



Safeguarding Adults Board

Making Safeguarding Personal



Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19

Safeguarding is everyone's
responsibility



TOTAL POLICING



Tower Hamlets
Clinical Commissioning Group

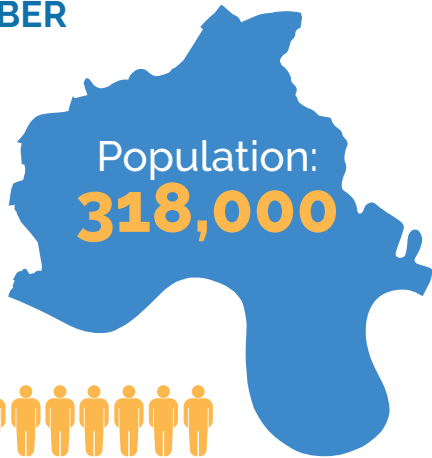
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Local demographics

NUMBER



GROWTH

One of the fastest growing local authorities - population increased by **3.2%** between 2017-18, compared to national increase of 0.6%



AGE

73% of people in Tower Hamlets are aged between **16 and 64** compared to the London average of 67%, making it one of the youngest boroughs in the country, with a median age of 31.



DIVERSITY

The borough is increasingly diverse - **69%** belong to minority ethnic groups (i.e. not White British), **43%** of the boroughs population are born outside of the UK.



DEMENTIA

Dementia prevalence in older people is the second highest in London at **5.2%** and is significantly higher than the London average of 4.5%

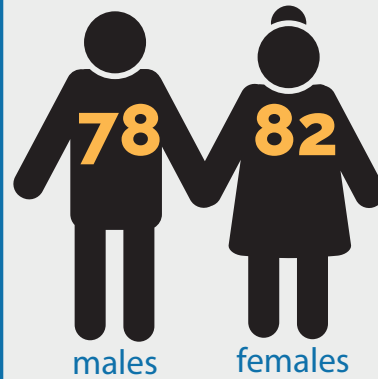


POVERTY

Tower Hamlets has the **highest rate** of poverty in London



LIFE EXPECTANCY



Lowest disability-free life expectancy rates in London; 56.9 years for men, 59.4 years for women

Safeguarding adults summary

CONCERNS AND ENQUIRIES

662

safeguarding enquiries were conducted by adult social care teams to establish whether abuse occurred. In total, 1102 safeguarding concerns were raised



In **70%** of cases risks to the person were reduced and in 20% of cases the risk was completely removed



72% of safeguarding issues occur in the adult's own home



9% of safeguarding issues occurred in care homes



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Advocacy was provided in 90% of investigations where a person lacked mental capacity
- 64% of social care users said they feel as safe as they wanted to – compared to 63.5% last year
- 88% of social care users said care and support services help them to feel safe; improved from last year's 86%
- Over 90 staff attended a conference to raise awareness of financial scamming, modern slavery and hoarding in July 2018
- The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2019-24 was developed in partnership with residents, articulating our priorities over the next 5 years



PRIORITIES

We will:

- Focus awareness raising activity on self-neglect and preventing abuse
- Analyse underrepresented groups in the borough, in order to focus relevant safeguarding campaigns towards them
- Continue to analyse all Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Learning Disability Mortality Reviews in order to ensure that learning is actioned and embedded efficiently
- Develop the council website as a better resource for staff and residents on safeguarding
- Develop a new multi-agency dashboard to better identify trends and monitor outcomes
- We will continue to focus on making safeguarding personal



Foreword by Christabel Shawcross (Independent Chair)

I am pleased to introduce the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report for 2018-19, which highlights the achievements, progress and learning from the past year as well as the priorities for 2019-20.

The SAB recognised in March 2018 the need to review and develop a new strategy from April 2019. The ambition was to have a 5 year strategic approach adaptable annually, taking into account the emergence of new issues and challenges.

We consulted on key priorities especially with residents, service users and ethnic minority groups, as well as a wide range of partners. Promoting awareness of safeguarding and 'prevention' came out with high support, as well as recognising new and complex safeguarding concerns such as modern slavery and self-neglect. The strategy was also developed to build on interlinking strategies of Health and Wellbeing, Community Safety and Prevent. We also had the benefit of the Lead Member for Health

and Adult Services for Tower Hamlets on the SAB, promoting a focus on combating social isolation as a preventive factor for safeguarding.

Improving understanding and interrogation of performance data and the development of a multi-agency dashboard was a challenge for the SAB, but progress was made in time to inform decisions on our priorities for 2019-20.

