

**SOUTHWARK**

**SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019 - 2020**

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## Foreword



It is my pleasure to introduce the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board's annual report 2019/20. I was appointed towards the latter end of the reporting year and thus during the start of the unprecedented COVID period. I look forward to supporting the work of the Board in the coming year, and building on the strong foundations already in place.

In addition to chairing the Safeguarding Adults Board, I was also appointed as chair of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, to ensure synergy between the areas of work.

This annual report provides information as to what has been achieved in Southwark and includes updates on priorities and learning. This is built on a robust audit programme and performance data. It evidences good progress with regards to the safeguarding priorities identified in 2018/19, along with comprehensive partnership data that provides a positive view of the quality and consistency of safeguarding in the Borough of Southwark. This reflects the strength of the partnership and the priority given to safeguarding by Cabinet elected members, senior officers and representatives of the partnership overall.

We have made good progress against our agreed priorities this year, and have reviewed this in detail in this report.

We will continue to build on those successes to set the priorities for the future. We will also carefully consider the impact and consequences of COVID-19 to inform these priorities and build resilience for the population of Southwark. We will do this by building positive learning opportunities into practice. We will particularly listen to the voice and influence of our communities and service users, and this will be reflected in the priorities of the partnership.

With particular thought to the impact of COVID 19, safeguarding has never been more important and we, as individuals and organisations, must remain focussed in our efforts to deliver positive outcomes. Finally I would like to thank the team that has supported the work of the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board, board members and all of the staff who work in this challenging and complex area.

*Anna Berry*

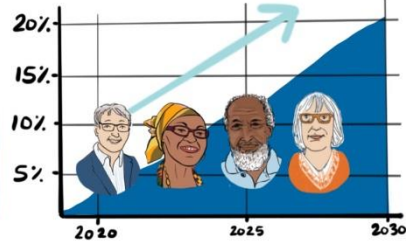
**Anna Berry**  
**Independent Chair, Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)**



# 1. The Southwark Local Safeguarding Context

## Southwark Adult Demographics

Southwark's population is predicted to grow by **20%** by 2030, with significant increases in the older age (65+) cohort.



**314,200** people live in Southwark. Southwark has one of the **highest** population turnover rates in the country.  
Between 2016 and 2017 approximately **29,300** people moved into Southwark, with **32,000** residents moving out.

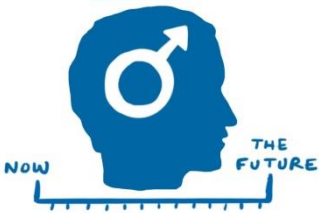


Southwark is one of the most **ethnically diverse** areas in the UK. Just over half (**54%**) of Southwark's population is of white ethnicity, a quarter (**25%**) black and a third of Asian (**11%**) or other (**10%**) ethnicities.



Southwark is home 

Average life expectancy for men is **79.3** years. Life expectancy for men is **7.4** years lower in the most deprived regions of the borough than the least deprived.



Southwark is one of the **20%** most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England.

Average life expectancy for women is **84.6** years. Life expectancy for women is **5.6** years lower in the most deprived regions of the borough than the least deprived.



Data Sources:  
[Southwark Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)  
[Office for National Statistics](#)  
[Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)

## 2. The Board

### Our Vision

*We believe all adults at risk that are living in or visiting Southwark have the right to be safe and protected from harm. We will all work together to support these adults and their carers to make informed choices and to provide the highest quality services so they can live full, independent and self-determined lives.*

Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board's primary objective is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults who are at risk of/or experiencing abuse or neglect.

The Board will hold agencies to account for their key safeguarding responsibilities, so that:

- All those who work with vulnerable adults know what to do if there are concerns about possible harm.
- When concerns about a vulnerable adult's welfare or concerns about harm are reported action is taken quickly and the right support is provided at the right time.
- Agencies which provide services for vulnerable adults ensure they are safe, and monitor service quality and impact.

### Key strategic questions for the Board

- Is the help provided effective? How will we know our interventions are making a positive difference? How will we know all agencies are doing everything they can to make sure vulnerable adults are safe?
- Are all partner agencies meeting their statutory responsibilities as set out in The Care Act (including Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability), Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards?
- Do all partner agencies quality assure practice and is there evidence of learning and improving practice?
- Is safeguarding training monitored and evaluated and is there evidence of training impacting on practice? This includes multi-agency training.

