



Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 6.00 pm

Conference Hall - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

This will be held as an in person physical meeting with all Committee members required to attend in person.

The meeting will be open for the press and public to attend. Alternatively, the link to follow the webcast will be available [here](#).

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Ketan Sheth (Chair)
Collymore (Vice-Chair)
Afzal
Begum
Ethapemi
Fraser
Moeen
Rajan-Seelan
Smith
Matin
Mistry

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, S Butt, Conneely, Long,
Miller, Mitchell and Shah

Councillors:

Kansagra and Maurice

Councillors:

Georgiou and Lorber

Co-opted Members

Simon Goulden, Jewish Faith Schools
Alloysius Frederick, Roman Catholic Diocese Schools
Sayed Jaffar Milani, Muslim Faith Schools
Vacancy, Church of England Faith Schools
Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative X2

Observers

Brent Youth Parliament
Jenny Cooper, NEU and Special School observer
John Roche, NEU and Secondary School Observer
Vacancy, NEU Primary School Observer

For further information contact: Hannah O'Brien, Governance Officer
hannah.o'brien@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: **www.brent.gov.uk/democracy**

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
 - To which you are appointed by the council;
 - which exercises functions of a public nature;
 - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
 - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members	
2 Declarations of interests	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.	
3 Deputations (if any)	
To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 10
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.	
5 Matters arising (if any)	
6 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22	11 - 42
To present the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) annual report, covering the period from April 2021 to March 2022.	
7 Brent's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children	43 - 72
To present the Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report, covering the period from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.	
8 Transitional Safeguarding Scrutiny Task Group 6 Month Update	73 - 90
To provide an update on the work across the Council and with partner agencies on Transitional Safeguarding.	
9 Any other urgent business	
Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or her representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.	

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 25 January 2023

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The meeting room is accessible by lift and a limited number of seats will be available for members of the public. Alternatively, it will be possible to follow proceedings via the live webcast [here](#).

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MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **Thursday 22 September 2022 at 6.00 pm** **Held as a hybrid meeting**

PRESENT: Councillor Ketan Sheth (Chair), Councillor Collymore (Vice-Chair), and Councillors Afzal, Begum, Ethapemi, Fraser, Rajan-Seelan, Smith, Matin, Moeen and Mistry, and co-opted member Mr Alloysius Frederick

In attendance: Councillor Gwen Grahl, Councillor Mili Patel

Also in attendance: Mr Simon Goulden (remote), Councillor Neil Nerva (remote)

1. Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

None.

2. Declarations of interests

Personal interests were declared as follows:

- Councillor Sheth – Lead Governor of Central and NWL NHS Foundation Trust and governor of a number of education settings detailed in the [register of interest form](#)
- Councillor Matin – employed by NHS
- Councillor Rajan-Seelan – spouse employed by NHS
- Councillor Collymore – member of palliative care and end of life steering groups
- Councillor Ethapemi – spouse employed by NHS
- Councillor Moeen – employed in a nursery in Brent, SEND governor for Sudbury primary school, safeguarding governor for high schools in Brent
- Smith – employed by NHS
- Simon Goulden – spouse governor of Sinai Primary School
- Alloysius Frederick – Chair of All Saints Trust and governor of a school in Brent

3. Deputations (if any)

There were no deputations received.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 July 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising (if any)

There were no matters arising.

6. Implementation of SEND Review and High Needs Block

Councillor Gwen Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools) introduced the item, explaining that the report was in response to the recently published

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Green Paper, which was released in March 2022 as a response to the recent increase in the SEND cohort nationally. In terms of the Green Paper, she felt that the paper offered some positive improvements around standardisation and digitisation of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), as well as acknowledgement that place-led funding of alternative provision had become unworkable and was causing problems for young people with SEND. However, the report also emphasised academisation and did not include information on any additional resources that might be going forward into the specialist provision for SEND, mental health and behaviour. She felt this may introduce challenges for local authorities. The report presented to the Committee responded to those challenges, and highlighted that the department were likely to face an increasing deficit projected to be over £14m by 2026. Despite those challenges, the local authority were likely to be inspected by Ofsted over the coming years and the council's preparedness for that would be essential in demonstrating it had been able to make the changes and continued to provide very good services for children and young people with SEND.

Nigel Chapman (Corporate Director Children and Young People, Brent Council) made the point that the 2015 SEND Code of Practice was broadly a positive statement around the importance of integrating education, health and social care for children. The 2015 Code of Practice had given more of a voice for parents and carers and was very ambitious, promoted integration and preparing for adult life. The unforeseen implications of the Code of Practice, which had been experienced in Brent, across London and nationally, had been a large increase in demand. In Brent, there had been a 50% increase in the number of children with EHCPs compared to 5 years ago. This created a strain to the system. As a result of the national challenge, the government had put forward the Green Paper to better manage the issues. The Green Paper did not necessarily change the direction of policy or position, as the sector agreed that the ambitions of the original 2015 reforms were still meaningful.

In terms of Brent specifically, the Committee were advised that the local authority was last inspected by Ofsted and CQC in 2019, where the services being provided were judged to be operating at an effective standard. In addition, 97% of schools in Brent were judged 'good' or 'outstanding', and therefore the department felt confident in the local system. The department had been particularly proud of the encouraging growth of the Parent Carer Forum where there were over 500 parents involved, who provided both challenge and support. As a result, a lot of co-production work had been done with parents and carers which was integral to the work being done locally. The challenges that were being faced were the demand in the system, and the challenge of early identification of need and meeting that need at an earlier stage for children. Another main factor was the financial strain on the High Needs Block. Nigel Chapman advised that the report set out how the department planned to address those challenges.

The Chair thanked councillors and officers for their introduction and invited the Committee to raise comments and questions, with the following issues raised:

The Committee asked how prepared the department were for the challenges ahead and implementing the reforms in the Green Paper. Nigel Chapman highlighted that the effectiveness of the local school partnership in Brent had been demonstrated, for example through the RISE partnership who were doing peer to peer support in mainstream schools, and Compass, who were doing similar work in community schools. He felt that the biggest challenge would be in the early years sector due to the greater need in that area, and the Council was focused on getting prepared for that.

The Committee asked what plan was in place to ensure the voices of parents and carers were magnified so that they were meaningful and lead to tangible outcomes, including at an Integrated Care System (ICS) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) level. Nigel Chapman

advised that there was an intention to set out an action with ICP colleagues regarding the 4 priority areas in the children and young people ICP workstream by the end of October, which would include a plan to include the voice of parents and carers. From a Council perspective, the voice of parents and carers was embedded but work now needed to be done to ensure it was amplified across all of the health economy locally.

In relation to whether support was provided to families and parents of children with SEND, Sharon Buckby confirmed it was. If a child came through to the EHCP procedure they were supported by a dedicated case officer to help them through that and were then signposted to a range of different provisions available in Brent and through the Family Wellbeing Centres.

The Committee highlighted section 4.1 of the report, which stated that 43% of those with an EHCP were autistic. They asked whether there was data available for the number of children in mainstream schools with an EHCP who were autistic. Sharon Buckby (Head of Inclusion and the Virtual School Headteacher, Brent Council) highlighted that there had been significant progress over the last 2 years, with 69% of children recently provided with an EHCP now in mainstream schools compared to 48% two years prior. She attributed this to the close working relationship with parents, carers and schools in Brent, who had worked closely with the Council in relation to the SEND review.

In supporting schools to be better able to deliver, the Council had started a graduated approach framework 2 years previously with the allocation of specific funds through the SEND Intervention Fund from the High Needs Block. This aimed to support and develop the capacity of schools to be able to support, grow and enable children and young people to achieve the best they could in schools. In further supporting children with SEND to be in mainstream schools, each school cluster now had a special school. This year the Council was also working on further peer to peer support work with specialist ASD teachers, who were going into specialist schools for 2-3 weeks to further develop their skills. It was agreed that officers could provide a breakdown of needs across the full categories listed in the Code of Practice to the Committee. As a snapshot, the Committee were advised that children and young people with ASD made up the largest proportion of children with additional needs, followed by speech, language and communication needs, and thirdly children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs. It was added that within those categories there was a large range of diversity in need.

In relation to training for staff in mainstream schools working with children and young people with SEND, Sharon Buckby advised the Committee that autism awareness training was being rolled out across all schools. There was also a Universal Targeted and Specialist Intervention Training Programme available at a universal level across all schools, and a specialist communication methodology being rolled out across schools. The next stage would include specialist ASD training programmes, using the Autism Education Trust and other specialist providers to deliver that. The department had commissioned that provision to work with all schools, as well as specifically those with children with autism in their schools. This would also be targeted to those that would be delivering the additionally resourced provision. It was agreed that the training programme could be shared with the Committee.

Of those children with SEND placed in mainstream schools, the Committee queried whether that was with the consent and co-operation of the child's parents or carer. Nigel Chapman confirmed that parental preference determined where a child was educated. When a child was placed, if they had an EHCP this put them at the top of the priority level to admittance to a certain school. It was very rare that a child would be placed against a parent's preference, and this was part of the messaging being put out to parents, particularly currently with secondary transfer beginning soon.

The Committee asked how many children with SEND were placed out of borough and whether there were plans to bring those back into Brent. Nigel Chapman advised that the majority of children with SEND were educated within Brent, and the majority of those children were in mainstream schools within Brent. For those children with a higher level of need, there were specialist schools within Brent to support them, but there was a certain group of children where there was no capacity to place them locally who were placed in out of borough special schools, and a very small number of children whose needs were very specialist and required independent specialist schools which were usually outside of the borough. It was highlighted that Cabinet had approved an additional capital spend of £44m in January 2022 to increase the number of special school places within the borough and places within mainstream schools to 430 extra places. With that extra investment, which included the new special school being built in Wembley, the department felt more confident that a greater number of children would not have to travel long distances to school every day. It was always the intention of the Council that, wherever possible, children were educated as close to home as possible, but Nigel Chapman highlighted there would always be children with needs that were so specialist that they could only be met in specialist provision which was not always available in borough. The increase in places would give the Council more choice and reduce the number of children travelling out of borough.

In relation to post-16, that was an area of development for the department and officers would be bringing forward through council processes the intention to develop a post-16 education and training centre for children and young people. In terms of measuring success post-16, the Committee were advised that there was a 0-25 service provision and engagement with young people in education, employment and training was vital as that was measured every month.

The Committee asked about the outcomes and impact of the work undertaken so far and how that would be measured going forward. Sharon Buckby highlighted that there was much better identification of need now through Early Years and schools. There was support being provided through the graduated approach framework to children and young people with a SEND Support Programme (those identified as not requiring an EHCP), and that support had improved since it was implemented 2 years prior. As a result, there had been fewer numbers of EHCPs requested over the past 12 months and the number of young people remaining in mainstream education was increasing. She felt that the training and development programme on offer was also making a difference for children and young people. She added that it was a constant journey to get better as more was understood about the needs of children and young people and the gaps in provision. Joint working and partnership working would bring increased benefits across all areas of work within the education, health and care environment, including more visible active young people in communities. For example, as a consequence of a piece of work undertaken with parents, carers and young people with the Parks Service, parks had been developed to become more SEND friendly. Another piece of work being done was a public artwork in Dollis Hill which would be SEND friendly. Nigel Chapman added that the School Standards and Achievement Report due in March 2023 would have further outcome data and analysis.

In relation to funding, the Committee highlighted details in the report that Brent were one of the local authorities that continued to lobby central government for funding increases that matched the levels of need, and asked what impact the level of funding had for children with needs. Councillor Grahl confirmed that the projected funding deficit was £14.3m and that if there was no more funding becoming available it could impact on the support children in Brent could receive. Nigel Chapman advised that, in the short term, the Council had spent on a needs led perspective, which was why the department was carrying an overspend that it was currently able to carry forward. Some areas had considerably higher overspend. However, if the Council was moved into a position by central government where it was no longer allowed to carry a deficit forward then this would have an immediate impact in terms of

cuts to services. He added that, regardless of the current financial pressures, there were delays in access to therapies due to recruitment issues in the health services leading to long waiting times, for example to CAMHS.

Officers confirmed that they worked with charities and schools to support early identification of students with SEND. A piece of work the Council had done this year had been with the Council of Disabled Children, which worked with Brent Parent Carer Forum, schools, settings and health colleagues on the development of a new Neurodiversity Pathway Programme. As a consequence of that, the Council would be looking to see how the third sector could be further engaged to support the roll out of that programme.

In response to a query about the CAMHS waiting lists, Nigel Chapman advised the Committee that waiting lists were coming down and were now at around 8-10 weeks for a referral, compared to 18 weeks 6 months previously. There was a preference to focus not just on the most acute level of mental health need, so a thrive model was being used to identify emotional health and wellbeing needs in children at an earlier stage. This emphasised the importance of healthy living, provided young people with recreational opportunities, and encouraged healthy diet and living.

The Committee queried why the number of children identified as requiring an EHCP had increased over time. Nigel Chapman advised this was likely due to a greater awareness and a recognition of parents and carers in terms of how to access support. He felt there was also an element of more children with more severe needs surviving longer into childhood due to medical advances, leading to an increase in children who might need support in the longer term. He highlighted this as a positive but advised the Committee that it led to a greater demand in the system.

In relation to type of need, the Committee queried whether the early identification of ASD had moved focus away from dyslexia and dyspraxia if the same resources were being used. Sharon Buckby advised that the early identification of ASD had not moved the focus away from dyslexia and dyspraxia because the service had moved to a neurodiversity approach rather than looking at specific conditions. This enabled the Council to consider how one characteristic might be displayed and misinterpreted as another characteristic. For example, very often dyspraxia and dyslexia displayed as ADHD characteristics, and it would be wrong to go down that line if the needs of that child could be addressed earlier. The Council was working with colleagues across schools to ensure that understanding was clear, and to ensure resources and mechanisms for assessing needs were in place within schools and available for parents, carers and young people to understand. This was done through the new section of the local offer which focused on neurodiversity.

The Chair invited a representative of Brent Youth Parliament to address the Committee. In addressing the Committee, the representative of Brent Youth Parliament highlighted that a child's development was not always consistent, and the child may develop a Special Educational Need or Disability during their time in education. Brent Youth Parliament queried whether mainstream schools were equipped to deal with new cases, support diagnoses, and how CAMHS and schools worked together to do this. Sharon Buckby agreed that SEND was not linear. She advised that all schools had a referral process and were clear about the procedure for that. There was an expectation that the school should demonstrate what additional support had been put in place by the school for a child during an academic year, in order to give a detailed view on what a child's needs were. This meant that when children came through to secondary school, or a child moved schools or moved from another borough, their needs could be assessed. In response to how children with mental health and wellbeing issues in schools were supported, Shirley Parks (Director of Safeguarding, Performance & Strategy, Brent Council) advised the Committee that schools had access to a number of different pathways for referral. Some schools when they had early identification of need commissioned support services themselves, and some schools had their own specialist

workers within schools. Brent Council had a commissioned contract for vulnerable groups that schools could refer children to for early intervention and prevention, and through CAMHS there was a range of different projects including mental health support teams in specific schools aimed at early identification.

The Chair thanked those present for their contributions and drew the item to a close. He invited the Committee to make recommendations, with the following RESOLVED:

To recommend the following key areas for improvement:

- i) That an event takes place at Brent Civic Centre showcasing the work the Council had done on SEND.
- ii) That the SEND Green Paper is circulated to all relevant stakeholders, including all school staff.
- iii) That there is a framework developed for more joined up working with the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) on SEND.

Several information requests were made during the course of the discussion, recorded as follows:

- i) For the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to receive the training programme for staff who work with children with autism in mainstream schools and additional needs settings.
- ii) For the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to receive data on the diversity of level of need for children with an EHCP.
- iii) For the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to receive the number of young people and children receiving CAMHS in Brent.
- iv) For the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to receive information on how the recommendations of the transitional safeguarding task group will feed in to the SEND Strategy.

7. Early Help and Family Wellbeing Centres

Councillor Gwen Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools) introduced the report, which looked at the impact of Brent's 8 Family Wellbeing Centres (FWCs) and detailed some of the results they had on the lives of young people across Brent. She highlighted that the scheme had been pioneered to protect some of the services offered by Children's Centres, and the transition to FWCs took place between 2019-2021. In terms of their impact, she highlighted that they had been an essential component in delivering early help, and had been involved in the provision of the holiday and activities programme. The FWCs had played a crucial role in children's health and wellbeing as well as school improvements.

Nigel Chapman (Corporate Director Children & Young People, Brent Council) added that the creation of 8 FWCs out of 17 Children's Centres had been an imperative of a saving requirement for the Council, but rather than cut services the Council had decided to create something new and created FWCs. This had meant the Council was now ahead of the national debate on the issue as it was the direction of travel coming out of central government for the creation of 'Family Hubs'. The FWCs were only one year into operation, so some outcome measures were in development rather than fully formed, and FWCs were still gaining new registrations. He concluded by highlighting that the Best Start for Life Programme was coming onstream and the Council was hopeful that by using that model it

would be better able to integrate work with health, using FWCs as a place based locality model.

The Chair thanked officers for the introduction and invited comments and questions from those present, with the following issues raised:

The Committee asked whether there was a difference between the Family Hubs model and FWCs, and were advised that they were the same type of service. The name 'Family Wellbeing Centres' had arisen following discussions with parents, carers and members of the community who felt that the name meant more to families.

The Committee asked what steps were being taken to identify and ensure those most at need for the service were able to access it. Teni Awoyemi (Head of Early Help, Brent Council) advised the Committee that Community Outreach Workers were in place within FWCs who would go into communities to meet families, into schools, and into different settings to promote FWCs. Officers also worked closely with other partners including schools, health and public health. Within FWCs it was not only Council workers based there but other partners such as the 0-19 service, midwifery, and Speech and Language Therapy. She felt they were well placed for families within communities to know about the services FWCs provided, and the centres were supported by local steering groups made up of parents, community leaders and other professionals.

The Committee asked what outreach work had been done to reach difficult to reach communities. They were advised that each centre had a triage worker who engaged with the local community. One worker had been visiting local Wembley hotels to help families who had been placed there by the Home Office, as those families would not necessarily know about services in the local area. By proactively reaching out, health needs and educational needs for those families had been picked up. There were also over 40 volunteers working in the FWCs and they were out in the community constantly.

In relation to the locations of FWCs, the Committee asked whether they were in the right places and could be accessed by families. Nigel Chapman highlighted that, when the work was done to establish the centres, there had been a requirement to do a full evaluation of where the greatest need in the borough was, and also where the largest sites were. Primarily the aim was geographical spread, size of building, and where the areas of need were highest. It was also important to ensure people in those areas were close to a site, and the site was close to transport links. The sites had been approved by Cabinet three years ago and there were no resources to have more than 8 centres, meaning decisions had needed to be based on those factors. Responding to why the Willows had been chosen specifically for the SEND FWC provision, Nigel Chapman advised that it had already been operating as a Specialist Nursery so had specialist support for very young children with a disability. It was felt to be a good opportunity to expand so that FWCs could support children across the borough in early years and those older children with disabilities, building on an existing area of work. In addition, the centre was centrally based in the borough and it was felt that, for something with a whole borough wide reach, being situated in the middle of the borough would be helpful.