The quality of data is only as good as the details of cases being analysed and Adult Social Care made progress in quality audits and highlighting significant quality issues and consistency of approach to work on; alongside areas of good practise. Learning from SARs also informed the need for change.

National comparison of data and within London resulted in work on understanding the reasons for safeguarding concerns becoming section 42 enquiries; more work will be done once the new framework is issued.

Health and police contributed to understanding the impact of mental health, drugs, alcohol and homelessness; issues which are of growing concerns for adults at risk. The SAB supported the proposal to have a mental health worker based in Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH), to help with appropriate and proportionate responses.

Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews was a key responsibility for the Board. The annual conference saw over 100 staff from multi agency partners learn more on key issues such as financial abuse and domestic abuse, two areas which are both underrepresented in safeguarding referrals.

The development of multi-agency training has been a weakness but strategies are being put into place through the Tower Hamlets Together programme for integrating health and social team teams and involving key voluntary sector partners.



Care providers, whether through domiciliary support, residential and nursing care homes or supported living, are vital to maintain the safety of people living in their own homes. The Care Quality Commission and Tower Hamlets commissioning teams work closely with providers where there may be issues, and help with improvements where needed. Leadership and consistency with quality staff are key factors which are highlighted in good provision locally.

The SAB was concerned at the impact BREXIT might have on recruitment and retention of staff, but were assured that this would be minimal.

Significant changes to local statutory agencies took place within Tower Hamlets; this includes the merger of Tower Hamlets Police unit with the Hackney Police unit, creating the Central East Command Unit. In addition, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in London created larger entities, resulting in changes to commissioning arrangements.

To sum up, the key multi-agency priorities for 2019/20 focus on:

- Better engagement with residents and service users on raising awareness and prevention
- Reliable and consistent multi-agency performance data to challenge variances
- Multi-agency quality audits to promote learning
- Effective assurance on learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) locally.

I would like to thank all partners and frontline staff for their huge commitment to safeguarding adults in Tower Hamlets.

Safeguarding adult's performance data

The report presents information for 2018-19 in relation to safeguarding adults. It gives an overview of the number of safeguarding concerns that have been received, and the number and type of enquiries (i.e. investigations) that have been concluded. The council in its lead role for safeguarding has an overview of all safeguarding concerns received within the area. As such, data from the council's system has been used to inform this section.

Number of safeguarding concerns

2016-17: **720**

2017-18: **940**

2018-19: **1,102**

In 2018-19, 1102 safeguarding concerns were raised in Tower Hamlets, which is a 17% increase on the number of concerns received the year before. This has continuously been

increasing in Tower Hamlets over the past 3 years, which we believe is reflective of the increased awareness of adult abuse and neglect amongst staff and residents in the borough, rather than an actual increase in the level of abuse.

Who is being referred?

Although the number of concerns received has increased, the proportion of those referrals that relate to women and older people aged 65 years of over has remained similar at 55% and 48% respectively.

53% of referrals relate to people from people with a 'white' ethnic background. 24% of referrals relate to people from an 'Asian' ethnic background, who make up over 40% of the total population in Tower Hamlets. Although this is a complex issue and the figures may be impacted by the age profile of the borough, the Safeguarding Adults Board is committed to understanding the reasons why this is the case.



48%
requiring
physical
support



11%
learning
disability



12%
mental health
issue

48% of 2018-19 safeguarding concerns related to people who need physical support, down from 52% last year. 11% related to people with a learning disability, which is also down from 17% last year. 12% related to individuals with a mental health issue – also down from last year's 19%. However, the picture is slightly less clear given that the increase in concerns from the previous year is contained within the 'not known' category; these are where the primary support reason for concerns raised have not been noted.

Safeguarding adult's enquiries

Safeguarding adult's enquiries are concerns received that have proceeded to a safeguarding investigation.

433 safeguarding adults' enquiries were undertaken in 2018-19, which is 14% lower than the 501 enquiries which were undertaken the year before. The 'conversion rate' from referrals to enquiries therefore is 39%, compared to last year's 53%, which represents a significant decrease. We believe this is down to staff being better trained and able to recognise and escalate risk where appropriate, as well as having more robust



safeguarding protocols and procedures in place over the last couple of years. This also brings us closer to the national average conversion rate of 42%, which means we are safeguarding people without necessarily going through a resource intensive section 42 enquiry. It is important to note that there is a large variation in the national average conversion rate from region to region, which is being examined by The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Local Government Association (LGA).

Overall, there were 662 concluded safeguarding adults' enquiries, down from 699 last year.

