

BRENT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

22-23



Safeguarding
Adults in Brent

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INTRODUCTION

Foreword by the Interim Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board

The annual report is one of the statutory responsibilities of the SAB within the Care Act 2014. This report covers the period April 2022 - April 2023.

You will be aware from the previous annual report that Fran Pearson had become the Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board in April 2022.

During the reporting period of this annual report, Fran Pearson had made a number of changes to the structure and workings of the Safeguarding Adults Board and worked closely with partners to agree the new Strategic Priorities which were intended to be the focus between April 2023 - March 2026. Partner agencies were adapting to the Independent Chair's new vision for the Board which was focussed on building relationships and effective joint working.

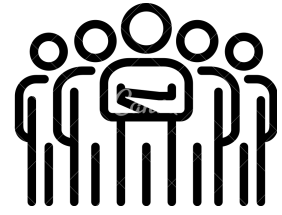
Tragically, Fran Pearson sadly passed-away just shortly after the period covered in this report. Partners of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board have expressed sincere condolences to Fran's family.

The SAB partners are working to find a new Independent Chair to lead the SAB, review existing arrangements which will inform the development of a new Strategic Plan. In the Interim, I have been appointed to oversee the SAB arrangements in Brent until the new Chair has been appointed.



Helen Coombes
Interim Independent Chair

BRENT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ARRANGEMENTS



Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

The Board is a partnership made up of statutory and non-statutory partners. The statutory partners are; The Metropolitan Police, Northwest London NHS Integrated Care Board and Brent Council. There are many non-statutory partners who provide a valuable contribution. The Safeguarding Adults Board met with a commitment to increase the frequency of meetings, in order to forge closer working links and have a more regular focus on the areas highlighted in the strategic plan.

There are four sub-groups that assist the SAB in carrying out its duties. These sub-groups meet when required other than the Executive Group which meets twice-yearly. Each sub-group has different aims and objectives.

Safeguarding Adult Review Consideration Group

The SAB multi-agency group that considers serious cases submitted for potential Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The sub-group aims to ensure that lessons learned are shared and acted upon and impact is assessed. During the reporting period the group met monthly and considered cases that came to the attention of the SAB for consideration that the Safeguarding Adults Review criteria has been met.

Meeting of The Statutory Partners

This is a newly created sub-group meeting requested by the late Independent Chair. The group met four times during the reporting year with the aim of forging closer alliances and enabling regular decision making between the statutory partners in Brent.

The Executive Group

The Executive Group met twice during the reporting period, the purpose of this meeting is a high level meeting with a focus on governance.

The Learning and Development Sub-Group

A joint sub-group with the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Its purpose is to consider and develop the Learning and Development programme, and ensure it is linked to the Strategic Plan over the coming years. This group meets quarterly the Learning and Development programme of 2023-2024

BUDGET, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Safeguarding Adults Board budget comprises of monetary contributions from Statutory partners, with the Local Authority also contributing additional funding of staffing resource to the Board.

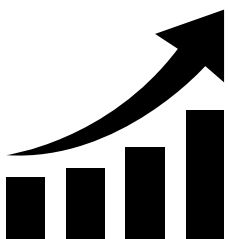


Staffing
1 full time Strategic Partnerships Manager (portion of time)
1 full time Strategic Partnerships Lead
1 part time Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Coordinator

This financial year the Board received the following contributions from Statutory Partners:

- **Brent Council:** £37,000
- **MOPAC:** £5,000
- **ICB:** £25,000

Below is a summary of Board expenditure covering the financial period since the last annual report:



Expense	Value (£)
Independent Chair Fees	23162
L&D Platform and website contributions	1455
Adult G	2800
Report production fee	1500
Adult F visit & report edits	562
Total	29,479

This year, the majority of the budget was allocated to Chair fees, with a contribution also being made to the Partnerships joint Learning and Development offer. Whilst fees for other active SARs may not have been deducted from this years budget, they will be carried over in to next year as a committed expenditure.

