

Report for: Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel, November 2022

Title: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-2022

Report authorised by: Dr Adi Cooper (Independent Chair of Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board)

Lead Officer: Ashraf Sahebodin, Governance and Improvement Officer, Adult Social Services.

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The annual report is for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 and is produced as part of the Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board's (HSAB) statutory duty under The Care Act 2014 and Chapter 14 of the Care & Support Guidance. We are required to publish an annual report in relation to the preceding financial year, on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

1.2 The HSAB Annual Report 2021/22 outlines the work of the Board over the last twelve months and how partner agencies have worked together to improve the safety of adults at risk of abuse. The report contains details of how safeguarding has been promoted and developed over the last year through the Board and its subgroups. The report also describes how the Board intends to continue this in the future.

1.3 Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The SAR Subgroup has continued to progress its priorities throughout 2021/22 and securing strong partner engagement in Subgroup meetings and wider learning events. During 2021/22, one Safeguarding Adults Review has been initiated and work has been undertaken with SAB partners to implement learning from two Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) completed last year.

To aid dissemination of learning from the Thematic Homelessness SAR published during 2020/21, the SAR Subgroup delivered two Homelessness SAR and National SAR Analysis learning workshops to over 60 SAB partners and frontline practitioners in July 2021. An action planning group was also established to oversee implementation of the review recommendations.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the contents of the annual report.

3. Background information

3.1 The HSAB is a statutory body that works to make sure that all agencies are working together to help keep adults in Haringey safe from harm and to protect the rights of citizens to be safeguarded under the Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 and the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998. Under the Care Act 2014 Haringey SAB has three core duties:

- developing and publishing an annual strategic plan setting out how we will meet our objectives.
- publishing an annual report which sets out what we have achieved; and
- commissioning SAR where serious abuse or death has occurred, and learning can take place.

3.2 The work of the Board is driven by its vision is that Haringey residents are able to live a life free from harm, where communities have a culture that does not tolerate abuse; work together to prevent abuse; and know what to do when abuse happens. The overarching purpose of the Haringey SAB is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:

- assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance.
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome focused.
- working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
- ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred; and
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

4.1 Links with the Haringey Borough Plan 2019-2023:

PEOPLE Priority – Our vision is a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential.

OUTCOME 7: All adults are able to live healthy and fulfilling lives, with dignity, staying active, connected and free from harm in their communities.

4.2 The People priority brings different areas together where we are tackling problems which cut across different parts of the public and voluntary sectors, such as violence against women and girls, homelessness, and serious youth violence. There are some themes which we see running through everything we do together: **Fairness and Inequalities, Prevention, and Safeguarding** (we will step in to safeguard children, young people and adults who are at risk of harm, neglect or exploitation).

5. Updates from previous Adults Scrutiny

5.1 Transitional Safeguarding Protocol

The Transitional Safeguarding Protocol was agreed and signed off at the Joint HSCP/HSAB meeting in July 2022. The aim of the protocol is to develop a multi-agency approach to preparing young people for adulthood that enables a transitional safeguarding response to support the most vulnerable young people and adults in Haringey who are at risk of abuse and exploitation. It aims to reach and influence the practise of all operational staff and managers as well as inspire senior leaders in their visioning and commissioning of future services.

5.2 The HSCP and HSAB fully endorse and promote the protocol as part of the key role in overseeing safeguarding in the Borough. The following organisations have made a commitment in the form of a pledge to adopt the transitional safeguarding approach to better support young adults in Haringey; Children Social Care; Adult Social Care; Health Services; Haringey Housing; and Haringey Met Police. The following pledges is made:

- Workforce Development
- Communication
- Joining up of Services
- Locality Working
- Strengthening Links with Finance and Commissioning

5.3 Next Phase – Developing the Action Plan (Engagement Sessions)

All partner agencies have been invited to participate in the next phase of developing the action plan and identifying actions for individual agencies/services. Beverley Hendricks (Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care (Childrens)) and Vicky Murphy (Assistant Director for Adults) will be hosting these engagement sessions for the opportunity to share ideas, learn and participate in the development of the Transitional Safeguarding action plan. The plan is to have the final draft of the action plan in place by the new year and will be presented to the joint board on 26th January 2023.

The Protocol and implementation of the action plan will lead to assurance for both the HSAB and HSCP of a more effective multi-agency approach for young people enabling earlier identification of risks and responses that embed transitional safeguarding as an integral strand of the preparing for adulthood pathway.