Where the abuse takes place

Based on concluded safeguarding investigations, the majority of safeguarding issues take place in the alleged victim's own home. The figure is 72% in Tower Hamlets – up from 61% last year and 58% the year before. 9% of enquiries related to people in care homes, which is down from 13% last year.

The low proportion of enquiries from care homes has historically been much lower than the national average, which we think reflects the small number of residential and nursing care homes in the borough.

The Board have looked at detailed information on the commissioning and inspection of care services by the Care Quality Commission, as well as the systems which are currently in place to safeguarding people receiving support. Of the care homes inspected in Tower Hamlets, one is rated as 'outstanding'. Detailed information on the quality of adult social care over the last year

662

concluded
safeguarding adults'
enquiries
in 2018-19

is available in the 'How Are We Doing?' local account, which is available to view on the council website.

Types of abuse

Neglect and acts of omission was the largest single type of abuse investigated in Tower Hamlets in 2018-19 at 30%. This is similar to last year's figure of 32%. Financial abuse accounted for 20% of investigations, slightly down from 22% last year. Physical abuse accounted for 15%, down from 18% last year. Psychological abuse increased from 12% to 15%, as well as sexual abuse which went from 3% to 6%. There were also a marginal increase in domestic abuse.



Safeguarding enquiries outcomes -managing risk

Safeguarding can be a complex process with a number of factors that will render a person or situation being at risk. Where risk cannot be completely removed, strategies are in place to monitor and inform the individual of what services are available to support them.

In 70% of safeguarding enquiries the risk to the individual was reduced. This is higher than last year's figure of 63%. The risk was removed from 20% of enquiries, whilst it remained for the remaining 10%. This year we are planning to carry out more in-depth analysis to try and understand any learning in the cases where the risk remains.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) performance data

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) is an amendment to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (amended in 2007). The Mental Capacity Act allows restraint and restrictions to be used but only if they are in a person's best interests and they lack capacity to make decisions about their care or treatment. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) can only be used if the person will be deprived of their liberty in a care home or hospital. In other settings the Court of Protection can authorise a deprivation of liberty.

Since 2016-17, the total requests received for DoLS have been continuously decreasing. We believe this is because of a combination of factors, namely the closure of a care home in the borough, the closure of rehabilitation wards in the Royal London Hospital as well as a court ruling in 2017 which stated that patients in intensive care should not be assessed.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Total DoLS request received	630	741	1,076
DoLS authorised	213	191	660
DoLS not authorised	30	40	106
DoLS withdrawn	302	341	247



Funding arrangements for SAB



Staffing
£100,500



**Safeguarding
Adult Reviews**
£44,250



Total
£144,750



**Contribution from
Local Authority**
£128,250



**Contributions from
partner agencies**
£16,500

Funding of Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board is received both in monetary terms and in kind. It is acknowledged that every organisation faces financial challenges each year; therefore it is with appreciation that partner members give their time and resources to support the functioning of the board.

The following table sets out the expenditure and income for 2018/19.

Learning and Development - Adults Safeguarding

Tower Hamlets provides a range of safeguarding adults training for staff at all levels. It ranges from basic awareness raising training to training for managers of staff undertaking investigations. Bespoke training is provided on topics including domestic abuse, hoarding, human trafficking and female genital mutilation.

Partner agencies also provide a range of training for their staff. Safeguarding adult's

basic awareness e-learning is a web based training portal and is available to all Tower Hamlets staff and those working in the private, independent sectors, carers and volunteers working with adults. Training is provided free of cost to the recipient.

In November 2018, as part of safeguarding month, a training event was run entitled 'Safeguarding – it's all our business'. Almost 80 people from different staff members from multi-disciplinary frontline health and care attended the event with the aim of raising awareness, sharing best practices and exchanging ideas around various different safeguarding topics. The main focus of the event was youth and adult violence, and the impact it has on our local community. Participants found the event the event useful, with lots of new contacts created and ideas shared.

The priorities for 2018-19 came from the Safeguarding Adults Strategy of 2015-19. Each priority was built into the business plan relating to the six principles of safeguarding.

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Achievements over 2018-19

The importance of supporting people in a personalised way runs throughout these principle, in order to promote 'Making Safeguarding Personal'. This is monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board, whilst the work is undertaken via the sub groups. Each partner agency has worked to ensure their organisation continues to provide a service and that the workforce receives safeguarding training and understands how to recognise abuse respond to it. Here is a summary of the work carried out.

Empowerment

Our goals

People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.

What we achieved

Tower Hamlets Council: "Our social care staff members have received strength-based practice training to enable them to better identify opportunities for service user empowerment and supporting service user strengths to stay safe and achieve outcomes that are important to them."

Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group: "We have involved service users, carers and families in our Quality Assurance visits to provider health services. This has provided a very helpful source of feedback and as a result raises opportunities for ongoing improvements."

East London Foundation Trust: "We ensure that the voice of the service user is at the centre of all the work that is undertaken in the trust."

Barts Health NHS Trust: "Our safeguarding adults training consistently achieved 90% compliance and the Preventing Radicalisation training achieved 77% compliance trust wide, this is an increase of 50% since November 2018."

Prevention

Our goals

It is better to take action before harm occurs.

What we achieved

Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services: "We reviewed and updated our safeguarding policy ensuring all staff, volunteers and THCVS Trustees are up to date on the policy and how this affects them in their role."

East London Foundation Trust: "We ensured that our staff received training and supervision to enable them to work with and support service users who may be subject to safeguarding adult's procedures."

Tower Hamlets Council: "We have continued to make plans to work jointly with the CCG around the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards via the multi-agency Deprivation of Liberty Improvement group. Such work will involve scoping out the number of cases affected and putting in place clear policies and procedures in line with national guidance."

Barts Health NHS Trust: "We held two awareness raising events around modern slavery in Whipps Cross and Newham University Hospital which were very well attended and well received by all. We have also implemented a trust wide intranet page for modern slavery and the development of resource folders for wards to promote and raise awareness."

Proportionality

Our goals

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

What we achieved

Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group: "We worked with adult social care to conduct a deep dive audit into 26 safeguarding enquiries using a Making Safeguarding Personal Audit toolkit. Central to this work was the assessment of proportionate responses to safeguarding situations. The audit showed improvement from the previous audit held six months previously."

Tower Hamlets Council: "We delivered critical thinking workshops with adult social care staff members, addressing the practice of weighing different evidence and thinking through the issues of proportionality in safeguarding situations."

Protection

Our goals

Support and representation for those in greatest need.

What we achieved

Tower Hamlets Council: "We have improved the performance information we report to the monthly Safeguarding Practice and Performance Quality Review Group in adult social care."

Police: "In the past year we have introduced the 'Herbert Protocol', which involves recording details of significant people and places for vulnerable adults suffering from dementia who have previously been reported missing. This information is invaluable should the person go missing again."

Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group: "We have worked with partners in the local authority to continue to participate in the adult social care safeguarding Practice and Performance Quality Review Group comprising of managers and senior practitioners, flagging the importance of engaging with health partners like GPs."

Partnership

Our goals

Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

What we achieved

Police: "We developed training around Making Safeguarding Personal, which was rolled out to local officers, up to and including inspectors, investigating input around capacity and the role of partner agencies."

Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services: "Through our bulletins and briefings, we share information on safeguarding issues with the community and voluntary sector, and ensure staff and volunteers from organisations we support are referred to relevant safeguarding leads, where appropriate."

Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group: "The joint safeguarding lead in the CCG and council continues to work with safeguarding colleagues across both the Waltham Forest and East London (WEL) and across North East London increasing opportunities for joint working across the health economy."

National Probation Service: "We worked closely and effectively with the Adult Social Care Central Safeguarding team in Tower Hamlets via the Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel Arrangements (MAPPPA) to ensure vulnerable offenders with physical and mental health problems in housing and care homes can meet their health needs, supporting their rehabilitation into the community by addressing their offending behaviour, whilst also ensuring that offender management is in place to ensure public safety."

Accountability

Our goals

Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

What we achieved

Police: "We held Professional Development Days, stressing the importance of completing Merlins, which is the sole mechanism by which partner agencies are formally notified that a vulnerable adult has come to notice."

East London NHS Foundation Trust: "We have a robust safeguarding adult's policy. All staff receive safeguarding adult training commensurate with their role, developing an organisational culture where all staff are aware of their professional responsibilities to report safeguarding concerns."

Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group: "We monitor the robustness of our internal and provider safeguarding arrangements via bi monthly safeguarding adults committee, providing assurance that the CCG has discharged its statutory duty to safeguard adults across commissioned health services."

Summary of achievements by the Safeguarding Adults Board and partner agencies

Our priorities last year

What we have done

We will focus awareness-raising activity on financial scamming and modern slavery.



The Safeguarding Adults Board arranged a conference in July 2018, focusing on financial scams, human trafficking, modern slavery and hoarding. Over 90 people from partner agencies attended, exploring different ways in which safeguarding risks can be identified and reduced, as well as strengthening partnerships and learning from best practise.

