

	<h2>Health and Wellbeing Board</h2> <h3>1st October 2020</h3>
Title	Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20
Report of	Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A: Summary Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20 Appendix B: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20
Officer Contact Details	Joyce Mbewe Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager Tel: 020 8359 2519
<h2>Summary</h2>	
<p>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, provide details of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews undertaken during the period and steps taken to implement the learning from these.</p> <p>This annual report sets out in the first section the level and types of abuse that were reported for investigation during 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 and highlight the importance of safeguarding people with care and support needs who may be at risk in Barnet.</p> <p>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</p>	

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 Annual Report, but by way of a few examples:

- The Coronavirus Act 2020 did not change any of our collective statutory safeguarding duties 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 potential risk that lockdown presented and the potential for a surge in safeguarding concerns as lockdown eased. LBB's Adult Social Care department, the Public Health team, BEH Mental Health Trust and the NCL 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 that organisations 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. We raised awareness of new scams / types of abuse relating to the virus that were emerging, provided information of how to recognise and respond to risks of domestic abuse for those with care and support needs, and the potential safeguarding risks for those who were shielding.
- In addition, working with the London SAB, we reviewed arrangements for protecting care home residents within the borough

Recommendations

- 1. That the Board note the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20.**
- 2. That the Board note that the Annual Report will be published on the Council website.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act) 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.
- 1.2 The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and community organisations. BSAB's 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 partner's 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

- 4.1 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.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

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

The Corporate Plan strategic objectives state 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.

5.2 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

SAB's existing budget.

5.2.2 Safeguarding training is currently provided by the Council's Adults and Health Directorate and this training is mandatory for all adult social care staff in the council. Safeguarding training is also offered to all care providers commissioned by the council and the provision is covered within the Adults and Health budget.

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

Statutory Partner	Contribution
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
Non-statutory Partner	Contribution
London Fire Brigade	£500

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)¹ 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.

¹ The Care Act 2014 – www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents

5.4.3 The responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board are contained within the Council's Constitution – Article 7, which includes

- To promote partnership and, as appropriate, integration, across all necessary areas, including the use of joined-up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care and public health. To explore partnership work across North Central London where appropriate.
- Specific responsibilities for:
 - Overseeing public health
 - Developing further health and social care integration.

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 and relevant safeguarding partner agencies. 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

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 2018-21 SAB 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 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 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.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 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.

5.8.2 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.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 The annual report was developed using insight from the adult social care case management system and contributions from the SAB partners.

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