

CABINET

28 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES

Title: Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report April 2009 - March 2010	For Information
Summary: <p>The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) provides the strategic framework for the Borough to ensure that vulnerable adults in our community live free from abuse and neglect.</p> <p>The Board works to promote and mainstream responsibilities across agencies and partnerships and provides a mechanism for local partners to coordinate activities and ensure continuous improvement.</p> <p>The Board actively promotes the views of service users to improve the effectiveness of the Partnership response.</p> <p>Members of the Board are invited from both public and relevant third sector agencies. However, it is requested that nominated representatives are in a position to speak on behalf of their organisation to safeguard vulnerable adults.</p> <p>This Annual Report provides an overview of the achievements of the Safeguarding Adults Board between April 2009 and March 2010. It also provides detailed analysis of performance in order to identify future action alongside emerging issues.</p>	
Wards Affected: ALL	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Cabinet is recommended to note the report and in particular the extensive progress made over the last year in raising the level of safeguarding adult reporting.</p>	
Reason(s) <p>The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report reports on progress against the SAB strategy and action plan. The Cabinet is asked to note how this strategy and action plan delivers our corporate priorities of promoting the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults by encouraging respect and fairness.</p>	
Comments of the Chief Financial Officer <p>The report has been noted and there are no specific comments.</p>	
Comments of the Legal Partner <p>The report has been noted and there are no specific comments.</p>	

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1. Background

- 1.1 Adult safeguarding incorporates the concepts of prevention, empowerment and protection to enable those adults who are in circumstances that make them vulnerable to retain their independence and well-being and to access their right to a life free from abuse and neglect. It is estimated that 140,000 vulnerable adults are abused each year in the UK - double the figure for children. However, historically safeguarding adults has not been afforded the same level of profile.
- 1.2 Safeguarding Adults work requires a partnership response from all public services. The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board provides this strategic framework across local agencies and co-ordinates activities to ensure continuous improvement. Members include voluntary sector partners, the Police, NHS Barking and Dagenham, London Ambulance Service, Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospital Trust, the Council, NELFT Mental Health Services and Community Health Services. The Board also has a variety of subgroups which it tasks to deliver its work.
- 1.3 The Safeguarding Adults Board is accountable to the Barking and Dagenham Partnership and presents an Annual Report to the Partnership via the Public Service Board.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to note the annual report and in particular the extensive progress made over the last year in raising the level of safeguarding adult reporting.

This annual report provides an overview of the achievements of the Safeguarding Adults Board between April 2009 and March 2010. It also provides detailed analysis of performance which allows us to identify future action alongside emerging issues.

Headline achievements include:

- Increased governance and membership of the Safeguarding Adults Board
- Appointment of an Independent Chair
- Review and subsequent Restructure of Sub Groups
- Formal links established with other strategic boards
- Greater alignment with Community Safety
- Funding for a dedicated Safeguarding Team at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Trust
- Appointment of a Strategic Implementation Lead at NHS Barking and Dagenham

- Appointment of a Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator at Barking and Dagenham Metropolitan Police
- Appointment of a named nurse at Barking and Dagenham Community Health Services
- Specialist leads appointed across Mental Health Services
- Review and Restructure of Safeguarding Adults Team
- **I Care** Communication campaign and strategy
- Development of a *Six Lives* Action Plan
- Improved Performance Management and Quality Assurance
- Development of a bespoke competency based training plan and roll out to 1,400 staff from across all agencies and the independent sector
- Establishment of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Infrastructure
- Improved Safeguarding aspects of Commissioning and Contracting
- Development of Safeguarding and personalisation framework

3. Financial Issues

- 3.1 Safeguarding Adults is a corporate responsibility which is core business for all departments. Within the Council there is a dedicated Safeguarding Adults Budget of £432,611 which supports the co-ordination of this work through its central Safeguarding Adults Team.

