



## Safer Communities Partnership Board Scrutiny Committee

<b>Title</b>	<b>Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Report of</b>	Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A - Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 22-23
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<b>Summary</b>	
<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 its strategic plan and steps taken to implement the learning from and Safeguarding Adults Reviews undertaken during the period.</p>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Safer Communities Partnership Board and Scrutiny Sub-Committee note the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23.</li></ol>	
<b>1. Reasons for the Recommendations</b>	

- 1.1 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. The Care Act 2014 (the Act) requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adult Board for area pursuant to Section 43(1).
- 1.2 The Barnet Safeguarding Board was established in 2002 and from 1 April 2015 was placed on a statutory footing. The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and community organisations. The 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 BSAB's governance arrangements ensure that it reports work to the Council through the Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee and, due to the important multi-agency arrangements and the role of health, the Board's Annual Report is also noted by the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as each partners' Executive Board.

## **2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended**

- 2.1 Non-Applicable

## **3. Post Decision Implementation**

- 3.1 The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan and annual report is a public document and following the Adults & Health Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, will be published on the Council's website.  
  
The Board's Annual Report is reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board for noting as well as each partners' Executive Board.

## **4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations**

### **Corporate Plan**

- 4.1 The work of the Barnet SAB supports the council's Our Plan for Barnet priorities under the Living Well theme, especially in the areas of delivering a multi-agency response to supporting residents to stay safe and independent, integrated care and tackling domestic abuse.

### **Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures**

#### **Sustainability**

- 4.2 The BSAB works across statutory, third sector and providers to deliver improvements in safeguarding practice. We actively consider how to engage with the public and practitioners in a sustainable way to reduce abuse and neglect. Our actions seek to reduce prevent harm before it occurs and thereby reduce demand on vital services.

## **Corporate Parenting**

4.3 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. The Board also continues to champion Transitional Safeguarding regionally and nationally.

## **Risk Management**

4.4 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 represented to ensure that practice across the partnership meets safeguarding requirements.

## **Insight**

4.5 This year the annual report has complimented our usual report with case studies to try to bring to life the everyday practice from across the partnership to identify possible abuse or neglect and work collectively with the adult so that responses are person-centred and effective in reduction risk.

4.6 Effective quality assurance drives continuous improvement and is recognised as a critical function of the BSAB. The Performance Quality Assurance (PQA) Subgroup of the BSAB provides assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place and work effectively, and risks and concerns are escalated to the Independent Chair and BSAB. The group meets quarterly to review safeguarding performance via an integrated monitoring report which reviews data and key performance indicators from across the partnership.

- a) As a result of their quality assurance activity, the PQA subgroup is well placed to identify gaps in workforce learning across the partnership or areas which requires increased public awareness. This information feeds directly into the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board's workplan by assisting us to identify topics to cover within our monthly 'Lunch and Learn' sessions. These sessions are bitesize webinars for practitioners across our partnership workforce, held each month. We welcomed anyone working within voluntary, community, faith organisation and statutory bodies who support adults to stay safe to attend these free lunchtime sessions.
- b) Quality of data has been considered and during 2022-23 the BSAB continued to review the data collected with commitment from the performance team and from partner agencies. Our independent Chair was also actively involved. We were able to analyse data and identify trends and themes to guide the work of the BSAB and identify important changes in partnership representation.

- c) The Business Intelligence & Performance Insights produce quarterly data, and their Senior Business Intelligence & Performance Analyst participates in the meeting and discuss the data.

### **Social Value**

- 4.7 The BSAB supports the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 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. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)**

- 5.1 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 Safeguarding training is currently provided by the Council’s Communities, Adults and Health Directorate and this training is mandatory for all Communities, Adults and Health staff. Safeguarding training is also offered to all care providers commissioned through Communities, Adults and Health and the provision is covered within the directorate’s budget.
- 5.3 The current annual budget for the BSAB is £95,000, 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 is asked to provide a contribution towards Board costs, for 2022-23 this was:

Table 1: BSAB Partner Financial Contributions 2022-23

<b>Statutory Partner</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
London Borough of Barnet	£60,000
NCL Integrated Care Board	£20,000
Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust	£5,000
Metropolitan Police	£5,000
Central London Community Health	£5,000

## **6. Legal Implications and Constitution References**

- 6.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)<sup>1</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).

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

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The terms of reference for The Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee includes that it shall perform the overview and scrutiny role and function in relation to:
- All matters as they relate to Adults Social Care
  - Reviewing and scrutinising, matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Barnet including inviting the relevant Chief Executive(s) of NHS organisations to account for the work of their organisation (s) as set out and required by the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and related primary and secondary legislation

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 The BSAB had agreed they needed to draw on the expertise and established network within our diverse communities to better understand how different types of risk affect diverse communities and what BSAB partners need to do differently to improve awareness, identification, reporting of safeguarding concerns and access to support within those communities.
- 7.2 The SAB has to report on its work to Elected Members via the Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub- 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.

## **8. Equalities and Diversity**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 The annual report provides progress against the business plan 2022-23. 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'.

8.4 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.

## **9. Background Papers**

9.1 None