We will learn from Safeguarding Adult Reviews at a national and regional level to understand local implications



The Safeguarding Adults Board has signed up to quality markers for Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) – a national tool which ensures a robust and consistent approach to undertaking and learning. The Board has input into the Social Care Institute of Excellence national SAR library, which will help us analyse learning throughout the country. Locally, we have agreed a system to robustly monitor action plans arising from reviews, and are currently collating and analysing action plans to identify common themes.

Minimise repeat safeguarding issues.



17% of people had a repeat safeguarding concern in 2018-19; this is lower than last year's figure of 19.1%.

We will learn from health reviews (LeDeRs) in relation to the death of individuals with a learning disability.



The Safeguarding Adults Board were given an update on the Learning Disability Mortality Reviews in Tower Hamlets in May 2019. One of the key areas of learning to come from the reviews in Tower Hamlets revolved around the lack of understanding around Mental Capacity Assessments. As a result, training sessions were organised for staff members working within adult social care.

Our priorities last year

What we have done

We will continue to focus on making safeguarding personal.



A detailed audit using a Making Safeguarding Personal Audit tool was undertaken throughout the summer of 2018, exploring the assessment of proportionate responses to safeguarding situations. The audit showed improvement from the previous audit which was undertaken six months before.

We will continue to ensure effective holding to account of agencies.



Board partners completed self-audits, identifying areas of strength and areas to improve upon. Key learning arising from this was the need to learn from Safeguarding Adult Reviews more efficiently and communicate this to staff members. As a result, we have undertaken two thematic Safeguarding Adults Reviews, exploring key learning themes and tackling complex issues in a more resource appropriate and efficient manner.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews

Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 places a duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards to arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR), in cases where an adult has died or experienced significant harm or neglect. The purpose is to ensure learning from the lessons and to prevent situations occurring again. Over 2018-19, four SARs started or were ongoing and one SAR was published.

On conclusion of the SAR, an action plan will be drawn up to ensure the recommendations of the findings are implemented.

The executive summary of each SAR will be available on the council webpage and a full report is available on request from the Safeguarding Adults Board Coordinator.

The purpose of the SAR is to:

- Establish what lessons are to be learnt from a particular case in which professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk.
- Identify what is expected to change as a result, to improve practice.
- Improve intra-agency working to better safeguard adults at risk.
- Review the effectiveness of procedures, both multi-agency and those of individual organisations.

In 2018-19, one Safeguarding Adult Review was published

The Safeguarding Adults Board completed a review of Ms L in July 2018. The review investigated the circumstances and events which led to a young adult taking their own life in April 2015. The review found that there could have been better sharing and coordination of information at key points, as well as children's social care and adults social care working together in a 'think family' approach. This is where services working with both adults and children take into account family circumstances and responsibilities, and coordinate interventions and responses based on the whole family. A key finding of the review was the absence of a self-harm and suicide prevention strategy, which meant that there wasn't a strategic framework in place for frontline staff to use when assessing these risks and deciding how to respond. This was quickly noted by the Safeguarding Adults Board, who initiated the production of the Suicide Prevention Strategy and influenced its development by public health. Other recommendations were also noted and progressed through an action plan. Further details of the review can be found on the Tower Hamlets website.

Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR)

The National Learning Disability Mortality Review seeks to review all deaths of people who have a learning disability aged 4 years upwards. The programme has been running since 2015. The programme was set up to review all deaths, review practice, identify where care delivery can be improved, share good practice and replicate it wherever possible.

LeDeR in Tower Hamlets

In Tower Hamlets, there have been 28 deaths reported to date for people with a learning disability, of which 18 reviews have been completed.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of deaths	5	14	9
Completed reviews	0	3	15

60% of all LeDeR cases in Tower Hamlets related to people under the age of 50. 70% of all deaths in Tower Hamlets were as a result of respiratory and cardiac arrest. This is consistent with national findings.

Themes from reviews

There have been a few consistent themes emerging from the reviews:

- **Care coordination:** The importance of having a care coordinator for individuals with complex care needs has been highlighted
- **Consultation:** Patients, their families and carers should be included and consulted in all health care decisions, and we need to ensure this happens every time.
- **Learning and Development:** Primary care staff would benefit from better training related to learning disabilities, dementia and other challenging behaviour. The importance of mental health capacity training is also a common theme.
- **Advocacy:** Independent advocacy is important for people with a learning disability and should be a routine offer to families and individuals.



At a strategic level, we have worked to ensure the views and experiences of service users drive out plans: A number of resident service user groups, many of whom with experience of adult social care, contributed to the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2019-24, including the Older Peoples Reference Group, Carers Centre and the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

The Board also organised an away day in March 2018, whereby partners discussed and explored the priorities of the Safeguarding Adults Board, as well as discussing how we can successfully deliver those priorities.

