

23-24

**BRENT
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD
ANNUAL
REPORT**



Safeguarding
Adults in Brent

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Foreword

Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board

I took on the role of Independent Chair for Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) in January 2024. The latter months of 2023 had been challenging for the BSAB following the death of the Independent Chair, Fran Pearson. Fran was an inspired leader who was of huge value to safeguarding adults in Brent. She is greatly missed to Brent, and nationally, in the safeguarding arena. I commit to continue the work Fran did and I share her passion to continually improve safeguarding in the borough.

Since January 2024, the BSAB has refreshed its strategic plan, recognising the need to strengthen our learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, whilst continuing to work on the priorities of self-neglect, substance misuse and housing. This will help the BSAB to move forward in showing the impact of the work undertaken to improve safeguarding of adults. Additionally, I have reviewed the governance of the BSAB and its subgroups. In quarter 1 of 2024/2025, the arrangements will be progressed to enable them to be embedded during quarters 2 and 3 of the year.

A particular challenge for the BSAB during 2023/24, has been to maintain timely progress in regard to undertaking Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). The BSAB team and Case Review Subgroup have worked impressively to focus on finalising SARs and identifying new reviews to be commissioned. The focus for 2024/25 will be on embedding the learning from the completed SARs and holding statutory partners and agencies to account for how they have made system changes following the SARs. On behalf of the BSAB, I would like to thank the families involved for their time and patience when there have been delays. I promise that the SARs will continue to provide a legacy for those affected by the issues within the SARs.

During 2024/25, I plan to get out to meet community groups and those with lived experience of safeguarding in Brent to hear their views. This will help me to lead and shape the BSAB to aim to continually improve safeguarding for the Brent communities.

Nicola Brownjohn
Independent Chair Brent Safeguarding Adults Board

02 BRENT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ARRANGEMENTS

Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)



The Board is a partnership made up of statutory and non-statutory partners. The statutory partners are; The Metropolitan Police, Northwest London NHS Integrated Care Board and Brent Council. There are also many non-statutory partners who provide a valuable contribution. The Board meets quarterly.

Role of the SAB

The SAB is a strategic board that provides oversight and direction to help partners work better together to achieve agreed strategic priorities. It also works to seek assurance from partners that sound systems are in place to effectively manage safeguarding concerns. It does this via reviews, audits and various sub-group activities.

There are currently three sub-groups that assist the SAB in carrying out its duties. These sub-groups meet at agreed frequencies by each group members. Each sub-group has different aims and objectives but all work to feed into the SABs priorities and responsibilities.

Case Review Group (CRG)

This CRG multi-agency group considers serious cases submitted for potential Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The sub-group aims to ensure that lessons learned are shared and acted upon and impact is assessed. During the reporting period the group met each month to consider the volume of cases submitted for potential review.

The Executive Group

This has been combined with the previous 'Meeting of Statutory Partners', the frequency was agreed to be increased to quarterly from twice a year. The purpose of this meeting is for senior representatives of statutory partner agencies to focus on governance and Board effectiveness.

Multi-agency Learning and Development Group

This is a joint sub-group with the Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership. Its purpose is to consider and develop the multiagency Learning and Development programme, and ensure it is linked to the Strategic Plan over the coming years. This group has previously met quarterly and it has been agreed that this will increase to bi-monthly during 2024-2025.

BUDGET, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Safeguarding Adults Board budget comprises of monetary contributions from Statutory Partners, with the Local Authority also contributing additional funding of the staffing support resource to the Board.



Staffing
1 full time Strategic Partnerships Lead
1 full time Strategic Partnerships Manager
1 part time Learning and Development Coordinator

This financial year the Board received the following contributions from Statutory Partners:

- **Brent Council:** £37,000
- **Metropolitan Police:** £5,000
- **NWL Integrated Care Board:** £25,000

Below is a summary of Board expenditure covering the financial period since the last annual report:

Expense	Value (£)
Independent Chair Fees	23162
L&D Learning Management System (LMS) and website contributions	1455
Venue bookings	2800
Total	27,417



This year, the majority of the Board expenditure was allocated to Chair fees, with a contribution also being made to the delivery of the partnership's joint learning and development programme. The fees for active SARs and learning reviews (around 27k) will be carried over in to next year as committed expenditure in addition to any multiagency activity agreed to be undertaken by the Board.

