

<b>Committee:</b> Safeguarding Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 10/10/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Introduction to Adult Safeguarding in the City of London	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1,2,3
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Ian Tweedie, Head of Service, Adult Social Care	

### Summary

This report outlines the legislative context for adult safeguarding, and sets out how the City of London fulfils its duties and responsibilities as a local authority to protect an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The statutory functions to make safeguarding enquires under the Care Act 2014 are conducted by qualified professionals within the Adult Social Care team. A multi-agency approach is adopted, which plays a central role in effective safeguarding. The City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board, led by an independent chair, provides oversight, strategic leadership and a forum for partnership working.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Care Act 2014 defines safeguarding as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
2. As a local authority, the City of London has specific responsibilities for the safeguarding of any adult at risk within the local authority area, regardless of residence. An adult at risk is defined as any person who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and/or support.
3. The Act identifies the following six principles of Safeguarding:
  - **Empowerment:** people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
  - **Prevention:** it is better to take action before harm occurs.
  - **Proportionality:** the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
  - **Protection:** support and representation for those in greatest need.

- **Partnership:** local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.
  - **Accountability** and transparency in safeguarding practice.
4. In addition, the Care Act introduced the Wellbeing principle which makes it clear that a local authority's duty is to ensure that the wellbeing of individuals must be at the centre of all it does.
  5. Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a sector-led initiative about person-centred and outcome-focused practice. It is how professionals are assured by adults at risk that they have made a difference to people by taking action on what matters to people and is personal and meaningful to them.
  6. A list of key terminology is provided in Appendix 1.

### **Current Position**

7. The Adult Social Care team follows the London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (a link to this is provided in the background papers section of the report). A multi-agency approach is vital to preventing and managing risk, and Adult Social Care works closely with internal and external partners.
8. There are approximately 60 safeguarding concerns raised each year. Each one is reviewed by a Safeguarding Adults Manager (SAM) who makes the decision on whether they meet the criteria for a Care Act Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry. The SAM role is undertaken by the Deputy Team Manager or, in their absence, the Team Manager. The Head of Service is also a trained SAM.
9. All safeguarding enquiries are undertaken by a qualified Social Worker. There are four main grade Social Workers and one Senior Social Worker. Between them, they deal with 30 to 40 safeguarding enquiries per year.
10. For each enquiry there is an appointed SAM who oversees the enquiry, chairs multi-agency meetings, is responsible for decision-making, and provides guidance to the allocated Social Worker.
11. Homecare services have a central role to play in ensuring the safety of adults with care and support needs. Adult Social Care and Commissioning officers work closely with all providers to support and monitor their performance and ensure that service users' safety, needs and wishes, remain at their forefront of their own support.
12. Residential Care and Supported Living services are spot purchased outside of the City of London. Legislative Safeguarding responsibilities lie with the host local authority. Where City of London service users are affected, then Adult Social Care and Commissioning officers will work in partnership with the host local authority to engage with the enquiry, monitor the provision, and support the adult at risk as appropriate.

13. The Head of Adult Social Care chairs a Hoarding, Self-Neglect and Fire Risk Panel attended by Adult Social Care, Environmental Health, Housing, London Fire Brigade, along with representatives of other relevant agencies as appropriate. The panel provides a person-centred, timely and effective multi-agency response to situations where the person referred has been assessed at a high level of risk as a result of complex self-neglect, fire risk or other related high-risk issues.

### **Early Intervention and Prevention**

14. Concerns that do not lead to formal enquiries may still have input from the Adult Social Care team via Social Work, Occupational Therapy, or from the Strengths-Based Practitioners, to reduce risk and improve wellbeing.

15. The aims of Occupational Therapy are to: maintain or increase levels of independence and the ability to carry out daily living tasks; and provide appropriate intervention that maintains the safety and wellbeing of a person, following illness or injury, or long-term physical conditions.

16. There are two qualified occupational therapists in the Adult Social Care team who, following assessment, provide equipment and/or adaptations, information, advice, and guidance to people, relevant to their circumstances, identified needs and desired outcomes, in order to promote and maximise their independence.

17. There are two Strengths-Based Practitioners in the team who work alongside the Occupational Therapy and Social Work personnel to provide early intervention. They carry out welfare checks on residents where potential safety issues have been identified, including after discharge from hospital. They can also support residents to regain independence and improve wellbeing by working with them to identify and progress short-term goals.

18. Providers commissioned by the City of London have an important role to play in prevention and early intervention. City Connections link people to health and wellbeing services in the Square Mile, including support to informal carers, while also providing the Care Navigator to support health engagement and hospital discharge functions.

### **The City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board**

19. The City & Hackney Safeguarding Board is a multi-agency partnership that has a statutory function under the Care Act 2014. The board's main objective is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place and organisations safeguard adults at risk of abuse in City & Hackney. Dr Adi Cooper is the currently appointed Independent Chair of the Board.

20. Under the Care Act 2014, the board has three main duties:

- to publish a strategy, which tells people what our priorities are and how we will meet them

- to publish an annual report focusing on our achievements and how well we have implemented our strategy
- to conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews where someone has died or suffered serious harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

21. The City of London is represented at the Board by the Assistant Director for People and the Head of Service for Adults. There is further officer engagement from Performance, Commissioning, Workforce Development and Adult Social Care

22. There is also a City of London specific subgroup of the board with engagement from relevant local partner agencies.

23. The Government has stated that safeguarding is everyone's business and produced information and guidance for people who may not have been trained to recognise the signs of abuse or neglect.

24. The Local Government Association has published additional resources and specific guidance for councillors.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

25. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report.

- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Legal implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

### **Conclusion**

26. Adult Social Care provides a lead role in a multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk in the City of London. Safeguarding duties are delivered by appropriately trained and experienced professionals with oversight from the City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board. The adult and their wishes are kept at the centre of all safeguarding work.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Key Terminology

### **Background Papers**

- [Safeguarding is Everybody's Business](#)
- [Must Know: How do you know your council is doing all it can to safeguard adults?](#)

- [Making Safeguarding Personal](#)
- [London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#)

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