

	<h2>Health and Wellbeing Board</h2> <h3>12 November 2015</h3>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Reports</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Independent Chair of BSCB and SAB
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1 – Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15 Appendix 2 – Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15
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## Summary

This Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and comment on the annual reports of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board and of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Barnet. National guidance states that the annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles.

The report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action (HMG Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015). The BSCB annual report was formally accepted by the BSCB at the meeting on 10 September 2015.

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency group that meets four times a year

and reports annually on its work to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The SAB annual report documents the work of the SAB in 2014-15. It outlines membership of the Board, work of the Safeguarding Adults User Forum, work plan progress and analysis of safeguarding alerts received during 2014-15 and priorities for 2014-16.

From April 2015 and the implementation of the Care Act in 2014, the Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body with a number of legally enforceable duties including the publishing of an annual report. The report submitted here concerns the period prior to the implementation of the 2014 Act.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes and comments on the Annual Reports of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) attached at Appendix 1 and 2.**

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

#### **1.1 Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report**

1.1.1 The annual report of the BSCB and bringing it to this committee fulfils the statutory requirement under the Children Act 2004:

- To report on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services;
- Identify areas of weakness, causes of those weaknesses and action plans for improvement.

1.1.2 Safeguarding activity is a core element of the Council and it is in keeping with the Section 19 of the Children Act 2014 that the Lead Member of Children's Services (LMCS) has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. They are responsible for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed. Safeguarding plays a key role here.

1.1.3 There are three statutory roles: the Lead Member of Children's Services (LMCS), the Director for Children's Services (DCS) and the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Chair of the LSCB is an independent appointment charged with holding all agencies to account. The LMCS has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The Director for Children's Services (DCS) post has the professional responsibility for children's services. Together they are responsible for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed, and ensuring that there are clear and effective arrangements to protect children and young people from harm.

1.1.4 The Safeguarding Children Board's Annual report was noted by the Communities, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on the 21st

September and must also be submitted to the Children's Trust Board and Police and Crime Commissioner.

## **1.2 Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report**

1.2.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report provides details about safeguarding work carried out within Adults and Communities from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. This period predates the implementation of the Care Act 2014. The report outlines membership of the Board, work of the Safeguarding Adults User Forum, work plan progress and analysis of safeguarding alerts received during 2014-15. The Board is chaired by an Independent person, Chris Miller.

1.2.2 Since 2000 and the publication of "No Secrets", the local authority has been required to take a leading co-ordinating role with all relevant organisations on safeguarding adults in its area, and with the implementation of the Care Act 2014 this has now been placed on a statutory footing for the first time. The Care Act 2014 came into effect from April 2015 and therefore does not cover this reporting period, however preparations have been put in place to ensure the Board are compliant with the statutory legislations for future reports.

1.2.3 The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report was noted by the Adults and Safeguarding Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Additionally, each agency represented on the Board will present the report to their agency executive Board.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The report provides the Board with the opportunity of considering the safeguarding of children and adults at risk in Barnet and the work of the Children's Board and Adults Board.

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

3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 The annual reports provide details of each Boards priorities and challenges which will be progressed through the business arrangements during 2015/16. The report will be circulated to the Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the LBB Chief Executive.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **1.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

1.1.1 The council, working with local, regional and national partners, will strive to ensure that Barnet is a place of opportunity, that people are helped to help themselves and where services are delivered effectively. The table below demonstrates how activity taking place within safeguarding children contributes to these corporate priorities.

Corporate priority	
Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life	Safeguarding plays a key role in ensuring that children and young people in Barnet are able to enjoy a safe childhood and reach their potential
Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure	This report details preventative activity taking place across Family Service, which helps to ensure that children are safeguarded from harm.
Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer	Effectively safeguarding children and young people and intervening at as early a stage as possible helps to reduce the need for higher tier, more expensive services.

1.1.2 The Corporate Plan 2015-20 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.

1.1.3 The Corporate Plan strategic objectives 2015-20 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.

1.1.4 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.

1.1.5 Legislation from the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) serve to support the corporate objectives specifically, that Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life and one of the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board objectives, as outlined in the Safeguarding Adults Board Business Plan 2014-15 is to "improve the understanding of service providers of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards".

1.1.6 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has two overarching aims "keeping well" and "keeping independent" and the council's commitment to ensuring that we safeguard and protect the most vulnerable people within the Borough from avoidable harm or abuse supports the strategy and its success within the London Borough of Barnet.

1.1.7 The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15 provides the

public with an overview of the work that has been carried out by the Board through throughout 2014-15. This information helps to inform Barnet's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which provides an opportunity to explore and understand the needs of service users of the health and social care system and to understand and map key health trends locally.

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

1.2.1 The Annual Report of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has been produced as part of the work of the board and outlines the resources available to the Board to co-ordinate and manage the Board's business. The board is funded by the London Borough of Barnet and from contributions from partner organisations. The current annual budget of the BSCB is £163,100, which includes the contributions made by partner agencies, of which the local authority contribution is £98,000. Most of the budget covers staffing requirements including the Independent Chair of BSCB.