**South East London  
Commissioning Groups  
Reorganisation (CCGs)**

## 2.1 Our Partners

Partnership work is vital to the successful delivery of safeguarding services and interventions in Southwark. We remain confident that safeguarding is at the heart of the services delivered by statutory and voluntary services in Southwark, and we also remain committed to maintaining an open dialogue with all our partners, and working jointly with partners to ensure the best, person-centred outcomes for adults at risk.

The six CCGs across South East London have designed a proposal to establish a single South East London CCG. The intended merger forms part of the local response to the NHS Long-Term Plan. Throughout 2019/20 the CCGs held engagement events, and consulted with staff, partner agencies and local residents. The intention is for the South East London CCG to go live from April 2020. At this point formal responsibility for local decision making will move to Place-Based Boards, and the Place-Based Director with responsibility for safeguarding will sit on the SSAB.

### SSAB membership

Southwark Council	CCG/NHS	Police	Other Organisations
Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Adult Care	Place-Based Director (CCG)	Detective Superintendent- Head of Safeguarding	Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health	Designated Nurse for Adult Safeguarding (CCG)	Superintendent	Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Strategic Director of Children and Adults' Services	Named GP for Adult Safeguarding (CCG)		London Community Rehabilitation Company
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	Head of Safeguarding Adults (GSTT)		CEO, Community Southwark
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	Safeguarding Adults Lead (KCH)		Education and Inclusion Manager, Cambridge House
Director of Adult Social Care	Safeguarding Adults and Prevent Lead (SLAM)		Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Services (CAFCASS)
Director of Communities			Lay representatives
Director of Education			
Director of Public Health			
Director of Resident Services			
Director of Commissioning, Children's and Adults Services			
Assistant Director of Commissioning, Children, Adults and Families			
Assistant Director, Community Safety and Partnerships			
Principal Social Worker for Adults			

## 2.2 Governance Arrangements

During 2019/20 the Board met five times, including two joint meetings with the Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Board has a number of subgroups, illustrated in the diagram below, which met quarterly.

The CCG's Director of Quality and Chief Nurse was the Interim Chair of the Board until Anna Berry was appointed as independent chair in February 2020.

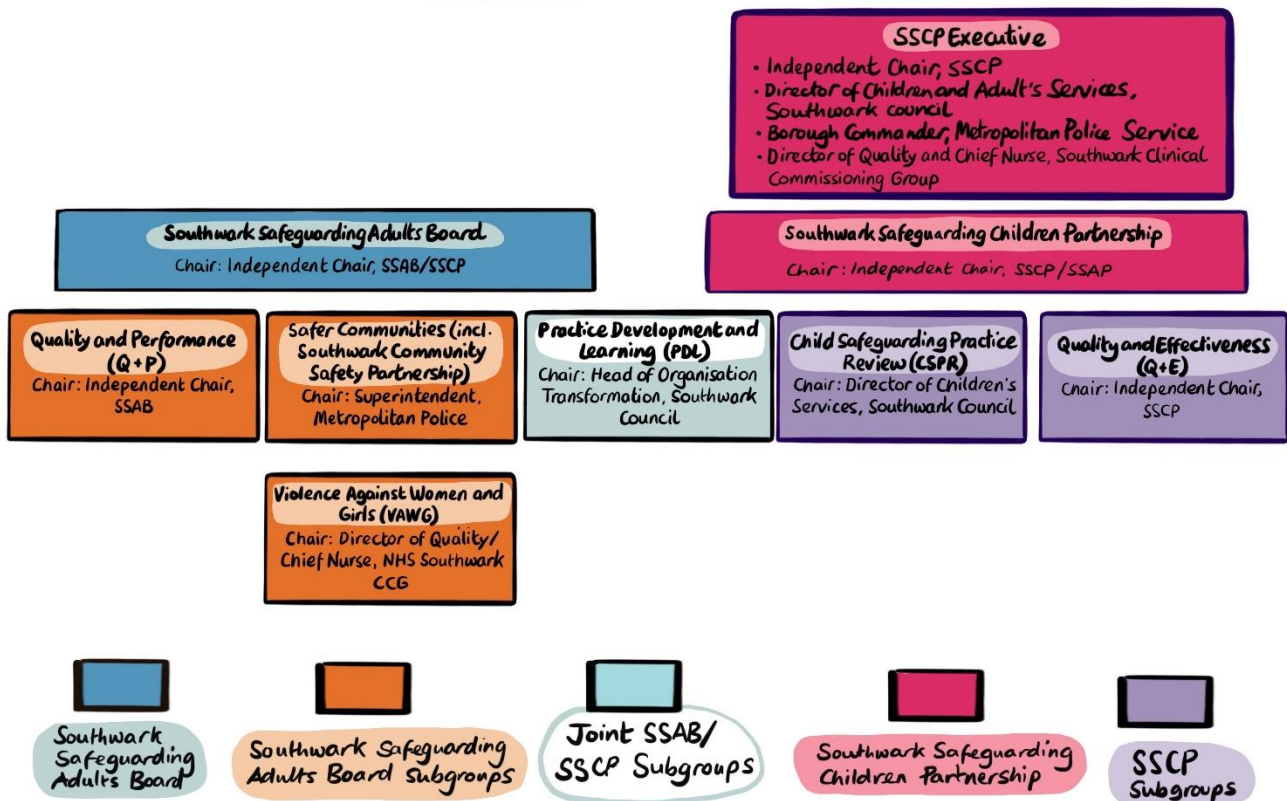
To ensure the Board fulfils its duties effectively, our membership is made up of senior officers from across the partnership who are able to promote the respective priorities of the organisations around the

table, and also commit their organisations to agreed actions.

The Board has strong relationships with other key strategic bodies in Southwark, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, CCG executive safeguarding meeting and Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Since 2016 the governance arrangements for the Community Safety Partnership have sat within the SSAB, enabling the crime and disorder agenda to be viewed through a safeguarding lens.

### Southwark Safeguarding: Boards and Subgroups





## 2.3 Our Subgroups

### Practice Development and Learning Subgroup

(joint with SSCP)



The Safeguarding Practice Development and Learning (PDL) subgroup is a joint subgroup of the Children’s and Adults’ Safeguarding Boards. It is chaired by Southwark Council’s Head of Organisation Transformation.

During the first quarter of the year the new multi-agency Safeguarding Training Programme was agreed by the PDL Subgroup and the Safeguarding Executive. It was agreed that new training contracts would run for three years, with the option to extend for an additional two years, dependent on performance. The procurement programme started at the beginning of quarter 3, with 18 providers entering bids. The procurement process was completed in quarter 4.

Also during this year a programme was started to review all safeguarding e-learning courses with subject matter experts.

From mid-March 2020 all face-to-face courses had to be suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. E-learning courses continued to be available, and the partnership quickly moved to offering virtual training sessions.

### Safer Communities Subgroup

The Safer Communities Subgroup incorporates the Southwark Community Safety Partnership. The role of the group is to oversee multi-agency responses and provide a problem-solving approach to community safety issues by sharing information and ensuring activity is taking place to protect individuals and communities from crime and disorder.

The subgroup is proactive in promoting awareness, learning and good practice, and in establishing links with partnership organisations. It is chaired by a Metropolitan Police Superintendent.

During the year this subgroup contributed to the redraft of Southwark’s Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) [knife crime action plan](#). A strategic assessment was also carried out to review current performance and inform the development of a new Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Following the completion of the Violence and Vulnerability Unit’s extended learning review in 2018/19, work began on establishing a Community Harm and Exploitation Hub for Southwark. More information on this can be found in [section 3.3](#).

### Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Subgroup

This subgroup reports into the Safer Communities subgroup, and from there into the SSAB. The function of the group includes:



- Coordinating and mobilising the partnership to implement VAWG related work.
- Horizon scanning of relevant changes which impact on the VAWG agenda.
- Developing policies, plans and strategies to support the implementation of VAWG related work.
- Developing a better understanding of the VAWG concerns of the community and ensuring that service user views feed into the work of the group.

During 2019/20 the group supported the development of the [VAWG Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024](#). This built on the existing domestic abuse strategy, and expanded it to incorporate all areas of VAWG, aligning with current national and regional strategies.

Key recommendations from the strategy included:

1. the need to increase awareness raising for all forms of VAWG
2. Improved data collection to gain a better understanding and more accurate picture of the levels of VAWG in Southwark, which will inform our future work and commissioning.

The subgroup will continue to support with implementation of the recommendations and action plan.

### **Quality and Performance Subgroup**

The purpose of the Quality and Performance Subgroup is to provide the Safeguarding Adults Board with assurance around the quality and effectiveness of the safeguarding responses within Southwark, and through this to improve the effectiveness of the Board.

The subgroup is also responsible for overseeing the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) process. For more information on SARS, see [section 4.1](#).

Other areas considered by the group included:

- Modern Slavery (see [section 3.2](#))
- Rough Sleeping/Homelessness

### **Safeguarding Adults Partnership Audit Tool (SAPAT)**

The subgroup agreed to adopt the new London-wide Safeguarding Adults Partnership Audit Tool, and this was circulated to all statutory agencies. Responses will be discussed in detail during 2020/21, and the findings will be used to inform our priority discussions and shape our audit and learning programme.

## 2.4 Financial Arrangements

The SSAB receives financial contributions from a number of agencies and other forms of in-kind support. Money received in 2019-20 is detailed below.

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Total</b>
Police (MOPAC)	£5,000
NHS Southwark CCG	£55,000
London Fire Brigade	£500
London Borough of Southwark	£63,421.50
<b>Total from contributions</b>	<b>£123,921.50</b>

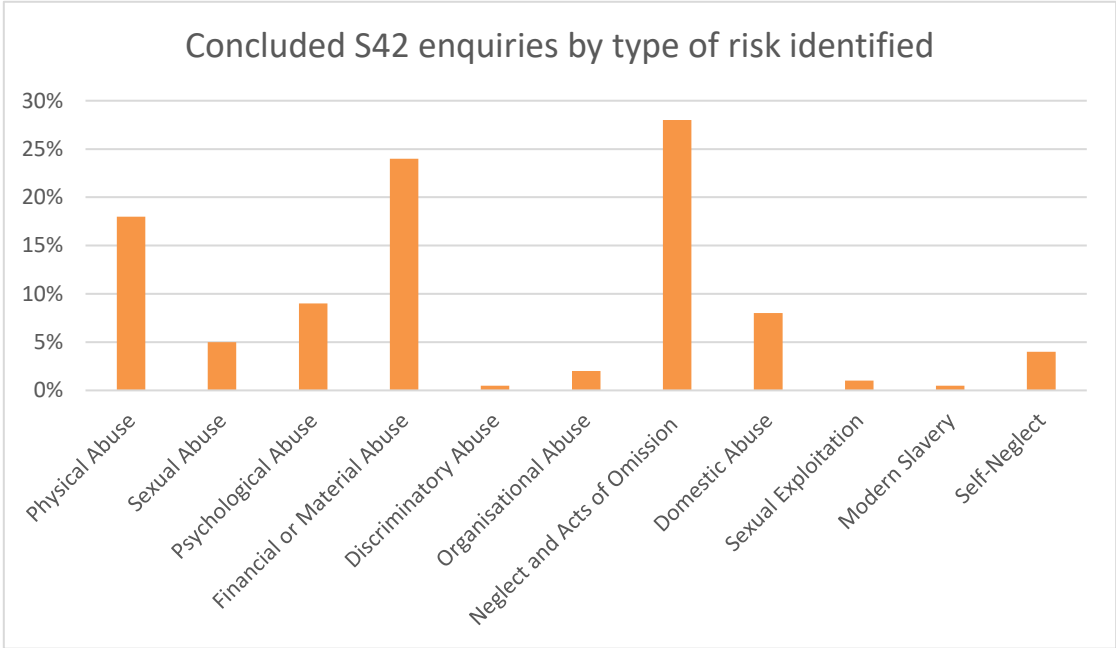
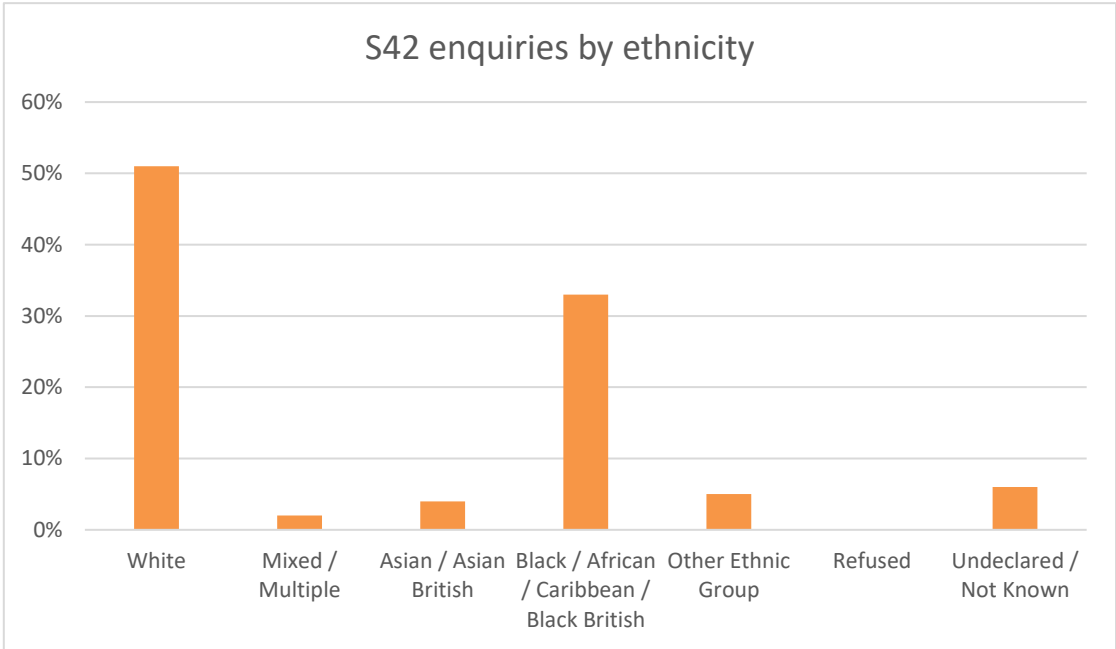
## 2.5 Core adult safeguarding data