4. Legal Issues

- 4.1 The Department of Health published guidance 'No Secrets' in 2000. This document clearly states an expectation placed on local agencies around prevention, protection and detection of abuse of vulnerable adults. The guidance also recommends that Adult Social Services should take the lead for this partner-agency work.

While the duty to lead this response rests with Adult Social Services it is widely acknowledged that Safeguarding Adults is everyone's responsibility and all have a duty to report suspected, alleged or confirmed incidents of abuse.

'Failure to take reasonable and appropriate steps to safeguard individuals from abuse or life threatening events is a breach of Articles 2 & 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It is important that adult protection is triggered when someone is believed to be at risk of harm/abuse and not only at the point where there is demonstrable evidence of harm.'

[Flynn, 2007, 5.3]

This stance was further strengthened in January 2010 when the then Minister of Care Services, Phil Hope, announced that Safeguarding Adults Boards were going to be given a statutory footing.

5. Other Implications

5.1 Risk Management

The Safeguarding Adults Board aims to oversee the effective responses to allegations of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. Progress against our action plan is detailed within Annual Report and indicates that risks are being identified and mitigated.

5.2 **Contractual Issues**

The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy recognises the importance of mainstreaming safeguarding into services that we commission through contract arrangements. By managing the market in this way we are able to better protect service users and carers from discrimination.

5.3 **Staffing Issues**

A key component of our strategy is the continued recognition by staff across specialists and sectors that safeguarding adults is everybody's business. This Annual Report sets out our achievements in building this consensus. There are, however, no specific staffing issues in this report.

5.4 **Customer Impact**

Central to Safeguarding Adults work are the concepts of 'Putting customers first' through ensuring that all customers are treated with dignity, respect, equality and fairness. The Strategy and Action Plan acknowledges that some individuals are more likely to be abused than others and less likely to be able to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation" and so the work plan reflect this through its communication plan and policy and procedures. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to ensure that the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy and Action Plan to ensure equality for all customers.

While the Equality Impact Assessment highlighted areas for improvement including the need to engage with faith groups around the issue of harmful cultural practice and the need to ensure that there was a formal process to capture low level complaints the underlying conclusion was that the Strategy is having a positive impact upon reducing the inequalities faced by vulnerable adults by providing them with increased access to support and protection. Through the implementation of this strategy which is evidenced in this Annual Report we are able to measure our progress to improve the quality of their lives by supporting them to live free from abuse and neglect.

5.5 **Safeguarding Children**

The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy sets out both formal and informal arrangements with the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards as well as with colleagues in Children's Safeguarding and Rights. Through these arrangements the Board has been able to establish clear mechanisms to address the gap between children and adults safeguarding. In doing so the Boards are able to ensure that vulnerable adults and children are equally protected when either access the system.

5.6 **Health Issues**

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults from abuse and neglect is a public health issue which is prioritised by health agencies who are appropriately represented upon the Safeguarding Adults Board. Keeping vulnerable people safe further contributes to the Partnership's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

5.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues**

Abuse and neglect can often constitute a criminal offence and as such is recognised as a priority for the Crime and Disorder Partnership. This Annual Report also sets out the partnership compliance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which places a duty on responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder implications when exercising its various functions in order to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

5.8 Miscellaneous and Supplemental

The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy and Action plan fits into the One Barking and Dagenham Programme by delivering a safeguarding adults service which promotes the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults by encouraging respect and fairness. The strategy and action plan supports the value of 'Putting customers first' through the promotion of person centred responses; 'Taking responsibility' through mainstreaming the ethos that safeguarding is a corporate responsibility for all staff; 'Treating each other fairly and respectfully' through training and awareness around safeguarding and the inequalities faced by certain groups; 'Working together' by harnessing partners and the community in our response to vulnerable adults; 'Achieving excellence' by mainstreaming procedural quality assurance and monitoring to ensure that services provided are excellent.

6. Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy and Action Plan 2009 -11
- Safeguarding Adults Board Constitution
- Equality Impact Assessment Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy and Action Plan April 2010
- No Secrets

7. List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
APRIL 2009 - March 2010