The Committee asked what training and support was provided for staff in FWCs. Teni Awoyemi responded that many of the staff within FWCs had already been working in Early Help, within the old children's centres, or were Family Support Workers, so already had a level of training, but there was also an established training and development programme specifically for FWC staff, as well as a central programme for all staff across the Children and Young People's department.

The Committee asked how much more money the department would ideally need in order to do what they would like to with FWCs. Nigel Chapman highlighted that, historically,

Brent's General Fund per head of population was low in terms of London as a whole. If Brent were funded at the London average level, they would be gaining around £200 more per child per annum, which would be around £16m additional for the whole of Children's Services. Despite the level of funding, Nigel Chapman felt Brent had managed to pull together as effective an offer as possible, as a result of working closely with school partners, health colleagues and the voluntary sector. One of the things officers would like to introduce in FWCs was longer opening hours to expand them to evenings and weekends, but this would require additional staffing. The centres only had a very small core staffing group, and ultimately if there were more members of staff that meant they could be doing more casework out in communities. Councillor Grahl added that one of the things that made projects like FWCs so vulnerable was because a lot of the other services provided by the department were statutory and were not allowed to be cut as it would put children at risk, such as child protection services. As such, additional provision like FWCs ended up being the type of project vulnerable to cuts that may need to be made. This was unfortunate, as Early Help was specifically set up to prevent children going into care by giving them early interventions before a situation became dangerous for young people and children.

Continuing to discuss funding, Nigel Chapman highlighted that the Council had been successful in a number of bids for funding, outlined in the report. FWCs were heavily reliant on grant funding, but the department had also bid for funding, and were shortly due to submit the bid for the 'Best Start for Life Programme', requesting £4m across 3 years. In response to whether the steering groups for FWCs could apply for NCIL funding, Councillor Grahl advised the Committee that NCIL would only be a temporary solution because the funding would need to continue year after year and NCIL could not be reapplied to. She reassured the Committee that the department were doing their best to find alternative sources of funding and were constantly applying for grants as soon as they became available.

The Committee asked for more information on what the 'Best Start for Life' programme was based on. They were advised that the programme was based on the first 1,001 days of life and was evidence based, focusing on a child's health and development needs. This included ensuring children received their immunisations, were a healthy weight, were being read to by their parents at home and that they were ready for school, amongst other areas. Parents would receive targeted mental health support to support their child's development. The programme would be delivered by health providers in FWCs with the Council's support.

The Committee acknowledged the difficulties with staffing capacity, and asked whether officers had reached out to volunteers to support FWCs. They were advised that there were over 40 volunteers working to support FWCs, and that programme was very successful. In terms of how the number of volunteers was protected so that the support remained consistent, the Committee were advised that there was a contract in place with Barnardo's who provided volunteer co-ordination and managed those volunteers. Barnardo's already had an established system of recruiting and retaining volunteers.

The Committee highlighted section 3.30 of the report which detailed the objectives of FWCs, and asked for assurance they were being met as set out. Nigel Chapman advised that there were internal indicators which demonstrated progress against those impact measures and outcomes, and there would be a requirement to report back to central government on the 'Supporting Families Programme' on those indicators. An area that was felt to have made a significant impact locally was managing support to families to prevent children entering into the care system, and Brent's number of children in care proportionally compared very well to London and the national average.

The Committee asked for assurance about the work being undertaken around childcare provisions and early intervention and prevention. They were advised that the Early Years Team, which was part of Early Help, worked on ensuring take up for free entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, and the data suggested that this was going well and improving, particularly since Covid-19. Childcare sufficiency planning was also doing very well.

In response to how parents and carers and various other stakeholders were involved to ensure genuine and tangible co-production, the Committee were advised that there were local steering groups working with each FWC, as well as the Parent Carer Forum which was made up of parents directly receiving services from the centres. Parenting programmes were a big part of the work in FWCs, focussing on an evidence-based approach. Officers also measured impact through having the voice of children in assessments and interventions with families. Work was being done with older children to attract them into the centres, and they had heard from older children what type of activities they would like in the centres which the Council was now working to provide.

In response to what partnership programmes had been set in place with FWCs, Nigel Chapman advised that there were good connections with community healthcare. Maternity health visiting services and Speech, Language and Communication Therapy were being provided in FWCs. There was also a greater connection with schools close to FWCs, including making use of school facilities for some activities in the evenings.

The Chair thanked those present for their contributions and brought the discussion to an end. The Committee RESOLVED:

- i) To recommend that a representative from the Brent Parent Carer Forum or FWC Steering Group attends a relevant scrutiny committee meeting.
- ii) To recommend that the Council continues to work in partnership with community and voluntary sector organisations on Early Help.

8. Social Prescribing Scrutiny Task Group Scoping Paper

Councillor Ketan Sheth introduced the report, which proposed that the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Group to review social prescribing in Brent. He highlighted that the pandemic had highlighted health inequalities, which many in Brent had known about for a long time. Social prescribing had also been developing for a while amongst the NHS, sometimes referred to as 'community referral'. The scheme enabled health and care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services and recognised that health was determined primarily by a range of social, economic and environmental factors. As such, he highlighted that social prescribing sought to address needs in a holistic way, and aimed to support individuals to take greater control of their own health. This could involve a variety of activities, typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations such as volunteering, arts and crafts, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and sports. With the emergence of the Integrated Care System (ICS), social services, public health, the NHS and the voluntary sector were coming together and working together, and therefore it was felt to be a good time to look at social prescribing to see what benefits could be had from working closer together and harnessing those relationships for better outcomes for residents.

Following his introduction, Councillor Ketan Sheth invited Councillor Neil Nerva, as Cabinet Member of Public Health and Adult Social Care, to address the Committee in relation to the task group. Councillor Nerva felt that the task group represented a good opportunity for the whole of Brent, including the local authority, NHS and voluntary sector. He highlighted that, to have effective social prescribing, there needed to be a thriving third sector as a provider

of activities to improve the wellbeing of residents, and therefore it was important to consider the capacity in the voluntary sector for social prescribing. He added that it was important to recognise there were different behaviours in GP practices across the borough and it would be important to understand the awareness GPs had of social prescribing. At the end of the task group, he hoped for a consistent approach from all Brent GPs to social prescribing and for the recommendations to be taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board for endorsement.

Dr Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, Brent Council) also welcomed the task group and felt it had potential to address health inequalities. She noted that, traditionally, social prescribing had been seen as falling within the remit of GPs and other health professionals, but she was aware there was an appetite from colleagues in Social Care for Social Workers to be able to do social prescribing, and asked the task group to consider looking at that. She concluded by highlighting the value of involving elected members would be in their ability to scrutinise whether the offer for social prescribing across the borough was equitable, acceptable, and accessible to all Brent communities.

The Chair thanked colleagues for their input, and invited comments and questions from the Committee, with the following issues raised:

The Committee queried what the early indication of the take up from GPs was. Dr Melanie Smith responded that it was variable. Some GPs were very passionate about social prescribing but that was not universal. There was a good offer available, but she felt it might not be comprehensive. Councillor Sheth added that, as Brent moved out of the pandemic, there was a growing appetite for this work and he felt that the work of the task group could be a catalyst to ensure that the health inequalities agenda was at the heart of social prescribing.

In response to whether there was an intention to involve faith groups and other community led groups, Councillor Sheth confirmed it was the intention to work that way as well as with various Council departments, Cabinet Leads, and stakeholders in and out of the Council.

The Committee asked whether there would be any danger of duplication of work. Councillor Sheth highlighted the intention to work in partnership and bring everyone around the table to share good practice and ensure no-one was working in silos but collectively. An interim report would be brought to the Committee to give comfort that this was being done in synergy with all stakeholders.

The importance of local residents having an understanding of the opportunities of social prescribing was highlighted.


Having considered the report, the Committee RESOLVED:

- i) To note the content of the report and scoping paper attached in appendix 1 of the report.
- ii) To agree to establish a scrutiny task and finish group with the terms of reference and membership outlined in appendix 1.

9. Any other urgent business

None.

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm
COUNCILLOR KETAN SHETH, Chair

	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 22 November 2022
	Report from Communities and Regeneration, presented by the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Annual Report 2021-22
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer:	Daniel Morris Strategic Partnership Lead for Safeguarding Adults Tel: 07775 417458 daniel.morris@brent.gov.uk

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 2021 to March 2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory multi-agency partnership board consisting of senior leaders from 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 NHS North West London Integrated Care Board (formally called 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 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.
- 3.4 In order to provide oversight, the Safeguarding Adults Board must be independent. There is an independent chair, Fran Pearson, 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. One of the statutory duties of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to publish an annual report. The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note this report and its content.
- 3.5 The Safeguarding Adults Board is currently refreshing its strategic plan and scoping its new priorities. The Strategic Plan 2019-2021 reported on in the annual report consisted of 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).
- 3.6 During 2021-2022, Brent Safeguarding Adults Board carried out a range of activities in response to these priorities. Please see the annual report for further information. The annual report contains some brief information about the upcoming priorities which are currently being scoped and developed. Members will have the opportunity to ask the Independent Chair questions in relation to the priorities which are being explored within SAB meetings.
- 3.7 In relation to cuckooing in Brent, this has not been a SAB priority to date. Safeguarding data has been provided within the annual report reflecting the number of known instances of this abuse type in relation to adults who have care and support needs during the reporting year. The SAB is due to scope its new priorities over the coming months. The agreed priority of 'Substance Misuse and Housing Need' appears likely to include more of a focus around this type of abuse along with other categories such as psychological abuse, neglect and self-neglect. Any developments in this area will be reported on within next year's annual report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 For the 2021/22 financial year, the Safeguarding Adults Board had an annual budget of £67,513 excluding staff costs.
- 4.2 There was an underspend and funds not spent were moved to reserves to ensure that the SAB is able to continue meeting its statutory requirements in future.
- 4.3 The main contributor to the budget was Brent Council North West London NHS Integrated Care Board (formally called the Clinical Commissioning Group). Brent Council is the second largest funding contributor to the SAB budget. The remainder of the budget is funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. The budget is spent on learning events, the annual conference and for the commissioning of Safeguarding Adult Reviews where the criteria are met. A full breakdown of the budget is included in the Safeguarding Adults Board annual report.
- 4.4 The local authority makes additional contributions in the form of 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

Director of Communities



BRENT Safeguarding Adults

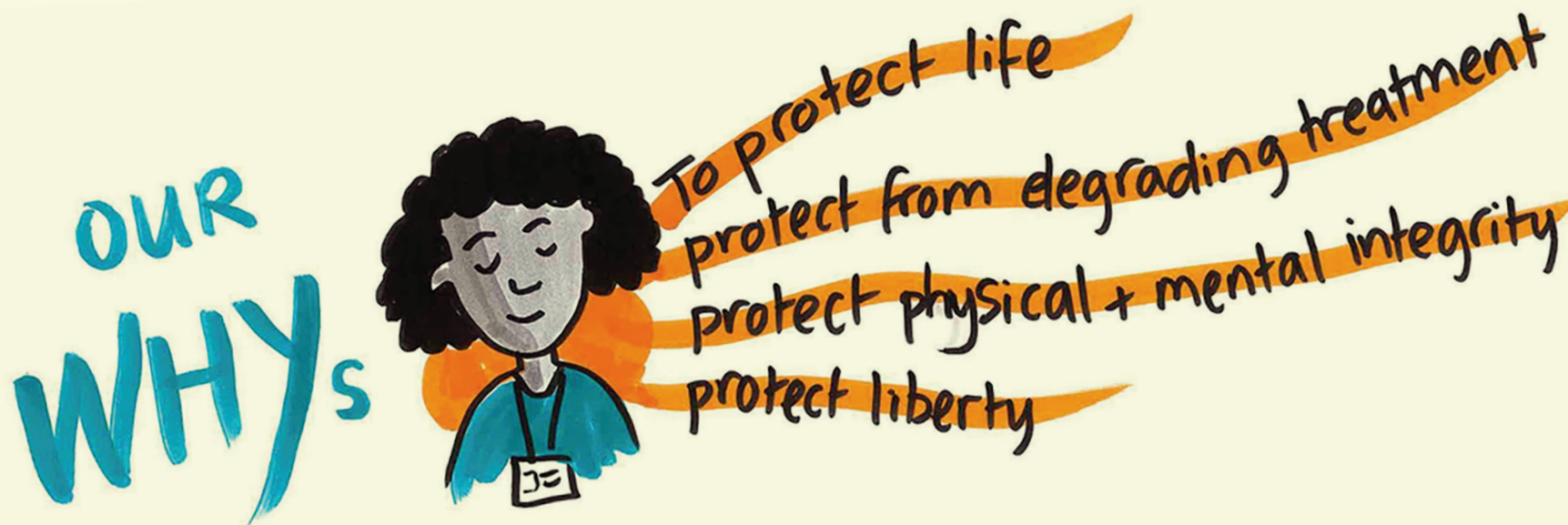
Safeguarding
Adults in Brent

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-22

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WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY







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WE ARE ALL PART
of a
DIVERSE SYSTEM





1

INTRODUCTION BY THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF BRENT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

Welcome to the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) annual report. The annual report is one of the statutory responsibilities of the SAB within the Care Act 2014. This report covers the period April 2021 – April 2022.

This year was the final year for Michael Preston-Shoot as SAB Independent Chair who handed over to Fran Pearson, the new Independent Chair for Brent SAB. The official appointment was made in April 2022, with the preceding months a period of handover.

FORWARD BY FRAN PEARSON

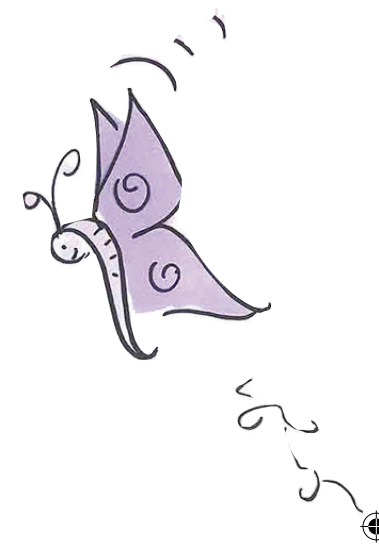
I am delighted to have been appointed as the Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board. I work, self-employed, as an independent chair of Safeguarding Adults Boards, and also as a reviewer of safeguarding incidents. Originally a social worker and social work manager, I then moved into NHS management including a secondment outside my usual area of work, into Public Health. Much of my employed career was in the north of Kensington and Chelsea, and the north of Westminster, so parts of Brent and a few colleagues and resources, are familiar.

One of my published Safeguarding Adults Reviews is that of Adult E in Brent. I very much wanted to come and work in the borough after gaining a little knowledge of adult safeguarding in Brent through that review.

I wanted to thank the outgoing chair of the Brent SAB, Michael Preston-Shoot. Michael is a well-known and respected academic in the field of adult safeguarding, and I can see from the work done and from what board partners have told me, how Brent SAB benefitted from his expertise and his commitment to those who were experiencing safeguarding, and how much he will be missed.



Fran Pearson
Independent Chair





WELCOME TO BRENT

Population: 327,800 people live in Brent
(population estimate)

Brent is one of the most diverse areas in London. Almost two thirds of the population are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, the third highest in London after Newham and Redbridge. Brent is one of the most linguistically diverse areas in the country with around 150 different languages used.

Compared with other areas, Brent residents are more likely to have a religion: 82% had a religion compared with 71% across London and 68% nationally – the fourth highest rate in England.

Around a third of households in Brent live below the poverty line, once housing costs are taken into account.

(Based on 2011 Census data)





3

WHAT IS ADULT SAFEGUARDING?

The Care Act 2014 gave adult safeguarding in England its first legal footing. The Act formally created Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) and laid out what the duties were of SABs, namely: to publish an annual report and strategic plan and to commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews where the criteria are met. The Care Act 2014 outlined that Safeguarding Adults Boards should hold partner agencies to account for how they work together to protect adults from abuse and neglect.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical abuse, Domestic abuse, Sexual abuse, Psychological or Emotional abuse, Financial or Material abuse, Modern slavery, Discriminatory abuse, Organisational or Institutional abuse, Neglect and acts of omission and Self-Neglect (Care and support statutory guidance).

SECTION 42 ENQUIRIES

Under Section 42 of the Care Act, the Local Authority has a responsibility to undertake an Enquiry where a case meets the criteria specified in section 42(1). The Act specifies that local authorities have a duty to undertake an Enquiry where there is a concern that an adult with care and support needs is unable to

protect themselves when experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect. If the criteria are met, then the local authority must conduct an Enquiry and decide on any action under section 42(2).

SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

Where the strict criteria are met, Section 44 of the Care Act states that Safeguarding Adults Boards must arrange a Safeguarding Adult Review. A Safeguarding Adult Review is completed by a suitably qualified person, independent of the local authority and its partners. Section 44 of The Care Act 2014 states that the purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to ensure that lessons are learned.

MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

Mental capacity to make decisions is one of the key differences between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children. An adult has autonomy to make decisions about the way they wish to live their life. Any Enquiry should include an attempt to gain the views of the adult at risk as to what they would like to happen, providing any necessary support such as an advocate. This is called 'Making Safeguarding Personal'. If the adult at risk has the capacity to make a decision, their wishes must be

respected. However, this view must be balanced with an assessment of the risks and an agreement reached between the person and professionals as to how these risks will be monitored and managed.

DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DOLS)

If a person needs protective measures to be put in place to keep them safe, and is assessed as having lost capacity to make decisions about that particular area, either the Local Authority or the Court of Protection, depending on the circumstances, can authorise a DOLS. This gives the service or individual who provides care to a person legal authority to restrict their liberty in a specified way in order to keep them safe. There are strict criteria as to what is appropriate when putting such measures in place. This area currently sits within safeguarding adults in the Local Authority. The DOLS legislation is due to be replaced by the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards. The planned implementation date was due to be April 2022 but in December 2021 a letter was published by the Department of Health and Social Care formally delaying its implementation. Expect more information in relation to this in next year's annual report.