04 TimeLine of Activity

The SAB key activites in this reporting year

Month	Activity
May 2022	<p>16/05 - Case review group: The group discussed a new referral and also their approach to discretionary SARs</p> <p>23/05 - SAB Executive: Partnership vision, newly agreed SARs and systemic change within partnership organisations was discussed.</p>
June 2022	<p>13/06 - Case review group: The group heard 2 new referrals and continues discussion around discretionary SARs</p> <p>22/06 - SAB: In this meeting the SAB discussed and reviewed readings of 2 SAR submissions.</p>
July 2022	<p>14/07 - Case review group: A new referral was heard, the Adult G report was reviewed and TOR update discussed</p> <p>20/07 - Statutory partners:The partners discussed TORs for the Executive and Statutory Partner subgroups, along with agreed standing agenda items.</p>
August 2022	<p>17/08 - SAB - At this meeting, the Board discussed the recent Census data for Brent, and also the implementation of the ICS.</p>
September 2022	<p>12/09 - Statutory partners - This meeting saw discussion of vision and membership for the SAB and its subgroups, Annual Report – SAB data, Budget 21/22 and Scrutiny preparation.</p>
October 2022	<p>10/10 - Case review group: The group continued ongoing discussions around 2 case referrals</p> <p>12/10 - SAB: The Board saw partner presentations on self-neglect and discussed the findings in preparation for building on the identified Board priority of self neglect.</p>
November 2022	<p>16/11 - Statutory partners: The group discussed progress on 2 current SARs, alongside a Peer review.</p> <p>30/11 - Case review group: The group heard a new referral and concluded decision making on an ongoing case consideration.</p>
December 2022	<p>05/12 - Case review group: The group discussed considering combining of work on 3 agreed discretionary SARs with similar underlying themes</p> <p>14/12 - Joint Learning and Development group: This was the first meeting of the newly formed joint learning and development group. The group spent the majority of the meeting agreeing and discussing the Terms of Reference of the group and forward planning.</p> <p>16/12 - SAB: The group saw partner presentations on substance misuse and housing needs and discussed these in relation to developing the agreed Strategic Priorities.</p>
January 2023	<p>11/01 - SAB Executive: The group discussed progress on Adult G, Terms of reference for the group and business development opportunities.</p> <p>18/01 - Case review group: The group had a discussion around Governance of the CRG and concluded final discussions on a referred case.</p>
February 2023	<p>22/02 - Case review group: Governance discussions were concluded. the group also reviewed Adult H, another borough's case where Brent was involved and revisited discussions on the 3 discretionary SARs.</p>
March 2023	<p>20/03 - Case review group: The group discussed a new case for consideration, and heard from the Chair in relation to a Somerset SAR that Brent is involved with. They were updated on the initiation of Adult H.</p> <p>22/03- Statutory partners: The group discussed the L&D offer and updates on progress to 2 ongoing SARs.</p>

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Northwest London ICB

An Overview from Stephenie Evis - Northwest London ICB Designated Nurse
Safeguarding Adults (Brent)

The ICB came in to being from the 1st July 2022 replacing the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) following the Health and Care Act 2022. The Safeguarding agenda has transitioned successfully into the new ICB governance structure.

Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The Designated Nurse is an active member of the Brent VAWG Delivery Group that reports into the Safer Brent Partnership.

The Designated Nurse supports providers and primary care in responding to DA and VAWG to promote awareness and best practice, including safe enquiry. The ICB ensures that DA is included in staff training and disseminates learning from DHRs to create a culture of continuous improvement.

Safeguarding Health Outcomes Framework (SHOF)

The SHOF sets out the Safeguarding roles, duties and responsibilities for all Health organisations providing commissioned services within North West London ICS. The framework informs the ICB of the work of the provider organisations to promote the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk of abuse or neglect and provides evidence of how they are discharging their statutory safeguarding duty. The document has been updated this year in partnership with provider organisations, to capture quantitative and qualitative data in a meaningful way and replaces the previous framework from April 2023. The SHOF is shared with the North West London ICB following agreement within the governance arrangements of each organisation.

