

ASSEMBLY

21 November 2018

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| Title: Annual Report 2017/18 -Safeguarding Adults Board | |
| Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Integration | |
| Open Report | For Information |
| Wards Affected: All | Key Decision: No |
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| Summary: <p>Under Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) are required to publish an Annual Report, detailing their work over the preceding year. The attached Annual Report (Appendix 1) describes the work and priorities of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) from April 2017 to March 2018. It sets out how the Board has worked to improve the protection of vulnerable adults across Barking and Dagenham along with its achievements in 2017/18 and key priorities into the future.</p> <p>The annual reports contain contributions from a range of organisations who are involved in safeguarding vulnerable adults in Barking and Dagenham. Joint working has been effective over the past year, and the membership of the Board has strengthened. During the year, the Board has appointed a new Independent Chair. The statutory partners have provided financial resources to support the SAB a to fulfil their functions and to support the undertaking of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs).</p> <p>The Annual Report has been agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Board at its meeting on 17 July 2018 and and was presented and discussed at the Health & Wellbeing Board on 5 September 2018. During the presentation the Health & Wellbeing Board noted the need to improve awareness across frontline teams and the wider community about safeguarding concerns, especially around issues of exploitation and modern slavery, and on how to report concerns for attention by statutory agencies.</p> <p>The Assembly is invited to note the report and, further to the discussion at the Health & Wellbeing Board, to draw out any issues that it prompts that Members would like the Safeguarding Adults Board to consider as part of its routine business or the Strategic Plan.</p> | |

Recommendation

The Assembly is recommended to:

- (i) Note the contents of Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board for 2017/18;
- (ii) Note the discussion at the Health & Wellbeing Board and add further comments to shape the priorities of the SAB through its Strategic Plan.

Reason(s)

Safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse is one of the most important statutory duties that falls upon the Council. Collaborating with partners in the health sector and the Police is mandated by the Care Act, and together with other important partners, the Safeguarding Adults Board is the mechanism for discharging that duty. It is important that all Members of the Council are aware of the work of the Council in improving the systems to safeguard adults and have the opportunity to shape that work.

1. Introduction to the Safeguarding Adults Board

- 1.1 It is a requirement set out in the Care Act 2014 that organisations work together to promote the safeguarding of vulnerable adults within their communities. For Barking & Dagenham, the Safeguarding Adults Board has established a vision that:

Every adult living in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has the right to live in safety, free from fear of abuse or neglect. The Safeguarding Adults Board exists to make sure that organisations, people and local communities work together to prevent and stop the risk of abuse or neglect.

- 1.2 The prime focus of the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to ensure that safeguarding is consistently understood by anyone engaging with adults who may be at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect, and that there is a common commitment to improving outcomes for them. This means ensuring the community has an understanding of how to support, protect and empower people at risk of harm. We want to develop and facilitate practice which puts individuals in control and generates a more person-centred approach and outcomes.
- 1.3 The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board is made up of the following statutory partners:
- i) London Borough of Barking & Dagenham;
 - ii) The Metropolitan Police; and
 - iii) Barking & Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 1.4 In addition, the membership of the Board includes a number of other representatives of agencies with significant contributions to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. These include:

- i) North East London NHS Foundation Trust;
- ii) Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust; and
- iii) The London Fire Service.

1.5 The Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health Integration attends meetings of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

1.6 During 2017/18, Brian Parrott was appointed as the new Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board, and this is the first Annual Report which he has introduced under his leadership of the Board.

2. Highlights of the 2017/18 Annual Report

2.1 The report details some of the performance information about the work of partners in safeguarding vulnerable adults during the year. 1,632 safeguarding concerns were raised for investigation by the Council during this time, the highest number of safeguarding concerns raised since the introduction of the Care Act in 2015. It is not easy to draw conclusions from this, with any potential genuine increase in risk being masked by changes in recording practice by practitioners and the public.

2.2 The annual Adult Social Care User Survey for 2017/18 showed that 79% of people said their services made them feel safe. This is marginally down from 81% in 2016/17, and is also higher than the 65% who indicated in the same survey that overall they felt safe. This gap may be about perceptions of crime and safety in Barking and Dagenham, and possibly points towards work already being planned to improve the 'disability positive' environment of the borough.

2.3 During the year, the report records progress on improving quality assurance of the adult social care provider market; improvements in mental capacity act assessment and recording; changes to the structures for safeguarding in the Metropolitan Police; work to oversee improvements to primary care services; and work in response to CQC inspections of the two major hospital providers.

2.4 The Partnership concluded one Safeguarding Adults Review during the year, into a case of modern slavery involving a young woman with a learning disability. The review highlighted a number of recommendations around processes and staff training in order to prevent the recurrence of the failings that had been identified. All recommendations have now been delivered, with a new Modern Slavery pathway under development.

2.5 During the year, the SAB undertook a comprehensive process of self-assessment by partners, followed by a peer challenge session. The result of this have informed the priorities for improvement detailed in the report, being delivered through the SAB's seven priorities in its Strategic Plan, namely:

- i) Awareness-raising of safeguarding with the wider community and advice on how to report concerns;
- ii) Ensuring 'Making Safeguarding Personal' is embedded into practice;
- iii) Supporting professionals in undertaking mental capacity assessments;

- iv) Joint learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews and other similar reviews;
- v) Increase knowledge of safeguarding among wider groups of professionals in partner organisations;
- vi) Ensuring links between safeguarding, domestic abuse, and domestic violence practice; and
- vii) Risk in relation to discharge of vulnerable people from hospital into community settings and back home.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Assembly is recommended to note the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and to provide feedback for the SAB to consider as it develops further its strategic plan for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017/18