

HILLINGDON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Susan O'Brien Cllr Jane Palmer
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
Officer Contact(s)	Suzi Gladish, Safeguarding Partnership and Quality Assurance
Papers with report	Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report

HEADLINES

Summary	<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 provides assurance that the actions taken across the local partnership to prevent abuse, neglect and self-neglect have been effective in the year 2021-2022 and that we have discharged our statutory duties to ensure that we learn from serious incidents and provide strategic leadership for safeguarding.</p>
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People</i> ;
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Relevant Select Committees	Children, Families & Education Health and Social Care
Relevant Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

1. Notes the Annual Report and is assured that the partnership continues to provide leadership and scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements for Hillingdon residents.
2. Notes the way in which the partnership has responded to the challenges posed by changing local, national and international contexts.
3. Notes the strategic priorities for safeguarding for 2022-23.

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

Members of the Children, Families and Education Select Committee considered the report at their meeting on 21 September 2022 and made the following comments:

“The Committee congratulated officers on their in-depth and focused report and were reassured to hear that the partnership and multiagency approach was working well to safeguard adults with support and care needs and vulnerable children and their families in Hillingdon. The Committee endorsed the actions in place to prevent abuse and neglect and were pleased to hear how the Partnership had adapted to meet the challenges of Covid and inflation. The Committee urged the Partnership to continue to share its learning and development work to support Hillingdon residents.”

The Health and Social Care Select Committee will consider the Annual Report and the adult safeguarding aspects at its meeting on 12 October 2022. Any comments will be circulated to the Cabinet prior or at their meeting on 13 October.

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 joint 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).
4. The joint approach to safeguarding children and adults has been reinforced by the implementation of shared chairing arrangements across the three strategic Boards. The Executive Leadership Group has been led by the Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police Service, the Children's Partnership by the Director of Safeguarding, Partnership and

Quality Assurance for the Local Authority, and the Adult's Board by the Chief Nurse of North West London CCG. This highlights our meaningful commitment to shared and equal responsibility for safeguarding adults and children.

5. The Partnership has responded effectively to safeguard residents during a challenging year that began with public health restrictions still in place due to the pandemic.
6. The pandemic impacted on all Hillingdon's residents' resilience and in many cases on their economic independence. This has led to an increased dependence on the services available, including the availability of skilled workforce from both the social care and health perspective meaning there have been significant challenges in maintaining the quality of care available.
7. Our Partnership focused through the year on fostering a culture of empowerment, independence, and early intervention for residents of Hillingdon, encouraging children, families, adults and their carers to address difficulties before they become entrenched, and to do so in a way that promotes independence, resilience, choice and control that minimises dependency.
8. The Partnership has maintained effective working arrangements and relationships that facilitate a nuanced, and dynamic response to changing local, national, and international contexts. This has included the need to support and safeguard increasing numbers of asylum-seeking children, adults, and families and those seeking refuge from conflict in Ukraine.
9. The report evidences a continued focus on the importance of learning and development work for frontline professionals, with the successful implementation of a scaffolded approach to professional development. This includes the publication of briefings, newsletters, and the implementation of webinars to inform, support and develop practice.

Strategic priorities for safeguarding for 2022-23

The Safeguarding Children Partnership has identified the following priority areas for 2022-23:

- Stronger Families
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Contextual Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Adult Board has identified the following priority areas:

- Recognising and addressing self-neglect and related capacity decisions
- Making Safeguarding Personal and embedding relationship-based practice
- Mental Health and Safeguarding

Shared strategic priorities amongst the Council and partners are:

- Practice Development Forum,
- Joint Strategic Safeguarding and Trafficking
- Domestic Abuse
- Self-neglect and capacity

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?

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

Consultation carried out or required

The Annual Report has been agreed at the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, The Safeguarding Adults Board, and the Executive Leadership Group.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

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

Legal

Legal Services 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>