

# **Hounslow Safeguarding Adults Board**

## **Safeguarding Strategy 2023-24**

In line with the objectives of the Care Act 2014, the Hounslow Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to work in partnership to prevent and address the safeguarding needs of adults at risk, whilst making sure that individual wellbeing is promoted.

The Board is committed to Making Safeguarding Personal. Front line practitioners will be ensuring that the customer voice is reflected at all stages of initial referral, assessment and protection planning. One of our key priorities is to improve the dialogue with service users who have been subject to safeguarding processes, and learn from their experiences.

The Board's Business Planning day will take account of national and local developments in relation to safeguarding adults at risk and will prioritise the work of the Board to meet the needs of adults at risk in the Borough. An annual business plan will be developed to implement the agreed priorities of the Board.

The Safeguarding Adults Board will ensure that there is engagement with its statutory members and will seek additional representation on the Board and its Sub-committees to provide multi-disciplinary commitment to policies and procedures, to provide effective evaluation of agencies' activities to safeguard vulnerable adults, and undertake case reviews and audits to promote learning and service improvement across the professional network.

The Board will agree a budget with its statutory members to enable the Board to pursue its Business plan.

The Board will seek to enhance its effectiveness by continuing to engage with other strategic bodies like the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Children's Board, and the Community Safety Partnership to ensure that there is information sharing and coordination across these bodies to achieve efficiency in their safeguarding activities. In addition to supporting agencies and promoting sound multi-agency working, the Board will pose challenges to agencies and strategic bodies if there is concern that there are impediments to strengthening services to improve the safeguarding of adults at risk in Hounslow.

## **Safeguarding Principles**

In undertaking its work, the Board will apply the principles from the statutory guidance:

### **Empowerment**

The Board will ensure that its policies and procedures place the adult at risk at the centre of safeguarding activity to ensure that an adult is supported to achieve the right outcome for him/her. Please refer to the Board's business plan for further details.

Empowerment will be a key principle in the training provision for staff in all agencies. Each agency on the Board is committed to training their staff in adult safeguarding to the agreed standard set by the Training Sub-Group. The Board will continue to develop multi-agency learning, through development and challenge events, and through its programme of quarterly seminars.

Data will be reported to the Board on the service user's perception of the safeguarding outcome.

The Board will engage with services users and their carers to be informed of their views on the policies of the Board.

### **Prevention**

The Board is committed to preventing abuse and neglect of adults at risk and will scope the preventative activity of its Board members to establish if there is a need for the Board to undertake additional activity to inform the community of risks for vulnerable adults.

Case reviews and case audits will be considered to establish if there is any additional preventative activity that might reduce the risk for other vulnerable adults in the future.

### **Proportionality**

When undertaking audits and case reviews the Board will seek to be both effective and efficient and will seek to find the form of review or audit that will achieve the optimal learning for the cases being considered.

In considering its priorities year on year, the Board will seek to target its work on areas that will achieve the greatest impact on safeguarding adults at risk in Hounslow.

### **Protection**

The Board will ensure that its policies support action to protect adults at risk when there is a need to provide protection for an adult who otherwise is unable to achieve this on their own, or who is unable to be supported to achieve their future protection.

Audits of the Board will seek to establish if proportionality and empowerment were evident in the activity to protect adults at risk.

## **Partnership**

The Board will seek to constantly strengthen the professional partnership in Hounslow by maintaining a culture of positive challenge and multi-agency learning.

The Board recognises that partnerships in the safeguarding of adults at risk must extend beyond professional partnership, and that partnership must include service users, their carers, their representatives, providers of care services, the voluntary and community sectors, and the general public. The priorities of the Board will seek to develop this wide concept of partnership.

## **Accountability**

The Board will demonstrate its formal accountability by submitting its annual report to:

- The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council
- The Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police
- The local Healthwatch
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board will publish its annual report online to inform the local community on its activities and progress against its objectives, and invite comment to inform future priorities.

## **Participation**

The policies of the Board and safeguarding training will emphasise the active participation of service users, their carers, and advocates in the assessment, investigative, and review processes of the Board.

## **Membership of the Board**

The Board will have members from:

- Local Authority:
  - Adult Social Care
  - Public Health
  - Housing
  - Lead Member for Adult Social Care
  - Chief Executive
  - Community Safety
- Metropolitan Police
- National Probation Service
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- West London NHS Trust
- Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare
- Healthwatch Hounslow

- Integrated Care Board
- Carers Board

The following organisations will attend by invitation:

- London Ambulance Service
- NHS England
- Care Quality Commission

The Board will keep its membership under review and revise its membership at its annual Business planning meeting.

All Board members will receive the role description for members of the Board.

## **Sub-Groups of the Board**

In 2023/24 the Board will have the following sub-groups

- Safeguarding Adults Review Group
- Quality Assurance Sub-Group
- High Risk Panel

The sub-group structure will be kept under review to address developing agendas and to take account of the capacity available to the Board.

The Board has recruited a Business Manager to support the work of the Board. This will be an ongoing post and will require commitment to future funding.

One of the Board's priorities for 2023/24 is to strengthen links between children's and adults safeguarding.

## **Business Priorities for the Board 2023/4**

The Business priorities for the Board for the forthcoming year are set out in our business plan, available on our website.