Safeguarding Training

The Designated Professionals (DP) for Safeguarding Adults and Children in North West London (NWL) have worked on two projects to ensure ICB staff are compliant with Statutory Safeguarding, Prevent and Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 training.

The NWL ICB Training Strategy, in line with the Intercollegiate Document, has been approved. The Training Needs Analysis group have undertaken a piece of work to determine the training needs for all ICB staff in line with their roles and responsibilities. In the coming year an Adult level 3 one-day workshop, accredited by NHSE eLearning for Healthcare, will be delivered by the Designates. This will be open to ICB Staff and Primary Care. Priority will be given to ensuring ICB staff are compliant with this training.

NHS NW London are in the process of commissioning a programme of training opportunities addressing complex areas of safeguarding children, adults and MCA practice. These CPD opportunities are being opened up to all colleagues across all NHS organisations within the ICS and delivered throughout 2023-24. Subject matter includes Self-neglect and MCA, a common SAR theme and learning from Child Q.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY

Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)

The ICB recruited a Project Manager in preparation for the implementation of LPS in accordance with the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019. Level 3 MCA and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) training has been delivered to the Complex Care and Continuing Healthcare Teams for Children and Adults.

On 5 April 2023 the Department of Health and Social Care announced the implementation of LPS, the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019, will be delayed “beyond the life of this Parliament” (therefore likely beyond Autumn 2024) due to prioritising work to improve Adult Social Care. Work continues to strengthen and promote best practice within the framework of the Mental Capacity Act within the ICB, Primary Care and across health provider organisations.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews

The ICB actively contributes to Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and learning is shared across the organisation and health partners. The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults has supported Primary Care colleagues with chronologies, IMRs and in identifying and responding to learning.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty covers the requirements set out in Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty is a key part of the Government’s programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence. The ICB holds the Duty on behalf of health partners. The ICB’s role, through Safer Brent, Community Safety Partnership, is to enable health to contribute data, influence the strategy and implement the health related aspects of the local work streams identified.

Prevent

The Designated Nurse is a member of the Prevent Oversight Board and also attends Prevent Delivery Group ensuring a strategic and operational overview. The Designated Nurse has met with the Chair of the Channel Panel to ensure relevant and consistent engagement from health.

NWL provider organisations are compliant with the NHSE training requirement. All NHS staff receive training regarding basic prevent awareness with those who are patient facing receiving level 3 prevent training.

The Designated Nurse is working with the Brent Prevent Engagement Team to facilitate Prevent awareness sessions for primary care in the coming year.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Metropolitan Police

An overview from Sukh Kanwar -Detective Chief Inspector at Public Protection Hub North West BCU (Barnet, Brent and Harrow Boroughs)

Learning- learning & improvement and involvement in dissemination of learning

NW BCU Public Protection and Local Investigations have been involved in multiple Safeguarding Adult Reviews across all three of its Boroughs during the reporting period, all yielding useful learning for officers. The BCU is returning to IDVA co-locations to ensure the best safeguarding work between the statutory partners.

Assurance

The MPS has been reviewing criminal investigations for domestic abuse cases ensuring service delivery and safeguarding is correctly managed. Learning has been taken away by many officers in this respect, strengthening and improving future police responses.

A policing operation commences in November 2023 where the NW BCU will be focussing on Violence against Girls & Women offences in line with the 16 Days of Activism. The operation will target high harm perpetrators, educate our staff and safeguard the most vulnerable across London.

Further training has been provided to front line officers to assist them in identifying signs of self-neglect.

Other themes

NW BCU Public Protection teams are particularly low on staff compared with other BCUs across the MPS. The Community Safety Unit who operate at approximately 70% of their budgeted workforce; have improved their positive outcome rates from 6% to 9% during 2023. The Rape and Serious Sexual Offences teams who currently operate at approximately 60% of their budgeted workforce; have improved their positive outcome rates to 14%. They are currently the best performing department in the Met dealing with such offences.

This upward trend for positive outcomes is testament to the NW PP dedicated staff and effective working partnerships with the local authorities.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY



Adult Social Care

An overview from Evelyn Amedoda - Principle Social Worker & Head of Safeguarding for Adult Social Care at Brent council

There continues to be a strong multi-agency and partnership approach to supporting and safeguarding adults at risk in Brent.

Total number of concerns received during April 2022 to October 2022 vs October 2021 to March 2022

Date	Concerns Recieved	Converted to S42.2	Conversion %
Oct 21 - Mar 22	931	348	37%
Apri 22 - Oct 22	1076	345	32%

Of the concerns converted, The Neglect/Acts of Omission category is the highest abuse category reported during the period 2022-2023, that is from April 2022 to October 2022. This category of abuse has consistently remained the highest category of abuse regionally (compared with North West London (NWL) Boroughs) and nationally. Nothing in the data of the Neglect and Acts of Omission being the highest category suggests that Brent is an outlier.

A relatively new category of abuse has been added to the data collected. 'Cuckooing', which is when professional criminals target the homes of an adult at risk, so they can use the property as a base for drug dealing and other criminal activities. We have nine reported cases in the cuckooing category over the past year. The complex nature of intervention requires a multi-agency approach, and often long-term engagement to work with the adult at risk to support positive change. The number of cuckooing enquiries have reduced from 13 in 21-22 to 1 in 22-23, which reflects the work being undertaken by ASC, partners and stakeholders in this area.

Brent Safeguarding Adult Board has discussed how partners manage cuckooing cases to support early identification, by knowing what to look for residents and staff can help to build up a clear picture that will be used to inform enforcement and safeguarding activity. The multi-agency approach will continue to evolve in Brent to ensure that the relevant agencies are involved from the beginning. This will allow a co-ordinated response where safeguarding is embedded in everyone's approach. It reflects on the views of the adult at risk and enables the effective use of the most appropriate interventions by agencies involved.

Similar to the highest category of abuse reported as Neglect and Acts of Omission, the most common location of abuse is within the person's own home. The data, both nationally and regionally also indicates that Brent's data is not an outlier for concerns and enquires across North West London.

BOARD STATUTORY PARTNER ACTIVITY

Equalities update

The Safeguarding Team has planned a programme of activity with Brent Health Watch to scope and understand the safeguarding support accessed by different ethnicities of the ASC population in Brent. The SAT will utilise existing infrastructure that has been established by Brent Health Matters, and model their community outreach approach to raise awareness regarding safeguarding support and how to make contact when residents have safeguarding concerns.

Ethnicity	SGA Concerns	% receiving an ASC service	% of the population
Asian or Asian British	22.51%	30.14%	39%
Black or Black British	31.26%	26.67%	16%
Mixed / Multiple	2.22%	0.86%	2%
Other Ethnic Groups	4.21%	3.02%	4%
White	39.80%	36.31%	38%

The data shows that more Black or Black British residents accessing ASC support receive safeguarding support, whilst the reverse is true for Asian or Asian British. Residents from White ethnicity category are the highest ethic category receiving a service from ASC and accessing safeguarding support at 39.80%. We will utilise established infrastructure by Brent Health Matters and activities in progress by Brent Health Watch to ensure that all ethnic groups have equitable access to safeguarding support.

Measuring our Practice

The Adult Social Care case file audit involves the measuring of practice against agreed and proven standards for high quality social care, and taking action to align practice with those standards to improve service quality and outcomes for residents. A new case file audit was implemented in July 2022 across ASC. 26 cases were selected randomly and audited between 27th June – 10th October 2022. A decision was made for Adult Safeguarding Managers to review the safeguarding support offered to residents by focusing on safeguarding enquiries. The majority of returns covering all areas either met or exceeded the criteria at 75%. Likewise, approximately 70% of safeguarding returns indicated the criteria met or exceeded criteria. In approximately 6%, returns in the safeguarding domain where needs improvement was selected against a statement, the reviewer was asked to provide comments or recommendations on their observations to help understand where practice can be improved.

Information from case audits indicated that the use of relevant law and policies was not consistently applied in a minority of cases. This area of practice has been identified from previous SARs and continues to be an area of focus for learning for practitioners and first line managers by the Safeguarding Adult Board and ASC Skills Academy. Additionally, we are reviewing ASC policies and procedure to identify gaps and update practice framework to support improved practice. All these activities will support practitioners to be more legally literate.

MULTI-AGENCY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



A joint virtual multi-agency training offer for Safeguarding Adults Board, jointly with the Safeguarding Children Partnership, in Brent.

The joint partnerships multi-agency programme is coordinated by the Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer was set up in December 2022, with a new officer starting in July 2022, after the post being vacant for 18 months. The offer is updated annually to include both safeguarding children and safeguarding adults at risk learning opportunities. The topics included within this period's annual programme were agreed to be focussed on themes identified from learning from local partnership reviews and areas of focus, via the Learning and Development subgroup, which included:

Domestic Abuse - the signs, complexities, and the role of professional curiosity	Early Help Assessment (EHA) - what, why, when and how	Serious Youth Violence- Gang affiliation, vulnerability and safeguarding	Domestic Abuse MARAC - everything you need to know
Adolescent Mental Health - types, issues and services	Domestic Abuse: A local focus on children and young people in Brent	Engaging with Fathers	FGM - Female Genital Mutilation
Safeguarding Young Carers (Brent CYP Early Help Service)	Working with Families who are Hard to Engage	Trauma Informed Complex Co-parenting	Understanding and Responding To Child Neglect
Understanding and Responding to FGM	Parental Mental Health and its effects on children	What is Prevent and Radicalisation? How and when do you Refer?	Courses run over the period: 45

It remains a priority for the partnership to increase attendance at the multi-agency training. Other practical areas of focus to improve the multi-agency learning and development programme for the next annual period include:

- The development of the joint Multi-Agency Learning and Development Group to support the identification of training and delivery of learning opportunities.
- Encouraging attendance from the wider partnership practitioners
- Heightened promotion of the strategic partnerships learning and development programme
- Expanding the whole programme, including a focus on Safeguarding Adults.
- Increasing bookings and decreasing no show rates.
- Increasing the range of delivery methods .
- Ensuring a demonstrable dissemination of learning.
- The development of a brand, including an improvement of course titles, descriptions and the branded PowerPoint and handout templates.
- Evaluations and the development of the new three-stage process: A pre and post-course evaluation and a final evaluation two months later to demonstrate impact.

MULTI-AGENCY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



Organisational attendance rates

The highest course bookings by organisation are shown below, with the attending percentage of those who were booked on (the overall average was 59%).

With the programme based on multi-agency training, the attendance by a range of agencies is of real importance. This supports enhancing how agencies work together, pathways and understanding and learning from each other's practice. The promotion of the programme, encouraging feedback and a 'cascade' training model within teams is of relevance here.

Organisation Type	Number of bookings	Number attended
Brent Council	271	182 (67%)
Voluntary/Community Organisation/Charity	87	47 (54%)
Central London Community Health Care Trust	45	28 (62%)
Other not listed	43	18 (42%)
Education: Primary school	36	15 (42%)
NHS England	19	13 (68%)
Probation Services	18	7 (39%)
Adults Services - Residential/Home Care/Supported Living	17	6 (35%)
Children's Home	13	5 (38%)
Education: Secondary school	11	10 (91%)

Programme data

To provide context, the 2022 – 2023 (financial year) attendance data highlights the following:

- Signals increased reach with new sign ups.
- Shows the no show rates have improved, and whilst it is recognised that this is a small improvement.

It is hoped that this will continue through increased contact with those booked and improved messaging. Increased cancellations may have impacted positively on the reduced no shows, or work demands are having an increased impact.

'No show'
rate:
33%

Most popular
topic:
Domestic Abuse -
A local focus on
children and young
people in Brent

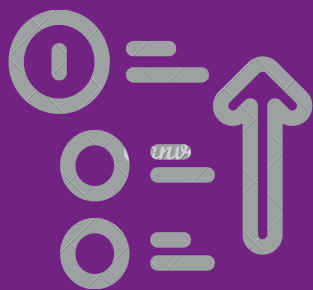
Total
attendees:
377 of 789
bookings

Cancellation
rate:
19%

STRATEGIC PLAN

22-23

Brent's agreed priorities for the coming year



PRIORITY 1 - SELF NEGLECT

Partners agreed that the data supported this being a priority for Brent Safeguarding Adults Board. Practitioners reported that this category of abuse was complex and required a multi-agency approach to support people to change their behaviour over time.

The Board has agreed an ambition to undertake a full review of its self-neglect policies and procedures and to launch, disseminate, embed and test the effectiveness of the new procedures. Appropriate multi-agency learning and development sessions will be undertaken to support the embedding of the newly agreed procedures.



PRIORITY 2 - HOUSING NEED AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

There had been an increase in cases being brought to the attention of the SAB. The theme of these cases highlighted that professionals had struggled to support people who developed care and support needs as a result of substance misuse which also led to accommodation difficulties..

To support this priority, the SAB would be undertaking specific learning reviews on the cases that had been sent to the SAB for consideration. It would also aim to work with other strategic boards to develop more effective systems in tackling cuckooing which was an area of concern to partners.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEWS

A summary of work completed on reviews this year



Adult G

The Adult G SAR has been completed but has not yet been published. The subject of the report was a male with cerebral palsy. During his younger life he resided with his parents in the family home but as his health, mobility and ability to communicate deteriorated and he was moved into a care home. Over time the care home began to struggle meeting his needs and he developed severe pressure ulcers. He had periods in hospital but returned to the same placement due to a range of factors but a large part was due to a belief by professionals that the care home was his home and that he did not want to move. He was diagnosed with a learning disability late in life and was eventually moved to a nursing placement once the funding arrangements were agreed. However, problems continued to occur and Adult G died in hospital. The report has highlighted a number of lessons around commissioning and monitoring of placements, working with other boroughs where safeguarding concerns are raised and pressure ulcer care in care homes and in hospital.

Adult H



Was from a black British Caribbean and African background. Adult H was diagnosed with autistic disorder syndrome diagnosed at the age 4. He was known to mental health services. He died from fatal overdose of opiates and cocaine. He was aged 21 at the time of his death. He grew up in another London borough, but he was a Brent resident at the time of his death. Adult H was taken into care at the age of 17. This was due to the increasing severity of arguments with his younger brother and his parents. He was initially placed close to his home address. However, he was moved due to concerns around 'County Lines'. Adult H was eventually placed in Brent by his home borough. Adult H received 3-hours weekly support package by his accommodation provider. This review will examine the systems around placing young adults in Brent and seek to identify system changes that are required in order to avoid a similar course of events taking place in future. We hope to report in the progress in next year's report.

NEXT 12 MONTHS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The next 12 months will be another time of change for Brent SAB. A new Independent Chair, will be appointed. It may be that the new will have alternative views on the workings and structure of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board and may want to talk with partners about the possibility of doing things differently.

The Chair will lead the SAB in focusing on the new Strategic Priorities.

We thank our partners for their continued support in our efforts to improve safeguarding practice and procedures in Brent

