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<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Safeguarding Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults Peer Review</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Adult Services</b>
<b>Summary</b>	This report outlines the findings of a Peer Review on adult safeguarding in Barnet. Peer Review has replaced CQC inspection of adult social services departments, and is an important part of quality assurance of safeguarding.

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Officer Contributors	Dawn Wakeling, Adults and Communities Director Sue Smith, Safeguarding Adults Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not applicable
Function of	Not applicable
Enclosures	None
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## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment upon the contents of this report**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2011/12.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2013-16 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. For example, the priority area: "To promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities". 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. These priorities are reflected in the Adults and Communities business plan.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 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 lead agency. As such, both members and senior officers carry a level of accountability for safeguarding practice in Barnet. Governance structures are in place to ensure that other lead stakeholders, including health and the police, are represented to ensure that practice across the partnership meets safeguarding requirements.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 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.

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 6.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 Adult safeguarding is led by the local authority, based on the 'No Secrets' Guidance 2000 issued by the Department of Health under section 7 of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970. The Government's draft Care and Support Bill published in July 2012 will put Safeguarding Adults responsibilities and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) on a statutory footing.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)**

- 8.1 The scope of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Article 6 of the Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee have within its terms of reference the following responsibilities:
- To scrutinise the Council and its partners in the discharge of statutory duties in relation to safeguarding.
  - To scrutinise Barnet's Safeguarding Adults Board and any relevant Sub-Groups, including policies, procedures and performance through consideration of the Board's Annual Report.
  - To scrutinise the provision of Adult Social Care services (including those who have physical disabilities, sensory impairment, learning disabilities, mental health needs or other special needs) to ensure that residents are safeguarded and supported to lead as independent lives as possible in their own homes

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 In March 2013, Adults and Communities played undertook a Local Government Association/Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (LGA/ADASS) Peer Review, which reviewed our approach to safeguarding and the Safeguarding Adults Board. Many staff from Adults and Communities and from the wider safeguarding partnership took part in this review which was the first of its kind in London and the ninth nationally.
- 9.2 Peer review has replaced CQC inspection of adult social services departments. The review judged our work against the national LGA/ADASS safeguarding standards (appendix 1).
- 9.3 The Peer Review Team were on site for three days and included Dr Adi Cooper, Director of Social Services at Sutton and ADASS national safeguarding lead and Cathie Williams, LGA national safeguarding lead.
- 9.4 The peer review team focused particularly on two of the Standards' themes:
- Outcomes and experiences for people.
  - The Safeguarding Adults Board and working together.

9.5 In order to assess how well we were meeting these standards, the team reviewed key documentation in advance of their visit. This included documents such as our safeguarding adults strategy, work plan, annual report, Board minutes and Overview and Scrutiny Reports. Once on site, they interviewed staff at all levels of the organisation, including all of our partners. They also interviewed individuals and groups including the Board and the Safeguarding Adults User Forum. They observed our safeguarding practice such as contacts, interviews and responses with service users, supervision of staff, and the risk panel and practice forums. On the final day they gave their feedback in the form of a presentation to all those who had taken part and facilitated an action planning workshop to help identify further improvements.

9.6 The peer review team were very positive about what they observed and identified a number of strengths. The reviewers said people they met were open, honest, enthusiastic and that staff and people using services were committed to safeguarding adults. We have been asked to share some of our good practice nationally and be part of a national project as a result. Where they made suggestions for us to consider, the review team stated this was to support us to go 'further and faster' on our journey as opposed to addressing weakness, thus recognising the foundations of good practice we have laid.

### 9.7 **Strengths**

The findings of the review are summarised below. Peer review feedback is given via a workshop presentation as opposed to a written report.

#### 9.7.1 **Outcomes and Experiences of Individuals**

The findings of the review are summarised below. Peer review feedback is given via a workshop presentation as opposed to a written report.

- Barnet focuses on outcomes for users and carers although this could be strengthened to put people fully in control of their safeguarding problem.
- The involvement of people using services is valued.
- Safeguarding and personalisation are integrated.
- Barnet has a 'one team approach' to safeguarding in adult social care.
- Safeguarding is quality assured by an integral Practice governance framework. This means:
  - Practitioners are well supported by managers, specialists, each other, the risk panel and safeguarding champions in teams.
  - There are on-going learning and improvement opportunities and feedback loops via case file audit, interviews with a forum of people using services and professional practice forums.
  - Staff are enthusiastic, with a professional approach and genuinely wanting to develop social work practice.

### 9.7.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board

- The Board demonstrates strong multi-agency ownership of safeguarding.
- The Board is a learning partnership (learning from national, London and local lessons).
- There is effective leadership of the Board.
- Partners feel held to account by the Board.
- The Board accounts to its population through its annual report and responds to people who need safeguarding.
- There is some excellent communication material, some compiled with people using services.
- Safeguarding is a strategic priority for the council and some partners.
- There are good examples of innovative practice in prevention in the community.

9.8 The Peer Review Team have also asked us to take part in the next phase of a national safeguarding best practice project 'Making Safeguarding Personal' and national Department of Health research into self-neglect.

The Peer Review team have also identified some of our good practice that they have asked us to share nationally via the LGA:

- The work of the Safeguarding Adults Service User Forum.
- Our work on gathering and developing feedback from users to improve people's experience of safeguarding.
- Our communications and website.
- Our social work practice governance framework.

### 9.9 Outcomes and Experiences of Individuals

The Peer Review team identified the following areas for consideration.

- To develop a greater range of interventions post-investigation that help users to resolve difficult situations with their families/networks, such as family conferencing.
- Continuous improvement of consistency of good practice in adult social care including service users controlling their investigations when is it their choice.
- For all partners to apply the range of legislation consistently (Mental Capacity Act, Human Rights Act, Best Interest Assessor, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, domestic abuse).

### 9.9.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board

- The Board and partners need to improve effective links especially with community safety, substance misuse services and the NHS Barnet links with the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- The Board needs to ensure there are no conflicts of interests between the investigating function and the provision function of any organisation.
- The Board needs to drive closer working between safeguarding investigations, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to improve access to justice for victims.
- The Board to lead ownership of service quality by all partners, so some recurring quality issues that are currently addressed via individual investigations can be dealt with at the root cause level. The management of pressure sores across health and social care is an example.

9.10 The findings of the review have been shared with the Cabinet member, Council senior management team, staff, partners, the Safeguarding Adults Board and are due to be presented to the next User Forum. Adults and Communities had already started working on things that will address the areas for consideration, such as the new Quality in Care Homes Team and Practice Governance Team. We are in the process of starting a joint project with the NHS to improve quality in care homes and work on pressure sores. We have already commissioned training on family conferencing, an intervention for working with families to resolve difficult situations. Work with partners to improve the way all local agencies apply the Mental Capacity Act and the Human Rights Act in relation to vulnerable adults will be developed and monitored through the Safeguarding Adults Board.

## 10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

<b>Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>LC</b>