

Committee	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee	02.06.2016
Subject: Submission to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015–16	Public
Report of: Ade Adetosoye, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board is producing its annual report. As part of that process the City of London Corporation has made a submission on behalf of the services delivered by the Adult Social Care team and the City of London Corporation's partners. The submission outlines the effectiveness and approach of services in 2015–16 to ensure vulnerable adults in the City are effectively safeguarded.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In order to prepare its annual report for 2015–16, the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB) requested contributions from all partner agencies. Agencies were asked to respond to four questions:
 - What has your agency undertaken to meet the CHSAB Principles?
 - What difference has your agency made to improve the safeguarding of adults and in promoting their welfare?
 - How does your agency evaluate its effectiveness and what evidence do you have?
 - How has your agency challenged itself and others to improve safeguarding arrangements? What were the risks and impact of your challenge?

2. The City of London co-ordinated a response, submitted on 6 May 2016, to reflect the work of its Adult Social Care (ASC) team and City-specific partner agencies. The full submission is appended to this report and summarised below.
3. This material will inform the forthcoming CHSAB Annual Report 2015–16, but is shared now to give the Sub Committee the earliest opportunity to see it.

Summary of response

4. The City's submission was structured in line with the questions set out above and supplemented by a range of statistical information in charts and graphs.

What has your agency undertaken to meet the CHSAB Principles?

5. The City of London Corporation has delivered much to meet the principles of the SAB.
6. The first principle is a commitment to raise awareness. Safeguarding is the first strategic priority of the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Business Plan 2015–17. During 2015–16 a City Executive of the CHSAB was established, independently chaired by Dr Adi Cooper (also chair of the main Board), to strengthen local focus and awareness among all City partners.
7. The second CHSAB principle is to promote a fair and open culture. Safeguarding is being embedded across the department's functions. This includes the contracting and commissioning processes that ensure clarity among provider partners of the City's expectations and commitment to this issue. A self-assessment audit of the ASC has also been undertaken to identify areas of improvement. An escalation policy is in place to encourage openness and to support practitioners with continuing concerns about an issue.
8. The third CHSAB principle is to improve the competency of all those involved in adult safeguarding activities. The City of London Corporation's Safeguarding Policy has been renewed in the year, and Safeguarding Champions are present in every department. Training sessions and briefings have supported increased awareness and scrutiny of the City of London Corporation's role among Members, partners and other professionals. Safeguarding training is mandatory for ASC team members and embedded in individual learning and development goals.
9. The CHSAB's fourth and final principle is to understand that effective adult safeguarding works across the City's communities. To strengthen its reach and multi-agency approach to safeguarding, the City has established a Self-Neglect and Hoarding Panel, chaired by the ASC Service Manager. The panel commenced in January 2016 and has partner involvement from London Fire Brigade, City of London Police, Environmental Health, Public Health, a City of London legal adviser, City of London Housing and an independent hoarding specialist organisation, as well as primary care GP representation on a case-by-case basis. A housing-specific safeguarding policy has also been produced as a guide and procedure for housing management staff working on our estates.

What difference has your agency made to improve the safeguarding of adults and in promoting their welfare?

10. In 2015–16 there were 31 safeguarding alerts, with 26 within the Square Mile. This level continues a trend of increased alerts – reflecting increased awareness and understanding of adults at risk. The ASC team has additionally completed 54 carer’s assessments in 2015–16, reflecting a commitment to focus on safeguarding carers which was commended in a peer review of our work carers.
11. The ASC has worked to safeguard four adults involved in cases of domestic abuse where one or more persons have an additional need. Collaborative work has been especially effective alongside housing partners and the City of London Police’s Public Protection Unit colleagues and Vulnerable Victims and Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

How does your agency evaluate its effectiveness and what evidence do you have?

12. The City of London Corporation has, along with all partners of the CHSAB, completed the London Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards and NHS England Safeguarding Adults at Risk Audit Tool 2015–16, and has highlighted areas for improvement. The ASC team seeks to be open to the scrutiny and challenge of officer- and Member-led safeguarding committees, and that of the CHSAB Quality Assurance sub-group, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of its services and the partnership. Resident workshops looking at the issue of abuse (led by Toynbee Hall) evaluated their effectiveness and in enabling people to identify types of abuse.

How has your agency challenged itself and others to improve safeguarding arrangements? What were the risks and impact of your challenge?

13. The ASC team has strengthened its capacity and practice to improve safeguarding arrangements. The service’s Intake and Duty functions are staffed by qualified social workers so that safeguarding concerns can be identified and acted on in a timely manner. The service has also recruited an additional senior practitioner whose role includes that of acting as the Safeguarding Adult Manager (SAM) to provide advice and scrutiny on all incoming work.
14. The City of London Corporation has also identified a number of priorities and plans for 2016–17. These are:
- organising and securing funding for mandatory Level 1 Safeguarding Awareness training for staff and providers within ASC
 - further safeguarding training for ASC around new safeguarding adults policy and procedures
 - working with Hackney on a Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) public awareness campaign

- developing an MSP outcomes approach that can be reported upon effectively
- raising awareness in the City of financial abuse
- addressing safeguarding linked to social isolation
- addressing domestic abuse through collaborative work with the City Safeguarding Children Executive Board
- progressing the Carers Action Plan to ensure positive outcomes are maximised and carers are supported so that they can fulfil their caring roles
- progressing the work of the City Self-Neglect and Hoarding Panel
- developing the new five stages of safeguarding under the London Policy and Procedures during 2016–17 and putting in place training, with new templates and workflows in the case management system (Framework i).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. Safeguarding is a corporate and Departmental priority. Safeguarding is an issue for the corporate risk register and therefore the actions outlined above mitigate that risk. The delivery of this work also contributes to the fulfilment of the Department's Business Plan commitments.

Conclusion

16. The commitment within the City of London Corporation's ASC team and partner providers to the improvement, effectiveness and scrutiny of its safeguarding work will minimise the risk of abuse and neglect of adults at risk across our communities. The service continues to learn and has identified priorities for continued improvement in 2016–17.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – CHSAB Annual Report City contribution

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