04 TIMELINE OF ACTIVITY

The SAB key activities in this reporting year

Month	Activity
May 2023	23/05 - Case Review Group: The group considered two SAR case referrals. 24/05 - Meeting of the Statutory Safeguarding Partners: Partners met to consider updates on organisational change, emerging risks, regulation updates, inspection framework developments and agreed annual report data for 22/23.
June 2023	26/06 - Case Review Group: The group finalised a decision of an outstanding case and reviewed a new case for SAR consideration. 13/06 - SAB: The Board received an update on operational safeguarding data, alongside discussing the agreed SAB priorities, the multi-agency L&D offer, the Casey review and an update on the Brent High Risk Panel.
July 2023	19/07 - Case Review Group: The group continued to consider a case for SAR consideration and initiated the development of an action plan in response to recommendations from a completed SAR. 24/07 - Executive: Partners discussed the recent ASC Peer Review, agreed funding to uplift to the L&D officer post for one year and received updates on SARs, governance and progress with priorities.
Aug 2023	Key Event: Chair departure and Interim Chair appointed 15/08 - SAB: A tribute to Fran Pearson was given by the Interim Chair, followed by an update on recruitment arrangements. Q1 safeguarding data was shared by Brent ASC alongside progress on SARs and CQC inspection readiness.
Sept 2023	Key Event: New Business Manager assumes post 20/09 - Statutory partners: Partners were introduced to the interim Independent Chair and plan for recruitment of a fixed term Chair. Partners discussed progress on recommendations from an ongoing SAR. 20/09 - Case Review Group: The group reviewed one case to be considered for a SAR. Agreement was made on responding to the volume of outstanding cases to be considered and outstanding learning actions were reviewed.
Oct 2023	19/10 - SAB: Governance arrangements were discussed, including appointment of Chairs and development of new sub-groups. The Board received Q2 safeguarding data and an update on CQC inspection readiness.
Nov 2023	21/11 - Executive: The group approved the completion of two SARs and discussed the progress of an agreed Learning Review. The group received an update on the outstanding cases for review. 30/11 - Case Review Group: The group discussed the development of a forward plan to consolidate learning themes from previous SARs.
Dec 2023	12/12 - SAB: The Board signed off the 22/23 annual report and agreed publication plans for completed SARs. The Board discussed the appointment of the new Independent Chair and proposed governance changes. 19/12 - Joint Learning and Development group: The group reviewed the programme and discussed additional topics to be included in the 2024/25 programme.
Jan 2024	Key Event: New Independent Chair assumes post 11/01 - Executive: The new Independent Chair was introduced. The group discussed the publication arrangements for completed SARs, proposed changes to governance arrangements and the progress on Self Neglect and Hoarding Protocol. 30/01 - Case Review Group: Partners reviewed one case to be considered for a SAR, received an update on LeDeR process and planned learning for historic cases.
Feb 2024	20/02 - Joint Learning and Development group: The Group continues with course scoping and began discussions to start considering conference planning 27/02 - Case Review Group: The group reviewed one case to be considered for a SAR and approved a case briefing and a recently developed SAR learning process flowchart.
March 2024	05/03- SAB: The new Independent Chair was introduced to the Board and the strategic priorities were laid out. The SAB received a presentation on the Self Neglect and Hoarding Protocol and a discussion took place on the need to develop a Pressure Ulcer Care Protocol. 13/03 - Case Review Group: The group reviewed one new case for SAR consideration and discussed and approved briefing content for case learning. 12/03- Executive: Partners received a status update on ongoing SARs, a presentation on the upcoming CQC Inspection and an internal ASC review. The expectations for the 24/25 budget arrangements and annual report were also discussed and agreed.

05 BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Northwest London ICB

An Overview from **Stephenie Evis** - Northwest London ICB Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults (Brent)

How does your organisation satisfy it's requirements under the Care Act in regard to Safeguarding?

- The ICB is a statutory partner of Brent SAB and fulfils its role in this respect, it also makes a financial contribution to the SAB.
- Regular attendance and contribution at the SAB and the Executive Board meetings.
- The Designated Nurse is a Co-Chair of the joint SAB and SCP Learning and Development Sub-group.
- Working in partnership with health providers and primary care to support their contribution to the work of the SAB (SARs, and subgroups).
- Provision of training for ICB staff commensurate to their role.
- Provision of safeguarding supervision for staff in patient-facing roles and relevant health partners.

What work has your organisation undertaken to underpin learning and progress in line with the SAB priorities?

Self Neglect and Hoarding:

During this year, the ICB has commissioned training courses in response to learning from SARs to promote best practice. These courses have been attended by safeguarding partners, and staff from the ICB and provider agencies:

- Self-Neglect and the Mental Capacity Act (whole day)
- Executive Functioning and the Mental Capacity Act (half day)
- Annual Best Interest Assessor Refresher training (whole day)
- Self- neglect and working with individuals with complex needs and multi-agency working are included in level 3 training for ICB and primary care staff.

Substance Misuse & Housing Need:

During this year, the ICB has commissioned the delivery of a 2-day training course on the subject of substance misuse. This course was attended by safeguarding partners, and staff from the ICB and provider agencies.

- The ICB is a partner agency in the Home Office pilot of Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews one of which includes substance misuse as a key theme. The ICB is contributing to identify multi-agency learning and will share this across health.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Northwest London ICB

An Overview from **Stephenie Evis** - Northwest London ICB Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults (Brent)

Learning from SARs

In relation to Adult G:

The Designated Nurse for Adult Safeguarding conducted a review of the chronologies presented by health providers for Adult G to consolidate the learning identified in the report. Learning from Adult G has been shared with primary care colleagues, including the use of a case study regarding pressure wounds in a primary care safeguarding forum. The ICB has sought assurance from providers regarding pressure wound management and their response to the updated protocol published this year by the Department of Health and Social Care to demonstrate a culture of continuous improvement as a hot topic for Q4 Safeguarding Health Outcomes Framework (SHOF) reporting process.

Is there any other notable activity your organisation has undertaken to support vulnerable adults and Safeguarding?

We have undertaken two Prevent 'lunch and learn' sessions which were delivered for primary care in partnership with the Brent Prevent Team and the Metropolitan Police. The sessions were well received and will be repeated in the coming year.

The ICB has identified and shared significant learning through LeDeR to improve the care and support for people with a learning disability or neurodiversity.

We have also seen the successful launch of Oliver McGowan training, mandatory training for NHS health and care staff to raise awareness and improved the care of people with autism and learning disabilities.

05 BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Metropolitan Police

An overview from Sukh Kanwar -Detective Chief Inspector at Public Protection Hub North West BCU (Barnet, Brent and Harrow Boroughs)

How does your organisation satisfy its requirements under the Care Act in regard to Safeguarding?

Northwest London BCU have a nominated Adult Safeguarding lead. Staff receive training to ensure safeguarding opportunities are not missed and referrals are completed for joint working with partners to safeguard individuals. MERLINS are dip sampled to identify learning and prevent reoccurrences of missed opportunities. Statutory partner meetings are in place with key agencies in attendance.

What work has your organisation undertaken to underpin learning and progress in line with the SAB Priorities?

Self Neglect and Hoarding:

Training has been implemented to increase staff understanding and recognition of self-neglect, emphasising that refusal to accept help may fall into category of self-neglect.

The embedding of the Brent Self-Neglect and Hoarding Toolkit for high risk cases.

We've established a rhythm of training for Police on section 47 Children's Act and section 42 Care Act legislation. All strands are trained in dealing with strategy discussions empowering ownership.

Substance Misuse & Housing Need:

Training implemented within the MPS incorporates substance and housing needs, highlighting needs for a multi-agency approach in dealing with such cases.

Learning from SARs

Police footprint on the last two SARs has been minimal, however, staff have received relevant and up-to-date training on adult safeguarding with an emphasis on professional curiosity and ensuring the voice of the person is heard and documented. It is difficult to quantify impact, however, staff feel more empowered when dealing with safeguarding children & adults.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Metropolitan Police

An overview from Sukh Kanwar -Detective Chief Inspector at Public Protection Hub North West BCU (Barnet, Brent and Harrow Boroughs)

Right Care Right Person (RCRP)

Right Care Right Person was launched on the 1st November 2023, and the Metropolitan Police Service remain pleased with how it has landed. We continue to work effectively with partners to troubleshoot issues.

For example, the twice daily RCRP Partner meetings originally in place have now been stood down as slow-time escalation processes are capturing concerns and producing organisational learning on all sides.

Partners have asked for 27 slow time escalation reviews in the first 3 months, 48% of these requests led to learning for partners. 26% led to learning for Met colleagues.

Formal RCRP Boards remain in place to provide senior oversight over RCRP implementation.

Since RCRP was launched, Met deployment to RCRP related calls has reduced from around 41% to 29% (a decrease of 12%) compared to the same period in 2022. The 'Concern for safety' category continues to see the biggest deployment percentage reductions when comparing data from February 2023 against February 2024.

Is there any other notable activity your organisation has undertaken to support vulnerable adults and Safeguarding?

Regular Trainee Detective Constable training days are held to promote investigations against vulnerable people case studies around these themes (Carer abuse/sec 42 enquiries). There is ongoing delivery of training due to high turnover of staff. However, anecdotally investigators are more proficient in identifying mechanisms with multi-agency investigations.

All staff have received additional training on MERLIN submissions and safeguarding vulnerable persons.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Brent Council: Adult Social Care

An overview from Evelyn Amedoda - Principle Social Worker & Head of Safeguarding for Adult Social Care at Brent council

How does your organisation satisfy it's requirements under the Care Act in regard to Safeguarding?

Under Section 42 of the Care Act, the Local Authority is responsible for conducting an enquiry when a case meets the criteria specified in section 42(1). According to the Act, local authorities must conduct an enquiry if there is a concern that an adult with care and support needs is unable to protect themselves when facing or at risk of abuse or neglect. If the criteria are met, the local authority must then undertake an enquiry and decide on any action under section 42(2).

It's essential to recognise that adults have the autonomy to make decisions about their lives. Therefore, an enquiry must involve efforts to obtain the views of the adult at risk regarding their preferences, providing any necessary support such as advocacy. This principle, known as Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), emphasises that the adult is the foremost expert in their own life. This often involves delicate judgments, and safeguarding professionals may find it challenging to discern an adult's wishes and determine if the care provided meets their needs and desires. It's crucial always to prioritise the individual's views to ensure they remain central to their safeguarding journey. The ultimate goal of any action taken should be to enhance the individual's quality of life, wellbeing, safety, and human rights.