5.4 Vetting Processes

Met Police

The MPS vetting unit process both internal and external vetting requests and follow national guidance issued by the College of Policing. All roles in the met require the holder to have RV/CTC (Recruitment Vetting and Counter Terrorist Check) clearance. Designated posts require varying levels of enhanced clearance.

5.5 Vetting units must comply with the requirements of the **Vetting Code of Practice** and must have a nominated FVM (force vetting manager) or nominated equivalent. The FVM must have the authority of the chief officer to grant, refuse or withdraw vetting clearances relevant to their force or area. Each force must have suitable vetting arrangements that ensure compliance with the Vetting Code of Practice. These arrangements may be delivered collaboratively with other forces.

- All police officers have CT check National Security Vetting and a base level of police vetting every 10 years. Enhanced vetting required on change of role.
- Officers and staff who have prolonged contact with young people require Children and Vulnerable Groups Supervision (CVGS) vetting (Enhanced vetting for change of role to work with young people)
- Officers and staff in sensitive roles that require access to SECRET/TOP SECRET information require DV or SC NSV (every 7 years).

5.6 **Haringey Adult Services and Health Services**

DBS check for all staff who's role requires direct engagement with vulnerable residents on start of employment and then every 3 years.

5.7 **Digital Scams and Digital Inclusion**

Information on financial abuse and digital scams have been published in the Haringey People Autumn 2022 issue.

Information available on the Haringey website:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/business/regulation-standards-and-environment/trading-standards/trading-standards-scams-awareness-and-advice>

5.8 **Haringey Digital Support Service**

With support from NHS Charities Together and the North Central London ISC, Haringey Healthwatch are helping local people to get online and to access digital services and support for health and well-being (including NHS digital access), education, employment, video calls, and e-mail setup. The support is for local people who are not familiar with online technology, or completely digitally excluded, to access advice and information, services, opportunities and appointments 'online' using the internet. For more info, see:

<https://www.healthwatchharingey.org.uk/digital-support>

6. **Homes for Ukraine – Safeguarding**

6.1 The Homes for Ukraine Scheme has brought 52 single parent households with children and 92 single women to the borough. In total, we are hosting 122 children under the age of 18 via the scheme.

6.2 Haringey's Resettlement Team and a range of Council and VCS services are providing wrap around support to refugees arriving in Haringey through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. This support includes drop in support sessions at three Welcome Hubs across the borough in Wood Green, Tottenham and

Muswell Hill as well as support with Housing, Schools and Primary Care registration and access.

- 6.3 Council teams have implemented a number of mechanisms to meet specific safeguarding duties to guests arriving, including:
- Conducting DBS checks with Sponsors
 - Conducting property checks at Sponsors' accommodation to ensure their homes are safe, appropriate, and there are no overcrowding issues
 - Conducting safeguarding checks where children are involved
 - Carrying out welfare visits at the Sponsor address once families / individuals have arrived to ensure there is a line of communication for guests to raise any safeguarding issues, and to allow an initial assessment of any issues / need.
- 6.4 Concerns were raised at the national level about Sponsorships between single men and single Ukrainian women. To respond to this locally, we prioritised welfare and property checks where there were matches like these in Haringey to assure ourselves of the appropriateness of placements.
- 6.5 There have been a small number of safeguarding concerns raised within sponsorship arrangements – largely these have related to behaviours displayed by Ukrainian children. Our No Recourse to Public Funds Team in Children's Services have been closely involved with safeguarding checks from the start of the process, and in each case have quickly made visits to investigate any concerns raised with us. In a handful of cases, these concerns have resulted in sponsorship arrangements ending and other accommodation being secured.
- 6.6 Two Prevent related concerns have been raised in relation to Ukrainian children, involving concerns about far-right extremist ideology. These have been picked up by the Prevent team and Schools, involving relevant services such as Early Help. Neither have been accepted as Prevent cases at this stage.
- 6.7 Schools have raised concerns about the mental health needs among Ukrainian children, facing the disruption of starting a new school, navigating the language barrier, and having experiences of trauma. We're in conversation with colleagues across North Central London about a coordinated commissioning response to this, and have started some early work with Public Health on early support and resilience tools for refugee families.

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

N/A

8. Use of Appendices

N/A

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- The Care Act 2014
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>)
- Care & Support Statutory Guidance – Update 9th July 2018
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>)
- London Multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
(<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/london-multi-agency-adult-safeguarding-policy-and-procedures.pdf>)