Our priorities revolve around the 6 principles of safeguarding

Empowerment	People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.
Prevention	It is better to take action before harm occurs
Proportionality	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
Partnership	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
Protection	Support and representation for those in greatest need.
Accountability	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

These principles are drawn from 'Making Safeguarding Personal', which is a nationally recognised approach to tackling adult abuse and neglect built around the individual at risk. What this means is that individuals at risk of abuse are at the centre of initiatives to develop awareness of what abuse is, how to get help, and have protection that meets with their wishes and situations.

Our Priorities for 2019-20

Our priorities are articulated further within the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2019-24, a copy of which can be found in the Tower Hamlets website.

Learning and communication

- Hold a Staff Conference in July 2019, focusing on preventing abuse and self-neglect
- Agree how and when to pool budgets across partners in order to commission joint staff training on safeguarding
- Develop the council website as a better resource for staff and residents on safeguarding
- Use auditing to evaluate the impact of staff training related to safeguarding
- Undertake a review of the governance of the Safeguarding Adults Board

Quality assurance and performance

- Develop a new, comprehensive, multi-agency dashboard and audit programme that has a clear focus on outcomes
- Carry out analysis to further understand cases where people in safeguarding enquiries do not achieve the outcomes they want
- Analyse findings from audits, performance data and feedback
- Each partner will carry out an annual assessment looking at their safeguarding practices, focused on the Making Safeguarding Personal principles

Community engagement

- Carry out market-style research on where residents would go if they were worried about abuse
- Carry out a detailed programme of public awareness-raising activity over November 2019
- Carry out new and in-depth analysis to better understand who our underrepresented, 'seldom heard' and 'easy to ignore' groups are, so that this information can be utilised in awareness-raising activity the following year

Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other key activity

- Continue to commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews, ensuring that learning is actioned and implemented as a result
- Conduct a review of the multi-disciplinary high risk transition panel – including gathering insights from service users – to identify how the panel and transition process can be improved
- Analyse local, regional and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Learning Disabilities Mortality Reviews
- Identify learning from themed reviews and ensure that partners action this swiftly

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Governance and Accountability

The Care Act 2014, requires all local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) with other statutory partners: the Police and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board continues to work with partners to embed the requirements of the overarching Care Act to:

- Assure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Act
- Prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Provide timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect is likely or has occurred.

The Safeguarding Adults Board is chaired by an Independent Chair.

The legal framework for the Care Act 2014 is supported by statutory guidance which provides information and guidance on how the Care Act works in practice. The guidance has statutory status which means there is a legal duty to have regard to it when working with adults with care and support needs and carers.

The SAB takes the lead for adult safeguarding across Tower Hamlets to oversee and co-ordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its members and partner organisations.

The SAB concerns itself with a range of matters which can contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect such as:

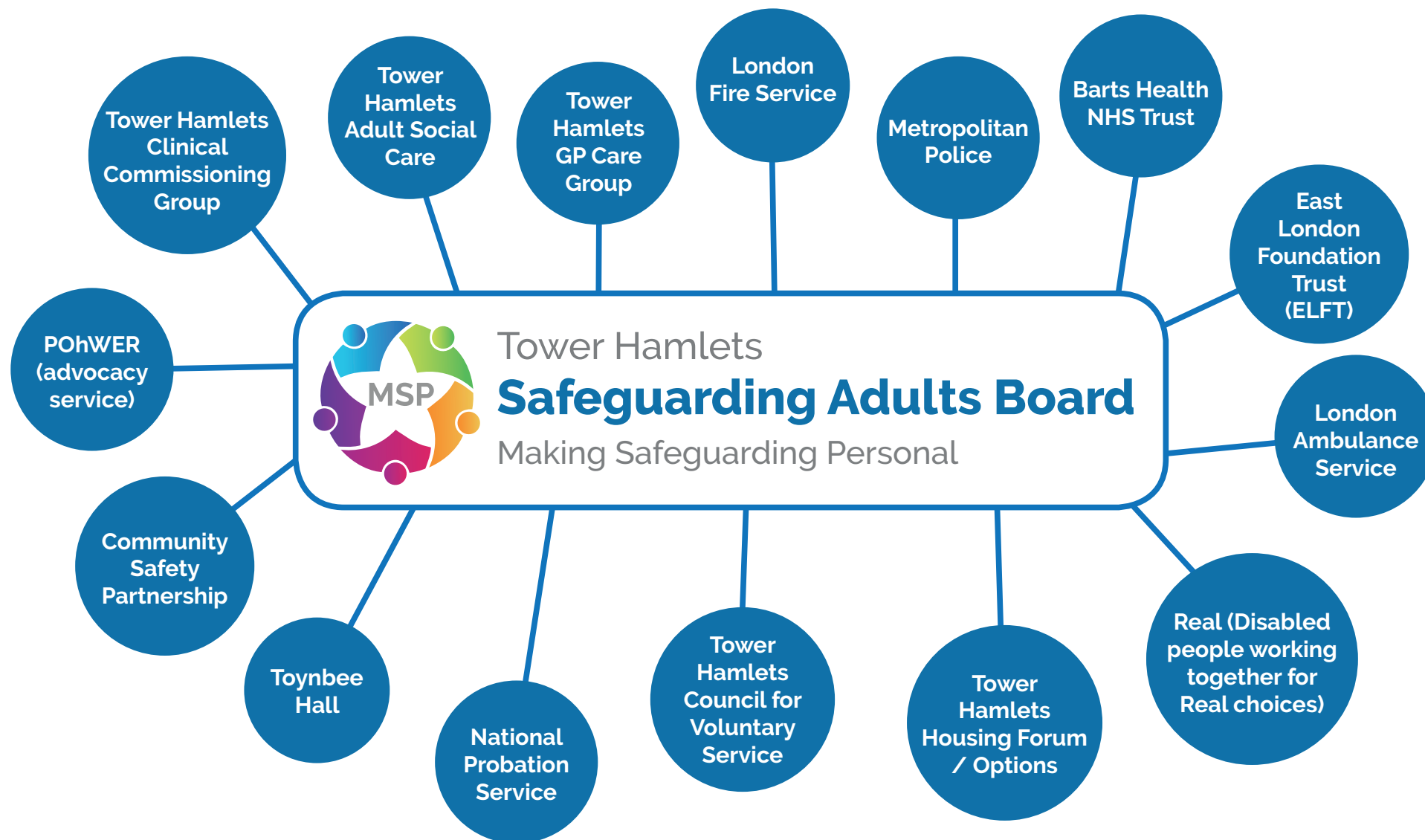
- Safety of patients in local health services
- Quality of local care and support services
- Effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders and approved premises
- Awareness and responsiveness of further education services

Safeguarding Adults Boards have three core duties, they must:

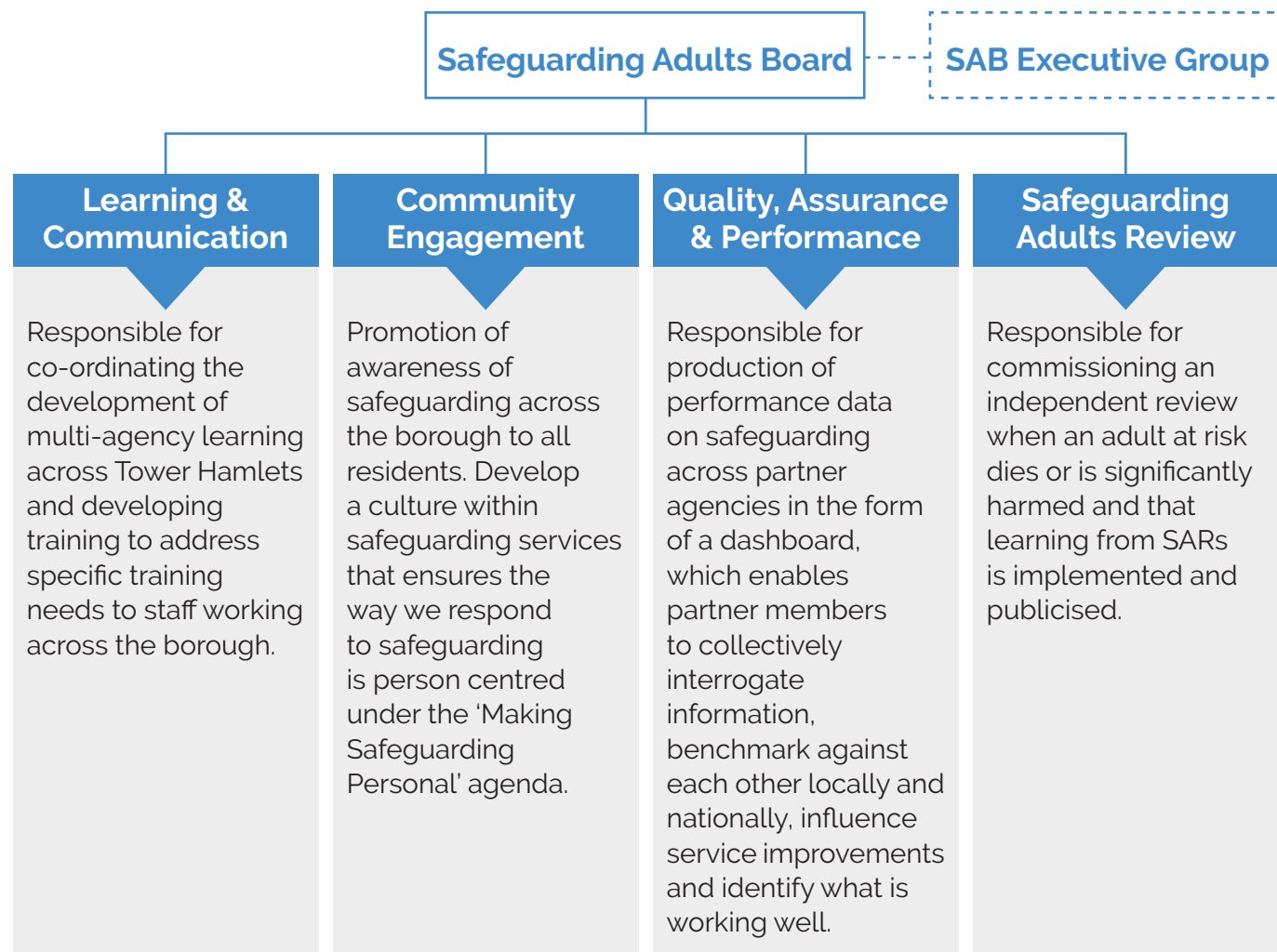
- Develop and publish an Annual Strategic Plan setting out how they will meet their strategic objectives and how their members and partner agencies will contribute.
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been.
- Arrange safeguarding audit reviews for any cases which meet the criteria for such enquires, detailing the findings of any safeguarding adult review and subsequent action, (in accordance with Section 44 of the Act).

