


Health and Wellbeing Board Tuesday 18 October 2016	
Report of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Classification: Unrestricted
Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16	

Lead Officer	Denise Radley, Corporate Director Adult Services Christabel Shawcross, Independent Chair of Safeguarding Adults Board
Contact Officers	Layla Richards, Service Manager Policy, Programmes and Community Insight (Children's and Adult Services)
Executive Key Decision?	No

Summary

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory duty under the Care Act to produce an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objectives and implement its strategic plan. Additionally it should record what each member agency has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews and subsequent action.

The report has been prepared within the Children and Adults' Services Policy, Programmes and Community Insight Team alongside the preparation of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Report. This helps to ensure consistency in terms of approach, content, structure and quality.

Key messages within the Annual Report are:

1. Adults referred under safeguarding procedures are safeguarded
2. There is excellent multi-agency engagement in the SAB and its Business
3. Learning more about the service user/patient experience will be an important priority for 2016/17

Recommendations:

The Health & Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. To note the annual report for the local Safeguarding Adults Board for 2015/16.
2. To consider any implications arising from this report for the HWBB and its work programme.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The local Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of adult safeguarding arrangements and promoting the welfare of adults in its locality and ensure the annual report is available within the professional and public domain. The SAB annual report, which fulfils this responsibility, is appended to this briefing paper.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There are no alternative options, as it is a statutory requirement for this report to be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has a statutory duty under the Care Act to produce an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objectives and implement its strategic plan. Additionally it should record what each member agency has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults' Reviews and subsequent action.
- 3.2 The report has been prepared within the Children and Adults' Services Policy, Programmes and Community Insight Team alongside the preparation of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board Report. This helps to ensure consistency in terms of approach, content, structure and quality.
- 3.3 The Annual Report gives an overview of the membership, governance and accountability arrangements for the SAB, together with the legal, national and local contexts in which it operates.
- 3.4 In accordance with the Care Act 2014, the SAB has a strategy regarding the safeguarding of adults with an associated business plan. The strategy and business plan are structured around the six key principles of safeguarding as defined by the Care Act 2014. These are: Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability. The Annual Report details the progress made in delivering the business plan in relation to each of these six key principles. In addition the report provides details of the Board's priorities for 2016/17.
- 3.5 The Annual Report provides details of how member organisations are scrutinised in relation to evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within the borough. This includes a summary of the Self Audit challenge in which member organisations completed an extensive proforma to evaluate their own performance. In addition to this the local authority undertook an external review by the Association of Directors of Social Services, and the report provides a summary of this review.

- 3.6 The SAB has a legal duty to make arrangements for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) in the event of a death of a vulnerable adult, where abuse or neglect have been a contributory factor. Two SARs were undertaken in Tower Hamlets in 2015/16 and the SAR reports, their findings and recommendations are summarised in the Annual Report. Executive summaries of the SARs are also published on the Councils website.
- 3.7 The annual report provides an overview of data relating to adult safeguarding enquiries in 2015/16 as well as a detailed analysis of activity relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards under the terms of the Mental Capacity Act.
- 3.8 Finally, the annual report includes contributions from key member organisations about progress they have made in safeguarding adults; how they evaluate their own effectiveness; and improvements that have been made in safeguarding arrangements.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. Any recurring financial implications arising from the findings of SARs will be considered as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 The feasibility of a pooled fund with contributions from partner agencies to support the work of the board continues to be investigated in 2016/17 as the majority of the current costs are met from the Adults' Services revenue budget.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1. The Council is required by section 1 of the Care Act 2014 to exercise its functions under Part 1 of the Act so as to promote the well-being of adults, which includes safeguarding adults who have care needs, who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Pursuant to section 42 of the Act, the Council has a positive obligation to enquire into actual and potential cases of abuse or neglect so as to enable decisions to be taken about what action should be taken in each adult's case.
- 5.2. The Care Act 2014 places the Council's duties in respect of safeguarding adults with care needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect on a statutory basis. The requirements in respect of establishing a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) are set out in Sections 43-45 and Schedule 2 of the 2014 Act. As with all of the Council's duties under the Act, the duty to promote wellbeing applies to the Council's safeguarding duties.
- 5.3. The Care and Support Statutory Guidance (most recently updated in March 2016) sets out further detail in respect of the requirement to publish the SAB strategic plan and annual reports, at paragraphs 14.155-14.161 of the Guidance. The SAB must comply with those requirements, unless they can demonstrate legally sound reasons for not doing so.

- 5.4. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards ('DoLS') is the procedure prescribed in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 when it is necessary to detain a resident or patient who lacks capacity to consent to their care, in order to keep them safe from harm. DoLS seek to ensure that a care home or hospital only deprives someone of their liberty in a safe and correct way, and only when it is deemed to be in the best interests of the person, where there is no other less restrictive way to look after them. In the majority of cases, the Council is able to authorise these DoLS, although in certain circumstances an order must be obtained from the Court of Protection.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Safeguarding Adults' Board Annual Report details action taken to address the risk of abuse and neglect against a wide range of vulnerable people who are at risk of discrimination. This includes but is not limited to people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health problems and older adults.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

None identified

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

Not applicable

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The production of the Safeguarding Adults' Board Annual Report ensures that the Council fulfils its statutory duty to do so under the terms of the Care Act 2014. With regard to the Council's identified risk around the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, the report also includes summary information on Safeguarding Adults' Reviews and the learning and sharing of best practice which takes place when a SAR is undertaken.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Annual Report includes a record of action by the local authority and its partners to tackle abuse and neglect which may include criminal acts against adults at risk living in Tower Hamlets.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The report details action taken by the local authority and all member agencies to tackle abuse and neglect. It includes the achievements of the Safeguarding Adults Board in 2015/16.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SAB Annual Report 2015-16
- Appendix 2 – Infographic of annual report 2015-16

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A