

Publication of Thematic Safeguarding Adults Review: Homelessness

Independent Chair's Statement on behalf of Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board

This is a very upsetting situation and first and foremost our thoughts and sympathies are with the people involved, their friends and families.

Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned this independently-led thematic Safeguarding Adults Review to identify learning from the events leading to the deaths of three homeless people in the borough.

Service improvements have already taken place, namely the appointment of a social worker within adult social care services with a dedicated focus on homelessness, and the development of a dedicated mental health and physical health care service for people sleeping on the streets. The Safeguarding Adults Review has recommended further changes and improvements regarding:

- Convening a summit with partners to agree how to assure the effectiveness of services for people experiencing homelessness;
- Reviewing the adult safeguarding referral pathway, Section 42 decision-making and the use of multi-agency meetings for adult safeguarding cases;
- Reporting on housing application decision-making for people experiencing homelessness;
- Reviewing pathways into mental health provision;
- Developing guidance on the interface between mental health and mental capacity;
- Reviewing the use of interpreters and advocates;
- Assessing the impact of recent service improvements and identifying any remaining gaps in support for people experiencing homelessness.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to learn from what has happened and to ensure that there is change. The Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to work with the agencies involved to monitor actions addressing the recommendations arising from this review and to ensure that practices change as a result and there are improvements in safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

Dr Adi Cooper, Chair of Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board

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