The Safeguarding Adults Board monitors and mitigates risk via a shared risk register. The risk register is updated frequently and discussed at the Safeguarding Adults Board when appropriate.

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board partner members



Safeguarding Adults Board Structure



The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has four sub groups that assist the board in meeting its obligations as set out in the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2019-24. The sub groups are chaired by partners from agencies which represent the SAB, and meet on either a bi-monthly or quarterly basis. The sub groups each have their own work programme, the monitoring of which is undertaken by the Adults Safeguarding Governance and Strategy Manager.

These are the strategic boards linked to the Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Board has strengthened its relationship with other partnership boards – the Chair of the Board sits on the Community Safety Partnership and Prevent Board to ensure integration of safeguarding issues.

The Health and Wellbeing Board

Having a Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory requirement for local authorities. The board brings together the NHS, the local authority and Health Watch to jointly plan how best to meet local health and care needs, to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population, reduce health inequalities and commission services accordingly.

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced significant changes to the safeguarding landscape in England, including the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards with new local safeguarding partnerships led by three safeguarding partners – the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police. The vision of the partnership is that the statutory partners, wider relevant agencies, community and voluntary sector and residents work together to ensure that everyone does everything they can to ensure that all Tower Hamlets children and young people are safe, supported and successful.

There has been more focus on the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership to work more closely together and this has resulted in shared areas being developed to improve responses to both children and adults safeguarding.

Community Safety Partnership Board

The Community Safety Partnership Board is required by law to conduct and consult on an annual strategic assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending within the borough and the findings are then used to produce the partnership's Community Safety Plan. There is a strong link between the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership Board; the Violence against Women strategy was refreshed in 2019, reflecting a Safeguarding Adults Board priority to prevent domestic abuse and increase the awareness and reporting of it.

Prevent Board

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on specified authorities (including the local authority) to consider the Prevent Strategy when delivering their services. The legislation contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the Prevent duty.

The Prevent Board is responsible for the statutory oversight of the delivery of the Prevent Strategy by the local authority. The board also has oversight of the functions of the Channel Panel and the multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals from radicalisation.

Learning Disability Partnership Board & Mental Health Partnership Board

These two boards lead on work to drive strategic improvements for adults with a learning disability or mental health issue in Tower Hamlets. The views and experiences of adults with a learning disability or mental health issue are fed into the work of the board. The action plans that result from concluded Safeguarding Adults Reviews for people with learning disabilities are overseen by the LDPB.

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board

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Safeguarding Adults Board

Making Safeguarding Personal