

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Adults and Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">17 September 2020</h3>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Joyce Mbewe, Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager</p> <p>Tel: 0208-359 5737</p>

## Summary

The Local Authority is required (by virtue of s.43 Care Act 2014) to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board ['SAB'] for their area. Each SAB must publish an annual report setting out details of what it has done to achieve objectives within the strategic plan and steps taken to implement the learning from and Safeguarding Adults Reviews undertaken during the period.

This annual report sets out in the first section the level and types of abuse that were reported for investigation during the 2019-20, whilst the second section details the work of Barnet SAB, including the steps taken to implement the strategic plan. There is also an attached executive summary, designed to be displayed as a poster in order that we are able to raise awareness of the work of Barnet SAB but also the on-going risks faced by those with care and support needs in Barnet.

Whilst we would recommend reading the document in full, members may be particularly interested to know that our final meeting of the year explored what steps each partner agency had taken to protect our most vulnerable residents from the risks posed by the Coronavirus outbreak. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place at the end of March. Given the operational needs at the time, it was agreed that essential business would be agreed virtually and the full meeting would be postponed until May 2020. At that time, partners provided assurance on the innovations and extraordinary steps taken to anticipate safeguarding risks and identify, respond and report all safeguarding issues during this period. More details will be given in next year's report, but by way of a few examples:

- The Coronavirus Act 2020 did not provide for any 'easement' of safeguarding responsibility for the SAB or partner agencies. As such it was very much 'business as usual'. BSAB sought and received assurance that safeguarding remained a priority and that partners were working in a coordinated way to address the likely risk that lockdown presented and the anticipated surge in safeguarding concerns as lockdown is eased. LBB's Adult Social Care dept, our Public Health team, BEH NHS Trust and the CCG provided assurance reports on steps taken to reduce risk for adults with care and support needs.
- In March, a working group of SAB partners met to seek assurance partners were working together to protect those at risk and experiencing multi-exclusion homelessness ['MEH']. Since then we have had a very rapid response (locally and nationally) to ensure people are provided with safe accommodation. There has also been guidance issued calling for a partnership response to take advantage of the opportunity to re-homing rough sleepers. The operational working group leading this work continues to report and receive support from BSAB.
- BSAB continued, throughout the period, to disseminate information to staff from across the partnership regarding safeguarding duties and the way in which duties to provide care and support were changing because of the exceptional risks posed for those within the 'shielding' category. We raised awareness of new scams/ types of abuse relating to the virus that were emerging and provided information of how to recognise and respond to risks for those with care and support needs.
- In addition, working with London SAB, we reviewed arrangements for protecting care home residents within the borough.

## **Officers Recommendations**

- 1. That the Adults and Safeguarding Committee comment on the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20.**

**2. That the Committee note that following the Adults and Safeguarding Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Annual Report will be published on the Council website.**

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

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)<sup>1</sup> requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adult Board 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 Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and community organisations. BSAB purpose is to enable partner agencies to review practice across the entire 'system' and provide positive cross agency challenge to encourage accountability and strengthen a culture of continuous improvement. It is a very active partnership with commitment from across the statutory, voluntary and community based organisations.
- 1.3 The SAB's governance arrangements ensure that it reports 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.

## **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 annual report will be published on the Council's website.

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

- 3.1 Given the exceptional operational pressures on partner agencies during the Coronavirus outbreak, guidance was issued by the Department for Health and Social Care to SAB Independent Chairs enabling them to make the decision not to publish a report this year. The Independent Chair, in consultation with SAB partners, decided this would not be acceptable as it remains crucially important to provide local reassurance that safeguarding activities continue to operate effectively and provide opportunities for local scrutiny of the work and effectiveness of the SAB.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan and annual report is a public document which can be accessed through the Council's website. The Board's Annual Report will also be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board for noting as well as each partners executive Board.

### **4.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

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

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.

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 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.

### 5.2 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 £95,500, 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 2019/20

<b>Statutory Partner</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
London Borough of Barnet	£60,000
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>2</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

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 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

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

5.6.1 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.

5.6.2 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

5.6.3 The annual report provides progress against the business plan 2018-19 which was the second 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'

5.6.4 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 The Adults Safeguarding Board works closely with the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership. It recognises the need for everyone to 'think family' when addressing their

safeguarding functions. To this end BSAB co-hosted a meeting during 2019-20 to seek assurance on the steps taken by the Council and partners to assist young people transitioning to adulthood who may be at risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect. At this meeting partners explored opportunities for practice improvement and this remains a key priority within the 2020-21 workplan.

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board strategic plan 2018-21 available at:  
[https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bsab\\_strategy\\_2018-21\\_final\\_v2\\_comms\\_0.pdf](https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bsab_strategy_2018-21_final_v2_comms_0.pdf)