

 Brent  West and North London	Brent Health and Wellbeing Board 17 September 2026
	Report from the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board
	Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care - Cllr Muhammed Butt
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements) Annual Report April 2025 - March 2026	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
List of Appendices:	SAB Annual Report
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Kayliegh Creamer Strategic Partnership Lead Kayliegh.creamer@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. To enable members of the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board to consider the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) annual report covering the period from April 2025 to March 2026.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

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

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 the SABs new strategic priorities focuses on Mental Health & Suicide prevention and is actively working with partners to ensure that policies and measures are in place to support and safeguards residents.

Thriving Communities – The SAB incorporates community engagement through its voluntary community sector members. The SAB has engaged with community groups to better understand their experience of safeguarding and is looking for practical approaches to incorporate lived experience in to it's assurance work. Community safety is also a standing member of the SAB, and there is representation from the SAB at the Safer Brent Partnership.

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.

3.1.2 The SAB has a responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to produce an annual report each year that outlines the work and progress of the SAB and it's member agencies. This report must be signed off by the SAB and is published on the Brent Safeguarding Partnerships website upon sign off agreement.

3.1.3 **Key activities** – During 2025–26, the SAB delivered significant multi-agency improvements across its core priorities of self-neglect, housing need, substance misuse, and learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). Key achievements included the development and launch of a comprehensive Self-Neglect Toolkit and associated training resources, stronger governance and data oversight through the new Performance & Audit subgroup, and improved multi-agency approaches to complex risks such as cuckooing, homelessness, mental health, and exploitation. The SAB strengthened system learning by embedding SAR findings into workforce training, introducing short-form learning briefings and the “Safe-Tea” podcast series, while also modernising governance through task-and-finish groups to accelerate improvement activity. The SAB also approved a new strategic plan for 2026–28, setting renewed priorities around safeguarding adults with complex needs and preventing harm earlier, underpinned by a stronger emphasis on community engagement, workforce effectiveness, and responding to emerging digital risks

3.1.4 **Identifying and addressing key priorities**

The SAB has agreed its strategic plan for 2026-2028 consisting of the following priority areas:

- Safeguarding those with complex care and support needs (Mental health and suicide and Homelessness linked to safeguarding)
- Prevention of harm for those with care and support needs

The SAB annual report (Appendix A) contains the detail of the priorities and the plan for the SAB to progress them.

3.1.5 **Partnership Working** – Key Board member organisations provide support and input across the SAB system via the regular subgroups, Task and Finish, project groups and via routine updates. This ensures there is both assurance and a rounded input on important pieces of work that require multi-agency input to develop and improve safeguarding processes In Brent.

3.1.6 **National, Regional and local learning**

The SAB is connected to National Board and Chair networks to stay abreast of emerging themes, and this allows it to identify and link learning. The Chair has now set up a regional London SAB Chairs group, which will be merging with colleagues to align with the new ICB footprints.

In response to the newly published Pan London Safeguarding Procedure policy guidance, the SAB has recently completed a task and finish group exploring what this means for Brent and where more work may need to be done to align with these regional guidelines.

The SAB has also responded to the ministerial letter in light of safeguarding responses to homelessness deaths and has worked with partners to implement and embed a review process to better share learning and create a clearer line of assurance to the SAB when such incidents occur.

3.1.7 **Forward planning** - The SAB is in 'phase one' of its new 2-year strategic priorities focus, which will be reviewed and amended at the end of 26/27 and new goals be set for the second half of the period.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 SAB 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. The SAB is a wider partnership forum accountable to the Executive Group, it is chaired by an Independent Chair.

3.2.2 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 SAB must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.

3.2.3 SAB members represent their organisations at partnership meetings and activities. 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 West & North 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.

- 3.2.4 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.
- 3.2.5 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.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 All SAB members have an obligation to provide resources to support its functions. This includes having a representative present at the SAB and where applicable, at its sub-groups. It may also include contributing financially and/or providing relevant information to the SAB.

3.2.8 Brent's safeguarding partnership arrangements

Brent's SAB 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
 - Performance & Audit group
 - Joint partnerships learning & development programme
 - Themed/focused Task & Finish groups as and when required

The Executive Group

- 3.2.9 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), West and North London Integrated Care Board (Director of Quality, Nursing and Safeguarding) and Metropolitan Police (Superintendent, Public Protection-Safeguarding Lead, North West BCU).

Partnership support staff arrangements

- 3.2.10 Support staffing arrangements for the SAB arrangements are funded and resourced by Brent Council.
- 3.2.11 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 Children, Young People and Community Development.
- 3.2.12 Alongside the SAB arrangements, the Strategic Partnerships Team also currently coordinates activities for other strategic partnerships in Brent including Brent Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Brent Health and Wellbeing Board and Brent Children's Trust.
- 3.2.13 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 Board meetings (approximately 1 day a month).

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The newly appointed Lead Cabinet Member for Community Health & Wellbeing, Councillor Butt will be included as a member of the Safeguarding Adults Board and will be given the opportunity to attend key meetings to input to the work of the partnerships

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 For the 2025/26 financial year, the SAB had an annual budget of £68,415 excluding staff costs. A full breakdown of the budget is included in the annual report (please see Appendix A).
- 5.2 As the SAB unusually incurred no SAR reviewer fees in 25/26, there was an underspend and funds not spent were moved to reserves. The reserves will be drawn upon to cover the costs of the independent reviewers commissioned to undertake reviews where the budget in any given year is insufficient to cover the costs incurred. This will ensure that the SAB is able to continue meeting its statutory requirements going forward.
- 5.3 Aside from administration and completion of mandatory Safeguarding Adult Reviews, the budget is predominantly spent on the SAB Chair fees, learning events and running a joint Learning and Development offer with the Children's Partnership.

- 5.4 The local authority makes additional contributions in the form of staffing costs to support the running of the SAB.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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 states that partner agencies and services must work together to implement strategies to protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect locally.
- 6.3 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.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 The Safeguarding partners also ensure that services are culturally aware and skilled in identifying, assessing, and meeting the individual needs of Adults in Brent.
- 7.4 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

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

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

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

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

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 This is not within the scope of consideration.

Report sign off:

Nicola Brownjohn
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Chair