4

PRINCIPLES OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING

These principles are contained in the statutory guidance that amplifies how the Care Act 2014 is to be understood and implemented. Published by the Department of Health and Social Care, the principles apply to all safeguarding adult activity, including section 42 Enquiries and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

Accountability: Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

WE ARE BETTER
TOGETHER

5

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE IN BRENT

The Safeguarding Adults Board is multi-agency strategic partnership board. The Safeguarding Adults Board is not responsible for progressing operational safeguarding concerns. This is carried out by Adult Social Care within Brent Council. The mandate of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to seek assurance that adult safeguarding is effectively

managed by all services within the Borough. If you wish to raise a safeguarding concern there is a safeguarding form - please refer to webpage:

www.brent.gov.uk/adult-social-care/protecting-adults-from-risk-of-abuse#howtoraise

If you have any trouble completing the form please contact the duty safeguarding team at safeguardingadults@brent.gov.uk and they will help you. Alternatively, you can contact the safeguarding adult team on **020 8937 4098** or **020 8937 4099** from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.





REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING, BRENT COUNCIL

During 2021/22 the Safeguarding Adults Team (SAT) continue to embed a framework to provide consistency in how the partnership responds to concerns of abuse.

The Brent Adult Social Care department has continued to embed a new model, where a dedicated safeguarding team will triage safeguarding concerns and attempt to fast-track intervention to protect adults at risk. In order to reduce the number of cases which progressed to s.42.2 Enquiries, the safeguarding team engage with adults about their wishes and supporting them to develop alternative ways of managing risk. Concerns which require longer term intervention, the agency/team best placed to take the lead on Section 42(2) Safeguarding Enquiry works in partnership to support residents and their support networks in order to keep them safe.

Overall, the data this year shows that the number of concerns remains higher than pre-pandemic levels. However, it is right to say that there has been a slight drop in the number of concerns received compared to last year. This reflects safeguarding activity in other London areas. In order to ensure that services in Brent continue to raise concerns as they are currently,

Adult Social Care have planned a programme of awareness raising sessions for next year, to ensure that agencies remain attentive of their responsibilities in this regard.

The safeguarding data, which became available at the end of the reporting period of this annual report shows a fall in many categories of abuse. There has been a very small increase in 'Psychological / Emotional abuse' and 'Pressure Ulcers'. Regular audits of safeguarding activity are in place to provide continued assurance that agencies are working together to protect adults at risk of abuse of these categories. With regards to the location of abuse, people's own homes remains the highest location of abuse at 60% of all concerns which is similar to previous years. Other variations are continuing to be monitored. Extra Care and Sheltered Accommodation placements have seen a slight increase in the number of concerns raised. Extra Care and Sheltered accommodation placements support people to have more choice over the care received and allows individuals to live as independently as possible. The increase in Extra Care and Sheltered Accommodation reflects that there has been an increase in the number of people taking up

offers to be placed in those schemes.

Where a person has capacity, agencies have a responsibility to consider the desired outcomes of an adult at risk and work with them to achieve those outcomes. In terms of the outcomes of Section 42(2) Enquiries, 89% of all Enquiries result in the person's wishes being achieved or partially achieved. As Head of Safeguarding I will be working with agencies to ensure that we keep striving to help people achieve their desired outcomes in relation to Safeguarding Enquiries.

Evelyn Amedoda

Principle Social Worker and
Head of Safeguarding

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SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY IN BRENT

TOTAL CONCERNS	1921-21/22	TOTAL CONCERNS	2019-20/21
Neglect	537	Neglect	559
Psychological / emotional	449	Psychological / emotional	420
Physical	330	Physical	320
Financial	206	Financial	262
Self Neglect	229	Self Neglect	213
Self Harm	55	Self Harm	61
Organisational	20	Organisational	15
Pressure Ulcer	40	Pressure Ulcer	10
Domestic abuse	44	Domestic Abuse	70
Sexual Abuse	44	Sexual Abuse	64
Cuckooing	25	Cuckooing	13
Radicalisation	11	Radicalisation	5
Hoarding	21	Hoarding	19
Modern Slavery	8	Modern Slavery	7
Sexual Exploitation	4	Sexual Exploitation	14
Hate Crime	5	Hate crime	4
Forced Marriage	2	Forced Marriage	2
Discriminatory	1	Discriminatory	3
FGM	2	FGM	2
		Honour based Violence	1
		Mate Crime	6

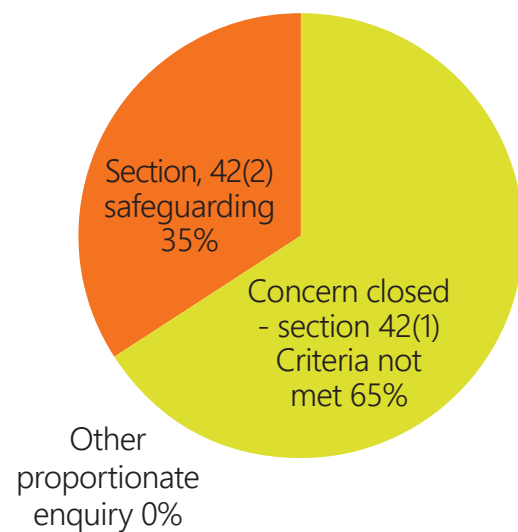




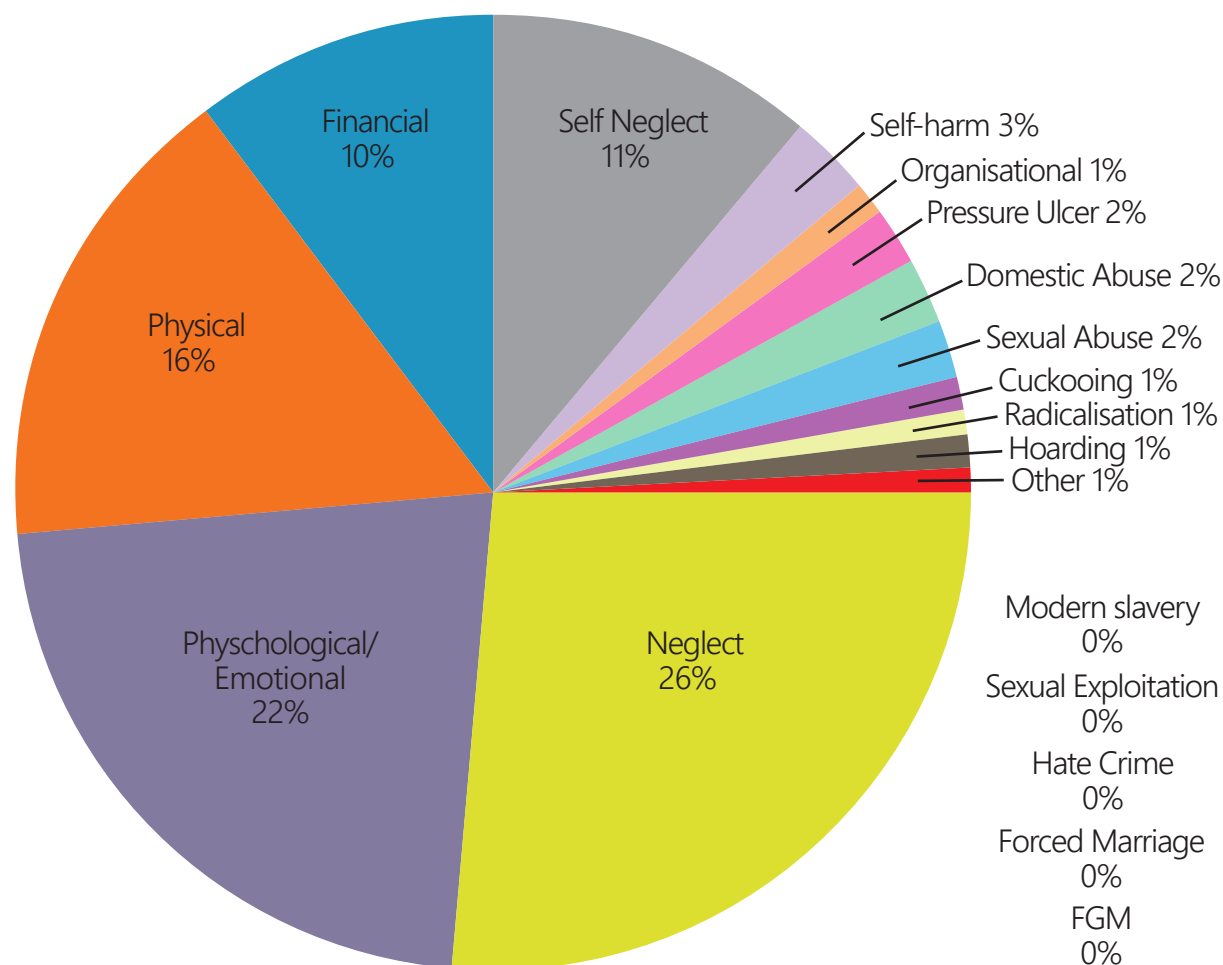
BRENT LOCAL AUTHORITY SAFEGUARDING TOTALS FOR 2021-2022

Safeguarding Concerns	Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries	Other Safeguarding Enquiries	Total Enquiries	Conversion rate % Enquiries/Concerns
1921	668	4	672	35%

OUTCOME OF CONCERNS



CONCERNS IN PERCENTAGES





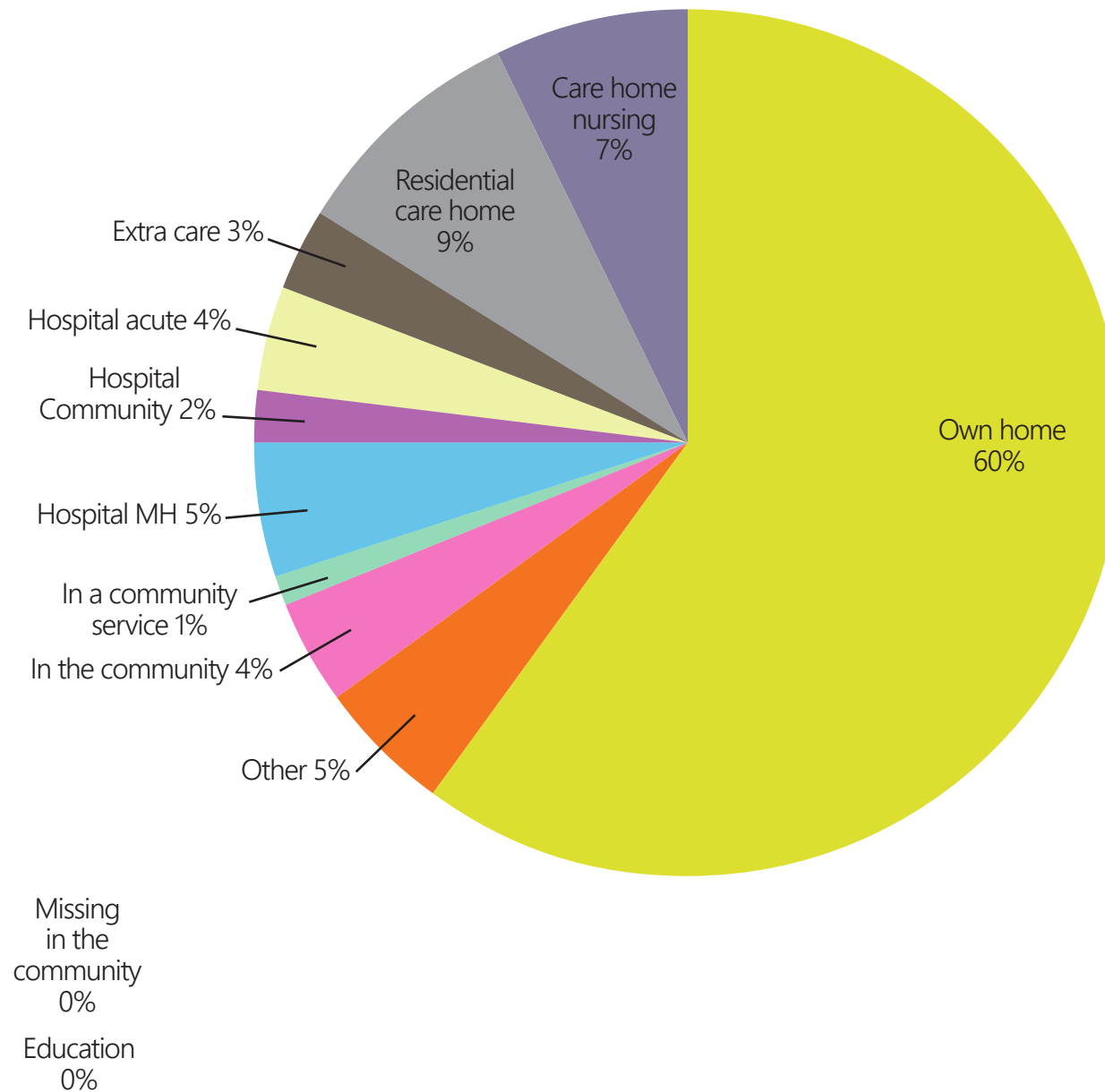
CONCERNS LOCATION OF ABUSE 21-22	CONCERNS LOCATION OF ABUSE 20-21
Own Home 1183	Own Home 1275
Other 104	Other 113
In the Community 81	In the Community 83
In a Community Service 22	In a Community Service 50
Hospital MH 98	Hospital MH 79
Hospital Community 40	Hospital Community 33
Hospital Acute 76	Hospital Acute 57
Extra Care 61	Extra Care 11
Education 1	Education 0
Residential Care Home 173	Residential Care Home 156
Nursing Care Home 132	Nursing Care Home 117
Missing in the community 5	
Total 1976	Total 1974

Make
SURE YOU
LOOK AT THE
BIGGER
PICTURE •





LOCATION IN PERCENTAGES 21-22

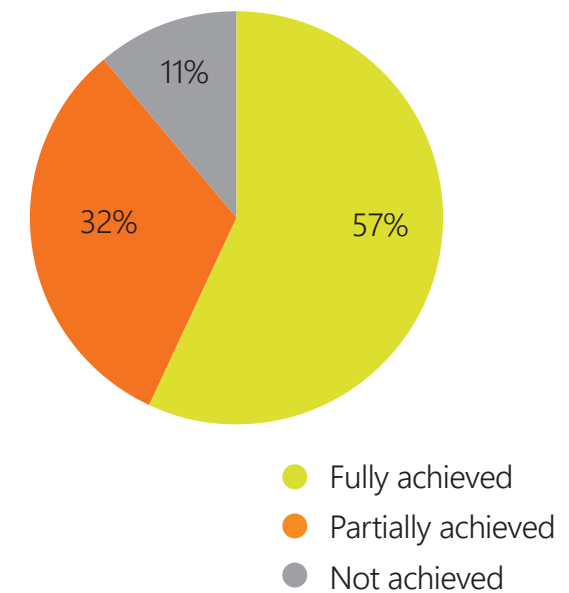


MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

Individuals, or their representatives if unable to communicate or contribute, are asked about the extent to which their desired outcomes were met and if they felt safer. As these are not mandatory, not everyone responds and data may be excluded where a person has died.

For those able to respond, 57% felt their desired outcome were met. The remainder was partially met (32%) and not met (11%).

PEOPLE SUBJECT TO S.42 ENQUIRIES ASKED WHETHER DESIRED OUTCOMES MET



8

STRUCTURE OF THE SAB AND ITS SUB-GROUPS

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (SAB)

The Board is a partnership made up of statutory and non-statutory partners. The statutory partners are; The Metropolitan Police, North West London Clinical Commissioning Group (soon to become Northwest London NHS Integrated Care System) and Brent Council. There are many non-statutory partners who provide a valuable contribution. The Safeguarding Adults Board meets on a quarterly basis. There are three sub-groups that assist the SAB in carrying out its duties. These sub-groups meet when required other than the Executive Sub-Group which meets twice-yearly. Each sub-group has different aims and objectives linked to the Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan.

CASE REVIEW SUB-GROUP

The Case Review sub-group is a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary group. It considers referrals for Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR). Where the criteria are met, it commissions and manages mandatory Safeguarding Adult Reviews. In addition, the Case Review Sub-Group commissions and oversees discretionary Safeguarding Adult Reviews

for cases that fall outside of the mandatory criteria for a SAR but where there is still learning for practitioners and their agencies. The Sub-Group aims to ensure that lessons learned are shared and acted upon, and impact is assessed.

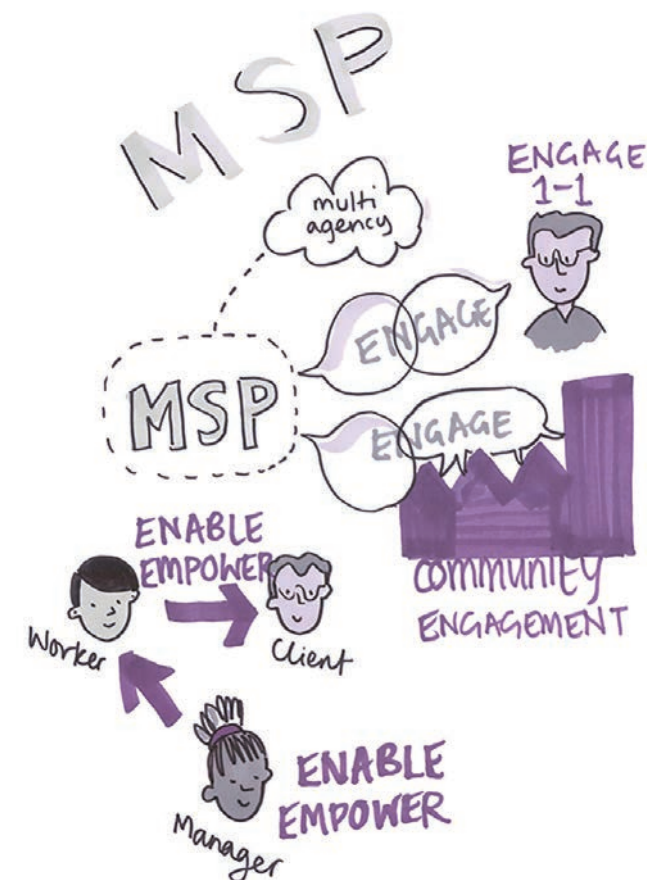
PROVIDER CONCERNS SUB-GROUP

The Provider Concerns sub-group members share knowledge and intelligence about local care services and engage key stakeholders, identify collective concerns or issues, and agree an appropriate multi-agency response. Partners ensure a robust multi-agency approach to all quality concerns that are raised.

THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive has been reformed and will now be a bi-annual meeting of the Statutory Partners, The Chief Executive of Brent Council and the Independent Chair of the SAB. This meeting will have a focus on governance.

This is a planned area of change and will be reported on in next years annual report.





EVENTS

The Safeguarding Adults Board continued to offer virtual learning and development opportunities which was open to all professionals who work or volunteer with adults at risk in Brent.

The learning topics offered are chosen in response to learning needs identified by practitioners and managers, the objectives in the strategic plan as well as feedback from evaluations.

