

# Camden and Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards

## Joint Adult Safeguarding Strategy 2015-18 Seeking Your Views

Background information and suggested priorities

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# Camden and Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards Joint Adult Safeguarding Strategy 2015-18

## Seeking Your Views

Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board are both coming to the end of their current three year plans for safeguarding adults – called a ‘safeguarding strategy’.

Over the next few months, we will be working together to put a new joint three year safeguarding strategy in place which covers both Camden and Islington.

To help us do this, we want to hear your views and comments and the actions you think we should take in the next three years to help people stay safe in our boroughs. This will help us to make sure that we’re focusing on the right things and the issues that matter most to you.

This document provides some background information that may help you to do this.

## BACKGROUND

### **What is safeguarding adults about?**

Safeguarding adults is about helping and protecting people who are at risk of, or are experiencing, abuse or neglect and are unable to protect themselves. It is about making Camden and Islington places where everyone can live free from harm and mistreatment.

No one person or agency can achieve this by themselves. Everybody needs to be involved in keeping people safe. Local people and communities need to play their part in stopping abuse happening in the first place, and in spotting and sharing concerns about possible abuse and neglect.

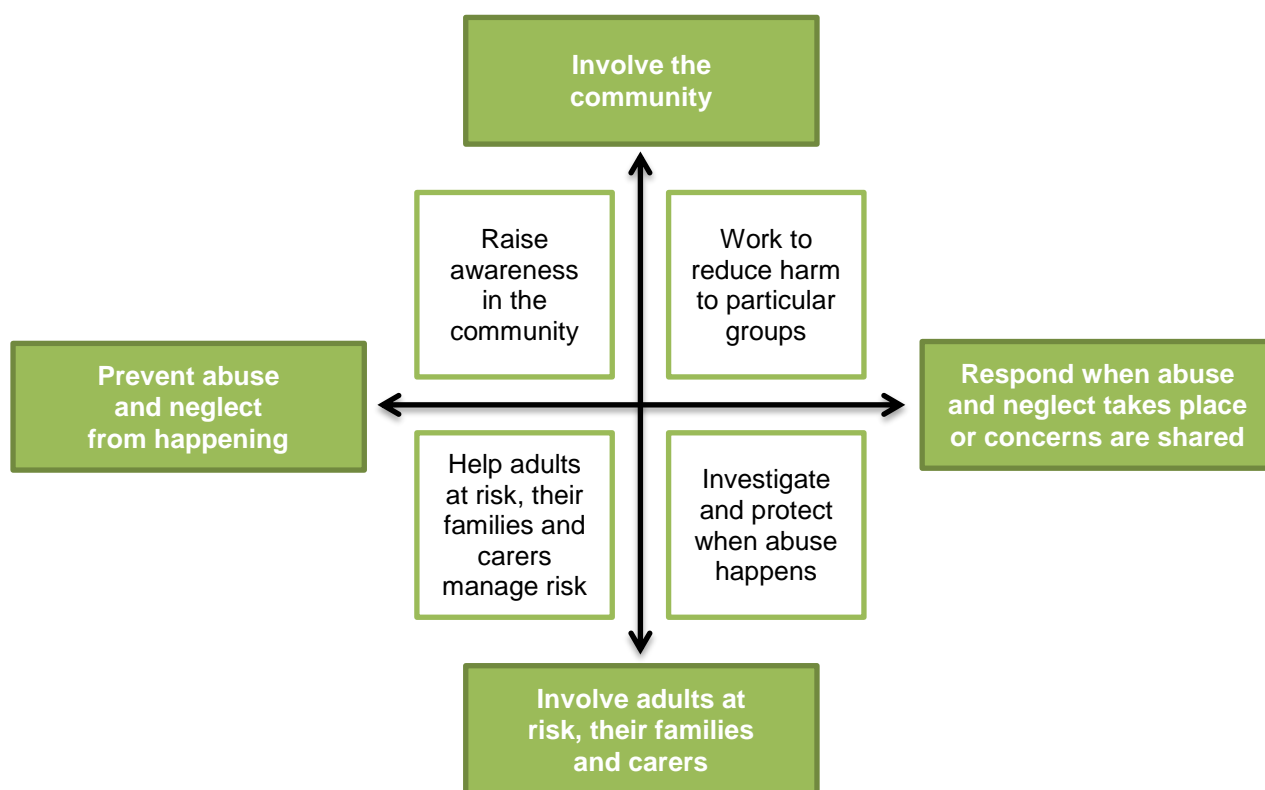
Our aim is that local people and organisations work together so that people are:

- safe and able to protect themselves from abuse and neglect;
- treated fairly and with dignity and respect;
- protected when they need to be; and
- able to get the support they need easily.