1.2.2 The current annual budget for the Safeguarding Adults Board is £91,285 most of which covers specialist safeguarding posts and the post of independent Chair, training for the health and social care workforce, plus any costs associated with statutory safeguarding adult reviews. Each partner has been asked to provide a contribution towards Board costs, so far contributions have been agreed with the CCG and BEH Mental Health Trust.

## **1.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

1.3.1 The new Commissioning Director, as the statutory Director of Children's Services, is now a member of board. The Lead Member for Children's Services also attends the Board as a participating observer, in accordance with the statutory guidance for this role. This is in order to ensure that the BSCB can properly hold the Council to account and that the Lead Member can hold the independent chair to account for the effective working of the Board.

1.3.2 The Children's Act 2004 s13 requires a local authority to establish a local safeguarding children board, including the involvement of prescribed statutory partner agencies. S.14A requires that at least once every 12 months, a report is prepared and published about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The Working Together 2015 guidance provides further detail on the recommended content of this report.

1.3.3 Adult Safeguarding is led by the local authority, based on the 'No Secrets' Guidance 200 issued by the Department of Health under section 7 of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970. This is the relevant guidance in place during the timeframe of this report.

1.3.4 The Care Act 2014 came into effect in April 2015. One of the elements of the Act is the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board has now become a statutory body with a number of legally enforceable duties.

1.3.5 As in Annex A of the Responsibility for Functions, in the Council's Constitution, the HWBB has responsibility:

- To directly address health inequalities through its strategies and have a specific responsibility for regeneration and development as they relate to health and care. To champion the commissioning of services and activities across the range of responsibilities of all partners in order to achieve this
- To receive assurance from all relevant commissioners and providers on matters relating to the quality and safety of services for users and patients
- Specific responsibilities for overseeing public health and developing further health and social care integration.

4.3.6 Work with partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that social care interventions are effectively joined up with public health and healthcare and promote the Health and Well Being Strategy and its associated sub strategies.

#### **1.4 Risk Management**

1.4.1 Not receiving this report would present a risk to the Committee in that they would not be providing a mechanism for the Independent Chair to present the annual report to the Council.

#### **1.5 Equalities and Diversity**

1.5.1 Equalities and Diversity considerations are a key element of safeguarding work pursuant to s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups and foster good relations between people from different groups. The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

1.5.2 Barnet's diverse population of children and young people is taken into account in the design and delivery of services to safeguard children. There are more children from all Black and Minority Ethnic groups in the 0– 9 age group, than there are White children in Barnet. Children and young people in the 10 – 19 age groups are predominantly White. The highest proportion of people from BAME groups are found in the 0-4 age group (55.4%). In terms of religious diversity, Jewish and Muslim population make up over a quarter of the total population of Barnet.

1.5.3 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 the 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.

- 1.5.4 54% of adults referred for safeguarding services were over the age of 65. 60% of these older adults were aged 85 or over. This largely reflects the age profile of Barnet service users receiving a care package. 38% of older people referred have dementia.

Table 1: Primary Client Group Referred

Primary Client Group	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Older People	63%	56%	54%
Learning Disability	12%	20%	20%
Mental Health	16%	15%	17%
Physical Disability & Sensory	8%	9%	9%

- 1.5.5 The proportion of alerts involving white residents (74.1%) is very similar to last year and remains representative of the adult social care client base. The number of alerts involving Asian/Asian British adults (64 alerts) has increased by 2% from 2013/14; however, alerts involving this group remain below that which would be expected, based on service user demographics. The number of alerts involving Black/Black British residents has fallen from levels reported in 2013/14 and has returned to those seen in 2012/13. Based on general Adult Social Care figures, the proportion of alerts involving Black/Black British adults is slightly lower than might be expected.

Table 2: Ethnicity of Adults at risk referred

Primary Client Group	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
White	481	423	565
Asian/Asian British	38	36	64
Black/Black British	28	51	38
Mixed ethnic origin	9	6	8
Any other origin	25	13	16
Not Known	25	33	71

- 1.5.6 4.5.6 As seen in previous years, there were more referrals concerning women. 456 alerts related to female adults at risk, compared with 296 males. The proportion of alerts concerning female adults at risk, remained at 61%.
- 1.5.7 The Adults Safeguarding Board Business Plan 2014-16 aims to address the disproportionate impact of the different groups with protected characteristics in regards to safeguarding and one of the ways the plan aims to achieve this is through training.

## 1.6 Consultation and Engagement

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

## **1.7 Social Value**

1.7.1 Not applicable

## **1.8 Insight**

1.8.1 The report has been informed by the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15 and Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014-15.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children March 2015:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

6.2 Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-15, Adults and Safeguarding Committee, 16 September 2015, item 7:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=698&MId=8360&Ver=4>

6.3 Annual Report of Barnet Safeguarding Board, Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 21 September 2015, item 12:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=697&MId=8258&Ver=4>