

	<p>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 30 July 2024</p>
	<p>Report from the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board</p>
	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing - Councillor Nerva</p>
<p>Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements) Annual Report April 2023 - March 2024</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix A - Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report 2023-24
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Kayliegh-Ann Creamer Strategic Partnership Lead for Safeguarding Adults Kayliegh.creamer@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 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 2023 to March 2024.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the Safeguarding Adults Board annual report (Appendix A)

3.0 Detail

Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

- 3.1 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board is (SAB) 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. The SAB is a wider

partnership forum accountable to the Executive Group, it is chaired by an Independent Chair.

- 3.2 The objective of the SAB 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.
- 3.3 SAB members represent their organisations at the Board. The SAB is made up of statutory partners and non-statutory partners. It also has an independent chair. The statutory partners of the SAB are;
- Brent Council
 - Metropolitan Police
 - NHS North West London Integrated Care Board

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, London Probation Service and Public Health representation.

- 3.4 In order to provide oversight, the SAB must be independent. There is an independent chair, Nicola Brownjohn, who assumed post in January 2024 after the passing of the previous Chair. The Chair holds all member agencies to account. The Independent Chair is held to account for effective working of the SAB by the Chief Executive of Brent Council.
- 3.5 The SAB has the freedom to put in place anything it deems necessary to achieve its objectives. This may include raising awareness of adult safeguarding or learning and development in relation to a particular area of practice.
- 3.6 The SAB 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 under-served communities.
- 3.7 All SAB 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 contributing financially and/or providing relevant information to the Board.
- 3.8 The SAB has agreed its strategic plan for 2024-2026 consisting of the following priority areas:
- A focus on self-neglect as a category of abuse.
 - Substance misuse & Housing Need
 - Learning from SARs (how the SAB disseminates learning, good practice and seeks assurance of system changes and improvements)

- 3.9 During 2023-2024, the SAB carried out a range of activities to identify and develop a response to these priorities. For further information, the annual report can be found attached (Appendix A).

Brent's safeguarding partnership arrangements

- 3.10 Brent's Board arrangements consist of a three-tier structure:
- Tier 1 - The Executive Group - provides high-level strategic leadership
 - Tier 2 - Brent Safeguarding Adults Board - 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 (SAB and Safeguarding Children Partnership) Learning and Development Group
- 3.11 With the appointments of new Business Managers, Independent Chair, and Independent Scrutineer for the Safeguarding Children Partnership; in the forthcoming year the Safeguarding Children partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board are undertaking a review of Transitional Safeguarding progress in Brent, with a view to refresh the work through the development of a joint sub-group driven by both safeguarding partnerships.

The Executive Group

- 3.12 The Executive Group membership includes senior representatives from the three statutory safeguarding partners - Brent Council (Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing and also the DASS), North West London Integrated Care Board (Director of Quality, Nursing and Safeguarding) and Metropolitan Police (Superintendent, Public Protection-Safeguarding Lead, North West BCU).
- 3.13 The Independent Chair leads the Executive Group. The SAB alongside the Safeguarding Children Partnership are currently trialling a merger of the Executive group function across the Brent Safeguarding Partnerships, to help promote and enable a more joined-up approach.

Partnership support staff arrangements

- 3.14 Support staffing arrangements for the SAB arrangements are funded and resourced by Brent Council.
- 3.15 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 Partnerships, Housing and Residents Services Department of the Council.

- 3.16 Alongside the SAB arrangements, the Strategic Partnerships Team also currently coordinates activities for other strategic partnerships in Brent including Brent Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, Brent Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Partnership Board and Brent Children's Trust.
- 3.17 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.

The Brent Council Governance Team provide some administration support for both the Executive Group and Safeguarding Forum meetings (approximately 1 day a month).

4.0 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

The SAB work has connections to the following outcomes within the Borough Plan:

- 4.1 **A Healthier Brent** – The SAB has links to various health forums, including the Drug and Alcohol Related Death Panel and inputs into Domestic Homicide Reviews & Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews being undertaken. This enables members to be aware of the wider work being undertaken that also informs Board decisions and direction. One of Boards key priorities is substance misuse. A joint Transitional Safeguarding sub-group with the Brent Safeguarding Childrens Partnership is in development to ensure continuity of support and intervention from services from childhood into adulthood. This follows on from the work that has already been undertaken in Brent to date
- 4.2 **Thriving Communities** – The SAB incorporates community engagement through its voluntary community sector members. The SAB are currently exploring ways to improve community engagement and incorporate lived experience to shape Board actions and priorities. Community safety is also a standing member of the SAB, and there is representation from the SAB at the Safer Brent Partnership.
- 4.3 **Prosperity and Stability in Brent** – The SAB considers the impact on communities during a cost-of-living crisis and works with agencies such as housing and voluntary community sector members to have insight into the evolving landscape. The learning and development programme is working towards ensuring practitioners are equipped to recognise signs and provide suitable intervention.

5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 5.1 The Lead Cabinet Member for Community Health & Wellbeing, Councillor Nerva is a member of the Safeguarding Adults Board and regularly attends key meetings to inputs to the work of the partnerships.

6.0 Financial Considerations

- 6.1 For the 2023/24 financial year, the SAB had an annual budget of £67,000 excluding staff costs. A full breakdown of the budget is included in the annual report (please see Appendix A).
- 6.2 There was an underspend and funds not spent were moved to reserves to ensure that the Board is able to continue meeting its statutory requirements. The Board currently has a number of reviews underway, that commenced in 23/24, the reserves will be drawn upon to cover the costs of the independent reviewers commissioned to undertake these reviews.
- 6.3 Aside from administration and completion of mandatory Safeguarding Adult Reviews, the budget is predominantly spent on learning events, the annual conference and running a joint Learning and Development offer with the Childrens Partnership.
- 6.4 The local authority makes additional contributions in the form of staffing costs to support the running of the SAB.

7.0 Legal Considerations

- 7.1 The Care Act 2014 directs local authorities to set up a SAB covering their area with core membership from the local authority, the Police and the NHS and the power to include other relevant bodies.
- 7.2 The Care Act places a requirement on SABs 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.
- 7.3 The Care Act 2014 also requires the SABs 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.

8.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 8.1 In carrying out its functions, the SAB 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.
- 8.2 The three Statutory Safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of Adults in Brent. In discharging their duty safeguarding partners must be

assured by member agencies in the borough that multi-agency services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of Adults in Brent.

8.3 The Safeguarding partners also ensure that services are culturally aware and skilled in identifying, assessing, and meeting the individual needs of Adults in Brent.

8.4 The SAB has a responsibility to consider and implement recommendations in regard to EDI, where such themes present as part of a Safeguarding Adults Review. It also has discretion to carry out work outside of formal recommendations where it sees fit and aims to drive positive system changes and improved resident experiences.

9.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

This report has no direct impact on the Council's environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy.

10.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

This report does not relate to any HR or property related issues.

11.0 Communication Considerations

This is not within the scope of consideration.

Report sign off:

Rachel Crossley

Corporate Director of Community, Health & Wellbeing.