MSP remains a central focus and guiding principle in all safeguarding efforts within Brent. It is integral to supporting improvements in provision and practice to ensure effective prevention, early intervention, and safeguarding of adults at risk.

The safeguarding work conducted by Adult Social Care (ASC) aligns with the revised London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, which were ratified by the Safeguarding Adults Board in 2019. The Safeguarding Adults Team (SAT) determines whether further enquiries are necessary. However, in many cases, our statutory duty is not triggered, and we can assist individuals with information, advice, guidance, or support from other organisations. For instance, an adult without care and support needs who has fallen victim to an online scam resulting in financial loss may primarily require support for therapeutic recovery from trauma and advice on managing online security. This support can be provided proportionately by SAT staff. However, in cases where further enquiries are warranted, such as when an adult lacks the capacity to manage finances, a more comprehensive response involving multiple agencies is necessary to ensure the individual's safety.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Brent Council: Adult Social Care

An overview from Evelyn Amedoda - Principle Social Worker & Head of Safeguarding for Adult Social Care at Brent council

How does your organisation satisfy it's requirements under the Care Act in regard to Safeguarding continued:

All those involved in Adult Social Care, along with key partners, collaborate to assist individuals experiencing or at risk of abuse in achieving their desired outcomes for safety. Brent ASC has participated as a pilot site for the implementation of the Making Safeguarding Personal Outcomes Framework, which has been firmly integrated into practice. The MSP Outcomes Framework, serves as an improvement initiative. It helps inform practitioners, teams, councils, Safeguarding Adult Boards, partners, and people who are at risk about the impact they are making on the safety of individuals at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect in their area.

What work has your organisation undertaken to underpin learning and progress in line with the SAB Priorities?

Self Neglect and Hoarding:

Ahead of the official launch of the refreshed Brent Self Neglect and Hoarding Toolkit, we recognise that risk assessment plays a pivotal role in managing cases of self-neglect, and employing suitable tools can aid in this process. However, it's important to acknowledge that these tools may not cover the diverse range of self-neglect situations comprehensively. Therefore, they should complement, rather than replace, the overall risk assessment approach.

We have developed and implemented a bespoke risk assessment tool for practitioners to use as part of assessment tools, alongside training to support interview skills that enable practitioners to understand individual perspectives and coping mechanisms. This allows for an evaluation of the potential for change and how it could be facilitated in the future. Our approach enables assessments to focus not only on current risks, but also on potential future changes.

In conducting assessments, practitioners are supported with training regarding developing professional curiosity, imagination, and creativity. This will enhance their ability to appropriately challenge existing coping mechanisms and document their observations and thought processes thoroughly.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Brent Council: Adult Social Care

An overview from Evelyn Amedoda - Principle Social Worker & Head of Safeguarding for Adult Social Care at Brent council

Self Neglect and Hoarding continued:

Information sharing is critical throughout the process, involving managers, colleagues, and multi-agency partners. All practitioners are reminded of information sharing on our customer data system, Mosaic. This ensures that everyone involved has a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

This transparency is vital at every stage of interaction with the individual, from initial contact to the review of any safeguarding plan implemented. Brent has embedded robust escalation processes within Adult Social Care, ensuring practitioners have access to resources such as the High-Risk Panel.

Substance Misuse & Housing Need:

The Supportive Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART) has been developed to address the complex needs of adults facing intersecting challenges such as homelessness, mental health issues, substance dependencies, and involvement with the criminal justice system or probation services. SMART focuses on bridging the existing gaps in support services for this vulnerable demographic. SMART is situated within the ASC Mental Health service and collaborates closely with New Beginnings, an integrated service that assists individuals aiming to overcome substance or alcohol addiction, as well as B3 (Brent Service User Council). This close partnership enables collaborative approach to working with people who may have intersecting challenges of substance misuse and housing need.

Structured to provide intensive support, SMART engages with and evaluates the housing, daily living, and health and social care needs of these individuals. SMART interventions are grounded in trauma-informed practice, assertive outreach, harm reduction, and multi-agency coordination. Drawing from our experience, we have observed that these principles lead to more positive, long-term outcomes for our service users.

Furthermore, we have established collaborative training initiatives with housing services to strengthen a trauma-informed, strength-based, and person-centered approach. This joint effort aims to minimise the stress and distress experienced by people who experience substance misuse and have housing needs while streamlining the process of efficiently meeting their needs.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Brent Council: Adult Social Care

An overview from Evelyn Amedoda - Principle Social Worker & Head of Safeguarding for Adult Social Care at Brent council

Learning from SARs:

Subsequent to Adult G and prior to publication of the SAR, Brent ASC has implemented several measures to enhance safeguarding practices. These include the integration of a safeguarding recording system into Mosaic since October 2019, the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) starting January 2021, and the initiation of regular audits to assess safeguarding decisions. We have further refined our safeguarding offer by placing the safeguarding team with the Access, Information and Wellbeing Service.

