

# SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

<b>Cabinet Member &amp; Portfolio</b>	Cllr Jane Palmer Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Sandra Taylor - Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health
<b>Report Author &amp; Directorate</b>	Suzi Gladish / Senay Nidai
<b>Papers with report</b>	Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) Annual Report summarises the work undertaken by Hillingdon SAB, which forms part of Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership, and works to continually evaluate and improve safeguarding practice with adults.</p> <p>The report provides an overview of strategic work undertaken in relation to safeguarding adults 2024-25, and summarises progress against agreed priorities, the impact of learning from practice, and the findings of quality assurance activity, as well as setting out targets for the SAB for 2025-26.</p>
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>  <b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</b>	<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: Thriving, Healthy Households</p>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Select Committee</b>	Health and Social Care Select Committee
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

1. the Annual Report 2024-25 and the assurance that the partnership continues to provide leadership and scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements for Hillingdon residents, be noted;
2. the way in which the partnership has responded to the challenges posed by changing local, national and international contexts, be noted and;
3. the strategic priorities for safeguarding for 2025-26, be noted.

### Reasons for recommendation(s)

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

### Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

### Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Care Act 2014 placed a statutory duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards 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.
2. In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 the local authority shares responsibility within the SAB with statutory partners the NWL NHS Integrated Care Partnership Group and Metropolitan Police Service, to safeguard adults with care and support needs who are or might be at risk of abuse or neglect.
3. Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership brings together the SAB with the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board. In promoting this joint approach, both boards are scrutinised and held to account through the multiagency Executive Leadership Group, comprised of senior leaders from the NHS Northwest London Integrated Care Board, the Metropolitan Police Service and the Local Authority.
4. The joint approach to safeguarding children and adults has been reinforced by the implementation of shared chairing arrangements across the three senior strategic Boards, with responsibility rotating through the three statutory partners. During 2024-25 the SAB was chaired by an Assistant Director from the local authority's Adult Social Care department.

5. This annual report provides an overview of the strategic work undertaken by the SAB to prevent and respond to abuse and neglect of adults at risk in 2024-25. It sets out how we have discharged our duties to ensure that we learn from practice and provide strategic leadership that strives to continuously develop safeguarding practice in the borough.
6. 2024-25 marked another busy year for the Hillingdon SAB. The local authority received 13333 Safeguarding Adult Contacts; 370 people were the subject of Safeguarding Enquiries completed under s42 of the Care Act 2014. Some individuals were the subject of more than one enquiry with a total of 394 enquiries completed during the year.
7. Data provided to the SAB by the local authority shows neglect and acts of omission remains the most common concern to trigger a safeguarding enquiry, followed by Financial and Material Abuse, then Psychological Abuse. There have been no enquiries in respect of Sexual Exploitation, with 4 considering risk of Discriminatory Abuse and 8 in respect of Modern Slavery. The most common outcome of s42 enquiries is that allegations of abuse or neglect are substantiated, with risk reduced for 92% of the subject adults. Where risk is unsubstantiated, the enquiry resulted in some form of action to support over 45% of subject adults.
8. The SAB published three Safeguarding Adult Reviews in 2024-25: Rachel, Mairead, and Ms. Stitch, all in quarter 4. Early learning from these SARs was woven into relevant workstreams, specifically work to improve prevention and response to neglect of adults and cuckooing & exploitation, and dedicated action plans were developed and monitored through our Adult Learning from Practice task and finish group. Learning was also disseminated through practice briefings, published simultaneously, and woven into the partnership training offer. The action plan for Carol SAR, published in 2023-24, was concluded in 2024-25 with an impact report agreed by the SAB.
9. The SAB has progressed work throughout 2024-25 in relation to the priorities agreed for the year: to reinforce safeguarding arrangements; develop and strengthen quality assurance processes; ensure the voice of the adult is heard, and is central to safeguarding practice; ensure effective arrangements to prevent and respond effectively to risks of harm to adults from neglect, fire, cuckooing & exploitation and safeguarding people as they transition from child to adults services. Transitional safeguarding is a priority shared between adult and child safeguarding boards.
10. To continue to strengthen safeguarding arrangements our Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements document was reviewed, updated and published in 2024, as was the SAB Learning from Practice Framework, the partnership's Escalation Policy and the Community Engagement Strategy. The updates to these key documents were informed by learning from SARs and quality assurance audits and have been agreed through robust partnership discussions. The awareness and understanding of these key documents across the safeguarding network, including senior leaders and frontline staff, has been promoted through partnership publications.
11. Our multiagency training programme provides opportunities for practitioners from all disciplines, and is closely linked to learning from local audits, SARs and areas of priority. The programme comprises a range of mechanisms for developing practice: webinars, face to face

