



Scrutiny Committee
24 February 2016

**Report from the Independent Chair of the
Safeguarding Adults Board**

For Action

Wards affected:
ALL

**Report from Brent Safeguarding Adults Board in relation to
proposed governance arrangements**

1.0 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Independent Chair to present the Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report for 2014-15.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee reviews and notes the contents of the LSCB annual report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 This report covers the year prior to the Care Act's implementation in April 2015 and the statutory duty for the Council to establish a safeguarding adults board. The report sets the profile of abuse faced by those in need of care and support and how well agencies, including the Council's Safeguarding Adults team are at meeting the needs of those who are at risk or experiencing abuse and neglect. It also benchmarks data against national comparators as well as detailing how the profile has changed over recent years.

3.2 Of note is the significant rise, year on year, in the number of safeguarding concerns referred for investigation. This has risen from 435 in 2010-11 to 1720 last year. 33% of referrals required full investigation in 2014-15 and 367 were concluded during that period.

3.3 Of those concluded enquiries 40% related to individuals not already known to social care services and 48% were raised by members of the public. This demonstrates a high level of public awareness in Brent

about the types of risks and processes for addressing safeguarding concerns.

- 3.4** Professionals in Brent, particularly when compared to national comparators, also demonstrate a good understanding of the legal principles which are central to safeguarding interventions, for example mental capacity considerations.
- 3.5** The type of harm reported in Brent is broadly similar to the national picture, with physical abuse the principle concern of concluded enquiries during the period (33%). A further 27.5% of concluded enquiries related to concerns about neglect or acts of omission. Similarly the location of abuse corresponds to the picture nationally, with 43% occurring in the person's own home. There has been a slight reduction in allegations of abuse occurring in residential care settings, (28% in 2014-15, against 36% nationally and 31% reported in 2013-14). This suggests that the preventative actions to improve quality of care within residential settings have had a positive impact.
- 3.6** Pages 15-20 of the report sets out actions taken by the Board in 2014-15 to drive forward continued improvements.
- 3.7** There is also a brief summary on page 21 reporting the significant challenge faced in Brent to meet the legal duties under the Deprivation of Safeguards Procedures.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Care Act 2014 requires Brent Council to establish a LSAB and provides for accountability of the Independent Chair to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None

Background Papers

The Care Act 2014

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance (most notably chapter 14)

Appendixes

1. LSAB Annual Report

Contacts

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Delegated functions to director Part 4

Strategic Director Adults :

Statutory Director of Adult Social Services, health, adult physical disability, learning disability, mental health services, services to older people, emergency duty team, asylum in so far as it is not a housing matter, [safeguarding responsibilities](#), adult social care complaints, and any other function listed in Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 not delegated to the Strategic Director Children and Young People.

In addition it is proposed to recognise the Adults Safeguarding Board within the Council's Constitution by amending the Constitution so as to include the following wording:

Articles Part 2

Local Safeguarding Adults Board

The Care Act 2014 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adults Board, to be made up of representatives from the agencies and bodies which have regular contact with adults in need of care and support or responsibilities for services to them in the local area.

(b) The Brent Local Safeguarding Adults Board will be the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in the London Borough of Brent will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk of or experiencing abuse and neglect in the area, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what the agencies do.

(c) Objectives of the Board: to improve local safeguarding arrangements and ensure partnerships act to help and protect adults at risk of or experiencing neglect and/or abuse.

(i) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults at risk in the London Borough of Brent; and

(ii) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

(d) Terms of Reference of the Board:

- (i) The role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults.
- (ii) establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications and completed enquiries which increases the SABs understanding of prevalence of abuse and neglect locally that builds up a picture over time;
- (iii) establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements;
- (iv) Develop and implement policies and strategies for protecting adults which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and consultation with all relevant agencies but also take account of the views of adults who have needs for care and support, their families, advocates and carer representatives;

- (v) develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect in its area;
- (vi) identify types of circumstances giving grounds for concern and when they should be considered as a referral to the local authority as an enquiry, including referral pathways and thresholds for intervention;
- (vii) formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances and professional and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults;
- (viii) develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect;
- (ix) balance the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that, to protect adults, it may be necessary to share information on a 'need-to-know basis';
- (x) identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training to meet the training needs of staff across all agencies to work effectively together to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk;
- (xi) carry out safeguarding adult reviews and advise the local authority and Board Partners on lessons to be learned;
- (xii) produce a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report;
- (xiii) evidence how Board members have challenged one another and held other Boards to account and determine arrangements for peer review and self-audit; and
- (xiv) Review and comment on the impact for safeguarding of individual member agencies' operational strategic decision making, including budgetary considerations.

(e) Membership

The Brent Local Safeguarding Adults Board will be chaired by an Independent Chair. Membership will be drawn from:

- Brent Council
 - Strategic Director Adults
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People
 - Operational Director of Housing Services
 - Operational Director of Regulatory Services
- Metropolitan Police: Brent
- National Probation Trust
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Brent Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England (London)
- North West London Healthcare NHS Trust
- Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust
- London Ambulance Service
- Healthwatch
- London Fire Brigade
- Care Quality Commission

- Brent Community Voluntary Services
- Brent User/Carers Groups
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Crown Prosecution Service

Other membership of the LSAB who will act in an advisory/observer role will include:-

- Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing
- The Director of Public Health
- Designated Health Professionals
- Principal Social Worker
- Legal Advisor to the Board