



# **Newham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-2020**

# Message from the Chair

This report covers a year that ended in an unprecedented way. The Covid 19 Pandemic put adult safeguarding into a position of more central importance than ever before. Although the outbreak began in earnest at the very end of the year this report covers, that relatively short period will have the greatest implications for the work of the Safeguarding Board in 2020 to 2021, and beyond. I would like to send condolences on behalf of the Board to those who have lost loved ones or been affected by the pandemic. I would also like to thank all those professionals who have worked tirelessly to keep adults at risk safe in very uncertain times. Newham has been affected in particular ways, and the Safeguarding Adults Board is already working closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board in Newham to understand the impact of the outbreaks on Newham's communities, and with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership to jointly prepare for any possible rise in safeguarding referrals.

Looking back to the earlier part of the year, we published Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and the Care Act requires us to provide updates on these in the Annual Report. We also set up a new Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup. The Board has a culture of curiosity about what our data is telling us, and the first part of the report sets out the context of referrals and volumes. The new Performance subgroup is set up to link curiosity about the system, with changing that system as fast and effectively as we can when the findings of Safeguarding Adults Reviews tell us we need to. Its focus is entirely on how all the board partners are following up either together or in their own organisations, what we learnt and asking them to account for this.

Learning underpins the work of the board and I would like to thank those who organise the three principle strands of this – multi agency training; audit; and reviews. I was privileged to attend one of the regular Newham Provider Forums organised under the auspices of this Board and the Safeguarding Governance Team. The quality of the discussion by professionals was a powerful reminder of the always-complex task of adult safeguarding.

Partnership around the board remains strong. We have strengthened our links to Public Health and the commissioning of housing and homelessness services by inviting new members to our Board. During 2019 I took on the chairing of the Newham Safeguarding Children's Partnership to support it through a period of change required by government. I can confidently say that the experience and the continued close working with the Scrutineer who began work in November 2019, means that we are the most effective we have ever been at coordinating our efforts across families and for adults with care and support needs who live with multiple risks. More than ever, because we are moving into a new and challenging context, this joined up approach to families in Newham and their safeguarding needs, will deliver real improvements which I look forward to reporting on next year.

