



**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee**

15 November 2021

**Report from the Assistant Chief
Executive presented by the
Independent Chair of the
Safeguarding Adults Board**

Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to consider the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) annual report covering the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and seek assurance that the Safeguarding Adults Board is working effectively as a multi-agency partnership board.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory multi-agency partnership board consisting of a range of organisations that deliver services to adults in the London Borough of Brent.

- 3.2 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board members represent their organisations at the Board. The SAB is made up statutory partners and non-statutory partners. It also has an independent chair. The statutory partners of the SAB are; Brent Council, the Metropolitan Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The non-statutory partners who attend the SAB include; London Ambulance Service, London Fire Brigade, London North West NHS University Hospital Trust, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Healthwatch Brent, voluntary organisations, The Probation Service, Public Health representation as well as other organisations.
- 3.3 In order to provide oversight, the Safeguarding Adults Board must be independent. There is an independent chair, Michael Preston-Shoot, who holds all agencies to account. The Independent Chair is held to account for effective working of the Safeguarding Adults Board by the Chief Executive of Brent Council and must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Adults Board. The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note this report and its content.
- 3.4 The Safeguarding Adults Board is due to refresh its strategic plan in early 2022. A Safeguarding Adults Board Development Day has been scheduled for the new year where partners will come together to agree the new priorities. The current Strategic Plan 2019-2021 has the following priority areas;
- A focus on self-neglect as a category of abuse.
 - Legal literacy (raise awareness of the legal options available to the front line).
 - Information dissemination (how the SAB disseminates learning and good practice).
- 3.5 During 2020-2021, Brent Safeguarding Adults Board carried out a range of activities in response to these priorities. Please see the annual report for further information.
- 3.6 All Safeguarding Adults Board members have an obligation to provide the board with resources to support its functions. This includes having a representative present at the Board and where applicable at its sub-groups. It may also include providing information to The Board or contributing financially.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 For the 2020/21 financial year, the Safeguarding Adults Board had an annual budget of £67,913 excluding staff costs.
- 4.2 There was an underspend of partnership contributions resulting in £35,293 moving into reserves. This is due in part to the Safeguarding Adults Board annual conference moving to the following financial year due to the pandemic. The contributions held in reserves will ensure that the SAB is able to adhere

to its statutory duties in future. Further information can be found in the annual report.

- 4.3 The main contributor to the budget was Brent Council with North West London Clinical Commissioning Group the second largest funding contributor to the SAB. The remainder of the budget is funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the London Fire Brigade. The budget is spent on learning events, the annual conference and for the commissioning of Safeguarding Adult Reviews. A full breakdown of the budget is included in the Safeguarding Adults Board annual report.
- 4.4 In addition, the local authority funds the staffing costs to support the running of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Care Act 2014 directed local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board covering their area with core membership from the local authority, the Police and the NHS (specifically the local Clinical Commissioning Group/s) and the power to include other relevant bodies.
- 5.2 The Care Act places a requirement on Safeguarding Adults Boards to; publish an annual report and strategic plan and to hold partner agencies to account for how they work together to protect adults from neglect or abuse. The Act stated that partner agencies and services must work together to implement strategies to protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect locally.
- 5.3 The Care Act 2014 also requires the Safeguarding Adults Boards to commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews under Section 44 where the threshold is met. The Care Act 2014 requires partners to cooperate with the review process and Section 45 of the Care Act 2014 requires partners to supply relevant information to enable the Review to take place.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The objective of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to ensure that adults at risk are able to live their lives free from abuse and neglect. The way in which a Safeguarding Adults Board must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.
- 6.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board has the freedom to put in place anything it deems necessary to achieve its objective. This may include raising awareness of adult safeguarding or learning and development in relation to a particular area of practice.
- 6.3 The Safeguarding Adults Board should be assured that partners are putting systems in place to protect adults at risk in the area for which it is responsible. Including people with additional needs and hard to reach groups.

- 6.4 In carrying out its functions, the Safeguarding Adults Board will adhere to general equalities duties namely; eliminate unlawful discrimination; harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.
- 6.5 The SAB works to ensure safeguarding of all adults at risk regardless of their 'protected characteristics' as defined under the Equalities Act.

REPORT SIGN-OFF

LORNA HUGHES

Head of Strategy and Partnerships

on behalf of

SHAZIA HUSSAIN

Assistant Chief Executive