<b>Concerns and Enquiries</b>	
1. Safeguarding concerns received	<b>1,330</b>
2. Safeguarding enquiries commenced	<b>520</b>
3. Rate of Concerns to Enquiries	<b>39%</b>
4. Safeguarding enquiries concluded	<b>544</b>
5. Safeguarding enquiries that were concluded within 30 days.	<b>355</b>
6. Concluded enquiries where the individual assessed as lacking capacity	<b>162</b>
7. Safeguarding enquiries concluded where risk was identified	<b>502</b>
8. Safeguarding enquiries for which the individual said the desired outcomes were fully or partially achieved	<b>334</b>

In year, 1330 adult safeguarding concerns were received- a 4% increase on the number received in 2018/19. 520 S42 safeguarding enquiries were commenced, involving 469 individuals. The concern to enquiry conversion rate for the year was 39%, which is in line with the figure for England in 2018/19 (benchmarking data for 2019/20 is not available at time of writing).

With regards to the 544 S42 enquiries concluded in the year, risk was identified in 92% of cases, and risk was reduced or removed in 84%.

Of the individuals who were asked to define the outcome they wanted from the enquiry, 79% expressed their desired outcome. Where a desired outcome was expressed, individuals felt this had been fully or partially achieved in 95% of concluded enquiries.



Moving forward, Adult Social Care (ASC) are undertaking deep dives into specific areas in order to inform further analysis and follow-up actions relating to practice and process review, training and recording. Where individuals are subject to more than one safeguarding enquiry in year, these cases will be looked at further.

Revised recording of S42 enquiries allows for the selection of primary abuse type and multiple secondary abuse types. This will enable us to gain a wider picture of, e.g. domestic abuse, where the current data may be skewed by counting only under physical / psychological / sexual / financial abuse.

In line with Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), Adult Social Care plan to look into the correlation between individuals under S42 enquiries, who lack mental capacity, who require advocacy support and whose desired outcomes are not detailed. They also plan to gain more understanding of the 'other' / non-S42 safeguarding enquiries.

The Adult Social Care MSP Action Plan was signed off in January 2020. Work has begun on enhancing engagement with voluntary and community organisations, with development of a MSP leaflet and a questionnaire for collating feedback. These actions will be further progressed in 2020/21.

The Strategic Lead and the Team Manager for Safeguarding Adults have worked closely with operational managers and staff across all service areas on complex safeguarding cases, especially where a coordinated partnership response is required. Multi-agency safeguarding strategy meetings are held to promote partnership work and to share risk assessment, decision making and action planning with our partners. Ongoing work is undertaken to promote communication

between ASC frontline practice and the work of the SSAB.

**Core DOLS activity**

	2018-19	% of total	2019-20	% of total
Total applications received	727		1073	
Urgent	140	19	417	39
Standard	587	81	656	61
Granted	635	85	825	78
Not Granted	109	15	225	21

The Southwark DOLS service paused processing the majority of DOLS applications at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, due to the potential risk of independent DOLS assessors passing the infection between care homes. Managing Authorities were asked to mark their application as high priority where they had reasons to believe that it should be prioritised for assessment.