### **What is a Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board?**

Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards bring together senior representatives from the different organisations in their area that are involved in reducing the risk of abuse or neglect. Organisations like social services, hospitals, GPs, police, housing associations, fire brigade and voluntary agencies are Board members in Camden and Islington. The Board coordinates the work of all these different organisations with local people to make our boroughs safer places.

The diagram below sets out how we work:



*Adapted by Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board from, Braye, Orr and Preston-Shoot, "The governance of adult safeguarding", SCIE 2011.*

### What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse is when one person violates another's human and civil rights. It may happen once or many times, it may be unintended or deliberate, it can take place in any relationship or place. There are different types of abuse, many of which are crimes:

**Physical** abuse includes hitting, pushing, shaking, spitting, injuring someone and misusing medication

**Sexual** abuse is any sexual activity that the person has not or could not consent to.

**Financial** abuse includes fraud, theft or using an adult at risk's money, property or possessions without their permission.

**Psychological or emotional** abuse aims to control someone through humiliation, harassment, intimidation and threats, shouting or swearing, or isolation.

**Discriminatory** involves abuse based on race, gender, faith, age, sexuality or disability.

**Neglect** is allowing an adult at risk to suffer by failing to care for them, withholding the necessities of life or ignoring medical, physical, educational or social care needs.

**Institutional** abuse occurs where systems within organisations allow or do not prevent neglect, poor professional practice or mistreatment.

In both Camden and Islington neglect is reported most often, followed by financial abuse and then physical abuse.

### Who is an adult at risk?

An adult at risk is anyone over 18 who has care or support needs, and because of those needs is more at risk of being harmed or exploited or is less able to protect themselves.

## A JOINT SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY

### **What is a safeguarding strategy?**

A safeguarding strategy is a joint plan between all the members of the safeguarding Board. It is our “vision” or “big plan”. It sets out what actions the Board and partner organisations have agreed to take to help and protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

It will help us to focus our resources on what will make the biggest difference, and it will help you to check that we are doing what we said we would.

Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board published its first safeguarding strategy in 2012. This finishes in March 2015. Islington’s strategy is also coming to an end soon.

The Care Act 2014 requires us to have new safeguarding strategies in place by April 2015. Our new joint strategy will run from 2015-18. Each Board must report on what we have done to achieve the goals set out in the strategy every year.

### **Why have a joint strategy?**

Camden and Islington naturally face different challenges because our residents are different, our size and geography is different, and we have different ways of working.

However, in March 2014 we held a joint challenge event and discovered that as neighbouring inner London boroughs we do share a number of issues and challenges. This means we have some common goals and priorities. We believe that if we work together in these areas we can:

- be more effective;
- achieve more for people who live in Camden and Islington;
- save money.

Having a joint strategy will help us to work together.

Although some of our goals are the same, we may want to do different things to achieve them. Each Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board will have its own action plan setting out what its members will do to achieve the joint strategy.

### **What priorities will be in the joint safeguarding strategy?**

Every year each Board looks at what it has been doing and whether it is making the borough a safer place. We have checked whether we are doing what the government expects, and how we compare with other local areas.

The Boards have also been listening to what our residents have to say. We heard your views at events such as the Islington annual Community Conference, the Camden “Keeping Safe Together” event, and focus groups. We have asked people about what needs to be done, and also listened to staff and volunteers.

The government has issued guidance to help Boards do the things required in the Care Act. It sets out six big areas for Boards to focus on. Using what we found from our checking and listening work, we have identified some actions we could take between 2015 and 2018 to achieve each of the six big areas. These are our “suggested priorities”.

## 6. Accountability

### What it means:

*"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life as a user of services."*

### Our suggested priorities:

- Help more victims of abuse to get justice
- Check care and health services are high quality
- Deal with abusive care and health services
- Constantly improve safeguarding arrangements

## 1. Empowerment

### What it means:

*"I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."*

### Our suggested priorities:

- Ask adults at risk how they want to be kept safe
- Tell people about new scams and fraud
- Help people to share stories and experiences
- Listen to what it is like to be safeguarded

## 5. Partnership

### What it means:

*"I know professionals treat my personal information in confidence, only sharing what is necessary, and work together to get the best result for me."*

### Our suggested priorities:

- Develop clear information sharing arrangements
- Work more with voluntary organisations
- Help GPs, police, and housing to report abuse
- Check we have the right people on the board.