We acknowledge the necessity to enhance assessment procedures for individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions such as autistic spectrum disorder, ensuring that tailored support and interventions are available. We have initiated the development of an Autism pathway, which is reinforced by training for practitioners on effectively working with people with neurodiversity and ensuring the implementation of reasonable adjustments to support assessments. This training is in addition to the mandatory Oliver McGowan training on Learning Disability and Autism for all staff across ASC.

Improved Mental Health Care Coordination:

Enhanced coordination between mental health services and care providers to ensure comprehensive support and monitoring for individuals with complex needs. Some of this learning has already been undertaken as indicated in Adult G SAR.

We have established robust communication channels between boroughs to share critical information when placing individuals in care to maintain continuity of care and facilitate informed decision-making. Whilst there is ADASS guidance supporting cross boundary communication, and also the framework set out in the Care Act, we have developed robust guidance regarding transferring cases to other local authorities and placing people outside of Brent as part of supporting safe continuing of care.

We have strengthened our practice to complement the work by our commissioners, through guidance around practice when we commission placements outside of Brent in our updated Standard Operating Procedures.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Brent Council: Adult Social Care

An overview from Evelyn Amedoda - Principle Social Worker & Head of Safeguarding for Adult Social Care at Brent council

The Council has initiated the development of an approach to address cuckooing and Children and Adult Services on transitional safeguarding. Within these initiatives, we will create clear protocols specifically aimed at addressing concerns related to 'County Lines' as it relates to people supported by ASC. The primary objective is the safety and wellbeing of individuals in care, with a particular focus on facilitating prompt relocations when deemed necessary with staff from Community Safety.

These learning and action activities will not only improve the immediate support for individuals like 'Drake' but also to create a more resilient and responsive system that prioritises the welfare of vulnerable young adults in care. Furthermore, through the West London Alliance, Brent ASC has fostered a collaborative relationship at the commissioning level, ensuring quality assurance among service providers. As part of this initiative, an enhanced risk management and escalation framework has been embedded to address high-risk cases and practice deficiencies. This framework includes multi-agency risk management meetings and the introduction of a refreshed High Risk Panel.

The Council intends to conduct a review of existing procedures for multi-agency risk management meetings and the High Risk Panel. This review will be integral to a renewed risk management framework that integrates various aspects such as interface with safeguarding inquiries, care management reviews, contract monitoring, and quality improvement efforts.

Part of the learning in the 'Drake' SAR relates to cross boundary placements of young adults in Brent, with the goal of identifying necessary system changes to prevent similar events from occurring in the future. It is noted that Brent ASC only became aware of 'Drake' after his death, however there is learning which is applicable to Brent. The examination will focus on refining processes to enhance the welfare and outcomes for individuals in similar situations.

Is there any other notable activity your organisation has undertaken to support vulnerable adults and Safeguarding?

The Safeguarding Team has embarked on a programme of activity to scope and understand the safeguarding support accessed by different ethnicities of the ASC population in Brent. The SAT will utilise existing infrastructure that has been established by Brent Health Matters, and model their community outreach approach to raise awareness regarding safeguarding support and how to make contact when residents have safeguarding concerns.

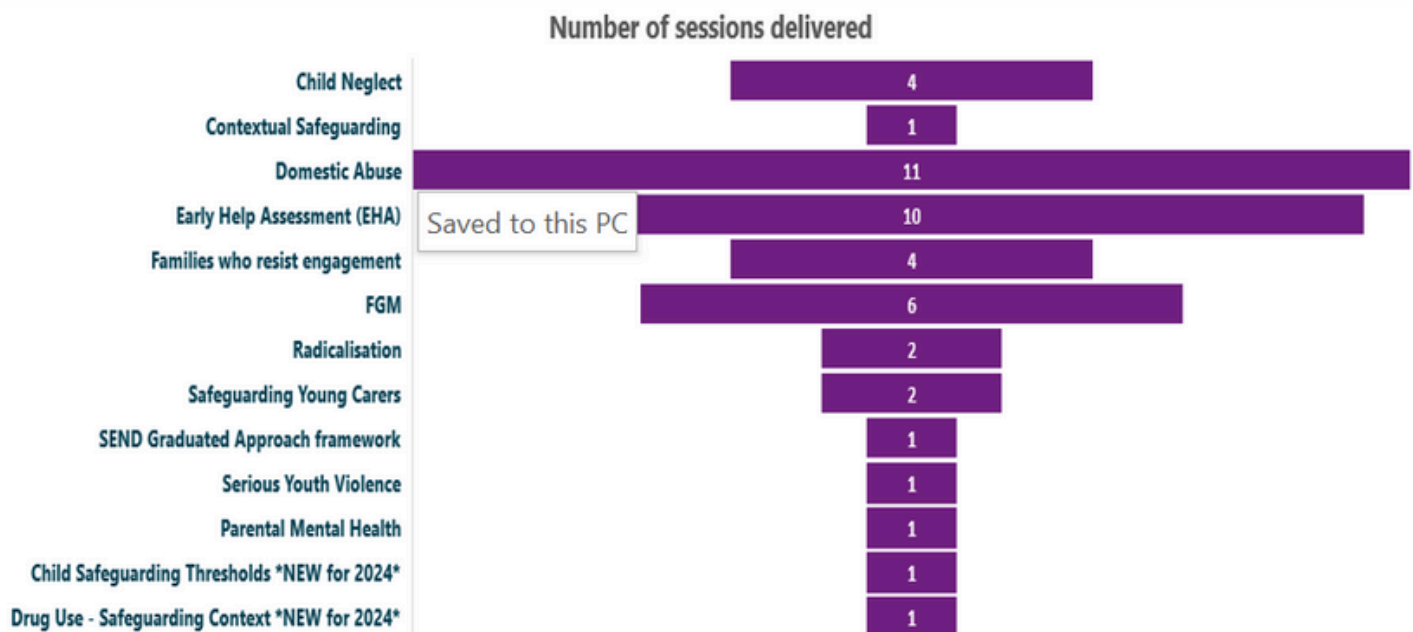
MULTI-AGENCY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



