult on the Public Health approach to Serious Youth Violence. Attended by over 100 delegates, including our Safeguarding Partners and schools.

Modern Slavery

127 referrals received to the Modern Slavery team; 60 awareness raising sessions to 715 delegates. Modern Slavery hotline launched.

LeDeR reviews

28 notifications received for people with learning disabilities. this is double the pre-pandemic 4-year average. 19 deaths involved COVID

Child Death

Between April 2020 and March 2021, Enfield had 21 notifications of child deaths, similar to the previous year (death of a person under 18 years of age). Of the 21 deaths, 13 were male, 8 were female.

18. Other areas of note, include:

- New Safeguarding Enfield website launched
- Training included: Substance misuse and hidden harm, PREVENT and modern slavery.
- Learning from Safeguarding Adults Review learning themes developed through action plan analysis.

19. 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 for adults and children. This is being led by our Insights Activity group.
- Introduction of network of safeguarding champions through the Community Awareness Raising group.

- Multi-agency Safeguarding Children audits on professional curiosity and information sharing; children affected by domestic abuse; and serious youth violence.
- SMART Living pilot project extended to include 250 devices (Amazon Echo Shows) to connect service users with their family and friends.
- Implementing recommendations and learning from reviews in 2021/22.

Safeguarding Implications

20. 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:

21. For Enfield Council – as lead agency for adults and with joint responsibility with Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group for Childrens safeguarding, 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.

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

23. 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

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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

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

28. 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

29. 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

30. Publishing this report is part of our statutory duties, and not doing so would mean we would be in breach of these.

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

31. 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.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

33. **Children:** 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

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

37. **Adults:** 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.

38. 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.

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

Implications provided by I Deuchars on 26/7.

Workforce Implications

40. 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

None

Other Implications

None

Options Considered

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

42. 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

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 Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report for 2020/21 (unformatted).