

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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 Easy Read Annual Report Children and Young People's 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 2022-2023 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 Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Be / feel safe from harm</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: Safe and Strong Communities</p>
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families & Education Health and Social Care
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A

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 2023-24.**

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

Both the Children, Families & Education and the Health & Social Care Select Committees have considered the Annual Report as part of their monitoring role of Council services.

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 a member of the NHS Northwest London Integrated Care Board and attended by the senior representatives of the safeguarding partners (Police and Local Authority).
4. The joint approach to safeguarding children and adults has been reinforced by the implementation of shared chairing arrangements across the three strategic Boards, with responsibility rotating through the three statutory partners on an annual basis.

5. The report provides an overview of the actions taken across the local partnership to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, and self-neglect in the year 2022-2023. It sets out how we have discharged our duties to ensure that we learn from serious safeguarding incidents and provide strategic leadership that strives to continuously develop safeguarding practice.
6. There is shared and equal responsibility for safeguarding between the three statutory partners, the Local Authority, Metropolitan Police Service and NHS North West London Integrated Care Board. This approach is reinforced by the rotation of chairing responsibility across the three senior strategic Boards, the Executive Leadership Group, Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership Board.
7. Safeguarding practice does not take place in a vacuum, it is helpful to understand the wider context for this report. In 2022-2023 services locally, and nationally, continued to face additional pressures with a sustained increase in demand across all agencies to meet the safeguarding needs of residents. This is not a Hillingdon specific issue and is replicated nationally. The health, social and economic ramifications of the pandemic have been further exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, with widespread strain on public, voluntary and safeguarding services.
8. The Report sets out how the multiagency strategic partnership contributes to safeguarding practice in the Borough, outlining the progress made against the agreed priorities of the Safeguarding Partnership. Each priority has a dedicated subgroup, with an agreed plan of work that, broadly, seeks to develop practice using a framework of prevention, identification, and response.
9. Our approach to learning from practice through quality assurance, reflective and statutory review ensures that we focus on practice and system development to reduce the risks of serious harm to adults or children. This includes direct engagement with frontline practitioners across the Partnership.
10. Identified learning informs our training provision with a diverse offer of newsletters, practice briefings, webinars, learning events and commissioned training available. In the reporting period the number of sessions of continuous professional development attended increased by over 40%. This is largely due to improved accessibility through focussed and targeted webinars.
11. In the last year the Partnership further highlighted the importance of directly consulting with adults and children with lived experience of safeguarding services, ensuring that their voices are sought and amplified. The main Report is supported by the publication of an Easy Read version, and the coproduction of our first Children and Young People's Annual Report.
12. Strategic priorities for safeguarding for 2023-2024

The Safeguarding Children Partnership has identified the following priority areas for 2023-24:

- Stronger Families
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Education Safeguarding

13. The Safeguarding Adult Board has identified the following priority areas:

- Neglect
- Safeguarding Adults Review Panel

14. Shared strategic priorities amongst the Council and partners are:

- Practice Development Forum,
- Joint Strategic Safeguarding and Trafficking

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 endorsed by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, The Safeguarding Adults Board, and the Executive Leadership Group.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance have reviewed this report and concur with the Financial Implications set out above, noting that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that the legal implications are included in the body of the 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>