and online training sessions, practice briefings and newsletters, the last of which both disseminate key practice messages and raise awareness of learning opportunities for all practitioners. There is a mixture of training delivered by external expert trainers in particular topics and internally by members of the partnership with relevant expertise. In total, 2047 sessions of professional development activity have been facilitated by the Safeguarding Partnership in 2024-2025.

12. To develop and strengthen quality assurance processes there have been robust discussions around the challenges of establishing a shared dataset for the SAB and work is ongoing. However, the local authority has successfully implemented Power BI, a data analysis tool that allows for live identification of themes and patterns and this has enhanced the value of the SAB data dashboard. Our risk register has been updated and reviewed by the Executive Leadership Group, with actions assigned to reduce risk wherever possible. A multiagency quality assurance schedule was agreed for 2024-25 and we completed planned audits of adult safeguarding enquiries in tandem with independent scrutiny, compliance and engagement with our Equality and Diversity Statement, which was reviewed and updated in 2024. We also used the updated Safeguarding Adult Partnership Audit Tool (SAPAT) and were actively involved in the review and improvement of this regional tool.
13. Independent Scrutineer, Alan Caton OBE, focused on the effectiveness and impact of Adult Safeguarding Enquiries pursuant to s42 of The Care Act, 2014. This year scrutiny took the form of a multiagency audit chaired by the scrutineer, who in his report to the SAB suggested the SAB consider seeking assurance that multi-agency planning meetings are held at an early stage in s42 enquiries to enable better protections and outcomes, that mental capacity assessments are considered and used appropriately, that where required, adults at risk have appropriate representation under s68 of The Care Act, 2014.
14. To fulfil its duty to seek and listen to the voices of people with lived experience, the Safeguarding Voices Group was established as a subgroup of the SAB and has contributed significantly to the development of the Community Engagement Strategy 2024-27, and the Adult Neglect Strategy. We have also championed the involvement of adults, and their families within our learning from serious incidents.
15. To effectively evaluate and improve prevention of and response to neglect, fire risk, cuckooing & exploitation, and transitional safeguarding, multiagency subgroups have been convened with agreed plans of action that broadly follow a framework of prevention, identification and response to risks. Some highlights of work undertaken are: an Adult Neglect Strategy was published; a Cuckooing Protocol was developed in conjunction with the Safer Hillingdon Partnership; a webinar and practice briefing was delivered jointly with the London Fire Brigade to reduce the risks of fatal fires amongst vulnerable adults; contributions were made by the partnership to the early stages of development of a Hoarding Panel led by Safer Hillingdon Partnership; and a webinar to disseminate best practice in safeguarding adults from pressure ulcers was delivered.
16. In response to a letter in May 2024 from the Minister for Housing, Communities and local Government, we convened an additional and ongoing task and finish group to ensure robust processes are in place to safeguard people affected by rough sleeping. A SAB member for rough sleeping and homelessness was also identified.

17. Strategic priorities for safeguarding adults identified by the SAB for 2025-26:

- Safeguarding Adults with Complex Needs (specifically rough sleeping and/or high risk substance misuse)
- Cuckooing and Exploitation
- Engagement with adults and carers with lived experience of services
- Effective use of the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Develop collaboration across strategic partnerships, with a particular focus on safeguarding adults affected by domestic abuse

18. Shared strategic priorities for the joint partnership:

- Practice Development Forum – including ongoing learning from practice and continuous evaluation and improvement of safeguarding practice with children and adults
- Transitional Safeguarding

### **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 and their carers remain safe, and the safeguarding partnership continues to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of residents.

### **Consultation & Engagement carried out (or required)**

The Annual Report has been endorsed by 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**

There are no legal impediments to the recommendations in the report.

## Comments from other relevant service areas

All SAB members have had the opportunity to contribute to, and quality assure the Annual 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>