A joint virtual multi-agency training offer for Brent Safeguarding Partnerships

The offer:

The joint partnerships offer is updated annually, to include both safeguarding children and safeguarding adults at risk learning opportunities. The topics included within this period's annual programme came from themes identified from case learning and Board priority areas of focus, as agreed via the joint Learning and Development subgroup. The offer was as below:



A conscious effort has been made by the group to broaden the offer to service both the safeguarding children & adults workforce in a more balanced way. Attendance to training is monitored.

Further expansion of the offer is underway, with the following courses being finalised and integrated into the 2024/25 programme offer:

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Private fostering and Kinship Care
- LADO
- Coercive and Controlling Behaviour
- ICON, safe sleeping and head trauma
- Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Multiple/complex needs and safeguarding adults at risk
- Information sharing
- The Lead Worker/Professional
- Serious Cases Reviews
- Trauma-informed Practice
- Serious Violence Series - youth violence, serious homicides, etc.
- Learning from Cases Series (as well as learning being woven into other training)

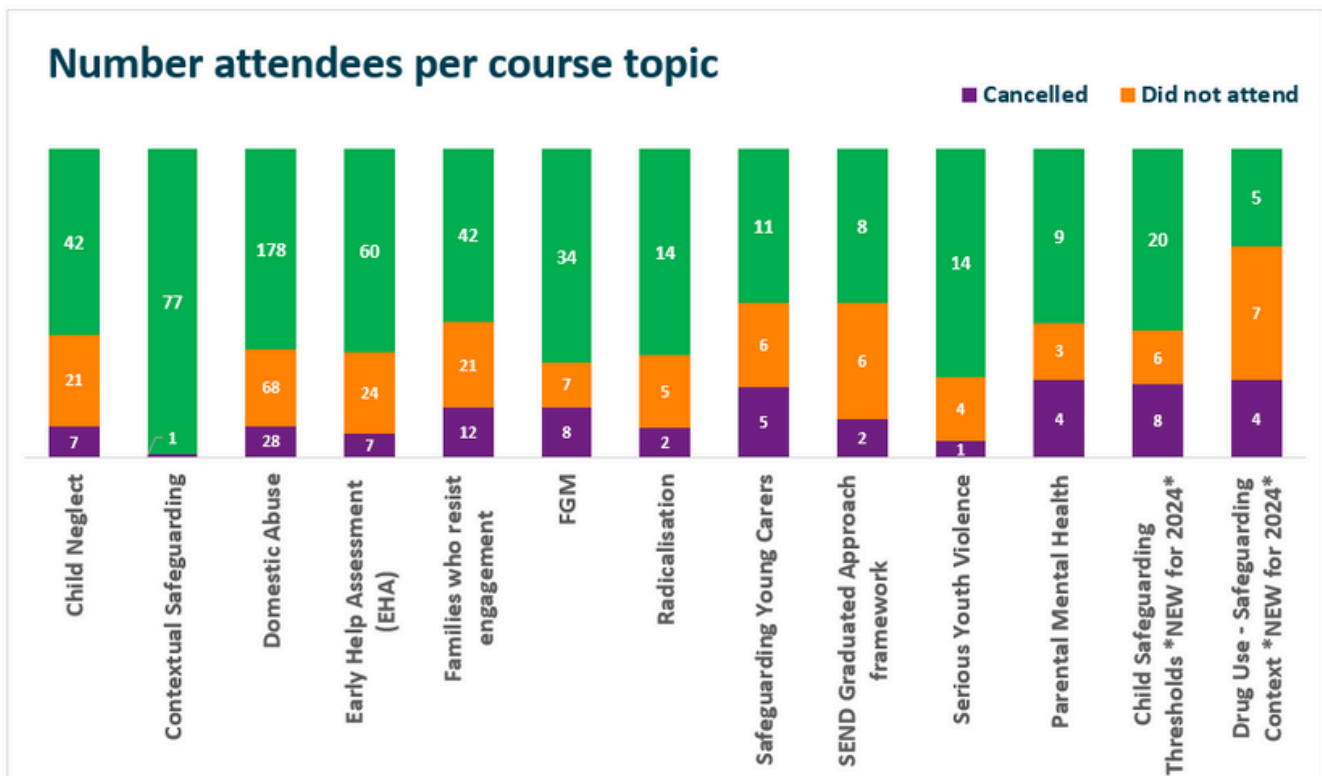
MULTI-AGENCY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