SAB MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME SUMMARY 2020/21

- 12 learning topics delivered
- 15 occurrences
- 197 training places accessed

TOPICS INCLUDED

- Making safeguarding personal – Patrick Hopkinson
- Applying The Mental Capacity Act In Relation To Housing and Homelessness – Mike Ward
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers – Mike Ward
- Responding to Self-Neglect and Hoarding – Heather Matuzzo
- Transitional safeguarding – Dr Adi Cooper and Dr Christine Cocker
- Safeguarding, Homelessness and Self-Neglect – Susan Harrison
- Safeguarding, Homelessness and Self-Neglect – Professor Michel Preston-Shoot
- Learning dissemination Adult D – Professor Michel Preston-Shoot
- Learning dissemination Adult D – Professor Michel Preston-Shoot

The transition to virtual sessions has seen a rise in bookings, a 61% increase in total places booked.

For the first time the Safeguarding Adults Board ran two virtual sessions aimed at members of the public;

- Recognising Domestic Abuse and Older Abuse – SafeLives (public event)
- Financial Scams, Fraud, Abuse and Coercion – Professor Keith Brown (public event)

The Safeguarding Adults Board only runs multi-agency safeguarding learning and development sessions that are agreed by the partnership.

Sessions were attended by the following organisations:

Adults Services (Day/Support Centre) 3
Brent CCG 6

Brent Council 38

Central London West Community Healthcare Trust 22

Central North West London Health Care Trust 26

London North West Healthcare NHS Trust 2

London Ambulance Service 5

NHS England 23

Probation 6

Voluntary Organisations 52

Education 12

Faith Settings 2



BOARD ACTIVITY

Over the period 2021 – 2022, The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) focussed on ensuring that safeguarding systems have continued to work effectively.

One of the ways the Safeguarding Adults Board did this was by asking partners to complete the regional Safeguarding Adults Partnership Audit Tool (SAPAT) over the summer weeks of 2021. The purpose of the audit was to seek assurance over the work of the partnership and individual partner organisations. The SAPAT comprised of four different sections, each exploring a different area.

Section A asked the partnership about achievements and challenges of the past, present and future. Partners indicated strongly that the challenges consisted of the pandemic, changing landscapes, changes to legislation and organisational change. Partners noted burn-out amongst operational staff caused by a range of factors to include the pandemic and there was continued concern about these areas for the future. Partners noted the incredible efforts of frontline staff in continuing to recover from the impact of the pandemic and how organisations had used learning from the partnership to make positive change to ensure

that adults at risk are better protected.

Section B asked how each organisation gathers the views of service users and what the oversight arrangements were in relation to this area. Partners reported that they ensure that service user wishes are monitored through management sign-off over assessments, audits, use of complaints and improved monitoring over data. Partners highlighted an ambition to have greater levels of service user contact in future, possibly developed through the partnership.

Section C asked partners to report on emerging trends post Covid-19 and organisation plans to mitigate future risks. The partnership reported that they had seen no decrease in the number of safeguarding concerns from the previous year suggesting that higher reporting of neglect and abuse is likely to continue. Organisations reported responding by increasing resources as a response and putting systems in place for more effective partnership working to avoid duplication and problem solve more effectively.

Finally Section D asked the partnership about learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Partners reported that they had

made changes to training programmes and Reviews had been discussed in supervision. Where recommendations had been made to an organisation directly, then internal changes had been made and embedded. Partners of the SAB expressed an energy to continue to explore how we can best learn from Safeguarding Adult Reviews as a partnership.

DONT allow yourself
to EVER BE
DESENSITISED



THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD MET QUARTERLY DURING THE YEAR 2021-2022.

April 2021 At the Safeguarding Adults Board meeting April 2021; the SAB scrutinised safeguarding data within Brent for the previous financial year. Brent Adult Social Care presented updates to the partnership in relation to commissioning oversight arrangements and a new service aimed at engaging people who lived chaotic lives (SMART Service). A discussion took place regarding current Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Finally a discussion took place regarding learning from deaths of people with learning disabilities and an update from Healthwatch regarding their activity locally.

June 2021 At the SAB held in June 21, a presentation was made by a senior leader in Brent Council outlining the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the developments around Integrated Care Systems. Michael Preston-Shoot presented a National Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The partnership received a presentation regarding the outcomes of the SAB Learning and Development Conference Week. There was an item exploring current Safeguarding Adult Reviews in Brent and revisiting partnership actions in previous SARs. The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Audit Tool was launched to

partners to complete over the summer months.

October 2021 At the Safeguarding Adults Board meeting October 2021, representatives from Children and Young People, Brent Council were present for an item on Transitional Safeguarding where Bridging The Gap Research Paper was presented and a follow-up discussion took place. Along with action planning for Brent SAR's, there was a presentation of a Norfolk SAR on three people with learning disabilities in out of borough placements from other parts of the country who had died. As part of this item, the Independent Chair asked for assurance

from Brent Adult Social Care and the Clinical Commissioning Group that placements they had made outside of Brent were safe and people were well monitored. Brent Safeguarding data was scrutinized and the brief findings from the SAPAT were presented to the SAB.

February 2022 The final Safeguarding Adults Board of the financial year in Brent focussed upon Adult F and Adult G Safeguarding Adult Reviews and associated action planning. The outgoing Independent Chair, Michael Preston-Shoot thanked partners for their contributions during his tenure as Independent Chair and introduced Fran Pearson who was to take over as the new Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board in April 2022.





THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2021

During late 2019, the Safeguarding Adults Board held a 'Board Development Day' event. Presentations to Board members were made by operational agencies who provide a service to adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Brent. The purpose of the presentations was to give services the chance to tell the SAB what they felt the Board should focus on strategically over the next 2 years. Feedback from the ADASS Peer Review was also incorporated into the day's discussions as well as using information obtained by the audits commissioned by the SAB. Following the presentations, Board members came together for group discussion to identify themes. At the following SAB meeting the Strategic Plan was agreed and later published on the Safeguarding Adults Board website.

The development of a new Strategic Plan was postponed due to operational pressures on partners during the pandemic and due to awaiting the arrival of the new Independent Chair who would oversee the new Strategic Plan. The current plan will be refreshed and reported on in next year's annual report. The current plan is;

PRIORITY 1 – SELF NEGLECT

The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance (DH, 2020) defines self-neglect as: "A wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding." In order to work towards achieving this priority Brent SAB have:

- Monitored self-neglect data at the SAB and asked agencies to account for their response.
- Developed multi-agency self-neglect policies and procedures which are published on the Independent Safeguarding Adults Board Website (www.brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk)
- Undertaken multi-agency learning dissemination events in relation to Adult D and Adult F throughout 2021 and 2022.
- Organised multi-agency learning and development sessions examining different aspects of self-neglect facilitated by:

- Michael Preston-Shoot
- Suzy Braye
- Susan Harrison
- Heather Mattuozo
- Mike Ward
- Patrick Hopkinson





PRIORITY 2 – LEGAL LITERACY

Legal Literacy is knowledge and awareness of the legal options open to practitioners in order to safeguard adults at risk from abuse and neglect. The Brent SAB aims to empower practitioners in Brent with knowledge as to the options open to them and develop systems in order that this informs decision-making. In order to work towards achieving this priority Brent SAB have:

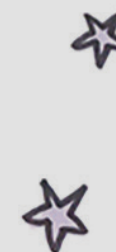
- Regular attendance of colleagues from the legal department to advise the Safeguarding Adults Board in relation to legal options.
- Learning and Development sessions in responding to particular forms of neglect or abuse.
- Completion of the SAPAT in order to ascertain if this remains an ongoing issue for the partnership.



PRIORITY 3 – INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Some of the feedback at the Development Day was that information sometimes did not always reach those who need it most. In order to work towards achieving this priority Brent SAB have:

- Organised professionals conferences in 2019, 2020 and a virtual conference in 2021 to ensure practitioners who work in Brent can come together for multi-agency learning and development.
- As part of the Virtual Conference week, community sessions were arranged in relation to Financial Abuse and Domestic Abuse to reach smaller organisations and the general public.
- Launch of the Safeguarding Adults Board Website as a vehicle to disseminate learning and information and promote the independence of the SAB in Brent
(www.brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk)



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PARTNER ORGANISATIONS





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SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

Safeguarding Adults Boards have a statutory duty to commission a Safeguarding Adults Review where the criteria laid out in the Care Act 2014 are met. The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to explore how agencies worked together to protect a person with care and support needs from abuse or neglect and identify the lessons to be learned. Safeguarding Adults Reviews are not about blame. They are reviews completed by a person independent of agencies involved. Safeguarding Adult Reviews are normally published on completion. Published reviews are available on the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board website

<https://brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk>

In the reporting year 2021-2022, Brent Safeguarding Adults Board had two Safeguarding Adults Reviews that had been formally commissioned and were in progress. In order to protect the person's identity, the person's name is not used in a Safeguarding Adults Review unless specifically requested by family members.

Adult E falls outside of the reporting period of this annual report. However, following a complaint made by Adult E's family, an update in relation to the Adult E SAR has been included overleaf.



**Adult E**

Adult E was published and reported on in the previous annual report and does not fall into the current reporting year. However, since the publication of the Safeguarding Adults Review, the family of Adult E wrote to highlight their distress at the time taken to complete the SAR, and that the family did not feel sufficiently updated by the Safeguarding Adults Board during the progress of the SAR. Brent Safeguarding Adults Board made an apology to the family of Adult E and wished to highlight this within the Brent SAB annual report for both the time taken to complete the review and also apologise with respect to the frequency of communication. Brent Safeguarding Adults Board have made a commitment that, if there are delays of a similar nature that occur in future, families will be informed at each point of postponement of the outcome of any discussions and involve families to a greater extent in relation to any decisions made on how to progress.

Adult F

The Adult F SAR has been completed and the initial action planning has been undertaken. The subject of the report is an older retired male who suffered long-term mental health problems. During his working life he required intervention and support in relation to his mental health but was able to manage work and home life. However, in his later life, health and social care professionals became concerned about how he was living and attempted to persuade him to accept support. His health deteriorated and professionals tried to support him but he refused intervention. He later died in hospital. The themes of this review are self-neglect, mental capacity and making safeguarding personal. This report has not yet been published. At the time of writing the Safeguarding Adults Board is due to meet with the remaining family member to discuss publication in the coming weeks. Further information regarding this review will be reported on in next year's annual report.

Adult G

The Adult G SAR is nearing completion and agreement by the partnership. The subject of the report was a male with cerebral palsy. During his younger life he resided with his parents in the family home but as his health, mobility and ability to communicate deteriorated and he was moved into a care home. Over time the care home began to struggle meeting his needs and he developed severe pressure ulcers. He had periods in hospital but returned to the same placement due to a range of factors but a large part was due to a belief by professionals that the care home was his home and that he did not want to move. He was diagnosed with a learning disability late in life and was eventually moved to a nursing placement once the funding arrangements were agreed. However, problems continued to occur and Adult G died in hospital. The report has highlighted a number of lessons around commissioning and monitoring of placements, working with other boroughs where safeguarding concerns are raised and pressure ulcer care in care homes and in hospital.



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BRENT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD BUDGET, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021-2022

INCOME	AMOUNT
Clinical Commissioning Group	£25000
Brent Council	*£37400
MOPAC	£5000
Total	£67,500 Rounded Figure

ITEM	EXPENDITURE 21/22 (ROUNDED COST)
Adult F Safeguarding Adult Review	£7,000
Adult G Safeguarding Adults Review	£5,000
Virtual Conference Week	£7,000
Learning and Development Offer	£10,000
Annual Report Costs	£1000
Independent Chairs Fees (including handover to the new Chair)	£25,000
Total	£55,000

*In addition to the sum on the left, Brent Council pay for staffing costs to support the functioning of The SAB namely;

- One full time Strategic Partnerships Manager (portion of time)
- One full time Strategic Partnerships Lead
- One part time Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Coordinator



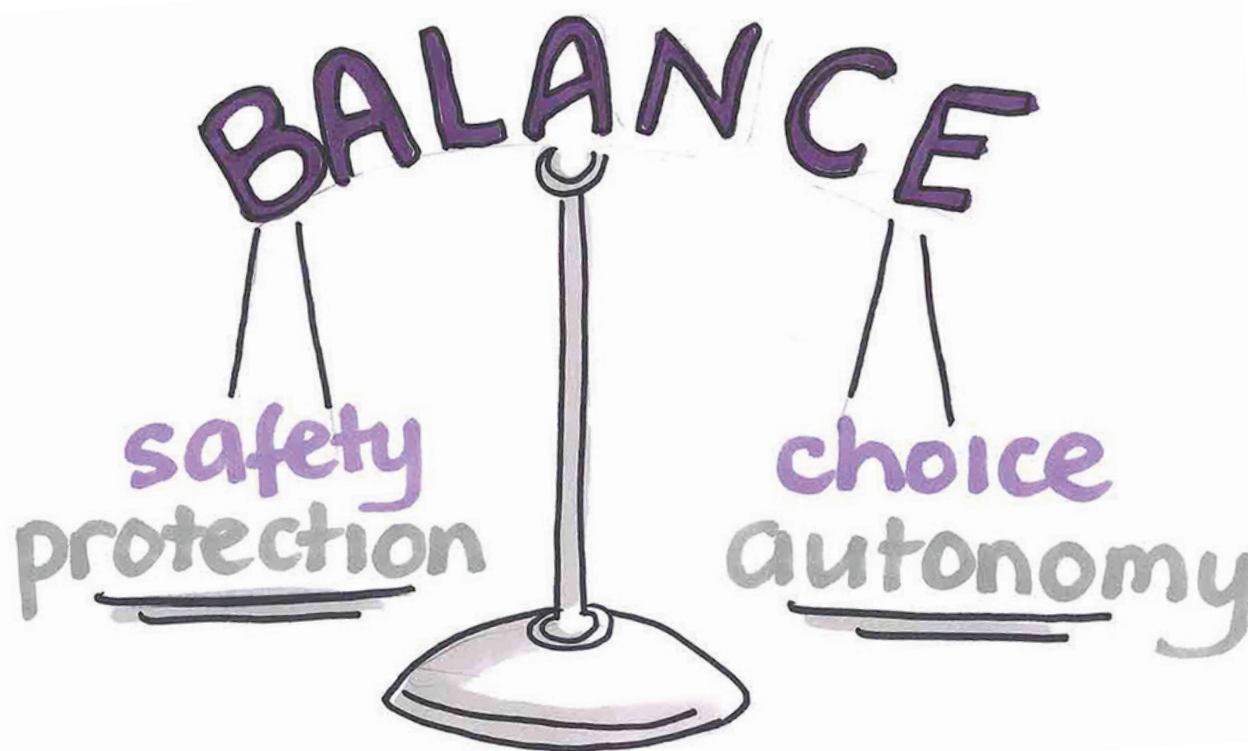
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THE COMING TWELVE MONTHS

The next 12 months will be a time of change for Brent SAB. A new Independent Chair, Fran Pearson has been appointed. It is likely that the new chair will have views on how the Brent SAB works, and may want to talk with partners about the possibility of doing things differently. The Chair will lead discussions around system changes as a result of the new priorities. The Chair will also oversee a new learning and development offer and will lead the SAB regarding changes in legislation from Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). There will also be organisational change towards Integrated Care Systems.

At the time of writing the Safeguarding Adults Board is in the process of setting its future priorities for 2022 – 2025. Future meetings will focus on scoping and planning the future priorities which are agreed as; Substance Misuse and Housing Need, Self-neglect and the continuing Safeguarding impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Progress in relation to these areas will be a focus of next year's annual report.









Adult Safeguarding Leadership

starts with us all....






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Cara Holland
Head Visualiser
www.graphicchange.com
+44 (0) 7730 683703

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 Brent	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 22 November 2022
	Report from the Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership
Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership (Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements/MASA) Annual Report 2021-22	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Annual Report
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer:	Wendy Marchese Strategic Partnership Lead for Safeguarding Children Wendy.Marchese@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to consider the Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report covering the period from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the safeguarding children partnership annual report (Appendix A).

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 made provision for the locally determined arrangements agreed and delivered by three statutory safeguarding partners – local authorities, CCGs and police.
- 3.2 Subsequently, statutory guidance in the form of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) was published setting out the framework for local safeguarding oversight arrangements.

- 3.3 As set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018, the three safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding Partners

- 3.4 The responsibility for the strategic oversight of this join-up of this locally rests with the three safeguarding partners (Brent Council, Metropolitan Police and North West London Integrated Care Board) who have a shared and equal duty to arrange to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent.

Independent Scrutiny

- 3.5 The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The independent scrutiny is part of a wider external inspection system administered by Ofsted, CQC and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.
- 3.6 The decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is made locally and Brent safeguarding partners should ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.
- 3.7 In Brent, the Safeguarding Partners have agreed the Independent Scrutineer function is carried out through an Independent Convener, Mike Howard. The Independent Scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership.

Brent's safeguarding partnership arrangements

- 3.8 Brent's safeguarding children partnership arrangements consist of a three-tier structure:
- Tier 1 - The Executive Group - provides high-level strategic leadership
 - Tier 2 - Brent Safeguarding Children Forum - diverse and wider-ranging partnership group
 - Tier 3 - Delivery focussed sub-groups - responsible for carrying out specific statutory duties of the partnership, these include:
 - Case Review Group
 - Joint partnerships Learning and Development Group
 - Multi-agency Audit Group

The Executive Group

- 3.9 The Executive Group membership includes senior representatives from the three safeguarding partners - Brent Council (Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Children and Young People), North West London Integrated Care Board (Director of Quality, Nursing and Safeguarding) and Metropolitan Police (Superintendent, Public Protection-Safeguarding Lead, North West BCU).

- 3.10 The Independent Convener is a standing member of the Executive Group and, as The Leader of Brent Council and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools are politically accountable for ensuring the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, they are also members of the Executive Group.

Brent Safeguarding Children Forum

- 3.11 The Brent Safeguarding Children Forum is the wider partnership forum accountable to the Executive Group, it is chaired by the Independent Scrutineer.
- 3.12 The Brent Safeguarding Partners selected the agencies and organisations as members of the Forum. These agencies and organisations have been chosen as they provide key strategic and operational insight for the safeguarding of children and young people in Brent.
- 3.13 The membership of the Forum includes representation from the safeguarding partners, identified relevant agencies (including schools and other education settings, health service providers, the Probation Service, CAFCASS) and lay members.
- 3.14 The Safeguarding Partners recognise the importance of involving the local community and therefore the Forum has two lay members.

The lay members act as valuable ambassadors to help build stronger links with the local community as part of the new arrangements and are encouraged to:

- promote awareness of safeguarding across Brent's communities
- represent the community voice at Safeguarding Forum meetings
- engage with Brent's people and local groups to support community cohesion

Partnership support staff arrangements

- 3.15 Support staffing arrangements for the Brent safeguarding children partnership arrangements are funded and resourced by Brent Council.
- 3.16 The Strategic Partnerships Team is responsible for leading the coordination of the arrangements and is managed by the Strategic Partnerships Manager. The team is based in the Communities and Regeneration Department of the Council.
- 3.17 Alongside the safeguarding children partnership arrangements, the Strategic Partnerships Team also coordinates activities for other strategic partnerships in Brent including; Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, Brent Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Partnership and Brent Children's Trust.
- 3.18 This staffing structure enables stronger strategic coordination between the strategic partnerships in Brent to both avoid duplication and develop joint initiatives. It also successfully facilitates a level of independence from the operational safeguarding activity of the council.

