

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Health and Wellbeing Board</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">16<sup>th</sup> January 2020</h3>
<b>Title</b>	Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19
<b>Report of</b>	Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Non Key
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19
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## Summary

The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) is a statutory multi-agency group that meets four times a year and reports annually on its work. The Board was established in 2002 to ensure there is a multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse within Barnet. Following the passing of the Care Act 2014<sup>1</sup>, the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body with a number of legally enforceable duties from April 2015.

The Board's vision is for all adults at risk in Barnet to be safeguarded from abuse and neglect in a way that supports them to make choices and have control about how they want to live.

The Care Act 2014<sup>2</sup> prescribes that 'For each financial year, the Safeguarding Adults Board must publish a strategic plan in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014.

<sup>1</sup> The Care Act 2014 – [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents)

<sup>2</sup> The Care Act 2014 – Schedule 2 - [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/schedule/2](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/schedule/2)

As soon as is feasible after the end of each financial year, an SAB must publish a report on—

- (a) what it has done during that year to achieve its objective,
- (b) what it has done during that year to implement its strategy,
- (c) what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy,
- (d) the findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (safeguarding adults reviews) which have concluded in that year (whether or not they began in that year),
- (e) the reviews arranged by it under that section which are ongoing at the end of that year (whether or not they began in that year),
- (f) what it has done during that year to implement the findings of reviews arranged by it under that section, and
- (g) where it decides during that year not to implement a finding of a review arranged by it under that section, the reasons for its decision.'

The Board's governance arrangements ensure that the Board reports on its work to the Council through the Adults and Safeguarding Committee and, due to the important multi-agency arrangements and the role of health, the Board's Annual Report is noted by the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as each partners executive Board. The report documents the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board in 2018-19. It outlines membership of the Board, work of the Safeguarding Adults Service User Forum and partner agencies, work plan progress and analysis of safeguarding alerts received 2018-19.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

### **Background**

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)<sup>3</sup> places on a statutory footing some of the safeguarding obligations that were previously located in guidance. The Act requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) for their area pursuant to Section 43(1). The Barnet Safeguarding Board was established in 2002 and from 1 April 2015 it adopted the following terms of reference.
- 1.2 The statutory objective of the SAB, prescribed in Section 43(2) of the Act is to help and protect adults in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) who:
  - (a) Have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs),
  - (b) Are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
  - (c) As a result of those needs are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
- 1.3 The SAB must achieve this statutory objective by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.
- 1.4 The SAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving this statutory objective.
- 1.5 The Act prescribes membership of the Board and includes a range of key partners including the Local Authority that establishes the Board, the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Chief Officer of Police, any such persons prescribed in regulations and such other person which the Local Authority considers appropriate having consulted Board members.
- 1.6 For each financial year, the SAB must publish a strategic plan in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act, BSAB refer to the strategic plan as the business plan.
- 1.7 The SAB has to report on its work, via its annual report, to elected members via the Adults and Safeguarding Committee and then to partners and members at the Health and Wellbeing Board. Additionally, each agency represented on the Board will present the business plan to their agency executive Board.

### **SAB Annual Report**

- 1.8 The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report provides details about Safeguarding work carried out by the Board and partners from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. The report outlines membership of the Board, analysis of safeguarding alerts received 2018-19, work of partner agencies and work plan progress.

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<sup>3</sup> The Care Act 2014 – [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents)

- 1.9 During 2018-19 the BSAB published the outcomes of one case and continued to work on a review into another where there were opportunities for learning.

The findings of the completed review were disseminated across the partnership using a [7-minute briefing](#). In addition, Barnet BSAB continues to work closely with safeguarding leads on a national and regional basis to ensure that our strategies, policy and practice guidance is modelled on best practice arising from all relevant SAR findings and research.

- 1.10 Below are key highlights from the annual report:

- 1.11 1,709 Safeguarding Adult concerns were raised in Barnet in 2018/19, an increase of 34 (2%) compared to the total recorded in 2017/18 (1,675). Not all concerns indicate a risk of abuse to an adult. They can instead indicate a need for increased care and support or other help. However, where abuse is suspected, concerns are referred for an investigation according to the London multi-agency safeguarding procedures. Of the 1,709 safeguarding concerns in 2018/19, 722 proceeded to an enquiry. This represents a concern-to-enquiry conversion rate of 42%. This compares with a conversion rate of 40% in 2017/18 and of 28% in 2016/17.

- 1.12 The highest number of safeguarding concerns were raised from those categorised as 'Agency' (28% of the total concerns raised) this is lower than the previous year when they made up for 45% of the total concerns. The term 'Agency' includes organisations such as the NHS, Police and Council adult social care. Of the Agency concerns, the majority were raised by the Police (17% of the 502 concerns raised by 'Agency'). Other NHS raised the second highest number of concerns (12% of the total concerns raised).

