

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Accountability Committee

Date: 15/11/2023

Subject: Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23

Report author: Ceri Gordon, Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

Responsible Director: Linda Jackson, Strategic Director of Independent Living (DASS)

SUMMARY

This item presents the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23 for review and comment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee note and comment on the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Creating a compassionate council	The annual safeguarding report sets out the work of the Board to protect adult residents, working collaboratively with statutory multi-agency partners to help prevent harm.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The Safeguarding Adults Board works proactively with residents through our partners to support and protect against those who would seek to take an advantage.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD – SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

Context

Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 states that every local authority must have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). The SAB is a partnership of organisations working together to prevent abuse and neglect of adults in need of care and support. The Care Act 2014 requires each SAB to publish an annual report, which reports on what it has done during that year to achieve its objective and implement its strategy, as well as report on findings of reviews arranged under Section 44 (Safeguarding Adults Reviews).

The SAB also works within the local context of increasing volume of safeguarding adult concerns being referred to the local authority, with 2022-23 seeing a 12% increase in number of concerns received compared to previous year.

Review of 2022-23

Our focus in 2022-23 was on revitalising the work of the SAB, re-establishing our purpose, and ensuring we are evidence-based. This included a review of the SAB's compliance with Care Act statutory guidance to identify gaps, which led to the development of Persons in Positions of Trust guidance.

We have also begun efforts to be more evidence based and strengthen our use of data, supported by the establishment of a new 'Quality in Practice subgroup' who seek to gain a strategic overview of safeguarding adult activity across the partnership and promote best practice and learning.

Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews

Two Safeguarding Adult Reviews were commissioned in 2022-23, with the learning from these processes informing a new action plan. This includes focus on the following areas:

- Gaps in understanding of fire risk and our responses.
- Spotlight on the importance of effective multi-agency working.
- Reflection on how we understand fluctuating capacity and executive functioning, with particular focus on assessing mental capacity where person uses drugs/alcohol.
- Reflection on how we work with people who are difficult to engage.

The SAB continues to monitor action plan developed in response to this learning. This work is done with the support of the Safeguarding Adults Case Review Group who have sought to strengthen decision making processes and explored new

methods to capture learning from other cases which may not meet criteria for Safeguarding Adults Review.

Strategy for 2023-24

Our new strategy for 2023-24 focuses on preventative safeguarding practice and learning from practice, with three priority areas:

- **Effective systems and processes:** We will use an evidence-based approach to develop our responses to potential abuse and neglect and areas of complexity.
- **Creating a culture of learning:** We will promote continuous improvement in safeguarding practice by learning from experience and supporting workforce development.
- **Communication and partnership:** We will work seek to build active partnerships and expand our network.

Self-neglect has also been identified as an important area for us in H&F, accounting for 33% of completed safeguarding concerns in 2022-23.

This has informed a more focused action plan which directs the work of the SAB and its subgroups. Focused pieces of work this year include drafting of multi-agency self-neglect guidance and plans for multi-agency audit, examining understanding of discriminatory abuse, improving SAB communication and multi-agency learning opportunities and review of the High-Risk Panel's scope.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23