**Fran Pearson**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Newham Safeguarding Adults Board**

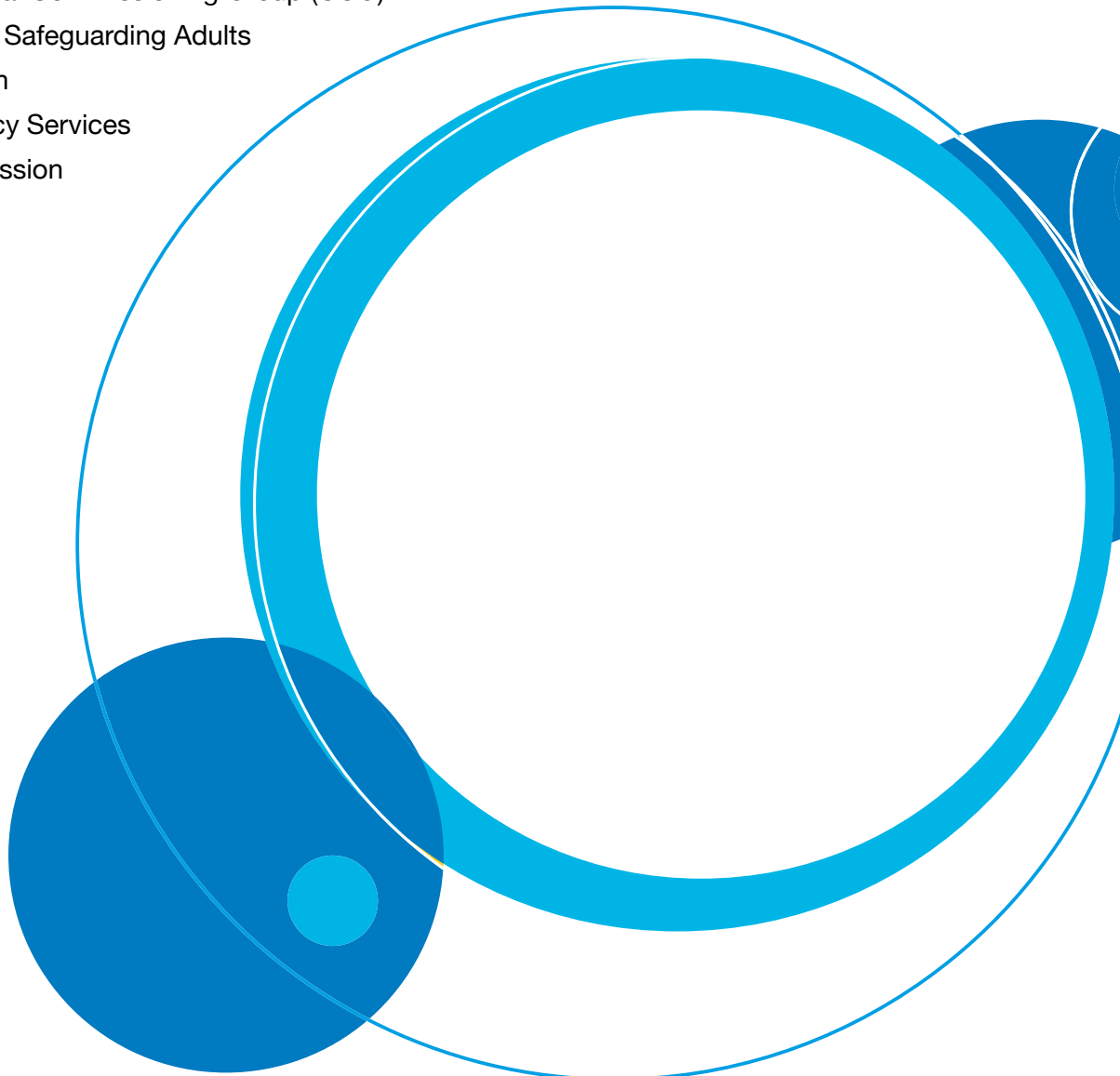


# The Partnership

Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, representing health, care and support providers and the people who use those services across the borough. The Board is facilitated by an independent Chair.

The partnership includes:

- Newham Council (adult social care, housing and commissioning)
- Barts Health NHS Trust
- Healthwatch Newham
- London Fire Brigade
- Metropolitan Police Service
- National Probation Service London
- East London NHS Foundation Trust (Community Health and Mental Health)
- NHS Newham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- GP Clinical Lead for Safeguarding Adults
- Age UK East London
- Voiceability Advocacy Services
- Care Quality Commission



# What we do

Newham SAB has three core duties under the Care Act 2014 and these are:

1. Develop and publish a strategic plan, setting out how we will meet our objectives and how our member and partner agencies will contribute
2. Publish an annual report detailing how effective our work has been
3. Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases, which meet the criteria.

The Care Act and any other statutory guidance sets out what safeguarding boards need to do.

The overarching purpose of the SAB is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs, and assure itself that effective local adult safeguarding arrangements are in place.

As a Board, we support the systems that keep adults with care and support needs safe, preventing abuse where possible, and hold partner agencies to account.



# Our principles

Our safeguarding principles are the same as those listed in the Care Act and underpin all adult safeguarding work:

**Empowerment:** People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

“I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and this directly informs what happens.”

**Prevention:** It is better to take action before harm occurs.

“I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.”

**Proportionality:** The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

“I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as needed.”

**Protection:** Support and representation for those in greatest need.

“I get help and support if I need to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent I want.”

**Partnership:** Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”

**Accountability:** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

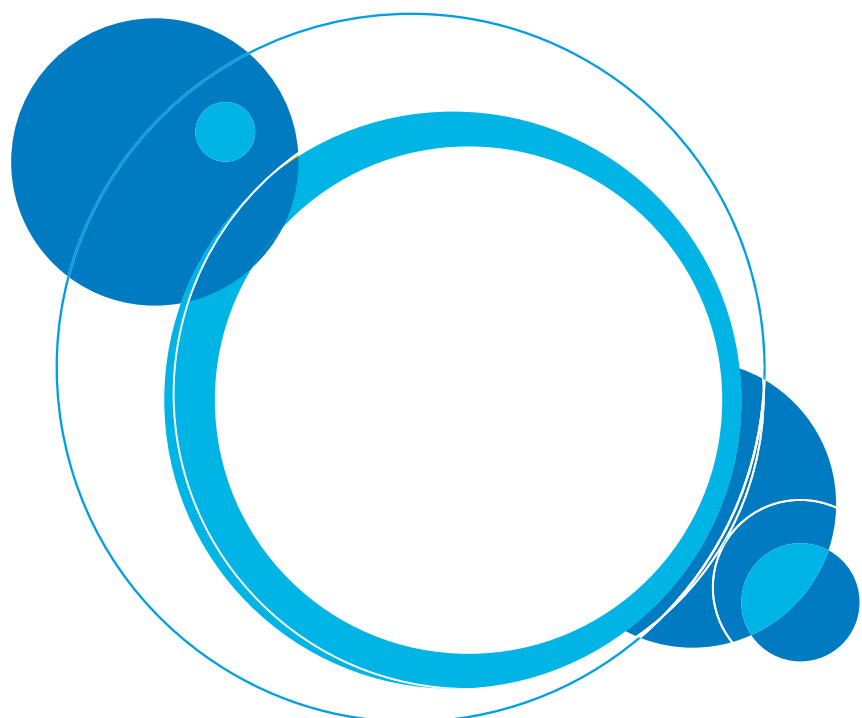
“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”