Attendance management:

The data shows a reduction in no shows of 9% when compared to 2022 – 2023. Cancellations are down by 10% respectively. The team are sending an additional reminder on the day of the course to expected participants, in addition to two automated prompts prior to the event. A post-course email is sent to follow up with non-attendees.

Brent Safeguarding Adults Board – Learning and Development course attendance covering the period between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024



To support further improvement in booking and attendance, we have identified and are working on the following:

- More variation in course length is being introduced, with a focus on more 60 – 120 minute sessions. This includes the development of three sets of short course series.
- The introduction of a four-stage evaluation process which includes a pre and post course learning gain questions, and a 2 month post course delegate and line manager survey to gain an insight into the impact of the training on practice. It has been agreed that the Learning and Development Group will begin annual analysis activity of the evaluation responses and data in 2024-2025.
- The multi-agency element of the programme is increasingly highlighted in titles and course descriptions to allow colleagues to understand the relevance and value that the learning may have to them.
- Branded and standardised briefings and handouts are being created that support embedding of learning and will be available to access via our website.

MULTI-AGENCY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



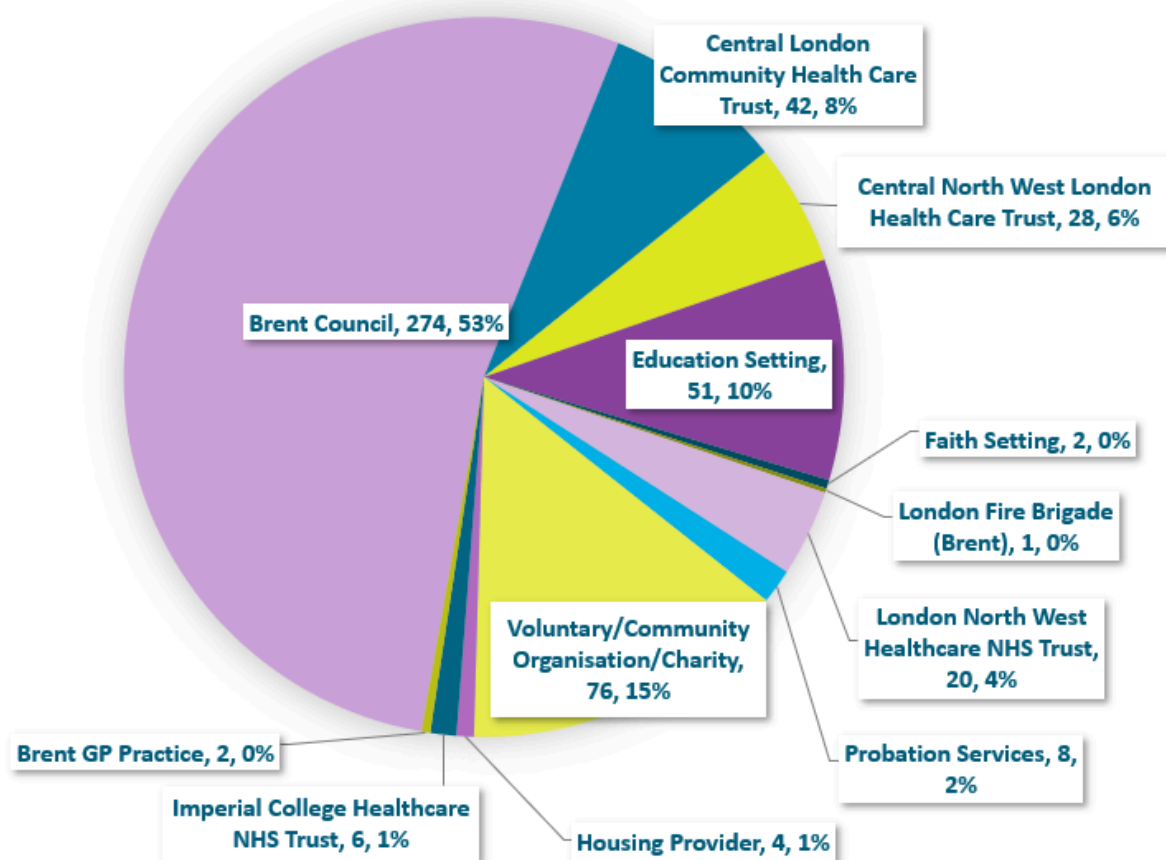
Organisational attendance rates

With the programme based on multi-agency training, the attendance by a range of agencies is of real importance. This supports enhancing how agencies work together, pathways and understanding and learning from each other's practice. The promotion of the programme, encouraging feedback and a 'cascade' training model within teams is of relevance.