# Joint Safeguarding Strategy 2015-18

## 2. Prevention

### What it means:

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

### Our suggested priorities:

- Provide information on how to protect yourself
- Tackle poor care before it become abusive
- Stop radicals from grooming vulnerable people
- Learn from serious incidents around the country

## 4. Protection

### What it means:

*"I get help and support to report abuse. I get help to take part in the safeguarding process as much as I want and am able to."*

### Our suggested priorities:

- Promptly investigate suspected cases of abuse
- Train staff and volunteers to protect people
- Help people get their voices heard
- Support minority ethnic groups to report abuse

## 3. Proportionality

### What it means:

*"I am sure that the professionals will work for my best interests, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed."*

### Our suggested priorities:

- Identify and deal with the risks people face
- Deal with serious cases of abuse appropriately
- Only deprive people of their liberty if necessary
- Help adults at risk and families to find solutions

## **Who will be affected by the safeguarding strategy?**

The strategy will affect all adults at risk and their families, friends and carers living in or visiting Camden and Islington. It aims to make a difference by reducing the risk of abuse or neglect, and supporting people to keep themselves and those they care for safe.

The strategy will also affect the public and professionals and volunteers working with adults at risk. Safeguarding adults is an issue that could affect any one of us.

## **SEEKING YOUR VIEWS**

The Care Act requires Camden and Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards to seek the views of the local community when preparing our safeguarding strategy. We are committed to doing so.

### **Why are your views so important?**

The community is the eyes and ears of the Council and its partner organisations so we all need to work together to prevent abuse.

You may have family members or neighbours in Camden or Islington who are adults at risk. Maybe you care for or look after a relative or friend who may be older and frail, have mental health difficulties, long-term illness, or a physical or learning disability. Or maybe you have experienced abuse or neglect or feel that you are at risk.

You might know the sorts of abuse, harm and neglect adults at risk in Camden and Islington face - their daily difficulties and challenges. Maybe you know what it is like to be safeguarded in Camden or Islington and think it could be more effective. Perhaps you need more information on how to keep yourself and your family, friends and neighbours safe and where you can report your concerns.

Your expert knowledge is vital in helping us to decide what the most important things are to focus on in the joint safeguarding strategy. We value your views.

### **What sort of feedback are we looking for?**

We would very much like to hear what you think the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board should be doing in the next three years to help and protect adult at risk of abuse and neglect.

- Do you think the suggest priorities we have listed are the right ones? Or do you think we should be focussing on something else?
- What actions could we take to deliver the suggested priorities?
- What would you like to see?
- What would make the biggest difference to you?
- What information or services, if we made them available, would you use?

### **How can you have your say?**

Please visit [wearecamden.org](http://wearecamden.org) and complete [our online questionnaire](#). The questionnaire is open for seven weeks until Friday 19 December 2014.

In December we will also run some focus groups. We will decide on the themes and locations for these when we have read the feedback from the questionnaire.

If you would like the questionnaire in email, hard copy or easy read format, please contact:

By email: [CamdenSAPB@camden.gov.uk](mailto:CamdenSAPB@camden.gov.uk)

By telephone: 020 7974 3942

By post: Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board  
c/o Camden Council Housing and Adult Social Care  
Town Hall  
Judd Street  
London, WC1H 9JE

We look forward to hearing from you.

### **What happens next?**

A report on the consultation findings will be available in the New Year and the new strategy will be published by both Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards in April 2015. For a copy of the report and/ or the new strategy, please visit [www.camden.gov.uk/asg](http://www.camden.gov.uk/asg) or contact us using the details above.

After we have published the strategy, each Board will agree its own action plan for 2015-16. It will set out in much more detail the steps each organisation will take to deliver the goals in the strategy that year. These action plans will be followed by others for 2016-17 and 2017-18. Each Board will tell you how it gets on in the annual reviews and reports that it publishes each year.

For background information on safeguarding adults and adult abuse visit [Camden's safeguarding adults webpages](#) or [Islington's safeguarding adults webpages](#).

If you are concerned about somebody in Camden or want to report abuse or neglect in Camden, contact Camden Council on 020 7974 4000 (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday) or 020 7974 4444 (out of hours).

If you are concerned about somebody in Islington or want to report abuse or neglect in Islington, contact Islington Council on 020 7527 2299.

In both boroughs, if it is an emergency, take yourself out of danger and call 999.