



Adults and Safeguarding Committee

14th September 2021

Title	Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21
Report of	Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 20-21
Officer Contact Details	Joyce Mbewe, Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager e-mail: joycembewe@barnet.gov.uk Tel: 0208-359 2519

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 its strategic plan and steps taken to implement the learning from any 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 2020-21 period, 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 to raise awareness of the work of Barnet SAB and the importance of safeguarding for those with care and support needs in Barnet.

Committee members will be aware that 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 Covid 19 restrictions presented and the anticipated surge in safeguarding concerns as restrictions are eased. LBB's Adult Social Care Service, Barnet Homes, the Public Health team, NCL CCG, Royal Free, CLCH and BEH NHS Trusts, LFB and the BSAB partners from the voluntary sector provided assurance reports on steps taken to reduce risk for adults with care and support needs.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Adults and Safeguarding Committee note the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21.**
- 2. That the Committee note that following the Adults and Safeguarding Committee meeting, the Annual Report will be published on the Council website and BSAB webpages.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)¹ 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.

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

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 for 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 and following this Committee meeting, will be published on 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

The work of the Barnet SAB supports the council's corporate plan priorities under the healthy theme, especially in the areas of supporting residents to stay independent, integrated care and tackling domestic abuse.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

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

5.1.1 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.

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

5.1.3 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 2020-21

Statutory Partner	Contribution
London Borough of Barnet	£60,000
Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group	£20,000
Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health	£5,000

Trust	
Metropolitan Police	£5,000
Central London Community Health	£5,000
Non-statutory Partner	Contribution
London Fire Brigade	£500

5.2 Social Value

5.2.1 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.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)² 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 and partner agencies, including statutory safeguarding partners (namely the police and NHS). 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

² The Care Act 2014 – www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents

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 business plan 2018-21 which was the third 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. The two partnerships also have mechanisms in place to coordinate on work priorities arising from case reviews where they impact on respective safeguarding duties.

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