- 3.19 The Brent Council Governance Team provide some administration support for both the Executive Group and Safeguarding Forum meetings (approximately 1 day a month).
- 3.20 During the period of reporting, the Brent Safeguarding Children's Partnership carried out a range of activities, see the annual report (Appendix A) for further information. Further details of the functions and activity of the Executive Group, Forum and sub groups are laid out in the annual report (Appendix A).

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The safeguarding partners agree the partnership financial funding to support the local arrangements on an annual basis and the financial year runs from the 1 April to the 31 March the following year.
- 4.2 For the 2021/22 financial year, the Safeguarding Children Partnership had an annual budget of £63,500 excluding staff costs.
- 4.3 The contributions that make up the safeguarding partnership budget are:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Metropolitan Police | £5,000 |
| • NWL Integrated Care Board | £45,900 |
| • Probation Service | £1,600 |
| • London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust | £11,000 |
- 4.4 The local authority makes additional contributions in the form of staffing costs to support the running and coordination of the safeguarding partnership arrangements.
- 4.5 A full breakdown of the budget is included in in the annual report (please see Appendix A).

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The safeguarding partnership is exercising its functions within the legislative framework of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 5.2 The statutory guidance in the form of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) sets out the framework for local safeguarding oversight arrangements.
- 5.3 The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018 sets out the duties on local authorities to notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel of serious safeguarding incidents that meet the reporting threshold and the legislative requirements of the safeguarding partners in meeting their obligations to review the partnership working in these cases.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in Brent have been jointly developed by Brent Council, NWL Integrated Care Board and the North West Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police.
- 6.2 The three safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent. In discharging their duty safeguarding partners must be assured by partner agencies in the borough that multi-agency services are accessible, inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of Brent's children and young people, including those with additional needs and/or vulnerabilities
- 6.3 The safeguarding partners also ensure that services are culturally aware and skilled in identifying, assessing and meeting the individual needs of Brent children and their families.

REPORT SIGN-OFF

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director Children and Young People

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Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022

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1. Introduction

2. Brent multi-agency safeguarding children partnership arrangements

- Brent Statutory Safeguarding Partners Executive Group
- Brent Safeguarding Forum
- Case Review Group
- Multi-agency Learning & Development Group
- Multi-agency Audit Group
- Independent Scrutiny
- Support arrangements
- Financial arrangements

3. Safeguarding children partnership activity 2021-2022

- Timeline of activity: October 2021 – September 2022
- Multi-agency learning and development
- Serious child safeguarding incidents

4. Achievements

- Brent Thresholds Guide
- Priority area of focus - Identifying and responding to emerging safeguarding issues
- Learning from local multi-agency case reviews and audits

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Local organisations and agencies have a duty¹ to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions.
- 1.2. In addition, there is also a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
- 1.3. The responsibility for the strategic oversight of this join-up of this locally rests with the three safeguarding partners, who have a shared and equal duty² to arrange to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The three safeguarding partners in relation to a local area in England are defined as:

- 1. The local authority**
- 2. A clinical commissioning group (now known as Integrated Care Board)**
- 3. The police**

- 1.4. The three safeguarding partners must:

- agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others
- implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents

The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to **work together in a system** where:

- **Children are safeguarded** and their welfare promoted;
- **Partner organisations and agencies collaborate**, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- **Organisations and agencies challenge** appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- **There is early identification and analysis** of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- **Learning is promoted and embedded** in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- **Information is shared effectively** to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

- 1.5. To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners have set out jointly how they work together and with other relevant agencies in the Brent multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

¹ Under section 11 of the Children Act 2004

² Under the Children and Social Work Act in 2017 and statutory guidance Working Together 2018

2. Brent multi-agency safeguarding children partnership arrangements

- 2.1. Brent's statutory multi-agency safeguarding children partnership arrangements were published on the [Brent Safeguarding Partnerships website](#) in June 2019 and implemented on 30 September 2019.
- 2.2. The published arrangements were reviewed and updated by the Partnership in November 2021.

Brent's safeguarding children partnership arrangements consist of a three-tier structure:

- **Tier 1 The Executive Group** - provides high-level strategic leadership
- **Tier 2 Brent Safeguarding Children Forum** - diverse and wider-ranging partnership group
- **Tier 3 Delivery focussed sub-groups** - responsible for carrying out specific statutory duties of the partnership, these include:
 - Case Review Group
 - Learning and Development Advisory Group
 - Multi-agency Audit Group

Brent Statutory Safeguarding Partners Executive Group

- 2.3. The Executive Group fulfil the objectives, functions and responsibilities set out in Working Together 2018 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent by:

- agreeing the overarching strategic vision and local priorities for safeguarding children
- challenging and holding the Safeguarding Forum to account
- agreeing, publishing, and reviewing the safeguarding oversight arrangements
- monitoring serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance
- ensuring that the arrangements to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area are effective and robust
- identifying any new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- making strategic links with other Brent partnerships
- making provision for independent scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements

- 2.4. The Executive Group membership includes:

Brent Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Executive• Corporate Director of Children and Young People• The Leader of Brent Council• Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools ³
North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director of Quality, Nursing and Safeguarding
Metropolitan Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent (Public Protection-Safeguarding Lead), North West BCU
Independent Scrutineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent Convener for Brent Safeguarding Children Forum

³ The Leader of Brent Council and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools are politically accountable for ensuring the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. They provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other agencies who have safeguarding responsibilities and therefore are members of the Executive Group.

Brent Safeguarding Children Forum

2.5. The Brent Safeguarding Children Forum is a wider partnership forum accountable to the Executive Group. The Forum co-ordinates and monitors multi-agency safeguarding oversight arrangements as set out in Working Together 2018 and is led by an Independent Convenor.

2.6. The Forum is responsible for;

- driving delivery of local safeguarding priorities set by the Executive Group
- building relationships with other strategic partnerships, the local community, local schools, and other educational establishments
- seeking assurance on behalf of the Executive Group that partners are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities, sharing information effectively and have robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place through multi-agency audits (including consideration of a S.11 type audit as used under the previous LSCB arrangements) and challenge at Forum meetings
- ensuring that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies follow the London Child Protection Procedures
- develop and maintain a Brent Thresholds document giving guidance on children getting the right help at the right time
- developing, implementing, and monitoring the impact of an interagency safeguarding children learning and development programme, incorporating local and national learning from serious child safeguarding cases
- analysing and considering partnership responses to any new safeguarding issues and emerging threats identified by the Executive Group
- undertaking Local Learning Reviews on behalf of the Executive Group
- developing ways for the safeguarding oversight arrangements to include the voices of children and families in Brent (e.g., refining rapid reviews to include agencies who can properly represent the voice of the child/ren, such as schools)
- considering multi-agency management information (e.g., scrutinising annual reports presented to the Forum) and intelligence to establish an overview of and assess the effectiveness of safeguarding activity within Brent
- supporting agencies in resolving disputes that have been appropriately escalated
- scrutinising the learning, good practice, and implementation of recommendations from rapid reviews
- responding effectively to emerging safeguarding issues

2.7. The membership of the Forum includes representation from the following partners, relevant agencies, organisations, and lay members;

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

North West London ICB	Designated Safeguarding Children Professionals for Brent Named GP for Safeguarding, Brent
Brent Council	Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services (Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care) Children and Young People Housing Needs Safeguarding Adults Public Health Community Safety
Metropolitan Police	North West Borough Command Unit (BCU) Public Protection

AGENCY/ORGANISATION	
Education establishments	College of North West London / United Colleges Group Newman Catholic College Lyon Park Primary School The Village and Woodfield Special Schools Kingsbury High School Preston Manor School
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)	
Central North West London Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust (CNWL)	
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	
London Ambulance Service (LAS)	
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNUH)	
Probation Service	
OTHER	
Lay members	

2.8. The Brent Safeguarding Partners selected the agencies and organisations as members of the Forum. These agencies and organisations have been chosen as they provide key strategic and operational insight for the safeguarding of children and young people in Brent.

2.9. The selected relevant agencies form the core membership of the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum. Forum members are expected to;

- proactively and enthusiastically engage with the partnership safeguarding arrangements
- be able to influence the strategic planning for safeguarding children within their agency
- be able to secure appropriate information from their agency to support the partnership work
- ensure that decisions of the Forum are taken forward within their own agency, and any impediments or delays to their implementation are reported to the Board
- be responsible for communicating the partnership work effectively within their agency

2.10. The Safeguarding Partners recognise the importance of involving the local community and therefore the Forum has two lay members.

2.11. The lay members act as valuable ambassadors to help build stronger links with the local community as part of the new arrangements and are encouraged to:

- promote awareness of safeguarding across Brent's communities
- represent the community voice at Safeguarding Forum meetings
- engage with Brent's people and local groups to support community cohesion

2.12. The Forum continues to develop and strengthen the existing engagement from early years, schools and the Further Education College in the borough and has a significant membership from this sector.

2.13. Attendance at all Safeguarding Forum meetings is monitored and where any concerns arise regarding attendance and engagement of relevant agencies, the Independent Convener raise these with both the agency concerned and the Executive Group.

Case Review Group

2.14. The Case Review Group is critical to the work of the Safeguarding Partners in Brent. It is the key mechanism for carrying out reviews of serious safeguarding cases that meet the criteria set out in Working Together 2018.

2.15. The Case Review Group meeting is chaired by the Independent Convenor and is responsible for:

- considering all serious incident cases in Brent and making recommendations to the Safeguarding Partners for determination if the learning review criteria has been met
- identifying recommendations for any lessons to be learnt from serious incidents in Brent
- coordinating the arrangements on behalf of the Safeguarding Partners for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- developing the terms of reference, monitoring progress developing improvement plans coming for each local review
- making recommendations for multi-agency learning events based on the findings arising from case reviews and what the process is for undertaking them
- sharing examples of good practice to develop understanding of what works well

2.16. The Case Review Group has a fixed core membership drawn from the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. It has the flexibility to invite other relevant professionals to discuss certain cases as and when appropriate (including rapid reviews).

2.17. The core membership of the Case Review Group includes representation from the following partners, relevant agencies, and organisations;

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS	
North West London ICB	Designated Professionals for safeguarding children, Brent Named GP for Safeguarding, Brent
Brent Council	Children and Young People Community Safety Legal Services
Metropolitan Police	North West Borough Command Unit (BCU) Public Protection
AGENCY/ORGANISATION	
Central London Community Healthcare Trust (CLCH)	
Central North West London Mental Health Foundation Trust (CNWL)	
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNUH)	

2.18. In recognition of the sensitive and confidential nature of business, all agency representatives/members must sign a confidentiality agreement, which includes the requirement to appropriately share and securely store information.

2.19. The Case Review Group also ensures that where possible and appropriate to do so, children, young people and families are involved in Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR).

2.20. The Case Review Group maintains links with the North West London Child Death Review process and ongoing considerations take place about linking review processes locally where child deaths are considered as part of both processes.

Multi-agency Learning and Development Group

- 2.21. The Safeguarding Partners agreed that a multi-agency safeguarding children learning and development programme would be offered as part of the partnership arrangements from September 2019.
- 2.22. The safeguarding children partners tasked a Learning and Development Advisory Group to oversee the development and delivery of the multi-agency learning and development programme. This group was supported by the Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Coordinator.
- 2.23. As the Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer post was vacant from October 2021 to July 2022, this group was unable to meet or progress any development activity.
- 2.24. In August 2022, following a review of the function of the existing group, a proposal was developed to create a new joint Learning and Development sub-group for both the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 2.25. The proposal identified the need for the joint group to have a reinvigorated focus on:
- Delivering a joint multiagency safeguarding learning and development programme that is effective at responding to identified local and national safeguarding issues and priority areas of focus
 - Redesign the current programme to increase the impact on multi-agency practice, processes, and systems in Brent.
 - Maximising and raising the profile, and uptake, of the programme through the development of a communications plan
 - Reviewing the evaluation process and defining impact
- 2.26. In September 2022, the proposal for the joint group was agreed by both the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum and the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 2.27. The Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer will support the progress of this group and will lead on identifying the multi-agency membership and development of the work plan.

Multi-agency Audit Group

- 2.28. Multi-agency audit activity evaluates the effectiveness of agencies, individually and together, to improve the wellbeing of children, including ensuring that children and young people get the right help and protection at the right time.
- 2.29. The Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to strengthening the multi-agency case auditing activity and in February 2022 it was agreed that the partnership would set up a multi-agency audit group.
- 2.30. The Multi-agency Audit Group meeting is chaired by Brent Council Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and is responsible for:

- Developing a good oversight of multi-agency practice through audit activity.
- reviewing how agencies work together to create the right conditions for effective practice
- evaluating how and where improvements are needed
- developing and implementing a programme of multi-agency audits to establish that appropriate safeguarding activities are being undertaken and that effective procedures and practices are in place
- conducting multi-agency audits, making multi-agency practice recommendations, and disseminating learning
- monitoring implementation of multi-agency recommendations and actions arising from audits and consider what difference these have made
- testing and monitoring multi-agency compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requirements

- 2.31. The Multi-agency Audit Group has a fixed core membership drawn from the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. It has the flexibility to invite other relevant professionals to participate in certain audits as and when appropriate.
- 2.32. The core membership of the Multi-agency Audit Group includes representation from the following partners, relevant agencies, and organisations;

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

North West London ICB	Designated Professionals for safeguarding children, Brent Named GP for Safeguarding, Brent
Brent Council	Children and Young People
Metropolitan Police	North West Borough Command Unit (BCU) Public Protection

AGENCY/ORGANISATION

Central London Community Healthcare Trust (CLCH)
Central North West London Mental Health Foundation Trust (CNWL)
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWUH)
Education representatives (Designated Safeguarding Lead – Preston Manor School)

Independent Scrutiny

- 2.33. The Safeguarding Partners agreed that the Safeguarding Forum is led by an Independent Convenor, who also undertakes the role of the Independent Scrutineer.
- 2.34. The current Independent Convener's contract was extended for a further 12 months until June 2023.
- 2.35. The Independent Convenor's role includes:

- appropriately challenging partner agencies and professionals for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Brent
- providing direction to the Safeguarding Forum and ensuring statutory obligations and local priorities are being delivered
- overseeing the progression case reviews to ensure they meet required timescales
- ensuring that key local issues and national developments are considered by the Safeguarding Forum
- challenging and monitoring the performance and participation of partners in the work of the Safeguarding Forum
- chair and agree the record of rapid reviews and oversee the implementation of recommendations and learning

Officer support arrangements

- 2.36. Support staffing arrangements for the Brent safeguarding children partnership arrangements are funded and resourced by Brent Council.
- 2.37. The Strategic Partnerships Team is responsible for leading the coordination of the arrangements and is managed by the Strategic Partnerships Manager. The team is based in the Communities and Regeneration Department of the council.
- 2.38. Alongside the safeguarding children partnership arrangements, the Strategic Partnerships Team also coordinates activities for other strategic partnerships in Brent including; Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, Brent Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Partnership and Brent Children's Trust
- 2.39. This staffing structure enables stronger strategic coordination between the strategic partnerships in Brent to both avoid duplication and develop joint initiatives. It also successfully facilitates a level of independence from the operational safeguarding activity of the council.
- 2.40. The following staffing provision within the Strategic Partnerships Team that coordinate the safeguarding children arrangements include:

A full time Strategic Partnerships Lead

(This post also manages and coordinates the Brent Children's Trust)

A full time Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer

(This post also jointly manages the Safeguarding Adults Board learning and development)

- 2.41. The Brent Council Governance Team provide some administration support for both the Executive Group and Safeguarding Forum meetings (approximately 1 day a month).
- 2.42. During the period, the Learning and development Officer post was vacant between October 2021 and July 2022. This restricted the development of the joint multi-agency safeguarding children and adults learning and development programme

Financial arrangements

2.43. The safeguarding partners agree the partnership financial funding to support the local arrangements on an annual basis and the financial year runs from the 1 April to the 31 March the following year.

Safeguarding Partnership Contributions

2.44. Whilst Working Together 2018 states the funding from each partner ‘*should be equitable and proportionate*’ this is not the case in Brent:

Brent Council

- As Brent Council’s contribution consists of the officer support staffing/resource arrangements for the partnership, no additional financial contribution is made to the partnership financial arrangements. *The staffing/resource arrangements are equivalent to approximately £127,000*

Metropolitan Police

- Despite numerous repeated challenges made at all levels across London, all London boroughs, regardless of size, continue to receive the same level of financial contribution from the Metropolitan Police, agreed centrally by the Mayor and set at **£5,000**.

North West London ICB

- NWL ICB financially contribute towards the partnership financial arrangements, this is a continuation of the contribution previously made by Brent ICB and is set at **£45,900**.

Relevant Agency Contributions

2.45. Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership also received financial contributions from the following relevant agencies:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • National Probation Service | £1,600 |
| • London North West University Healthcare Trust | £11,000 |

Partnership Financial Budget

2.46. The total annual financial contributions to the safeguarding partnership arrangements for 2021/2022 is therefore **£63,500**.

Financial Contribution	Amount (£)
Metropolitan Police	5,000
NWL ICB	45,900
Probation Service	1,600
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	11,000
Total	63,500

2.47. The income and expenditure are managed and monitored by the Strategic Partnerships Team on behalf of the partnership.

