



Welcome from the chair of the HSAB (Chris Miller)

Hello and welcome to the Summer 2021 edition of our Harrow Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter. This time we are able to look back at all the work that has been done to safeguard adults with care/support needs in the year 2020/2021, as the Council's Business Intelligence Unit has provided the HSAB with a comprehensive set of data which we have summarised below. It demonstrates the huge amount of hard work done by everyone in a very difficult year, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for that. It also highlights a few areas that the HSAB will be focusing on this year (2021/2022) including a better understanding as to how safeguarding concerns are managed for each ethnic group that is represented in the Harrow population. I hope you find the newsletter informative and that you enjoy the remainder of the summer. Chris Miller

As ever, suggestions for the newsletter can be sent to either Sue Spurlock (sue.spurlock@harrow.gov.uk) or Seamus Doherty (seamus.doherty@harrow.gov.uk).

Safeguarding Adults data – 2020 - 2021

Concerns and Enquiries - there were a total of 2,621 concerns in 2020/2021. This compares to 998 in 2019/2020; 1,403 in 2018/2019 and 1,467 in 2017/2018, so a very significant increase. The highest percentage of concerns are now coming in from the Police for the first time since HSAB data has been collected and presented.



There was also an increase in **enquiries** last year alongside the large increase in concerns, however the percentage of concerns that became enquiries did reduce.

Location and type of abuse: the highest percentage of concerns (as in all previous years) remains the person's own home.

It is unsurprising that numbers reported for care homes fell in the COVID period, as registered managers were primarily focused on dealing with COVID related issues and less visitors were accessing the residents.



Safeguarding concerns are now being reported again from both home care agencies and residential/nursing providers.

Psychological abuse and neglect were the 2 most common reasons for referral.



The most common **person alleged to have caused harm** has historically been family/friend/partner and this is still the case.



There were 112 cases where the **mental capacity** of the person was described as "not known". Although this is a relatively small number it was an increase on the previous year and given its importance, further work will need to continue with the Safeguarding Teams to ensure that mental capacity is clarified in all cases.

Impact of COVID 19 - the full year data now supports the anecdotal experience of the safeguarding teams that incidents of domestic abuse had increased (up by 284% from the previous year). Most referrals came from health and the police, while only 4% were self-referrals or from family members. Almost a quarter of enquiries ceased at the individuals request.



Risk was removed or reduced in 69% of substantiated cases compared with 88% in 2019-20.

Ethnicity and referrals - historically the HSAB has received generalised data about which sections of the Harrow community were reporting abuse and over recent years saw improvements to the point where in percentage terms the number being received from BAME communities was in line with the adult population. However, the BIU data is more detailed and suggests that of the concerns received about black/black British people, only 18% are progressed to enquiries compared to 26% for white people.



The new strategic plan for the HSAB covering the period 2021 – 2024 includes an action point to look further into this issue.

In relation to **Making Safeguarding Personal**, a high percentage (93%) of people by the time of case closure had been asked for their required outcome. Risks had also been reduced in 81% of cases.



Save the date!
25th February 2022



The 2022 joint conference with the Safeguarding Children

Partnership is now confirmed as **“safeguarding in the digital age”**.



Safeguarding Adults Training

There will be a webinar for “safeguarding adults awareness raising” from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on 16th August 2021. This is the equivalent of a basic awareness session and can be booked by contacting Seamus: seamus.doherty@harrow.gov.uk

Book early to avoid disappointment!!

User voices on the HSAB

The London Safeguarding Adults Board have a project underway to make sure that all local boards have “user voices”. They are asking each board to recruit 2-3 people who have a lived experience of safeguarding to join them. Once all local boards have representatives, they can then nominate those representatives to become members of the London Board. If you or a representative from your organisation would like to support the recruitment process then please contact Seamus.