# Our governance

The work of the Board is steered by an executive group of senior managers from the three statutory agencies, London Borough of Newham, NHS Newham Clinical Commissioning Group and the Metropolitan Police Newham.



<p><b>Safeguarding Adults Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-agency partnership that works collaboratively to lead on strategic safeguarding work in Newham</li> <li>• Seeks assurance on safeguarding arrangements across the partnership</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SAB Executive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes the three statutory agencies of the Board</li> <li>• Sets the strategic direction of the SAB</li> <li>• Agrees the Board's strategic priorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joint SAB &amp; LSCP Executive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes the statutory agencies of both partnerships and other key partners</li> <li>• Agrees joint strategic partnership priorities</li> <li>• Ensures joint collaborative working across both partnerships</li> </ul>
<p><b>SAR Subcommittee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take decisions on cases for Safeguarding Adult Reviews</li> <li>• Assure the quality and consistency of Safeguarding Adult Review reports</li> <li>• Ensure that lessons learned are communicated to all relevant organisations and practitioners</li> </ul>	<p><b>PQA Subcommittee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review findings from Safeguarding Adult Reviews</li> <li>• Provide assurance that recommendations and actions from all reviews have been addressed by the multi-agency partnership and individual agencies</li> <li>• Develop action plans for the Workforce and Practice subcommittee</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workforce and Practice Subcommittee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote multi-agency training</li> <li>• Develop a multi-agency training programme that supports the delivery of Board priorities</li> <li>• Promote and quality assure the delivery of multi-agency local safeguarding learning and development activity</li> </ul>	



# Community Engagement

To mark National Safeguarding Awareness Week in November last year, the SAB supported and funded a series of events for the community on how they and the people they care for can keep safe.

The week of events was in collaboration with partners including the voluntary sector, Barclays Bank, the Met Police, the London Fire Brigade to engage and discuss a range of safeguarding issues that are important to the public. The topics covered included self-neglect, modern slavery, keeping safe at home and preventing financial abuse, what abuse looks like and how to report abuse.

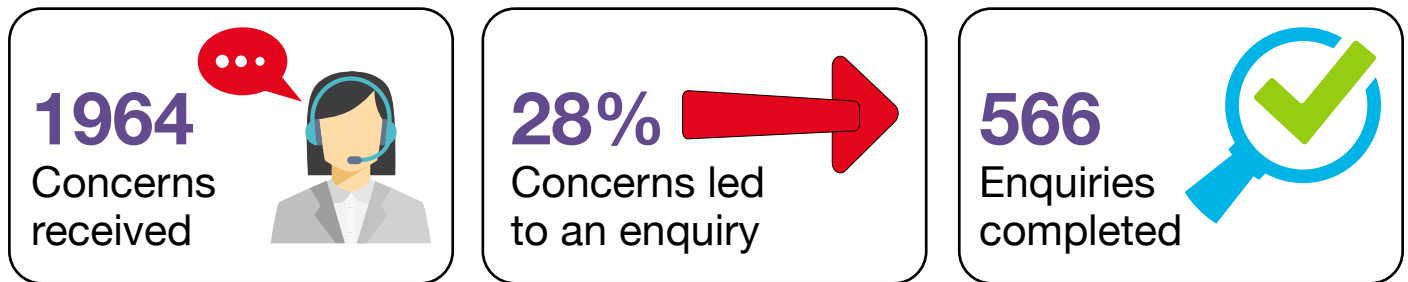
The events were well attended and included local community groups representing disabled and older people. The events highlighted the importance of community engagement on keeping adults safe from abuse and neglect and we will seek further opportunities to engage with residents.