Partnership Financial Expenditure

2.48. The table below outlines the expenditure of the safeguarding arrangements during the 2021-2022 financial year (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022):

Expense	Amount (£)
Independent Convener	31,750
Online multi-agency learning and development management system (50%)	1,250
ICT equipment Independent Convener	981
External facilitators costs for delivery of multiagency L&D programme	16,078
Total expenditure	50,059

2.49. The total underspend of £13,441 was moved to the partnership’s financial reserves.

3. Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Activity

Timeline of activity: October 2021 – September 2022

Meeting		Key areas of focus
NOV 2021	Executive Group meeting 11 Nov 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Group discussed the partnership response to missing children. The group sought reassurance regarding the increase in safeguarding concerns for vulnerable children presenting at Northwick Park Hospital with mental health issues. The CQC inspection of London North West University Healthcare (LNWUH) NHS Trust maternity services (rated inadequate) was discussed by the Executive Group. It received reassurance from the ICB that resolving these areas of concern were a matter of priority.
	Safeguarding Forum meeting 2 Dec 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Brent Safeguarding Partnership response to Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges (Everyone's Invited) was discussed. The possible safeguarding concerns for Afghan refugees and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers in Brent were explored.
DEC 2021	Executive Group meeting 16 Dec 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum received an annual update on the Children and Young People's department work with schools and alternative provision on exclusions. The multi-agency budget contributions to the partnership arrangements was discussed. The Executive Group heard that the increase in referrals to Brent CYP are also being experienced across the country The Executive Group agreed for an extra-ordinary meeting of the Safeguarding Children Forum to be arranged to seek assurance from the wider partnership in Brent in response to the implications from the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.
	Executive Group meeting 02 Feb 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The safeguarding partners signed off the refreshed Brent thresholds guide. The proposed safeguarding partnership budget for 2022/2023 was agreed: An update on the NWLUHT Maternity Services Improvement Plan was provided to the safeguarding partners.
FEB 2022	Extraordinary Safeguarding Forum meeting – Local response to child neglect murders 8 Feb 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education colleagues highlighted the importance of staff training, behaviour observations of students and advice through Designated Safeguarding Leads as vital in ensuring the early detection and action regarding neglect. Brent health service providers receive appropriate safeguarding training, and supervision of practice. It is recognised that one of the biggest issues for health service providers was when a child had not attended an appointment. In these instances, there are policies in place to ensure follow up and liaison with the GP. All volunteers in foodbanks have safeguarding training and partnered with Brent hubs who are safeguarding trained and are able to share information. Within the Brent Family Front Door (BFFD) staff are aware of the complexity of abuse and neglect and recognise the value of referrals from partners. Multi-agency BFFD audits provide reassurance and partners are invited to take part in those audits. From a community perspective (through Lay Member input), members of the community are concerned about how stretched agencies are, with an extensive workload and high turnover of staff. The updated Brent Thresholds Guide was shared with the wider partnership, the new guide incorporated some of the guidance from local and national reviews. The guide includes information about the BFFD consultation line for professionals, where staff can talk through a concern with an expert to help them decide whether or not to make a referral.
	Case Review Group meeting 24 Feb 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group continued to monitor the progress on the outstanding learning from all Brent partnership case reviews with a focus on what impact the learning has had on multiagency practice. The group discussed the findings and recommendations of the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection carried out in Solihull and sought assurance from partners on Brent's position. Brent's involvement in two other local borough practice reviews that involve learning for Brent services was discussed.

Meeting		Key areas of focus
MAR 2022	Multi-agency Audit Group 3 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audit group met for the first time to draw up Terms of Reference. The group agreed the methodology of the multi-agency audit process and the initiation of a pilot multi-agency audit to test out the process.
APRIL 2022	Safeguarding Forum meeting 21 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update on Operation Encompass was discussed and education colleagues fed back that as soon as they received Operation Encompass information, support would be put in place immediately with the relevant child or children. The notifications received through Operation Encompass were critical for school staff to support the child both academically and emotionally in the immediate aftermath. The Forum considered the recommendations from the recently published Hackney Child Q Local Safeguarding Children Practice Review and discussed the possible impact in Brent. Locally, police had reinforced to uniformed officers the guidance for conducting intimate searches and reinforced the necessity of having an appropriate adult present. Education colleagues advised that the Safer School Programme in Brent had been running for a long time so officers had been able to forge positive relationships with parents. Parents are confident about the way Safer Schools Officers interact with their children.
MAY 2022	Executive Group meeting 23 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Safeguarding Partners discussed the multi-agency preparation for a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). The Group received the 2020-2021 Brent Family Front Door (BFFD) Annual Report, which covered data to March 2021. The Safeguarding Partners considered the local response to the Hackney Child Q Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review,
JUNE 2022	Case Review Group meeting June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group continued to monitor the progress on the outstanding learning from all Brent partnership case reviews and discussed how partners are embedding the learning from local reviews. The group discussed updates on Brent's involvement in two other local borough practice reviews that involve learning for Brent services The group reflected on the themes, findings and recommendations of the recent national review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson - Child Protection in England.
	Safeguarding Forum meeting 16 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum received an update on the progression of Operation Encompass. The Forum dedicated a large portion of the meeting reflecting on the themes, findings and recommendations of the Child Protection in England review and considered the local multi-agency safeguarding response to the key messages for all Safeguarding Partners. The review had made reference to education being the missing fourth partner, and it was highlighted as a positive that there was good representation from schools on the Forum membership.
	Multi-agency Audit Group 23 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audit group discussed the findings and agreed the recommendations of the completed pilot multi-agency case audit. The group agreed the multi-agency case audit programme and meeting schedule for September 2022 – July 2023 The group agreed the next audit would be begin in September 2022.
AUG 2022	Executive Group meeting 4 Aug 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Group acknowledged and approved the annual report for year ending 30 September 2021. The Brent Family Front Door (BFFD) Annual Report for 2021/2022 was discussed by the Executive Group. The Executive Group considered the implications for Safeguarding Partners from national reports including Child Protection in England and the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.
SEPT 2022	Safeguarding Forum meeting 22 Sept 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum discussed the Brent Family Front Door (BFFD) Annual Report for 2021/2022 which detailed the achievements of the BFFD service and highlighted the services success in providing continued effective responses. The Forum discussed the update report on the activity of the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Officer (LADO). The Forum also discussed update report on the activity of the Private Fostering Service in 2021-2022.
	Case Review Group meeting 29 Sept 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group discussed updates on the continuing operational activity of cases that have previously been subject to rapid reviews in Brent. The group continued to monitor the progress on the outstanding learning from all Brent partnership case reviews and discussed how partners are embedding the learning from local reviews. The group discussed updates on Brent's involvement in two other local borough practice reviews that involve learning for Brent services.

Multi-agency learning and development

- 3.1. The Safeguarding Children Partnership, jointly with the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, continue to offer a virtual multi-agency safeguarding learning and development programme.
- 3.2. This multi-agency programme is accessible to all people who work, support or volunteer with children, families and adults at risk in Brent.
- 3.3. The strategic partnerships' multi-agency programme is not intended to provide basic safeguarding training for practitioners as it is the responsibility of each agency to provide safeguarding awareness to their workforce.
- 3.4. The programme is updated annually and includes both safeguarding children and safeguarding adults at risk learning opportunities.
- 3.5. The learning topics offered are chosen in response to learning from Safeguarding Reviews, development needs identified by practitioners and managers, and feedback from evaluations.
- 3.6. The programme is coordinated by the Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer with support from both the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board through the newly redesigned joint multi-agency Learning and Development Group.
- 3.7. The Safeguarding Children Forum is kept regularly updated of the multi-agency safeguarding children learning programme through a standing item at each meeting.
- 3.8. The programme aims to comprise of a range of different learning opportunities such as themed briefings, themed awareness raising events and joint learning events/sessions with other strategic partnerships including Brent Safeguarding Adults Board.

Multi-agency learning and development programme summary October 2021 – September 2022

- 3.9. A virtual multi-agency schedule of events was put in place for the 2021/2022 annual programme in September 2021.
- 3.10. The topics included within this period's annual programme were agreed to be focussed on themes identified from learning from local partnership reviews and areas of focus which include:

- **The impact of domestic abuse on children in Brent** – this session includes exploration of an anonymised case study exploring the identified practice learning from local partnership reviews that have featured domestic abuse.
- **Exploring adolescent mental health** - this session includes exploration an anonymised case study exploring the identified practice learning from local partnership reviews that have featured concerns including adolescent mental health concerns, suicide and self-harm.
- **Serious youth violence** – this session includes exploration of the practice learning from the published Brent Child K Serious Case Review.
- **Responding to child neglect** – this session includes exploration of an anonymised case study exploring the identified practice learning from local partnership reviews that have featured child neglect.

3.11. The table below details the multi-agency sessions focussed on safeguarding children as part of the strategic partnership learning and development programme that were delivered during this period:

Course Topic	No of sessions	No. of fully attended delegates
Adolescent Mental Health	4	29
Domestic Abuse + MARAC Training (delivered by Advance)	1	19
Domestic Abuse: A local focus on children and young people in Brent	3	43
Early Help Assessment	2	12
FGM - Female Genital Mutilation	4	25
Parental Mental Health	4	49
Prevent and Radicalisation	3	26
Responding to Child Neglect	4	46
Safeguarding Young Carer Training	3	13
Serious Youth Violence - Gang affiliation, criminality, vulnerability and safeguarding	4	48
Working with families who are hard to engage	4	62
Total	36	372

3.12. The programme comprised of 36 learning sessions which was delivered to a total of 372 multi-agency professionals and volunteers in Brent.

3.13. In previous years, staff and volunteers from education settings and Brent Council were the highest proportion of attendees. During this annual period, the highest proportion of attendees were from Brent Council and health service providers. Attendance from the voluntary and community organisations also remains high.

3.14. The table below outlines the level of partner organisation attendance:

Organisation/Sector	Delegates
Adults Services	6
Brent ICB	16
Brent GP	1
Health Services	18
Central London Community Health Care Trust	46
Central North West London Health Care Trust	5
London Ambulance Service	9
London North West Healthcare NHS Trust	8
All through schools	7
Further Education/College	11
Nursery (including Private/Independent/Voluntary)	22
Primary school	6
Secondary school	4
Special school	1
Pupil Referral Unit)	112
Brent Council	5
CAFCASS	6
Family Wellbeing Centres	3
Children's Home	1
Faith Setting	15
Probation Services	70
Voluntary/Community Organisation/Charity	
Total	372

- 3.15. It remains a priority for the partnership to increase attendance at the multi-agency training. It is recognised that the current staffing and capacity issues make it difficult for partner agencies to release staff to attend the partnership training as well as mandatory internal safeguarding training.
- 3.16. During the period, the Strategic Partnerships Team enabled the delivery of the scheduled programme in the absence of a Partnership Learning and Development Officer (due to the post being vacant between October 2021 and July 2022).
- 3.17. In September 2022, it was agreed that, with a new Learning and Development Officer in post, the strategic partnerships learning and development programme for October 2022 – July 2023 would be further expanded to include additional learning identified through the introduction of the partnership multi-agency audit programme.
- 3.18. Other practical areas of focus to improve the multi-agency learning and development programme for the next annual period include:
- Management of non-attendance – this has historically been too high, resulting in reduced cost effectiveness.
 - The development of the joint Multi-agency Learning and Development Group to support the identification of training and delivery of learning opportunities.
 - Encouraging attendance from the wider partnership practitioners - including Metropolitan Police
 - Heightened promotion of the strategic partnerships learning and development programme – this includes the re-introduction of an expanded monthly newsletter.

Serious child safeguarding incidents

- 3.19. Working Together (2018) sets out the arrangements for handling serious child safeguarding cases. The purpose of these arrangements is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children both at a local and national level. It has been recognised that whilst local learning is relevant, it also has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers.
- 3.20. The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies therefore at a national level with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at local level with the Brent Safeguarding Partners. The Safeguarding Partners have developed a process to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases, which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area.
- 3.21. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:
- serious abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
 - the child has died or been seriously harmed
- 3.22. When it has been determined that a serious safeguarding incident has taken place, Brent Safeguarding Partners must undertake a rapid review of the case.

The aim of a rapid review is to:

- gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately
- consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- decide what steps they should take next, including whether to commission a Local Safeguarding Practice Review

- 3.23. At all Brent rapid reviews, the circumstances leading to each incident as well as the agencies' individual and collective interventions are discussed, analysed and considered by all present.
- 3.24. The strong multi-agency involvement in the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum has ensured that effective escalation routes are in place when multi-agency issues arise.
- 3.25. The Case Review Group has been the driving force in the development of rapid review processes and the subsequent action on learning points in Brent. There continues to be positive engagement of partners in each review undertaken in Brent, leading to cross-partnership learning and practice improvement.
- 3.26. The Executive Group have discharged their responsibility for the review process by ensuring that:
- Providing constructive challenge to the findings and recommendations
 - Giving support to the Convener and Strategic Partnerships Lead in terms of the appreciation for the thoroughness of each review.
 - Taking ownership for this process and each partner reviews and signs off the final report before submission to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- 3.27. During the annual period, the Brent safeguarding partnership:

- **Considered 5 serious incidents involving children to determine if they meet the criteria of a serious child safeguarding case.**
- **Re-considered the learning that was identified from one rapid review (carried out in 2019) following the conclusion of the court trial in relation to the death of the child.**
- **Carried out 3 rapid reviews – all three of which were conducted with appropriate rigour and diligence meaning that a Local Safeguarding Child Practice Review was unnecessary.**
- **Contributed to two Local Safeguarding Child Practice Reviews carried out by other local authority area partnerships (both of which are in London).**

- 3.28. The Brent Safeguarding Strategic Partners are encouraged all rapid reviews carried out to date have been well attended, with appropriate levels of representation from all the agencies involved in each case.

4. Achievements

Brent Thresholds Guide 2022

- 4.1. All practitioners working with families need to know how to identify children who have additional needs and know how to make a referral for help.
- 4.2. The Brent Thresholds Guidance is a guide for those working with children and families in Brent on making referrals to access the right level of support at the right time.
- 4.3. Working Together 2018 lays out the requirement for safeguarding partners to publish a threshold guidance document. It states that the threshold guidance document should set out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood.
- 4.4. The threshold document should include:
 - the process for the early help assessment and the type and level of early help services to be provided
 - the criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to local authority children's social care for assessment and for statutory services
 - clear procedures and processes for cases relating to the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children
- 4.5. On 4 February 2021 the Safeguarding Children Forum agreed the scope of the Brent Safeguarding Partnership Thresholds Guidance revision.
- 4.6. Between February 2021 and January 2022, the following multi-agency partnership groups, teams and individuals were consulted with and provided valuable input into the 2022 refreshed guide:
 - Brent Safeguarding Forum (including education providers-schools and colleges)
 - The Brent Safeguarding Partnership Case Review Group
 - Brent Family Front Door/MASH Stakeholders Group
 - Prevent Strategy Manager
 - Early Help Team Managers Group
 - Metropolitan Police (Public Protection Desk Brent MASH Supervisor)
 - Brent CYP Operational Director Integration and Improved Outcomes
 - Brent CYP Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team
 - Brent CCG Safeguarding Designated Professionals (including Lead GP)
- 4.7. Following feedback from the colleagues listed above, a number of updates were made, including:
 - adding the important message 'if a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999' in the header of each page
 - adding the links to the London Procedures, Practice Guidance and London Threshold Continuum in the footer of every page
 - developing clear and simple graphics
 - updating to use of BRAG (Blue, Green, Amber and Red) rating graphics in line with use by Police and other organisations
 - using the spectrum colour scale to visually demonstrate the 'continuum of need'
 - highlighting important key words and phrases
 - signposting to the Brent Family Front Door consultation line
 - advice on seeking consent, highlighting the exceptions for not needing to seek consent when safeguarding children

- 4.8. The updated guidance included learning points from both Brent rapid reviews and national reviews. These include:
- highlighting the need for professionals to communicate, exercise professional curiosity and make informed judgements
 - highlighting the need to consider learning from local and national reviews when identifying and assessing risk
 - highlighting the importance of face-to-face contact and that professionals should spend time with the child/ren in their home and/or education environment
 - the importance of information sharing
 - best practice guidance for recording information
- 4.9. This guidance was developed with the intention to be used as a digital guide; therefore, the document contains a number of live links to external websites and also to specific sections within the Appendix B. This development aims to promote easy access to specific sections.
- 4.10. To gain reassurance that the thresholds guidance is effective, it was agreed that an evaluation process would be undertaken about the use of the guide by practitioners.
- 4.11. The updated Brent Thresholds Guide is published and can be accessed on the dedicated page on the [Brent safeguarding partnerships independent website](#).

Priority area of focus - Identifying and responding to emerging safeguarding issues

- 4.12. The Safeguarding Partnership has been proactive in working together to identify and respond to emerging risks for Brent children and young people:
- There has been a significant rise in demand to support families through the Brent Family Front Door since summer 2020. The number of contacts being made to Brent Family Front Door has varied during the different stages of national lockdown which began in March 2020, but a clear pattern of rising demand has been established, with those cases that were subsequently referred being much more complex and with higher incidences of neglect.
 - The impact of domestic abuse on children has been consistent issue and is seen as a factor in the majority of referrals received through Brent Family Front Door. The Safeguarding Children Partnership has strengthened links with Brent Community Safety and the Community Safety Partnership Board to progress joint working and highlight the need for services to focus on the impact of domestic abuse on children.
 - The impact of the cost-of-living crisis had been raised as a real issue for families following the pandemic and this could contribute to increased concerns for safeguarding children. The Safeguarding Partners also recognise that this is an issue that impacts professionals working to safeguard children in the borough.
 - The demand for mental health support in Brent has grown hugely during the period of the pandemic. As a result, the Integrated Care System Board are looking at CAMHS as an area of priority investment, as well as reviewing how children and young people could be supported from an earlier stage. This is also a priority area of focus of the Brent Children's Trust.
 - Brent Safeguarding Partners were invited to contribute to the Ofsted Thematic Review of sexual harm in schools and colleges in the spring and summer of 2021. Senior representatives from the three Safeguarding Partners Brent Council, North West London CCG and the Metropolitan Police plus schools met with Ofsted to explore what is working well currently, and whether there are any gaps in national guidance about sexual harassment between children.

4.13. The Safeguarding Partnership inform and develop partnership action to improve safeguarding. Most recent Safeguarding Partnership led actions include the following examples:

- Following the CQC inspection of London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust maternity services in April 2021, NWL ICB Safeguarding Partner representatives provided assurance to the Executive Group on work underway with related services to ensure the safeguarding of children and mothers was ensured.
- Brent Children's Trust, chaired by the Corporate Director, Brent Children and Young People provides strategic leadership of collaborative work and joint commissioning of services with North West London ICB. The attendance of the Safeguarding Forum Independent Convener has increased the level of safeguarding scrutiny in joint planning arrangements and ensured that safeguarding actions are progressed swiftly between Brent Council and the NHS. This has also helped confirm improving access to mental health support for Brent children and young people as a priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy of the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.14. The Brent Safeguarding Children Forum implements the work of the Executive Group to maintain oversight of strong operational partnership work. The Independent Convenor, with the support of the Local Authority, secured increased membership representation of the Forum from Brent primary and secondary schools. This expanded representation has positively enhanced the work of the Forum, specifically with the consideration of Brent's safeguarding partnership response to the Ofsted review of sexual harm and abuse in schools and colleges.

Learning from local multi-agency case reviews and audits

4.15. The learning from local multi-agency case reviews and audits is the main priority area of focus for Brent Safeguarding Partners.

Identifying multi-agency good practice

4.16. The partnership is focussed on recognising good practice and the following good practice examples have been identified as part of the multi-agency review process:

Rapid review 1

Educational settings/schools

- There was clear evidence all education settings acted proactively in addressing attendance and safeguarding concerns

Health

- There was good evidence of communications between all health sector agencies including strong
- There is good evidence that the child's views were documented, heard and responded to within interventions
- Good evidence that medical professionals worked with the schools to understand the child's medical conditions and what support was needed within the school setting.