- 1.13 Progress against the SAB priorities:

**Priority 1: Establish practice across the partnership agencies which reflect the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) principles**

- 1.13.1 We identified within our strategic plan that we would need to evaluate local knowledge of, and compliance with, MSP and Care Act safeguarding duties. We carried out an audit of adult safeguarding training to seek assurance that providers are compliant with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Care Act duties, including new types of abuse as well as assurance that training materials are compliant with statutory duties and minimum standards for training.

- 1.13.2 In December 2018 Barnet hosted a North Central London (NCL) Challenge and Support audit event (Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Islington and Camden). 37 agencies, including 7 from the Voluntary, Faith and Charity sector completed a self-evaluation of their organisation's ability to recognise and respond effectively to safeguarding risks. Findings were collated and reported to a joint challenge event across the NCL region which brought together all statutory partners to look at the challenges partners face and what good practice could be shared to deal with these issues as. We also held discussions on what could be done internally as well as in partnership

to improve our safeguarding response, considering what the obstacles are and the measures we need to consider. The key themes from NCL partners with regards to support they would like to receive from the BSABs were:

- Sharing information and resources – multi-agency website, easily accessible resources for staff, learning from SARs, training resources
- Joint working – training initiatives, alignment across 5 boroughs
- Supporting partners in the delivery of MSP
- SARs – identifying gaps, more opportunities for learning

1.13.3 In addition, to this work the Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) group received case audit evaluations and reports from agencies on: Mental Capacity Act, repeat safeguarding referrals, modern slavery, homelessness strategy and the police safeguarding reporting (MERLIN).

1.13.4 The BSAB partners now routinely record and report data each quarter in line with the National Safeguarding Adults Collection and MSP outcomes framework for scrutiny by the PQA and onward reporting to the BSAB. This ensures that data and qualitative reports reflect feedback provided by adults who have been supported in line duties under s42 Care Act. This will continue to be reported quarterly to BSAB and it is expected that more partners will be able to contribute to this data as MSP becomes more firmly embedded across partner agencies.

1.13.5 Each quarter, designated safeguarding leads from across BSAB's partner agencies come together to review safeguarding practice in Barnet. In response to members feedback we have themed meetings to ensure that discussions are focused on a specific topic or concern. Each meeting also includes opportunities for designated leads to hear directly from adults at risk through case studies relevant to the topic under discussion and/or questions posed by our service user forum

**Priority 2: Adults at Risk are heard, understood and respected. Their experiences and views shape continuous improvement.**

1.13.6 This priority seeks assurance that the Board partners are involving:

- Adults at risk
- Carers
- Family and friends following consultation with the adult
- Advocate/appropriate adults
- Referrers

1.13.7 In addition, new report development has enabled an improved level of analysis and review of concluded section 42 enquiries by abuse type, source, location and outcome. Furthermore, newly-designed reports have enabled more precise monitoring and audit of safeguarding adults' concerns which have resulted in no further action, which are continuously reviewed.

1.13.8 We carried out a dip sample audit of repeat safeguarding referrals to ensure that the adults were being appropriately safeguarded. The findings showed that the cases reviewed were from different agencies and related to different

events and only one went on to a Section 42 enquiry. This now forms part of the BSAB work programme and the data is presented quarterly within the Integrated Monitoring Report as well as a dip sample audit being carried out every 6 months and reported back to the PQA.

- 1.13.9 We carried out awareness raising with service users on community safety, independent travel, dealing with hate crime on transport, financial abuse and how to stay safe on-line.

**Priority 3: Advance equality of opportunity, including access to justice for 'adults at risk'**

- 1.13.10 The BSAB received bi-annual reports on the Domestic Violence Strategy against Girls and Women action plan.
- 1.13.11 One of the tasks for this year was to engage with GP's and primary health care services to increase uptake of Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) programme. The BBSAB worked with the Community Safety Partnership, Public Health and CCG and the IRIS project team to gain funding to continue the project into year 2. This will ensure that GPs are better informed, offering a safe place to someone who may be at risk of domestic abuse and providing guidance on how they can protect themselves and their families. The IRIS programme for GPs has increased access to legal support for people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 1.13.12 The Local Authority and CCG commission advocates who can support adults and ensure that their voice is heard throughout the safeguarding process or other engagement with services, such as Court Processes, if they lack capacity to understand and participate in them.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 For each financial year, the SAB must publish an annual report in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act. The plan will be published on the Council's website.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The BSAB are required to develop and publish a Strategic Plan as a statutory requirement.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan is a public document which can be accessed through the Council's website. The Board's Annual Report was reported to the Adults and Safeguarding Committee 19<sup>th</sup> September and is

due to be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for noting as well as each partners executive Board.

## **4.2 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

4.2.1 The Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024 outlines the Council's commitment to safeguarding which underpins everything we do and aims to protect the most vulnerable people, both children and adults, from avoidable harm or abuse.

