

# HILLINGDON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP REPORT 2020-2021

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Cllr Jane Palmer
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Alex Coman – Social Care & Health
<b>Papers with report</b>	Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021 appendix

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>The report to Cabinet 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.</p>
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People</i> .
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Relevant Select Committee</b>	Family, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee
<b>Relevant Ward(s)</b>	All

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Cabinet notes the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021**

### Reasons for recommendation

To inform the cabinet of the way in which safeguarding partnership performed the year before and which are the safeguarding priorities for the year ahead.

### Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

## Select Committee comments

See Appendix 1 - Minutes of the session of the Families, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021 notes the following:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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"*
7. 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"*

## Financial Implications

This report details the work being undertaken by the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership and has no direct financial implications. The costs of the Safeguarding function delivering the work are contained within existing resources.

## RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

### The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The safeguarding partnership in Hillingdon continue to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of adults with support and care needs and vulnerable children and their families therefore ensuring that various agencies are providing effective services and support to vulnerable residents.

### Consultation carried out or required

N/A

## CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

### Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs that that there are no direct financial implications contained in the recommendations.

### Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### Comments from other relevant service areas

Comments and updates from various agencies with a role in safeguarding residents are included in the appended report

## 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>

## Appendix 1

### Minutes of the session of the Families, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee – 27 July 2021

The Chair of the Children Safeguarding Partnership Board and the Director of Service Delivery – Adult Social Work introduced the report on the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020 – 21. An outline was provided on the work and activities undertaken by the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership (HSP) to support and safeguard adults with support and care needs and vulnerable children and their families.

The Committee was informed that effective safeguarding arrangements had ensured that residents remained safe during the pandemic. All the HSP partners had worked collaboratively to ensure that the changing needs of residents had been met. All agencies had seen increased levels of mental health issues, domestic abuse and the impacts of isolation. The Executive Leadership Group commissioned an independent scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements in place for adults and children. The scrutiny found that partnership was strong, had strong leadership and continued to promote good practice enabling learning and progressing the safeguarding priorities.

Although the report was commendable and the positive actions being taken were clear, the Committee discussed the impacts of targets being met and whether this had improved the lives of residents that needed safeguarding. It was explained that work had been done around ensuring good practices, ensuring appropriate and relevant training was available and focussing on partnership work. The Committee was provided with an example of the 'neglect' priority where multi agencies case audits had been undertaken and this led to commissioning of training and practice developments across the partnership. Members requested that case examples and information be included in future reporting to enable proper scrutiny.

In response to a question on how the pandemic had impacted the number of services users, schools and parenting, it was highlighted that a new task and finish subgroup was being established by the HSP to specifically address education related concerns and how support could be provided to parents, children and schools..

Members discussed the HSP's role in overseeing children that had been excluded from school. It was noted that children at home would have other professionals working with them and home visits would take place.

It was confirmed that the HSP had information in relation to areas of deprivation in the Borough and this was taken into account in various activities like for instance the implementation of stronger families.

It was noted that nationally there had been an increase in mental health issues for younger people during the pandemic. There had been changes in demand across the country and Hillingdon had experienced similar issues. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children were a big factor in Hillingdon and a sub group, chaired by UK Border Agency continued to meet during the year to address issues around exploitation and trafficking. The subgroup reviewed initiatives in place and how well different agencies worked with trafficked children. A guide is being created for airlines to raise awareness on how to identify potentially trafficked children and how to escalate these concerns.

It was reported that the whole sector had seen an increase in the number of referrals in relation to neglect and physical abuse. Resources had been deployed to ensure that demand was met. Concerns were raised regarding missing children becoming invisible during the pandemic and Members were informed of the processes in place for children returning from being missing.

Additional data was requested on the suicide rates and the suicide prevention strategy in future reporting.

The Committee welcomed the report and endorsed the prevention services and the work with multiagency teams. The Committee was keen to ensure that learning was shared and applied in the HSP's approach. Notwithstanding the work that had been undertaken during the pandemic, Members agreed that the report recommendations should be amended to read 'to the extent possible, the Committee is reassured that residents coming into contact with safeguarding remained safe during the year'.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. to the extent possible is reassured that Hillingdon residents coming into contact with safeguarding service 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.**