Brent CYP

- There is evidence that Brent CYP carried out an internal case practice audit on the case. The internal audit evaluated the practice as 'Good'.
- The child's views were evident within the intervention with views and wishes recorded.
- There was proactive engagement of father, including understanding the relationship and contact between the child and father.

Multi-agency

- There was good identification of risk with clear plans put in place to work with mother in addressing concerns.
- There is evidence of strong multi-agency engagement in the Child in Need and Child Protection processes.
- The rapid review found that this case demonstrated Brent has the structures in place through multi-agency intervention and Child Protection processes to respond and effectively promote the welfare of the child.

Rapid review 2

Metropolitan Police

- There was excellent and prompt response from uniformed officers who were present for an unrelated matter was immediate and reactive.
- Child Abuse Investigation Team officers were responsible for the initial investigation, however, another police team responsible for the case (due to the circumstances) were linked into the investigation at an earlier stage than normal.

Health

- There appears to have been appropriate collaboration and sharing of information between the health and the Police,
- A baby new birth visit and subsequent follow ups were comprehensive and complete.
- The depth and quality of the Health Visitor's documentation was commended by the rapid review.
- Comprehensive assessment was carried out by the GP during mother and baby check.
- There was clear coding and documentation of maternity discharge and record keeping by the GP.

Multi-agency

- There is good practice in ensuring staff are supported with trauma management.

Rapid review 3

Health

- Staff demonstrated professional curiosity and spoke to the child alone, they also followed national clinical guidelines to aid their decision making.
- Hospital staff kept the Brent Family Front Door updated and an attempt was made to challenge the decision to close the case.
- Hospital staff made numerous attempts to share information with the school Designated Safeguarding Lead
- There was good communication between Brent CYP Early Help keyworker, hospital staff and the school to share information and arrange support for the family.
- The multiagency response following the police Child Abuse Investigation Team referral was described by police colleagues as very good partnership working.

Multi-agency audit 1

Multi-agency

- The group identified good practice in relation to professionals listening to the child, this is demonstrated by the GP during one consultation where father was asked to leave the room so the GP could speak to the child alone about health concerns.

Identifying multi-agency areas for improvement

4.17. The partnership identified a number of areas for improvement in locally in conducting partnership case reviews and multi-agency case audits:

Rapid review 1

Health

- Raise awareness with staff about the need to complete the correct forms when notifying partners of child deaths.
- For CAMHS to attend a future schools Designated Safeguarding Leads network to hold a 'myth busting' session on mental health service provision for children and young people.

Brent CYP

- To develop learning briefings and workshops that include the topics focussing on the long-term impact of neglect/adolescent neglect alongside hoarding, self-harm and self-neglect both in children and adults.
- To deliver training to Brent Family Front Door practitioners to raise awareness of Elective Home Education and Education Welfare Service.
- To provide training for Education Welfare Officers on neglect that includes recognising patterns of neglect over time.
- To include practice learning from this case in assessment training with a focus on:
 - Understanding parental functioning and mental health in the context of neglect
 - Adult siblings and their experience of being parented and their role in family life

Rapid review 2

Health

- Hospital staff should be reminded that all documentation in records and external communication clearly addresses all areas of concerns, treatments undertaken and any plans made.
- Continued education and awareness to staff should be undertaken of the 'think child' 'think family' 'think father' approach with contacts with patients.
- All health visitors to be reminded to arrange the baby weight clinic appointment for new mothers.
- All staff to be reminded to escalate notifications of serious safeguarding incidents to senior managers as per policy.

Rapid review 3

Health

- Consideration is given to auditing the 'access policy' across primary, secondary and tertiary health services with a focus on the wider presentation issues identified including family composition and non-attendance of medical appointments.

Education

- Brent Schools to be encouraged to ensure that there is information on their out of office notifications on how to contact the DSL in an emergency out of open hours/school term time.

Multi-agency

- Consideration should be given to issuing guidance for front line practitioners to ensure they have a clear understanding of the purpose, appropriateness and expected response of police welfare check requests as well as reporting crimes to the police.
- Specific information about the remit and referral pathways of the police Child Abuse Investigation Team should be re-shared across the partnership.

Multi-agency audit 1

- Brent CCG Designated Professionals to attend Brent schools Designated Safeguarding Leads network and share best practice about working with Brent GPs.
- Develop a learning session for GPs focussing on awareness of CAMHS services and other local support services. Other appropriate health professionals e.g., school nurses will also be invited to the session.
- Brent CYP and Met Police to build on existing joint child protection investigation(s.47) awareness training for professionals in Brent CYP with specific focus on the factors that differentiate between single and joint child protection (s.47) investigations
- Brent CYP to share the learning from this case with the Schools DSL network.
- Strategic Partnerships Team to ensure the themes identified from this audit are included in the existing Safeguarding Partnerships multi-agency neglect training session (possibly through case study exercise).
- Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership to review, update (where necessary) and promote the current multi-agency safeguarding children 'challenge, escalation and dispute resolution' arrangements.
- Promote the 'Trauma Informed Practice' multi-agency training offered through the Safeguarding Partnerships learning portal and consider using this case as an anonymised case study within the training.

- 4.18. The Safeguarding Partners agree that the partnership review processes in place in Brent demonstrate the strengths of our partnership working, the willingness to learn and implement change thereby ensuring better outcomes for Brent's children.
- 4.19. The preparation for these reviews enables open and insightful exchange of views and agencies demonstrate how they already consider areas for improvement, both individually and collectively to lead to a programme of change.
- 4.20. Progress in implementing the all identified learning and their impact upon outcomes is monitored by the Case Review Group.

Closing Remarks

This report demonstrates the commitment, engagement and dedication of all the partners working in Brent to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Brent's children.

Sadly, children in Brent have died or been seriously injured by the actions of others (in the majority of cases, a parent or carer). Whilst each of these cases is a tragedy, the rigour and thoroughness of the rapid review process highlights the continuing desire to improve policies and procedures to reduce the risk to other children facing similar circumstances.

Whilst we are not by any means complacent, the partnership response to local rapid reviews, national reviews into child neglect murders and sexual abuse in schools shows that Brent has an effective partnership response.

We would like to record our thanks to everybody who works tirelessly in the borough to make our children safe.

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 Brent	Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 22 November 2022
	Report from Corporate Director, Adult Social Care & Health
Transitional Safeguarding Update	

Wards Affected:	All
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Overview of the feedback from the Senior Management Group workshop on transitional safeguarding in July 2022
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Rebecca Byrne Head of Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Rebecca.Byrne@brent.gov.uk Sonya Kalyniak Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Sonya.Kalyniak@brent.gov.uk Kibibi Octave Head of Community Safety and Prevent Kibibi.Octave@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Transitional safeguarding is an evolving area of practice nationally. What is clear is it requires a multi-disciplinary approach working across the Council (primarily Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Safety) and with other statutory and third sector partners.
- 1.2 In 2021, the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee commissioned an evidence based review of the development of transitional safeguarding in Brent. The Task Group and the Committee finalised the report in February 2022,

including 5 recommendations, and Brent Council's Cabinet agreed its response to those recommendations in April 2022.

- 1.3 This report provides an update on the work across the council and with partner agencies on Transitional Safeguarding. It shows there is strong commitment across the council, and a wide range of support in place. However, there is more to do to make this a fully integrated pathway and offer. As it is only six months since the agreed response, this report focuses primarily on the specific actions agreed by Brent Council's Cabinet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report;
- (ii) Comment on progress made and identified next steps.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Transitional safeguarding is an evolving area of practice nationally. Brent council's response has been evolving since a workshop in 2019. This workshop involved practitioners and managers from across Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Safety alongside multi-agency partners.
- 3.2 There are a number of important transitions for children and young people before a young person transitions to adulthood. Transitions are central to children's development and emotional wellbeing, and the way in which transitions are handled can have a significant impact on the child's capacity to cope with change in the short and long term.
- 3.3 Support to children experiencing transition to adulthood can be fragmented, with differing age thresholds for service access and service eligibility and with differing services available for young adults. Transition should be viewed as a process rather than a single event and children, practitioners and parents should all be involved in the process.
- 3.4 There are key interconnections between transitional safeguarding and areas of multi-agency work, including 'contextual safeguarding' led by Children and Young People (CYP) and the Brent Council led response to Modern Day Slavery. For example, a vulnerable adolescent may be at risk of harm away from their family environment (contextual harm) such as being groomed into county lines drugs trafficking (a form of modern day slavery). These risks remain into adulthood.
- 3.5 Multi-agency and partnership working for vulnerable young people as they transition to adulthood is essential. It needs to be supported by Brent's multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements (Adults and Children's) and the Safer Brent Partnership, with active contributions and leadership from the Children

and Young People (CYP), Adult Social Care and Health (ASC&H) and Regeneration and Communities (R&C, particularly Communities and Community Safety).

4.0 Progress against each of the recommendations

- 4.1 **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that Brent Council identifies transitional safeguarding as a whole council priority. The Executive agreed:
- *The Executive agreed to convene a Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to oversee the development of a Council wide approach to transitional safeguarding by July 2022. This working group to include Community Safety representation.*
 - *The Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing and Strategic Director, Children and Young People to organise a Council wide session on the development of transitional safeguarding to identify contributions and to inform the Brent transitional safeguarding approach by September 2022*
 - *An update on the progress made through the Transitional Safeguarding Working Group on the development of Transitional Safeguarding be presented to Scrutiny Committee by March 2023.*
- 4.2 The working group was set up in May 2022. The working group was initially chaired by the Director of Adult Social Services, and included representation from across the Council. The group made good progress including running the Senior Management Group session on developing a whole council approach to Transitional Safeguarding in July 2022. The event was attended by all Directors and Heads of Service from across the Council and was designed to improve their understanding of transitional safeguarding and ensure they recognised that it is 'everybody's business'. The workshop also looked at how every service across the council currently contributes to this work and what more they could do. All service areas made a commitment to a specific action they could make in relation to transitional safeguarding and would take forward through their core work. A summary of the session is included at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 In October 2022, after the Council's restructure and in light of the identified need for wider engagement across health partners, the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health became the chair of the working group. Transitional Safeguarding and the work of the group has been highlighted at the Brent Borough Partnership Executive (BBP), previously the Integrated Care Partnership Executive. All health partners are aware and supporting the work. The Deputy Borough Director of Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWL) has been added to the working group, and a discussion with the BBP's Mental Health and Wellbeing Group is scheduled for November to develop a shared understanding of the required improvements across the system linked to Children and Adults' Mental health Services in Brent.
- 4.4 The focus for the next six months will be consolidation of the progress achieved to date. There is strong engagement across the Council, but both the breadth and depth of the work is evolving and all parts of the council must continue to be engaged in the most productive way. We need to build on the positive

engagement with CNWL to ensure they are a core part of the response, and to ensure better engagement with other health partners. Finally, key partnership forums will be updated regularly – Children’s Statutory Safeguarding Partners Executive group, the Safeguarding Children Forum, Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer Brent Partnership, and the Brent Borough Partnership.

4.5 **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that Brent Council considers developing a council-wide approach to transitional safeguarding which is evidence-informed, participative and considers equality, culture, diversity and inclusivity. The Executive agreed:

- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to identify the priority cohort of young people and young adults who would benefit from a Transitional Safeguarding approach by September 2022*
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to explore with safeguarding partners priority actions to establish a partnership Transitional Safeguarding approach by September 2022*
- *Assurance to update on the progress made through the Transitional Safeguarding Working Group on the development of Transitional Safeguarding be presented to Scrutiny Committee by March 2023.*

Defining the priority cohort

4.6 Transitional safeguarding recognises that experiences as a child or young person, such as trauma, can have a long term impact and risks associated with trauma can continue into adulthood. In addition, all young people during the 18-25 transitional period may experience a range of distinct risks and harms as they become more independent. However, some people need more support and young people entering adulthood can experience a ‘cliff-edge’ in terms of support, exacerbated by the notable differences between thresholds/eligibility criteria of children’s and adults’ safeguarding, social care and health services, and critically the changes in legal status at 18, which changes the nature of interventions that are available.

4.7 Thematic analysis of cases discussed at Exploitation Violence and Vulnerability Panel (EVVP) reinforces this as it has identified to key issues:

- As vulnerable young people approach the age of eighteen they are less likely to be considered as a victim of exploitation and more likely to be seen as responsible for their actions or a perpetrator. In cases of sexual exploitation, by the age of eighteen young people are seen by some professionals to have much more agency over their sexual “choices”, despite evidence of exploitation, or histories of trauma
- It is more challenging to access information about the risks and vulnerabilities of young people when they are over the age of eighteen. For example, police send information reports about any safeguarding incidents for those under the age of 18 through the Brent Family Front Door. The Police also sent a substantial number – approximately 5000 (p.a.) MERLIN ACNSs (Adults Come to Notice) referrals to Brent’s adult safeguarding service, which are triaged and sent to the Brent Family Front Door when children are identified. However, it is challenging to get an overall picture of the risks in a young person’s life, especially someone who is extremely vulnerable but unwilling or unable to share their experiences with

professionals. In January 2021, the Metropolitan Police revised the police referral form (87a) and this now specifically references the risk of exploitation and can be used for young people up to the age of 25.

- 4.8 It is important to note that transitional safeguarding practice is evolving nationally. Practice guidance is starting to be published that can support the development of Brent's approach but there are no nationally defined criteria or standards set out for an approach to Transitional Safeguarding. Transitional Safeguarding is also not integrated into other areas of national practice guidance. For example, the recently published Government guidance on trauma definitions 'Working Definition of Trauma Informed Practice' (2/11/2022) does not reference transitional safeguarding although the links are clear, and can inform our approach in Brent.
- 4.9 The Brent council wide approach is inclusive in the first instance and aims to ensure that all service areas are mindful of the issues that impact upon young people for whom life is a challenge to navigate due to their specific vulnerabilities, associations or life experiences. However, a focus on specific cohorts will bring clarity to our developing approach as the Scrutiny Task Group and the Executive have identified.
- 4.10 The first distinction to make is between two categories:
- Young people for whom Brent council holds a statutory responsibility to support – such as care leavers and Children with Disabilities (CWD). These young people have transitional support in place from the Children and Young People department, and
 - Young people are not entitled to ongoing statutory services. This includes, for example, young people who were subject to a child protection plan before they turned 18 and may require additional support from a range of other sources as they enter adulthood.
- 4.11 As there is significant support and a statutory responsibility for care leavers and children with disabilities, the focus in the first instance is on those who are not entitled to ongoing statutory support from CYP. There is more work to be done to finalise the definition of this cohort (or cohorts), but consideration is being given to those viewed by CYP as vulnerable in the two years before their 18th birthday. For example, CYP has developed an analytical tool to understand multiple vulnerabilities. This includes young people allocated within Brent CYP with other vulnerabilities, including an Education, Health or Care Plan, missing or child exploitation, gang and county lines concerns, Youth Offending Service involvement or vulnerabilities to their education (exclusions, home education or if the child is missing from education). This links to contextual safeguarding and recognises that those who are vulnerable to extra-familial harm will remain vulnerable into early adulthood.
- 4.12 The case study below highlights both the complexity of need, the challenge of engagement and the range of services that are already bringing together to support young people within this cohort.

Case Study

Brent CYP have been working with Kiyana and her family for a few years, but the situation became more serious when Kiyana turned 17. At this point, her parents struggled to maintain boundaries and Kiyana was not regularly attending school. It appears she was targeted for Criminal Exploitation, and reported that she was kidnapped. However, Kiyana was not confident that she would remain safe if she supported a police investigation, making it difficult to understand what had happened to her and assess ongoing risk. A Child Protection Plan was put in place and gradually the risks appeared to reduce and her relationship with her parents improved.

However, as she approached 18, the relationship with her parents became more difficult. CYP continued to provide support through the Accelerated Support Team (AST) in order to keep Kiyana safe, rebuild the relationship with her parents and prevent her from entering care. When Kiyana approached adulthood, her parents said when she turned 18, Kiyana needed to leave the family home as she was not following the rules. Kiyana has complex support needs including risk of homelessness, mental health concerns, trauma from past exploitation and poverty. In combination, these complexities put her at increased risk of criminal exploitation, making her very vulnerable. Based on her experiences, Kiyana developed a distrust of professionals, making engaging with her a challenge.

As part of planning for Kiyana's 18th birthday, the Accelerated Support Team completed a transitional safeguarding plan and referred Kiyana to the SMART team for ongoing support. Through the Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel, Kiyana also had a mentor in place. Multi-agency partners will continue to support Kiyana's transition to adulthood by advocating for her to get the mental health support she needs and does not become homeless.

Partnership Transitional Safeguarding approach

- 4.13 As set out above, the Council's approach to Transitional Safeguarding is an inclusive one, and the Senior Management Group (SMG) summary provides the widest overview of how the council engages with this agenda at Appendix 1. For all potential cohorts the early identification of issues and intervention is key if the young person is known to CYP, and the principle of well-planned transitions and of working with parents to ensure that children's needs are met appropriately is embedded right from the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 4.14 For *young people for whom Brent council hold a statutory responsibility*, primarily care leavers and children with disabilities there are a range of services and support in place. This starts with the CYP service described below, but should and is being supported across the Council as the SMG discussion showed:
- The Brent School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 November 2020 refresh identifies the need for the borough to develop **post-19 SEND provision** to meet demand for places for young people with SEND, in particular young people aged 19-24 with complex learning difficulties. Work is underway to develop provision to meet this need.

- **The Integrated Disabled Children and Young People Service 0-25** brought together the 0-13 Children with Disabilities and 14-25 Transitions Teams with the Ade Adepitan Short Break Centre, with the objective of developing more seamless support for children, young people and their families. Staff from this service are linked into the Transitional Safeguarding Sub-group and provide expert support in relation to Mental Capacity Assessment and Care Act Assessments where this is required.
- **The Care Leavers Team** support pathway planning and progress for young people aged 18-25. They work closely with training providers and careers advice and guidance workers to increase care leaver progression into further education, apprenticeships and other vocational opportunities. The Local Offer provides support for Care Leavers with the aim of ensuring that more of them transition into employment.
- **Care leavers** who are not ready to move to independence are encouraged to stay with their foster carers or in semi-independent accommodation until they are ready, with the expectation that foster carers and providers identify how they will support transition to adulthood. Brent's Housing Department helps to provide effective support to care leavers around accommodation and tenancy management, helping those who are at risk of developing rent arrears to maintain their tenancies.
- **Mental health support is available for care leavers** through remote access emotional wellbeing support, beyond the age at which they are able to access CAMHS (after their 18th birthday). This is through Safe Base Brent operated through the CYP Inclusion Service and online mental health support through 'Kooth' offered by Brent ICP.
- **The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019**, will replace the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards with a new authorisation framework, the Liberty Protection Safeguards. The new safeguards expand the number of children being considered and brings schools, residential and educational placements and secure placements under welfare grounds into consideration. These new arrangements, expected to come into force in 2023, require a shared children and adults approach across CYP and CWB. A CWB and CYP Liberty Protection Safeguards programme group has been established in October 2021. Led by the Brent Council Transformation Program Manager Liberty Protection Safeguards Lead, this group is overseeing implementation of appropriate arrangements ahead of April 2022
- **Vulnerable Adolescent Risk Assessments are being completed for care leavers** with consultation support from the Contextual Safeguarding Lead in the CYP Safeguarding and QA Service. This is in recognition that vulnerability and harm continues post 18. This approach is ensuring that where high risks are identified for young people turning 18 that transitional safeguarding is at the forefront of practitioners' thinking to ensure risk continues to be understood and managed post-18.

