

## London Borough of Enfield

### Council

Meeting Date: 16 November 2022

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**Subject:** Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2021-22

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Alev Cazimoglu/Cllr Abdullahi

**Executive Director:** Tony Theodoulou

**Key Decision:** N/A

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### Purpose of Report

1. The report is being presented for Council to note the Safeguarding Partnership's activity to protect adults and children in 2021-22.
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 2022-23 period.
3. The report also provides Safeguarding updates on responses by agencies during 2021-22.

### Recommendations

4. This report is being presented to Council 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. Council should note the successes and challenges that have arisen from safeguarding activity in the period 2021-22.
6. Council is asked to note that the draft report was considered at the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel and the Children, Young People's and Education Scrutiny Panel and comments made have resulted in amendments to the final report.

### Reason for Recommendations

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

8. Safe, healthy, and confident communities

9. The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council's priority of "Safe, healthy and confident communities".
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. For Adults, as part of the 'Prevent Abuse' priority, the Partnership is developing its community engagement approach with the aim of being to improve the awareness of abuse and understand how to report it. Work is also underway to improve uptake of SMART technologies, with the aim to improve communication and also to help 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**

13. 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.
14. 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)*
15. 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).*

16. 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 2021/22**

17. 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.

18. 2021-22 has been a busy year for the Safeguarding Enfield Partnerships and all of our partners. As we emerge from the COVID lockdowns, the partnerships are meeting new challenges and pressures – and will continue to make sure we have robust responses to keep residents safe. Agencies across the partnership continue to demonstrate strong commitment to the work of safeguarding Enfield residents.

19. 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.

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

**Modern Slavery** response – Awareness raising work continues with 455 professionals trained, via 17 training sessions. The Modern Slavery helpline received 233 calls over the year.

**Safeguarding Adults concerns** –3638 concerns received in the year, the highest the Enfield Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub have managed. The number of concerns continue to rise in line with national increases. The increase in reports of concerns is positive as it suggests improved awareness.

**Josef Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) published** – Review into the death of a 17-year-old published – <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/safeguardingenfield/reviews-and-reports/>

**Children’s Safeguarding Partnership event** – the event in December 2021 attracted over 100 attendees. It covered the Josef review and shared learning from our audit work on Professional Curiosity and Information Sharing, with practitioner guide published – <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/safeguardingenfield/professional-curiosity-practitioners-guide/>

**Sexual abuse in educational settings** – following the Everyone Invited testimonials and national responses, we have improved the partnerships links with education and presented key information to the Designated Safeguarding Leads meeting.

**Child Death** - the North Central London team 30 notifications of Enfield child deaths. The central team reviews each notification and determines the need for a Joint Agency Response (JAR) meeting, where there was an unexpected cause of death. The team have co-ordinated 5 Enfield JAR meetings in the reporting period.

**National Children reviews** – following the review of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson the partnership began an audit on physical abuse; following the Child Q review has led to an Enfield Task and Finish group where we are working with our Safeguarding Ambassadors on culture competence and adultification.

**LeDeR reviews** - 16 deaths of people with learning disabilities were notified to the Learning Disability Learning from Lives and Deaths Programme (LeDeR) in 2021/22. After the very high mortality recorded during the pandemic, this appears more in line with previous years.

**SMART Living project and PainChek app**– Pain scoring artificial app implemented in nursing home as part of SMART living pilot.

**Safeguarding Community Engagement group** – re-established and focussing on Forced Marriage awareness raising amongst Enfield community members.

#### 21. Important areas of work for 2022-23

- Safeguarding Adults Board will establish a “Risks from increased cost of living” group to ensure adults have appropriate essential support, particularly as we approach winter.
- Invite and train 20 members of different Enfield communities to join the multi-agency training on forced marriage.
- Multi-agency Safeguarding Children audits on physical abuse, and cases received by the Children’s MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub)
- Ensuring recommendations from Child Q review are applied in Enfield; with Safeguarding Ambassadors working with partners to ensure their voices steer the improvements we make.

- Continue to make sure our partnership is working well: Safeguarding Adults Partnership assessment with Haringey; independent review of Safeguarding Adults work and Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- Work with North Central London Safeguarding Adults Board to identify improvements in how we response to financial abuse.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

22. 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:
23. For Enfield Council – as lead agency for adults and with joint responsibility with Police and the NHS Integrated Care Board (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group) for Children's 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.
24. For the community - improvements in understanding how to stay safe, how to recognise abuse and how to report it.
25. 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**

26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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**

29. Anti-discriminatory practice is fundamental to the ethical basis of safeguarding and care provision and critical to the protection of people's dignity. The Equality Act protects vulnerable adults and children receiving our care and the workers that provide it from being treated unfairly because of any characteristics that are protected under the legislation. In Fairer Enfield 2021-25, we clearly outline our commitment to the Equality Act and the policy provides clear principles and guidance for staff and service users on how we will ensure we are complying with the Act. This annual report outlines how we

are delivering inclusive services to safeguard adults at risk, children, and families in Enfield.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

30. The Safeguarding Partnership also works across the Council to deliver positive outcomes for vulnerable residents, this includes improving housing conditions, so people are comfortable and safe, as well as improving health outcomes including through active and sustainable transport improvements.

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

31. 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**

32. 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**

33. The financial impact of Covid19 legacy costs on social care as well as the ongoing demographic and cost of living pressures on the children's and adult social care budget are significant. This report is not requesting any additional financial resources and therefore there are no specific implications for the budget of noting the Annual Safeguarding report. However, it is important to note that the costs of safeguarding adults and children services are increasing and this place significant cost pressures on the Council as reflected in the Council's medium term financial strategy.

### **Legal Implications**

34. **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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

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

38. **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.
39. 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.
40. The recommendations set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

### **Workforce Implications**

41. There are significant staffing challenges across adult social care nationally, regionally, and locally. The care sector has vacancies caused by changes in employment patterns, particularly increased competition for domiciliary care staff. We have Social Work and Occupational Therapy vacancies across all teams. The staffing pressures are resulting in increased caseloads for current staff at a time when demand is also increasing, as seen in the Safeguarding Adults concern figures. We are also predicting 25% increased demand for Care Act 2014 assessments because of the social care reforms enacted from April 2023. The rising demand will compound our current difficulties concerning recruitment and retention of permanent staff.

### **Property Implications**

42. None

### **Other Implications**

43. None

### **Options Considered**

44. Producing two annual reports (including these priorities), one for the Safeguarding Adults Board and another for the Safeguarding Children Partnership, was considered.
45. 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**

46. Please note the report.
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Date of report: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1

## **Background Papers**

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

The Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report for 2021/22.