

## Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021

<b>Committee name</b>	Family, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Alex Coman, Chair of the Children Safeguarding Partnership Board
<b>Papers with report</b>	Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

- The Safeguarding Annual Report summarises the work undertaken by Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership to support and safeguard Hillingdon's residents: adults with support and care needs and vulnerable children and their families.
- The report provides reassurance that the actions taken across the local partnership to prevent abuse, neglect and self-neglect have been effective in continuing to keep resident safe during a challenging year in which all partners and residents have had to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic and its impact.
- The residents have remained safe during this period and a mature and effective safeguarding partnership has facilitated a continuation of effective joint working. This allowed the focus to be kept on the priorities identified at the beginning the year and at the same time, to respond swiftly and proportionately to the new needs and pressures created by the pandemic.
- The joint approach to safeguarding children and adults has been further embedded during this year. The effective working together across all ages and all agencies has been evident in the fact that majority of 'core business' continued to be progressed throughout the lockdown periods, in the context of key members of the partnership being redeployed to meet the need in frontline services.
- All agencies have seen increased levels of mental health impact of the pandemic, Domestic Abuse and impact of isolation. It is credit to this partnership, its maturity and professionalism that it has come together to respond to these challenges and continued to keep residents safe.
- This report evidences that the learning and development work has not stopped during the pandemic and it shows that positive lessons have been learned from during this time and new methods of delivery will be carried forward and embedded in practice. For instance, the use of technology and the "hybrid" delivery where it is safe and appropriate to do so has proved to be effective and efficient and all partners are committed to maintaining this going forward.
- In line with the legislative changes of 2018, CCG, Police and Local Authority remained partners with equal responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable children and adults and the arrangements are overseen by the Executive Leadership Group who, this year, have commissioned an independent scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements in place for children and adults.
- The scrutiny has found that: *"There is strong leadership from the ELG and a clear sense of joint and equal responsibility from the three safeguarding partners. The partnership is one that is built on high support, high challenge and where difficult conversations are encouraged."* and *"There is excellent engagement from leaders across the partnership who set a culture*

*which drives improvement activity. There is a clear structure and good links between the children's and adult's partnership arrangements"*

- The scrutineer concluded: *"I have found a strong partnership that is open to scrutiny and challenge and one that strives to continually learn and improve practice"*.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **That the Committee:**

- 1. is reassured that Hillingdon residents remained safe during the year.**
- 2. is updated regarding the way in which the partnership has responded to the challenges posed to Safeguarding by the Covid 19 Pandemic.**
- 3. is informed of the strategic priorities for safeguarding for 2021-22.**

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

1. In September 2019 the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership arrangements were launched in line with the statutory requirements set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The Local Authority now shares equal responsibility with our statutory partners, the NHS Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group and Metropolitan Police, to safeguard children and young people.
2. The Care Act 2014 placed a statutory duty on each Safeguarding Adults Board to produce an Annual Report, outlining the work undertaken to achieve its strategic objectives, the work of each member to implement the Safeguarding Adults Boards' strategy and detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adult Reviews and subsequent required actions.
3. In promoting this join approach, both boards are now scrutinised and held to account through the multiagency Executive Leadership Group. The group is chaired by the Local Authority's Chief Executive and attended by the senior representatives of the safeguarding partners (Police and Clinical Commissioning Group).

### **Implications on related Council policies**

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

### **How this report benefits Hillingdon residents**

Hillingdon, adults with support and care needs and vulnerable children and their families. remain safe and the safeguarding partnership continue to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of residents.

### **Financial Implications**

None at this stage.

## Legal Implications

None at this stage.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Department of Health and Social Care, October 2018 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

The Care Act 2014 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/section/43/enacted>

Working together to safeguard children, Department of Education, 2018  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

The Children and Social Work Act 2017  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted>