



**City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/21**

**Key Decision No - CACH S019**

<b>HACKNEY CABINET</b>  <b>13 September 2021</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>  <b>Open</b>  <b>If exempt, the reason will be listed in the main body of this report.</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b>  <b>None</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>  Cllr Christoper Kennedy	
<b>KEY DECISION</b>  <b>No</b>	
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## **1. CABINET MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The reporting year of 2020/2021 was the most challenging that Adult Safeguarding in Hackney has ever seen, combining, as it did, the effects of a pandemic with those of a cyberattack. The latter has severely hampered efforts to counteract the former, but staff and partners have worked assiduously to ensure the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in Hackney and The City. The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board was also able to produce and start learning from two Safeguarding Adult Reviews as well as refreshing its future strategy. I commend, during these exceptionally difficult times, the hard work of all involved, and ask the cabinet to note this annual report.

## **2. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (the Board) is a statutory board required under s43 of the Care Act 2014. The Board has three statutory functions:
- 1) Develop and publish a strategic plan outlining how the Board will meet its objectives
  - 2) Publish an annual report detailing the safeguarding achievements for that financial year
  - 3) Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria

This report outlines the Board's annual report for 2020/21. It focuses on the response to Covid-19, key achievements, data for 2020/21 and future priorities for the Board.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**For information only**

## **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency partnership, represented by statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. The role of the Board is to assure itself that robust safeguarding procedures are in place across the City and Hackney to protect adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Where abuse and neglect does occur the Board and its partners are committed to tackling this and promoting person-centred care for all adults experiencing abuse or neglect. The annual report sets out an appraisal of safeguarding adults' activity across the City of London and Hackney in 2020/21.

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#### **Key achievements**

**4.2** In line with its strategy, some of the key achievements for the Board in 2020/21 include:

- 1) The Board managed to ensure that all its statutory obligations were delivered during Covid-19. This included the delivery of the Board's work plan and the publication of two Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
- 2) The Board undertook the following activities in response to Covid-19:
  - a. Met on a monthly basis to review and respond to safeguarding issues that were identified by agencies during the course of the pandemic
  - b. The group sought assurances from partners by auditing their safeguarding response to adults with care and support needs at risk of abuse and neglect. The results were analysed and used to inform what information should be included in the key safeguarding messages for residents' poster/leaflet.
  - c. The group identified safeguarding issues that have affected residents during the lockdown period and incorporated them into the Board's strategic plan for 2021/22.
- 3) The Board published two Safeguarding Adults Reviews: MS, which examined the death of a man experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness and Mr EF, which reviewed the death of a man in a house fire. The Board has initiated a SAR action plan task and finish group designed to ensure that action plans are embedded into practice and to identify how well learning from SARs has been embedded into practice. Both SARs can be found: <https://hackney.gov.uk/chsab-sars>
- 4) The Board has continued to work with the Community Safety Partnerships in City and Hackney and Children's Safeguarding Partnership to deliver the action plan in respect of the Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish group. The group aims to identify how to better support 16 - 25 year olds with their safeguarding needs. The group has moved onto the next phase of work which is the delivery of a second action plan designed to help practitioners develop their safeguarding response to young people.
- 5) A total of 420 people attended the Board training in 2020/2021. This included new training around safeguarding, mental health and social isolation and advocacy training as well as the SAR learning events.
- 6) The Board held a Safeguarding Adults Week in line with the National Safeguarding Adults Week which took place between 16 – 22nd November 2020. During this week, 189 practitioners attended bitesize training put on by the Board, there were two events for residents and a poster published on how to get involved with the work of the Board.

- 7) The Board undertook a scoping exercise to understand the challenges that professionals faced when working with individuals who may lack executive mental capacity. Using this information, the Board has committed to undertaking a number of actions to help support staff. These actions include updating the Board's self-neglect and hoarding policy and are included in the Board's strategic plan for 2021/22.
- 8) The Board published four newsletters for the public updating residents on the Board's work and safeguarding issues that residents should be aware of. A poster was also published on how people could keep safe during the lockdown period and the Board's safeguarding champions were provided with refresher training.
- 9) The Board and Community Safety Partnership held a workshop for London Borough of Hackney staff to build awareness of modern slavery and initiate work to understand the picture of modern slavery in Hackney. A pro-forma was circulated to teams in Hackney to help identify what the current picture of modern slavery is and how this work can be taken forward.

#### Areas for further development

**4.3** The Board was unable to meet its goals in relation to the following, and will continue to work on these into 2020/21:

- 1) The Board was unable to recruit Lay Members or Peer-to-Peer Supporters to the Board. However, in the forthcoming year the Board is working with London ADASS to identify three residents with lived experience of safeguarding to represent the City and Hackney at the London Safeguarding Voices Group
- 2) The Board had to postpone plans to hold events for residents due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst there has been a small number of virtual events for residents, the lack of face-to-face meetings has limited the opportunity to continue to build relationships with residents. In the forthcoming year the Board will look to engage with existing service user networks and also to resume face-to-face events when it is safe to do so.
- 3) The Board had to cancel plans to deliver a multi-agency case file audit into the safeguarding response to self-neglect due to the cyberattack. The audit is currently in the process of being initiated.

#### Data sets for 2020/21

**4.4** Due to the cyberattack it was not possible to collect accurate data for 2020/21. The Board did, however, work with data teams to capture broad themes from safeguarding concerns and enquiries as well as collect qualitative data from partner agencies. The key themes from Hackney were identified :

- There was initially a decline in safeguarding as the pandemic broke out, however there was a higher than average number of concerns being reported to the Local Authority as the lockdown eased. Whilst it was not possible to confirm the number of safeguarding concerns and enquiries for 2020/21, it is believed that generally there were more safeguarding concerns being reported.
- The most common forms of abuse were: self-neglect, financial abuse and neglect and acts of omissions. There was also an increase in psychological abuse being reported
- In line with national data on safeguarding, most abuse happened in the person's own home and was perpetrated by someone known to the individual. The data shows particularly high rates for this year, which is likely to be due to the fact that many people were self-isolating for most of the year

#### Priorities for 2020/21

**4.5** The Board has set itself the following strategic priorities for 2021/22:

- 1) To review the Strategy to ensure that the objectives included in it are still appropriate and to identify any additional objectives that needed to be included into the strategy
- 2) To ensure that core safeguarding is embedded throughout Adult Social Care and key partners in the City and Hackney
- 3) To identify and respond to any safeguarding issues that arise as a result of the recovery from Covid-19
- 4) To engage with the voluntary sector through bi-monthly learning sessions and monthly safeguarding bulletins
- 5) The Board will identify three people with lived experience of safeguarding to join the London ADASS Safeguarding Voices Group, which brings together service users to help influence regional change in relation to safeguarding
- 6) To review and address the issue of digital safety and financial scams, which were identified as an issue when reviewing data
- 7) The Board will be contributing to research being undertaken by King's College London and the Policy Research Unit in the Health and Social Care Workforce. The focus of the project is on adult safeguarding responses to homelessness and self-neglect. This takes forward the Board's commitment to responding to safeguarding issues affecting people who are experiencing homelessness
- 8) Preparing for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards, which has been postponed nationally until April 2022: and continue to check with partners that they are prepared for the launch
- 9) The Board will look at how well learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews is embedded into practice and how the Board can improve engagement with learning.

#### **4.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

Not required

**4.7 Sustainability**

No issues identified

**4.8 Consultations**

Not applicable

**4.9 Risk Assessment**

No risks identified

**5. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

The accompanying annual report details the contributions and spend for 2020/21 for the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board. In 2020/21 the gross expenditure budget set was £217k and this was inclusive of partner contributions totalling £103k.

The outturn position in 2020/21 was £180k. The Board has made the decision to keep the partner contributions the same on the basis that there is currently a reserve of £173k, which is set aside to meet any unplanned expenditure that may be incurred in the following financial year.

**6. VAT Implications on Land & Property Transactions**

None

**7. Comments Of The Director Of Legal & Governance**

S43 of the Care Act 2014 makes it a legal requirement for each Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adult Board for its area with an objective to assist and protect Adults unable to protect themselves who are in need of care and support, experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect. The Care Act gives the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board the ability to do anything necessary or desirable to meet its objectives. This report has been prepared for the purposes of updating each partner organisation on the key achievements, areas for development and the strategic priorities for 2021/2021. No legal considerations flow from the contents of this report.

**8. Background Papers**

**In accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012 publication of Background Papers used in the preparation of reports is required**

**Description of document (or None)**

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