

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b> 19 September 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from the Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board</b></p>
For information	Wards Affected: ALL
<b>Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17</b>	

## **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 2016-17

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee reviews and notes the contents of the Brent SAB Annual Report.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 2015/16 saw the implementation of the Care Act 2014. This placed Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing, specified the circumstances where Safeguarding Adult Reviews must and may be commissioned, required Boards to produce annual reports and business plans, and itemised the roles in particular of three statutory partners, namely the local authority, the police and the clinical commissioning group. The types of abuse and neglect with which Safeguarding Adults Boards must have policies and procedures, have been extended to cover, for example, self-neglect and modern slavery, alongside physical and institutional abuse, discriminatory abuse and domestic violence. The Care Act 2014 requires all agencies with roles in the protection of adults from abuse and neglect to co-operate both in strategic planning and in the operational delivery of services. It also emphasises that services should be acutely tuned into the needs and aspirations of people needing care and services, with a particular focus on the outcomes they desire through an approach known as making safeguarding personal.
- 3.2 The report provides a summary of safeguarding activity carried out by Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) partners across social care, health and criminal justice sectors in Brent and is broadly divided into 3 sections. In the first part context and purpose of the Board is defined with reference to the SAB

2017-19 strategic plan. In the second part there is analysis of the statutory authority's response to reported concerns with year on year comparison (2015-16) incorporating trends in occurrence and the statutory authority's performance. The final section of the report contains contributions from the subgroups and Partner organisations of the SAB. This year in the SAB annual report we aimed to achieve a greater degree of accessibility in comparison to the 2015/16 report. To support this approach, acronyms were in the main either removed or explained. In some instances text box explanations were added where it was felt there would be added value to understanding the subject referenced. Photograph and graphic content were used to link text and subject. We are currently looking to create an easy read/accessible version of this report.

- 3.3 In 2016-17 the Safeguarding Adults Team (SAT) received 1,712 concerns, compared with 1,678 concerns in 2015-16. 628 of the Concerns were investigated and completed as S42 enquiries.
- 3.4 The safeguarding activity is displayed in simple graphic format and in this year's report a greater emphasis has been placed on Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) data.
- 3.5 MSP data is set against that of reducing risk and in this aspect SAT have achieved improved results compared to 2015-16 and present a percentage significantly above that of London average.
- 3.6 Four core types of harm (Neglect or Acts of Omission, Psychological and or Emotional Abuse, Financial Abuse, Physical Abuse) present in the majority of reported concerns in 2016-17. There is an acknowledgment within the report and the partner contributions that further work is required regarding awareness and understanding of all forms of harm and abuse, in particular some of the more recently recognised categories such as self-neglect. The case studies selected for this report provide further examples across the range of categories.
- 3.7 In Summary, there has been a slight increase in the level of enquires and in the level of enquiries progressed to concerns. In terms of category type there has been an increase in incidences of neglect. 2016-17 marked a reduction in the number of enquiries involving pressure ulcers. Risk was removed or reduced in a higher number of cases compared to 2015-16. An increase in the Adult at Risk preferred outcomes was achieved compared to 2015-16.
- 3.8 Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards. The figures for 2016-17 are presented and display a consistent level of performance across the four quarters. Context is provided by reference to Cheshire West Judgement and more recently review carried out by The Law Society.
- 3.9 Case Studies are included in this report and provide a range of examples to illustrate categories of harm and the response and outcome of the concern. There is a recognition here of the evidence that real life experiences are

extremely helpful in conveying a greater understanding of the safeguarding process for all stakeholders.

- 3.10 Subgroup and Partner contributions. In this report contributions have been included from the 5 subgroups of the Board. They follow a format providing examples of work completed and to be undertaken in line with priority actions taken from the 2017-19 SAB Strategic Plan. The Chair of each subgroup is the author of the corresponding contribution and this is a positive development, indicative of the development of The SAB and Partners' increased involvement towards a common aim. The contributions from Partners vary to some extent in detail and content. Whilst there was significant challenge in the edit process (principally due to time constraint) the contributions included provide valuable evidence of safeguarding work carried out across the borough in 2016-17
- 3.11 Safeguarding Adult Review: The Case Review Subgroup contribution details the learning from case reviews to improve practice which were commissioned and completed in 2016/17. The completion of the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) for Adult A resulted in changes to Adult Social Care processes regarding management of client financial affairs, additionally resulted in an external agency (the Department for Work and Pensions) reviewing its policy regarding Appointee applications. The CRG contribution also provides details of SAR commissioned regarding Adult B. Subsequent annual reports will provide the outcome and learning.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications to note

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Care Act 2014 requires Brent Council to establish a SAB and provides for accountability of the Independent Chair to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority. The Act also requires that the Board publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any safeguarding adults reviews and subsequent action. Annual Report must be circulated to Healthwatch, the Borough Police Commander, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group. This has been done.
- 5.2 The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the 2010 Act, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share that protected characteristic.
- 5.3 The "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, race (including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment. Marriage and civil

partnership are also a protected characteristic for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination.

- 5.4 Having “due regard” to the need to “advance equality of opportunity” between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not includes having due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by them. Due regard must also be had to the need to take steps to meet the needs of such persons where those needs are different from persons who do not have that characteristic, and to encourage those who have a protected characteristic to participate in public life. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons include steps to take account of the persons’ disabilities. Having due regard to “fostering good relations” involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

## **6.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board works closely with the Brent Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team to deliver its statutory functions, in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and in conjunction with Brent Equality Strategy 2015-19.

Data on gender, age, ethnicity and disability is regularly collected and monitored, as this is the primary support need of anyone who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry. As with previous years, the data demonstrates that the diversity profile of individuals’ subject of safeguarding enquiries broadly reflects the demographic makeup of Brent.

The Board recognises that there are still gaps that need to be addressed in terms of its engagement with service users, carers, faith groups and LGBT communities, for example, and is currently developing its plans to narrow these gaps and examples can be referenced within the Subgroup and Partner contributions in the SAB 2016-17 Annual Report.

This year in the SAB annual report we aimed to achieve a greater degree of accessibility and inclusivity. To support this approach, acronyms were in the main either removed or explained. In some instances text box explanations were added where it was felt there would be added value to understanding the subject referenced. Photograph and graphic content were used to link text and subject. We are currently looking to create an easy read/accessible version of this report.

## **Background Papers**

*Amended list from Brent SAB Constitution below e.g. National Probation Service not Trust, Healthwatch Brent. Carer's Forum added.*

Membership of the SAB will consist of representatives from the following:-

- Brent Council
  - Director of Adults Social Care
  - Director of Children and Families
  - Director of Housing Services
  - Director of Regulatory Services
- Metropolitan Police: Brent
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Brent Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England (London)
- London North West Healthcare NHS Trust
- Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust
- London Ambulance Service
- Healthwatch Brent
- London Fire Brigade
- Care Quality Commission
- Brent Community Voluntary Services
- Brent Carers Forum
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Crown Prosecution Service

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

- The Lead Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
- The Director of Public Health
- Designated Health Professionals
- Principal Social Worker
- Brent Mencap
- Legal Advisor to the Board

## **Contact Officers**

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