



City of Westminster

# Cabinet Report

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	16 December 2024
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Safeguarding Adults Executive Board Annual Report 2023/24
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	The Care Act 2014
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	There are no financial implications from this report.
<b>Report of:</b>	Bernie Flaherty, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report is for information. This is the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (SAEB). The multi-agency Board provides leadership of adult safeguarding across the Bi-Borough. The purpose of the Board is to ensure that member agencies work together, and independently, to secure the safety of residents who are at most at risk of harm from others, or through self-neglect
- 1.2. The report is for residents and professionals. Its purpose is to comply with statutory duty to publish yearly a report which includes business plan for the year and any Safeguarding Adult reviews.
- 1.3. Aileen Buckton serves as the Independent Chair, with subgroups co-chaired by partnership members. This report is a key accountability mechanism shared with local authority leaders, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The focus in 2023/24 was on strengthening and developing relationships with service users.
- 1.4. [The SAEB Annual Report 23/24](#) showcases work of the SAEB in four chapters and uses personal accounts and stories to demonstrate local ownership of the work it undertakes:
  - **Communities Keeping themselves Safe:** The SAEB continue to build community resilience and Safeguarding prosperity within our communities. This section demonstrates our commitment to fostering an inclusive and diverse safeguarding culture by collaborating with community groups, preventing harm, and improving safeguarding awareness. It features learning from grassroots communities and providing tailored support in preferred languages.
  - **Making Safeguarding Personal:** This section emphasises the role of Safeguarding Ambassadors in supporting residents and highlighting the importance of understanding abuse types, sharing best practices, and ensuring their voices are heard across our communities and London. Key aims include placing adults at risk and their families at the heart of safeguarding, encouraging adults to make their own decisions, and promoting collaborative safeguarding training and community events.
  - **Listening Leading and Learning:** This section details how the partnership continues to use safeguarding data to guide priorities, incorporating lessons from both national and local Safeguarding Adult Reviews. It emphasises continuous learning, high-quality development opportunities, leadership for change, and extending the SAEB Learning Programme. The focus is on evaluating learning outcomes, listening to families, learning from SARs, promoting best practices, transparency, accountability, and involving those with care and support needs in the process.

- **Quality Assurance and Performance:** This section outlines the importance of effective safeguarding arrangements for adults at risk through quality assurance and multi-agency data. It emphasises continuous improvement in practice, learning from best practices, and using data to inform responses to safeguarding referrals, creating a transparent and accountable partnership, that understand prevalent abuse types, and ensure that people with care and support needs are involved in informing the learning process.

#### 1.5. Key Highlights include:

##### Community Engagement and Safeguarding Ambassadors

- Page 27: The Launch of the BME Network – Safeguarding within a cultural context in May 202
- Page 35: Carers Awareness and Carers Rights article highlights the importance of recognising and supporting unpaid carers. It discusses the challenges carers face and the support available to them.
- Pages 36 – 37: The Healthwatch update article focuses on young people and mental health. It highlights the importance of language support and interpretation services in primary care. The article also includes a response by the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) regarding young adult mental health and well-being.
- Page 46: Our Safeguarding Ambassadors “out and about”: highlight summaries of our Ambassadors attendance and engagement with Dementia Action Week 2024, Octopus Summit, Lisson Grove Coffee morning for parents and carers for Learning Disability clients
- Page 51: During National Safeguarding Adults Week 2023, the SAEB Safeguarding Ambassadors hosted a popular webinar on Hoarding and Self-Neglect, attended by over 100 people. The event, led by the Adult Social Care Safeguarding and Public Health Team, educated professionals, volunteers, and residents about self-neglect and hoarding, highlighting when these issues become safeguarding concerns and their impact on an individual's sense of self.

##### Leading Listening and Learning

- Page 74: The Learning and Development programme includes a summary of learning events and the SAR Champions Network, which focuses on disseminating learning from local Safeguarding Adults Reviews and evidencing changes to practice.
- Page 78: Our partnership responses to pressure ulcers and our new multi-agency approach aims to improve care and treatment for vulnerable individuals

- Page 79: The launch of our Mental Health Learning Programme supporting the 'Stay with us' Suicide Prevention campaign, led by Public Health.
- Page 81: Highlights the Key achievements of the Fire Safety Task and Finish Group.