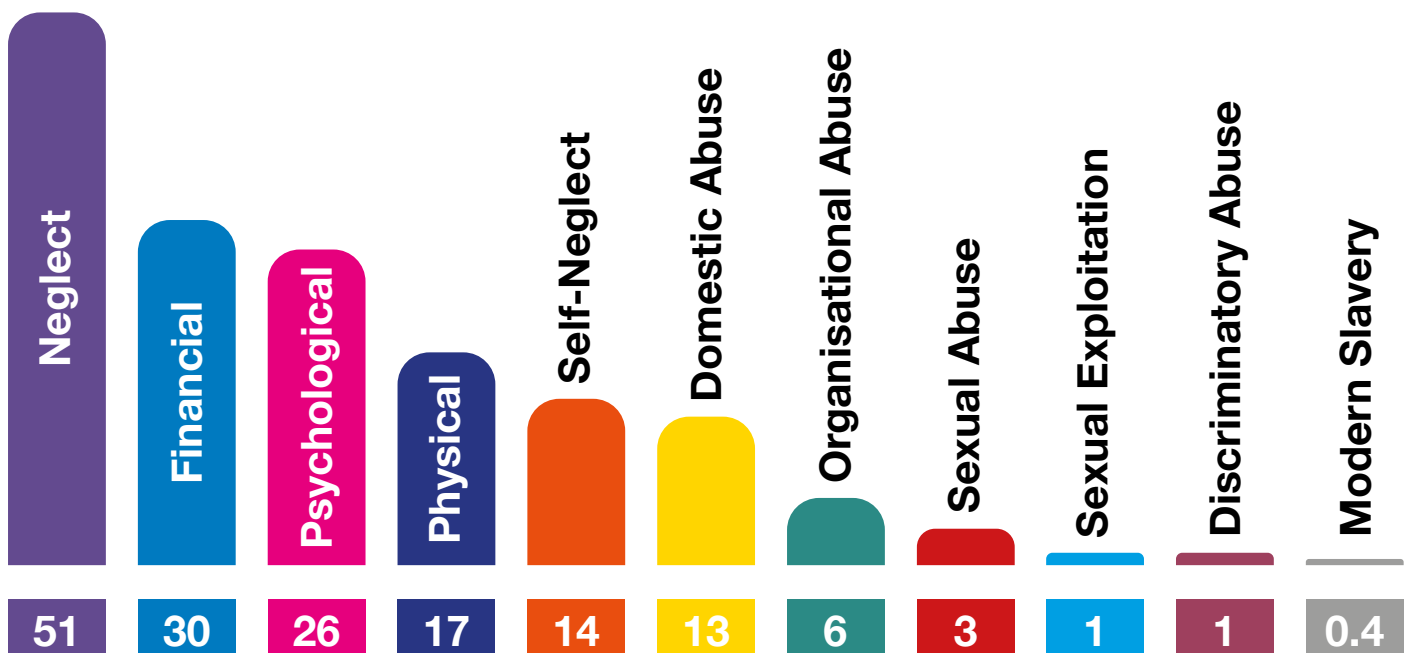
# Safeguarding Adults Data 2019-2020

## Safeguarding Concerns and Enquiries



A safeguarding concern is any issue raised with Adult Social Services which is identified as being about an adult safeguarding matter. If the concern meets the criteria for safeguarding (as defined by the Care Act 2014) a Section 42 Enquiry is raised, which involves fuller investigation and formal intervention. Safeguarding Concerns received were up by 26% compared with 2018/19, with 28% of concerns progressing to an enquiry. The number of concerns leading to an enquiry has decreased from the previous year, by 11 percentage points.

## What Abuse is happening?



The most prevalent abuse types continue to be Neglect, Financial and Psychological. There has been an increase in cases across these three abuse categories in comparison to last year.

The majority of people experience abuse in their own home by a person they know.

1,544 individual people were subject to a safeguarding concern in 2019/20.

# Data on our response to the abuse

Adult safeguarding aims to remove or reduce the risk to the adult. It is not always possible to remove risk and the risk will remain in cases where adults with capacity make a decision to continue living with a high level of risk.