Attempts are constantly made to increase the promotion of the multi-agency programme. This includes extending the distribution list, a push to utilise newsletters and other communication. The mailing list now comprises of over 100 people from all partner agencies, up from 76, with more requested. There is a heavy reliance on this 'cascade' model to colleagues and teams and this is having an impact:

- Registrations are up by 324 since February 2023.
- Bookings are up by 4%

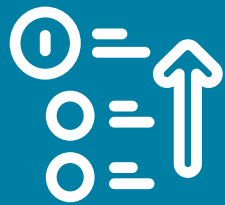
Attendees by organisation



Whilst it is recognised that some organisations face a greater challenge in attending than others, we are always looking for ways to extend our reach and engagement from colleagues across the partnership. The L&D subgroup welcomes input and support from all organisations that are linked in with Brent SAB.

STRATEGIC PLAN 24-26

Brent's agreed priorities for the coming years



PRIORITY 1 - SELF NEGLECT

Agreed in 2022, this priority remains and will be carried forward as a focus for the 2024-26 period. Work will include:

- Publication of self-neglect protocol.
- Dissemination of learning across the system.
- Scrutiny of safeguarding data regarding self-neglect.
- Multi-agency audits.
- Feedback from those with lived experience of self-neglect.
- Liaison with voluntary groups and agencies providing support for those who self-neglect



PRIORITY 2 - HOUSING NEED AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Also carried forward as a continued focus, work will include:

- Completion of learning reviews
- Dissemination of learning across partner agencies.
- Undertaking multi-agency audits to assess impact of learning.
- Monitoring data regarding individuals with care and support needs who misuse substances and have housing needs.
- Developing links with the Panels for Deaths through Alcohol and Drugs.
- Working with other strategic boards to develop more effective systems in tackling cuckooing



PRIORITY 3 - LEARNING FROM SARs

An additional priority set by the Independent Chair, to recognise a need to improve the embedding of learning from SARs. This will be achieved by:

- Use of the SCIE quality markers to support management of the process
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities for decision making.
- Strengthening feedback from families.
- Ensuring the report sign off and publication process is clear.
- Impact of learning can be shown throughout the Board partners and agencies.
- Producing thematic action plans, linking SARs locally and nationally.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEWS

A summary of work completed on reviews this year



Adult G

The Adult G SAR was finalised and released in March 2024.

The report underscores crucial insights regarding the commissioning and oversight of placements, collaboration with neighbouring boroughs in addressing safeguarding issues, and the management of pressure ulcers in both care homes and hospitals.

Next years annual report will provide updates on the progress made in learning from these findings and their extended impact.



'Drake'

The final report on the 'Drake' SAR is anticipated to be introduced to the Board during the initial meeting of 2024/25.

This assessment focuses on the processes related to the placement of young adults in Brent and addresses significant topics such as neurodiversity, exploitation, substance misuse and mental health.

The upcoming report will elaborate on the principal discoveries and work undertaken towards recommendations.



Adult I - (yet to be named)

This newly approved SAR is scheduled to commence in the early months of 2024 and extend into 2025. The SAR will primarily investigate:

- The response of agencies to households lacking functional utilities, especially when residents have care and support requirements.
- The assessment of needs for individuals under the care of family members.
- The handling of support requests and refusals from family members.

Further details from the finalised report will be made available in the upcoming year.



Thematic review: Substance misuse

This review centers on three distinct cases, all interconnected by the theme of substance misuse. The outcome will yield two reports: one addressing two comparable cases, and another report dedicated to a more complex case.

The primary focus of the review will revolve around examining safeguarding measures concerning substance misuse and housing requirements, which will contribute to the current priorities of the Board.

Details regarding the published report will be disseminated next year.

NEXT 12 MONTHS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With the appointment of the new Independent Chair, there is a renewed emphasis on enhancing the governance and structure of the Board to optimise functionality. This strategic shift aims to facilitate improvements, establish a clearer monitoring framework, drive change effectively, and yield more favourable outcomes.

The Chair will guide the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in aligning with the newly established Strategic Priorities set forth until 2026. To initiate progress, attention will be directed towards the following key areas:

- **SAR Learning:** Enhancing governance practices concerning Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and reassessing methodologies to ensure reports are focused and proportionate. Emphasis will be placed on offering more precise recommendations, demonstrating advancements to families, and showcasing improved practices.
- **Self-Neglect:** Introducing the Brent Self-neglect and Hoarding Toolkit, with a particular focus on assessing its practical implementation across various agencies and evaluating its impact on individual experiences.
- **Substance Misuse & Housing Need:** Conducting in-depth scrutiny regarding accommodation solutions that facilitate individual progression. Additionally, undertaking targeted efforts to enhance practitioners' comprehension and application of the Mental Capacity Act in cases involving substance misuse.

We thank our partners for their continued support in our efforts to improve safeguarding practice and procedures in Brent