4.15 For those young people who are not eligible for statutory support, it is important to note that lack of a fully defined cohort has not prevented services from working with young people who require additional support. There are a wide range of services available through Community Safety, Adult Social Care, health and the third sector.

- 4.16 Community Safety commission providers that work directly with individuals over 18 who would be part of the Transitional Safeguarding cohort. These organisations are familiar with supporting younger people to navigate their journey into adulthood and the concept of Transitional Safeguarding. Currently commissioned providers that focus on reducing re-offending and serious violence, and can support people, include:
- St Giles' – Gang Intervention Programme, work with individuals involved in, or just on the periphery of gang activity.
 - Westminster Drugs Project, supports those with diagnosed and non – diagnosed mental health conditions, or substance misuse issues, in an attempt to reduce offending.
 - Young Brent Foundation's (YBF) – Global Thinking Project, offers a bespoke service for young women affected by gangs, criminal exploitation and county lines.
 - Air Network - offer diversion through mentoring and sports in an attempt to reduce offending or exploitation.
- 4.17 Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWL) – provide mental health services at all ages. There are some issues with wait times, and like other services, the transition between children's and adults mental health services can be difficult. However, CNWL have recognised this and appointed a new transitions lead as part of developing a transitions service. Mental illness is often part of a number of issues facing people in the greatest need in the Transitional Safeguarding cohort.
- 4.18 SMART – a multi-disciplinary team, based in ASC, but is focused on tackling multiple exclusion homelessness. It brings together substance misuse, adult social care, mental health and housing expertise to work with people who are not able to access core services and helping them to get the services they need to become independent. There is an overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort. The framework for the SMART Service is to provide a Trauma Informed approach for those residents who are vulnerable to exploitation, fall through the standard service provisions and have multiple complex needs, including a risk of homelessness, mental health conditions, substance use, contact with the criminal justice system and other health and social care providers. The criteria is inclusive from 18 years upwards and provides a supportive outreach approach from a range of professionals whose input is arranged according to the needs of the resident. The team includes social workers, Occupational Therapists, a housing officer, substance misuse worker, support outreach workers and a peer support worker.
- 4.19 The Safeguarding Adults (SGA) Team – is set up to support adults who are unable to protect themselves from harm. Most people in the Transitional Safeguarding cohort will not be eligible for this service, but there is still an overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort. The SGA team thoroughly reviews every referral where there is risk and always seeks alternative support such as Mental Health and Community Safety services.

- 4.20 As the case study suggests the multi-agency work is built a range of core partnership forums, including:
- Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel (EVVP) promotes seamless support for children and adults. For adults the panel provides a multi-agency coordinated, visible and accountable partnership response for managing those experiencing Violence and Vulnerability Programme and likelihood of offending. There is an overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort
 - The Community MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) provides the opportunity for agencies to come together to support vulnerable individuals living in Brent and help to enhance the services currently available. The focus tends to be those with vulnerabilities and significant ASB related issues, but there is a clear overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort
- 4.21 In addition to these early intervention services, there are also a range of other groups where there are interdependencies, if risks increase or if there is cross over with other thematic groups:
- The DV MARAC (Domestic Violence – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment conference) shared information on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Young people are considered who are under the age of 18, as well as adult victims.
 - The Violence against Women and Girls Group (VAWG) Delivery Group ensures a coordinated, multi-agency and intelligence led approach. It provides a strategic oversight of VAWG across Brent for both young people and adults.
- 4.22 The focus until now has been working through these services and forums. This has worked to a large extent, and the next step is to test this more rigorously against the Contextual Safeguarding cohort outlined in 4.11 above to understand:
- Whether to continue working through these panels, or set up a separate Transitional Safeguarding Panel
 - If there are any service gaps, and
 - Once the cohort and pathway is clearer, work will be completed to ensure this is communicated to young people and professionals to provide greater clarity on the support they can access.
- 4.23 Therefore, in the next six months the focus will be on:
- Working more closely with health colleagues in CNWL. They have appointed a transition lead for Brent, who will start in January 2023. This will help to develop connections across the system, improve understanding of the Mental Health need and further develop services and connections
 - Reviewing the appropriateness of the forums above in light of the new focused cohort, and make recommendations about required changes

- Clearly communicate the pathway and offer across these forums and services across the Transitional Safeguarding system to ensure there is greater clarity and visibility
 - Continue to build the evidence base for the full Transitional Safeguarding cohort (their needs and the equalities implications) working from the CYP vulnerabilities tracker
 - Carry out audits using the definition for the initial cohort (e.g. audit of children on a Child Protection plan who turned 18 in the last 6 months, and those who are known about at age 25) to get qualitative understanding of need and barriers to engagement.
- 4.24 **Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that Brent Council ensures that young people are active partners in the development of its transitional safeguarding approach. The Executive agreed:
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to develop a plan to engage young people through relevant Council services, including Housing, the SMART Team and Leaving Care Team, by June 2022*
 - *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group Work to work with the Young Brent Foundation to identify voluntary sector agencies with relationships in place with identified young people and young adults by June 2022*
- 4.25 One of the 6 key principles of Transitional safeguarding is that there is a participative, user-led approach. This means adopting a strengths-based approach; respecting young people's expertise and enabling them to coproduce solutions and support rather than being treated as a passive recipient. This is as important at a strategic level as it is in practice, and is a key means of promoting a person's sense of self-efficacy, by affording them autonomy and agency.
- 4.26 A transitional safeguarding approach strongly encourages local authorities and partners to ensure that young people's views and expertise are informing the development of Transitional Safeguarding approaches and the ongoing improvement activity required to embed it. This includes paying particular attention to ensuring that consultation and co-production activities are meaningful, inclusive and accessible to those whose voices are seldom heard.
- 4.27 There is the intention to co-produce this work with young people; however, careful consideration needs to go into how and when, with recognition that services can struggle to engage young people with transitional safeguarding concerns to keep themselves safe. Brent officers met with two other local authorities, facilitated by Research in Practice, to discuss how a co-constructed approach can be developed as there is an aspiration for this work but it needs to be carefully considered. Part of the conversation was to be aspirational in our approach and engage a wider cohort of young people regarding what safe transition to adulthood looks like. Next steps in this work will be to work with established groups of young people to develop the Brent approach to Transitional Safeguarding. This will include working with Young Brent Foundation, the Youth Justice Board funded BAME Pathfinder Project and Brent Youth Parliament to understand from young people what a really supportive and safe transition to adulthood would look like.

- 4.28 There will be continued work with national experts, the Young Brent Foundation, health partners and other local authorities to support us in developing our approach, and the focus in the next 6 months will be:
- Responding to experience elsewhere, there will be 3 workshops in December 2022, co-designed and facilitated with the Young Brent Foundation. The aim is to meet with and gather the views and experiences of a range of different young people, representative of the borough and young people's different needs, to start the conversation about what safe transition to adulthood looks like
 - Young Brent Foundation will take stock after those workshops to plan longer term engagement, with attempts to be made to identify a small group of young people (approx. 5-6 young people) to be supported by YBF and work with Brent Council and partners in the work set out in this report
 - The Director of Research in Practice has agreed to provide ongoing advice and continue to work with other local authorities to develop this work and building on an developing body of best practice. For example, Brent CYP is part of a national learning programme to understand and evaluate systems and practices on effective use of data and voice information in children's services. Continuing to develop Brent's transitional safeguarding approach using young people's voice will feed into national research, with the opportunity for consultation from a series of academic partners, including the London School of Economics and the Rees Centre (University of Oxford).
- 4.29 **Recommendation 4:** It is recommended that Brent Council considers how it can enhance its support to young people within the transitional safeguarding cohort with needs in education, training and employment (ETE), financial literacy and housing. The Executive agreed:
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to oversee an extension of the pilot with young people leaving care, broadening the cohort of young people being supported to test and develop support for young adults and to explore pathways of support by September 2022*
 - *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to review the SMART teams work to explore how this service model could be mobilised to support vulnerable adolescents in the identified Transitional Safeguarding cohort by September 2022*
- 4.30 The SMG clearly identified the support available from employment services, and made them aware of the wider support that is available. However, the key service response the Council has for those in the highest need is the SMART Service. This team works across Brent Council to encourage referrals when adults have additional needs, but are screened out of Adult Social Care statutory service provision because they don't have eligible care and support needs.
- 4.31 This means close work with the team responsible for applying Adult Social Care eligibility criteria (e.g. Brent Customer Services and Information and Access

Team), but it also means working closely with teams across the council (e.g. Single Homeless and Rough Sleepers Team, Leaving Care team). They also work closely with the voluntary sector organisations within the homeless network and Mental Health forums and through Brent hubs and Brent Health Matters teams to identify those residents who are vulnerable to exploitation and would benefit from the SMART approach.

- 4.32 SMART was also involved in the pilot with the Leaving Care Teams in 2021, to assess whether the approach from SMART offered benefit and increased the positive outcomes for Care Leavers. The evidence was that residents engaged well with this approach. SMART has continued to build on this pilot programme by creating increased liaison and partnership working with the Leaving Care Teams.
- 4.33 The SMART Service receives funding from Adult Social Care and is supplemented by grants and funding arrangements with Public health, NHS England, Brent Housing and via Covid / Omicron funding. An additional recent grant from NHS England means the work of the SMART service will also include an increased number of rough sleepers. This is as part of developing a 360 degree pathway for rough sleepers that includes increased access to primary care, secondary care mental health services including psychology, housing and outreach support.
- 4.34 Therefore, in the next six months the focus will be on:
- A review of the SMART service – taking stock of how the service has evolved since inception to include the Care Leavers pilot and now the increased focus on rough sleepers to ensure the service is able to manage all demands and has sustainable funding. Part of this review we will be capturing improved outcome data that is fully reflective of the complex work undertaken, reviewing caseload weighting and the length of time that we will work with a resident (currently up to 6 months). A stakeholder steering group will be convened quarterly to monitor and provide a steer on the objectives for the SMART team
 - Playing an active part in the Skills and Employment Outcome Based Review that the council is setting up, will ensure that the needs of the different Transitional Safeguarding cohorts are fully understood and that wherever possible services are made more accessible to their needs.
- 4.35 **Recommendation 5:** It is recommended that Brent Council promotes transitional safeguarding across safeguarding agencies and services working directly with young people.
- *The concept of Transitional Safeguarding will be included in the induction for elected members following the elections in May 2022.*
 - *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to review training on transition related issues and develop joint Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People-led training for Council officers and appropriate member development for councillors by September 2022*
 - *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to explore opportunities for multi-agency training regarding transitional safeguarding with the*

Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children's Forum and the Safer Brent Partnership.

- 4.36 Transitional Safeguarding was not included in the May 2022 Members Induction, but it is now a part of both Adult's and Children's Safeguarding Induction content. The first time the new content will be used is for Community Wellbeing Scrutiny briefings on 16 November 2022 for Safeguarding Adults and 15 November for Safeguarding Children. In addition, a Members Development session has been set up for 6 December 2022. This will be a joint presentation between the Director of Research in Practice and the Working Group, who will provide information on our local approach and case studies for discussion. After this event, the working group will review progress and with feedback from Scrutiny and others put in place additional development sessions as necessary.
- 4.37 There has been a programme of ongoing engagement and development and a focus on developing practice since the launch workshop in November 2019. Brent SAB offered Transitional Safeguarding webinars in January and March 2021, and additional training sessions were developed in partnership with Research in Practice. Four sessions of multi-agency training were conducted. The objectives of the training were to raise awareness of transitional safeguarding; understand the tensions, blocks and barriers to developing a transitional safeguarding approach. Attendees included practitioners from Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People alongside health partners, commissioned services, schools and local charities. There was overall positive feedback from the sessions.
- 4.38 Since the Scrutiny Task Group, there have been a range of other interventions, that will be built into an integrated programme, for example:
- Adult Social Care practice week May 2022 – the Director of Research in Practice talked to adult practitioners (36) about her research and create a space to think about ways of working with vulnerable young people at risk
 - The Adult Social Care Practice Forum has also addressed Transitional Safeguarding. The practice forum is a regular event facilitated by the Principal Social Worker and raises national research and case practice locally, in an effort to start shift their thinking and practice.
 - All ASC staff have been encouraged to attend an externally delivered webinar in September 2022 on Transitional Safeguarding
 - CYP have incorporated transitional safeguarding into training and workshops on contextual safeguarding, and
 - CYP have developed and shared good practice examples of “transitional safeguarding plans”.
- 4.39 In the Strategy and Partnerships team there is a Learning and Development lead, which had been vacant, but has now been appointed to, and they are working on a fully integrated programme of Learning and Development across Adults and Children's Safeguarding and the Safer Brent Partnership.
- 4.40 Transitional Safeguarding remains high on Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Safety agendas, but there is more work to be

done to join this up and develop a fully integrated approach. Therefore the focus in the next six months will be:

- After the December 2022 event, review and finalise the content and offer for Member Development
- Work with the new lead in the Strategy and Partnerships team to design and deliver core training across the 3 key partnerships, do this in consultation with the 5-6 young people identified to co-design our transitional safeguarding approach
- Clearly our transitional safeguarding cohort and support offer so that it is clear for practitioners and residents
- Further align Contextual Safeguarding, Transitional Safeguarding and Modern Day Slavery approaches through a Senior Management Group (SMG) session in Spring 2022

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Section 42(2) of the Care Act 2014 requires a local authority to make statutory enquiries, or cause others to do so, where it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult with care and support needs is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it (cf. section 42(1) of the Care Act 2014).
- 5.2 Brent Council has established a Safeguarding Adults Board which includes officers from the Council, the NHS and the Police, pursuant to section 43 of the Care Act 2014. The objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and protect adults in its area in cases of the kind described in section 42(1) of the Care Act 2014, as set out in the previous paragraph of this report. A Safeguarding Adults Board may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective. A Safeguarding Adults Board must carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews when someone with care and support needs dies as a result of neglect or abuse and there is a concern that the local authority or its partners could have done more to protect them and also when someone with care and support needs is alive and the Safeguarding Adults Board knows or suspects that the adult involved has experienced serious abuse or neglect (cf. section 44 of the Care Act 2014).
- 5.3 Pursuant to section 67 of the Care Act 2014, a local authority must arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or review, if required.
- 5.4 Section 22(3) of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the local authority looking after a child to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child and to make such use of services available for children cared for by their own parents as appears to the authority reasonable in his case.
- 5.5 Pursuant to section 11(2) of the Children Act 2014, every local authority (and other relevant public bodies including the NHS and the Police) must make

arrangements for ensuring that: (a) their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and (b) any services provided by another person pursuant to arrangements made by the local authority (or relevant public body) in the discharge of their functions are provided having regard to that need. Local authorities (and other relevant public bodies) must in discharging their duty under this section have regard to any guidance given to them for that purpose by the Secretary of State.

- 5.6 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate. Such arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area so far as relating to: (a) their physical and mental health and emotional well-being; (b) protection from harm and neglect; (c) their education, training and recreation; (d) the contribution made by them to society and (e) their social and economic well-being.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 This report provides an update on the work undertaken across the Council on Transitional Safeguarding. There are no direct financial implications from the update.
- 6.2 Progress against the recommendations is undertaken from existing resources and budgets within the services involved.

7.0 Equality Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct equality implications at this point in time. The approach outlined in this paper has the stated aim of being inclusive, but also seeks to focus in on those in the most need. More work is required to better understand the widest cohort of young people, and we will ensure that equalities data is collated as part of the focus on a specific cohort of young people to understand any equalities implications in both cases. In addition, the co-design work with young people, working with the Yong Brent Foundation, will explicitly seek to include a wide range of young people to understand their current experiences, and their views on improvements.

Related documents:

Transitional Safeguarding Scrutiny Task Group final report – February 2022
Executive response to the Scrutiny Task Group final report – April 2022

Report sign off:

Phil Porter – Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health

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Transitional Safeguarding

Developing a whole council approach

Brent's Senior Management Group (SMG) team met in July 2022 to develop a council-wide Transitional Safeguarding approach. The below summarises the council's commitment to Transitional Safeguarding and the role each directorate currently provides as well as forward thinking priority areas. There is a recognition that all directorates have a responsibility as corporate parents¹ and are accountable for providing effective services for children in care and care leavers. There is also recognition of the commitment to develop an approach to support and safeguarding all vulnerable young people when transitioning to adulthood. SMG made reference to ongoing initiatives in Brent which require embedding into the Brent's Transitional Safeguarding approach: [Brent Health Matters](#), [Brent Works](#) and [Brent Start](#).

Alongside ongoing commitment from Children and Young People, Adult Social Care and Community Safety, the following services support transitional safeguarding:

Legal: Support children's and adult's services with applying relevant legislative frameworks to improve outcomes for young people transitioning to adulthood, and safeguarding duties.

Housing: Ensure that care leavers have stable homes and secure support. [Brent Hubs](#) offer support and advice for residents. There is a discretionary service to support 18+ with housing benefits over a twelve week period.

Finance: Provide Education, Employment and Training (EET) opportunities to young people. There is an ongoing commitment to include social value and impact in the procurement of new services.

Growth and Employment: Have a number of initiatives which support young people and adults access EET opportunities.

¹ 'Corporate Parenting is the term used to refer to the responsibility of the council, to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are 'looked after'. At the core of this responsibility is the moral duty to provide the kind of support that any good parents would provide their own children. This includes enhancing the quality of life of looked after children as well as simply keeping them safe.' - House of Commons Children, Schools and Family Committee March 2009

Looking forward, the below ways will be explored to further develop our Transitional Safeguarding offer:



Corporate

- Improve data sharing across databases used across council directorates.
- Identify gaps in services which prevent young people being supported.



Housing

- Improve housing representation in multi-agency safeguarding forums.
- Identify early intervention opportunities through data and intelligence



Finance

- Develop social value in the procurement of new services robustly.
- Build relationships with local businesses and community sector.



Employment

- Embedding 'Brent Works' to support ETT for young people.
- Supporting adult escuation offer with 'Brent Start'.