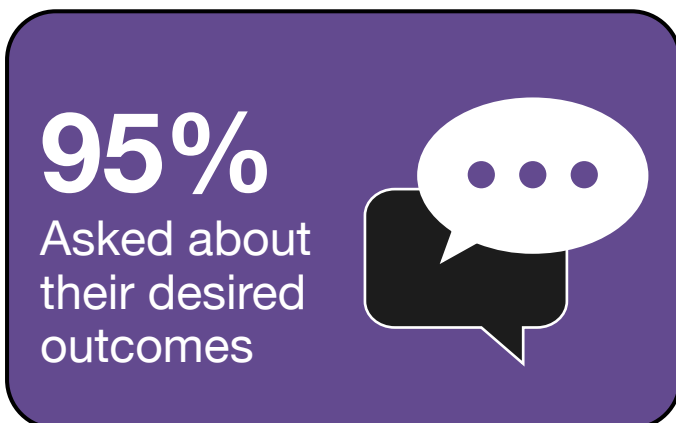
95% of enquiries resulted in the risk being reduced or removed.

In 30% of these enquiries, the person at risk was reported as lacking capacity, 95% per cent of whom had an advocate to support them through the enquiry process.

An important measure of the success of safeguarding is the person's desired outcomes being met. This provides an indication of how well the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal are becoming embedded in Newham.

In 2019/20 these were recorded for 566 people:

- 95% of people had their outcomes fully or partially achieved in their safeguarding enquiry where the adult at risk (or their representative) expressed their desired outcomes.
- 4% of people did not achieve their outcomes. These cases mostly involve people who have died or disengaged from the safeguarding process and have capacity to make the decision to do so.



# Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Section 44 of the Care Act describes the statutory duties placed upon the Local Authority and its partners to review safeguarding a cases where death or serious injury has occurred and where there may be multi-agency learning to be gained from the review of action taken. During 2019/20 there was one completed Safeguarding Adult Review and one new review that started, which will be covered in next years annual report.

## **Thematic SAR - Completed**

The SAR was commissioned following the death of four males whose circumstances have similarities. The key similarities included:

- Male aged between 75 and 97 years' old
- Died shortly after hospital admission or discharge from hospital admission
- Limited informal support in the community
- Acceptance of explanations from the adult on how they would manage when discussed with them but no evidence of professionals demonstrating professional curiosity when the comments and circumstances do not correlate.
- Limited engagement with statutory services
- Concern of self-neglect

## **Analysis and Learning**

- Risk Assessments
- Hospital discharge planning policy and procedure
- 'Safeguarding is everyone's business' and the need to share information.
- Mental Capacity Assessments
- Working with adults at risk who have capacity – legal literacy
- Carers Assessments
- Advocacy

## **What are we doing?**

Four learning events have been held across the Hospital and Local Authority targeted at front line officers. The PQA subcommittee have incorporated the multiagency recommendations into a programme of work that will continue into 2020/21.

Further information on this Safeguarding Adults Review can be found on our web page [Safeguarding Adult Reviews](#)

# Strategic Priorities 2020-22

In February 2020 the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Childrens Partnership held a joint away day to develop strategic priorities for the next two years.

There were a number of priority areas that would benefit from collaborative working across the partnerships. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, an additional priority was included to capture the safeguarding impacts of an increase in safeguarding referrals. The first year will focus on the three joint priorities with the Childrens' Partnership and the second year the two adult specific priorities.



**Joint Strategic Priority 1**  
Preparing for a rise in safeguarding referrals  
To ready the system for an anticipated increase in safeguarding referrals once lockdown starts to ease. This may coincide with a second wave of infections.



**Joint Strategic Priority 2**  
All Age exploitation  
To co-ordinate and drive forward multi-agency programmes and interventions in Newham which combat exploitation in all its forms e.g. financial abuse, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and radicalisation



**Joint Strategic Priority 3**  
Transitional Safeguarding  
Moving from child to adulthood in a safe and positive way



**SAB Strategic Priority Themes**  
Mental Capacity and Neglect



# How to report adult safeguarding concerns

To report abuse, raise a concern about a vulnerable person or to find out more information about safeguarding adults in Newham, visit [www.newham.gov.uk/safeguardingadults](http://www.newham.gov.uk/safeguardingadults) or call the 24 hour safeguarding helpline on **020 3373 0440**.