### Quality Assurance and Performance

- Pages 84 – 99: This section discusses the importance of data collection and analysis in safeguarding performance, with a focus on ethnicity across the Bi-Borough. It highlights that the profile of safeguarding referrals in 2023-24 closely matches the profile of all adults receiving ongoing care and support, indicating effective reach across the borough
  - Pages 102 – 104: A focus on how the Adult Social Care Quality Assurance Team monitors homecare providers, care homes, and supported accommodation services across Bi-borough and Raising Awareness of Modern Slavery in the Care Sector
  - Page 106: Transitional Safeguarding: The Transitional Safeguarding Steering group update on work to improve the transition process for young people moving from children's services to Adult Social Care.
  - Page 109: Serious Youth Violence: An overview of the Bi-borough strategies to tackle serious violence and exploitation.
- 1.6. The final section of the report outlines the SAEB 4 strategic priorities and actions. Boards are required to publish an annual strategic plan with input from the community and partners. The Strategic Plan will undergo a review in early Spring 2025 to evaluate progress and identify areas for improvement. This review aims to refine strategies and promote continuous improvement and innovation for the next 3-5 years.

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1. Consider and note the Annual Report 2023/24 of the Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (SAEB), with particular regard to the arrangements that have been put in place to meet the requirements of the Care Act 2014 from 1 April 2015
- 2.2. Endorse the strategy and the priorities informing the Board's current work (pages 110 - 113).

### **3. Reasons for Decision**

- 3.1. No decision to be made.

### **4. Background, including Policy Context**

- 4.1. The Care Act 2014 says the Board must publish a report of what it has done during the year to achieve its objectives, including findings of the reviews arranged by it under Section 44 of the Act. The Safeguarding Adults Board has three core duties. It must:
- Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.
  - Publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been.
  - Commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR's) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.
- 4.2. The learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews demonstrate the board's commitment to learning and improving practices to ensure the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk in the community. The SAEB actively promotes a learning culture, and members are transparent, engaged, and accountable to one another, leading to better outcomes for people in need of care and support.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. There are no financial implications from this report.

### **6. Legal and Governance Implications**

- 6.1. The Care Act 2014 requires each Safeguarding Adults Board to publish an annual report. The Care Act (Schedule 2.4 (1) a – g) defines the minimum content of an annual report thus, as soon as is feasible after the end of each financial year, a SAB must publish a report on
- what it has done during that year to achieve its objective
  - what it has done during that year to implement its strategy
  - what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy

- the findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (safeguarding adults reviews) which have concluded in that year (whether or not they began in that year)
- the reviews arranged by it under that section which are ongoing at the end of that year (whether or not they began in that year)
- what it has done during that year to implement the findings of reviews arranged by it under that section, and;
- where it decides during that year not to implement a finding of a review arranged by it under that section, the reasons for its decision.

6.2. **The annual report must be sent to**

- the chief executive and leader of the local authority which established the SAEB
- any local policing body that is required to sit on the SAE
- the local Healthwatch organisation
- the chair of the local health and wellbeing board.

6.3. This report comes before the Council because the SAB seeks assurance from all its members that the annual report has been considered within its internal governance processes.

## **7. Climate Impact**

7.1. No carbon impact

## **8. Equalities Implications**

8.1. It is a board priority to reduce inequalities, to include creating more opportunities for residents from hidden communities to share their views and hold the council to account and ensure staff are able and ready to act on what they hear, so that more residents feel listened to and cared for.

## **9. Consultation**

9.1. All necessary consultation has taken place before this report was published. The consultation included a board event to review achievements in March 2024 and completion of the London Safeguarding Adults Partnership Audit Tool.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:**

[patricia.mcmahon@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.mcmahon@rbkc.gov.uk)

#### **APPROVED BY**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
Bi-borough Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health	8 October 2024	8 October 2024
Strategic Finance Manager, Adults and Public Health	3 December 2024	4 December 2024
Principal Solicitor, Social Care and Education	25 November 2024	2 December 2024
Strategic Lead – Cabinet and Executive Governance	2 December 2024	5 December 2024

#### **APPENDICES**

- Annual Report 2023/24 – Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (*published in two parts due to file size*)

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