4.2.2 The Corporate Plan strategic objectives states that the Council, working with local, regional and national partners, will strive to ensure that Barnet is the place: -

- Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- Where responsibility is shared, fairly
- Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the tax payer.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

5.1.1 The Council's aim is to work with partners such as the police, the NHS and with residents to ensure that Barnet remains a place where people want to live and where people feel safe.

### **5.1 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The activities listed will be managed within the appropriate organisation's existing budgets.

5.2.2 Safeguarding training is currently provided by the Council's Adults and Communities Delivery Unit and this training is mandatory for all Adults and Communities staff. Safeguarding training is also offered to all care providers commissioned through Adults and Communities and the provision is covered within the Adults and Communities budgets.

5.2.3 The current annual budget for the BSAB is £89,000, which covers the post of Independent Chair and Safeguarding Adults Business Manager as well as the delivery of the Board priorities including training and communications. Each partner has been asked to provide a contribution towards Board costs; so far the following contributions have been agreed:

Table 1: BSAB Partner Financial Contributions 2018/19

<b>Statutory Partner</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
London Borough of Barnet	£53,500

Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group	£20,000
Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust	£5,000
Metropolitan Police	£5,000
Central London Community Health	£5,000
<b>Non-statutory Partner</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
London Fire Brigade	£500

### 5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The BSAB supports the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 by ensuring that robust safeguarding procedures are in place throughout the borough. The council ensures that care providers commissioned to work with adults accessing social care services have the required skills and training to support effective safeguarding throughout the borough and the Board aims to publicise the key issues surrounding safeguarding within the Borough to strengthen the public's awareness of safeguarding issues.

### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)<sup>4</sup> places on a statutory footing some of the safeguarding obligations that were previously located in guidance. The Act requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) for their area pursuant to Section 43(1).

5.4.2 For each financial year, the SAB must publish an annual report in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act. The plan will be published on the Council's website.

5.4.3 The responsibilities of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee are contained within the Council's Constitution – Article 7, section 7.5. Specific responsibilities of those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to adult social care include the following specific function:

- Responsibility for all matters relating to vulnerable adults, adult social care and leisure services.
- Working with partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that social care interventions are effectively and seamlessly joined up with public health and healthcare, and promote the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its associated sub strategies.
- Ensuring that the local authority's safeguarding responsibilities are taken into account.

### 5.5 Risk Management

5.5.3 A failure to keep adults at risk of abuse safe from avoidable harm represents not only a significant risk to residents but also to the reputation of the Council. Although safeguarding must be the concern of all agencies working with vulnerable adults, the Local Authority is the lead agency. As such, both members and senior officers carry a level of accountability for safeguarding

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<sup>4</sup> The Care Act 2014 – [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents)



practice in Barnet. Governance structures are in place to ensure that other lead stakeholders, including the NHS and the police, are represented to ensure that practice across the partnership meets safeguarding requirements.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.3 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision making in the Council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the Council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to the equality duties when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day to day business requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review.

5.6.4 Section 149 of the Act imposes a duty on 'public authorities' and other bodies when exercising public functions to have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

5.6.5 The annual report provides progress against the business plan 2018-19 which was the first year of the 2018-21 Strategic Plan Our key priorities are:

- Establish consistent practice across partnership agencies which reflect the 'Making Safeguarding Personal' principles'
- Adults at risk' are heard and understood and their experiences and views shape continuous improvement
- Advance equality of opportunity, including access to justice for 'Adults at Risk'

5.6.6 The Care Act Guidance identifies discriminatory abuse as a specific form of abuse which includes harassment because of race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 The report will assist us in identifying any improvements that need to be made to our services or, to policy and procedure. This will be done in full consultation with relevant groups before any changes are recommended and implemented.

5.7.2 The SAB has to report on its work to elected members via the Adults and Safeguarding Committee and then to partners and members at the Health and Wellbeing Board. Additionally, each agency represented on the Board will present the annual report to their agency executive Board.

## **5.8 Insight**

5.8.1 The annual report was developed using insight from the Local Authority Mosaic system and contributions from the SAB partners.

## **5.9 Corporate Parenting**

5.9.1 No implications applicable in the context of this report.

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 [Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-18 – Adults and Safeguarding Committee 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018:](#)
- 6.2 Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17 – Adults and Safeguarding Committee 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017:  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s42236/Barnet%20Safeguarding%20Adults%20Board%20Annual%20Report%202016-17.pdf>
- 6.3 Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16 – Adults and Safeguarding Committee 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016:  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34547/Barnet%20Multi-Agency%20Safeguarding%20Adults%20Board%20Annual%20Report%201516%20Cover%20Report%20v04.pdf>
- 6.4 [Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Business Plan 2016-18 – Adults and Safeguarding Committee 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Item 10 Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Business Plan 2016-18](#)
- 6.5 [Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15 – Adults and Safeguarding Committee 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – Item 7 Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15](#)