Looking ahead to 2020/21 and following the publication of the DHSC Covid guidance for MCA/DOLS in April 2020, we will review our process for undertaking remote assessments and referring to previous appropriate evidence for progressing DOLS applications.

Southwark has expanded our internal BIA workforce as well as our DOLS authorisers cohort, so we are in a better position to manage the increasing numbers of DOLS applications and to prepare for the implementation of LPS. We have a rolling programme of BIA qualification training and BIA refresher training. To promote quality assurance, we have developed forums where regular discussion and quality review is being undertaken with our internal assessors and authorisers, as well as with our external assessors.



A Liberty Protection Safeguarding (LPS, replacing DOLS / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) project brief and action plan is under regular review and monitoring, in consultation with senior stakeholders across ASC. Essential communication was shared with colleagues in Adults and Children's social care, Education, Commissioning, CCG and provider forums. Further partnership work will progress with the planned publication of the Code and Regulations in Spring 2021 for consultation, in line with revised implementation in April 2022.

## Progress Against 2019/20 priorities

### 3.1 Managing risk

The partnership are actively working to reduce the risk in many complex cases which fall outside the traditional remit of adult safeguarding. During the year the Board focussed on hoarding, cuckooing, and alcohol issues.

#### Hoarding

In April 2019 the SSAB received a presentation on hoarding, delivered jointly by representatives from Housing, Adult Social Care, and SLAM (mental health provider). The recommendation was for the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a hoarding strategy, and the SSAB continue to champion and support this.

#### Cuckooing

Southwark have a multi-agency cuckooing forum to ensure that there is a multi-faceted approach to supporting those affected by cuckooing in Southwark.

In December 2019 the SSAB focused on 'cuckooing', a practice which involves the home of a vulnerable individual being unwittingly taken over for drug taking/dealing and other criminal activities.

Local data shows a steady increase in instances of cuckooing reported in Southwark over the past two years, including a reported increase in premises closure orders due to cuckooing.

A member of the partnership undertook a research dissertation into cuckooing in Southwark. His research identified a number of recommendations, which the SSAB will consider:

- Develop a multiagency strategy with commitment across stakeholders
- Service development that links to the development of the Council's Community Harm and Exploitation Hub for Adults and forthcoming Loneliness Strategy
- Raise awareness of cuckooing and community engagement
- Enhance staff knowledge and expertise
- Build the resilience of residents
- Develop outreach services for the 'perpetrators'
- Explore how legal frameworks may be used

#### Alcohol and adult safeguarding

In December 2019 the SSAB received a presentation from [Alcohol Change UK](#) on the [Blue Light Project](#), which aims to help organisations work more effectively with change-resistant drinkers. At any one time the majority of problem drinkers are not engaged in services, and of those who do engage approximately 50% will quickly drop out.

Chronic alcohol misuse is an important issue in adult safeguarding and self-neglect. An analysis of SARs published nationally in 2017 revealed that of 41 reviews, alcohol was mentioned in 15 of them.

Alcohol Change UK recommend that SAR panels should always have access to independent expertise in alcohol misuse, where relevant, to ensure that lessons are effectively learned from SARs. The SSAB will ensure this guidance is implemented in any future SARs.

### 3.2 Modern Day Slavery



Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced labour and human trafficking. Victims are often vulnerable and lack strong support networks.

The strengthening of referral mechanisms and the establishment of a single point of contact for modern slavery in Southwark were the focus of the partnership across the year, which were both achieved,

The partnership continues to engage with the Human Trafficking Foundation.

#### Positive Partnership Working

In 2019 a multi-agency investigation was launched following concerns being raised regarding a number of nail bars in Southwark. Officers from the police, immigration services, social care, the NHS and community and voluntary sector organisations were involved. Raids in December 2019 resulted in 14 arrests for modern slavery, human trafficking and immigration offences. 19 adults and 5 children were found at the addresses and provided with support and medical care.

“I am pleased with the results of this multi-agency operation which was launched to safeguard vulnerable individuals, identify perpetrators of crime and ultimately protect the public.

Human trafficking, modern slavery and sexual exploitation often occur in plain sight, and it is often the case those carrying out these offences exploit those from less fortunate backgrounds who have travelled to our county for a better life.

They prey on the knowledge these individuals will carry out hard, labour-intensive work to provide for themselves.

I hope this operation continues to raise the public’s awareness of these shocking crime types, and sends a clear message to those involved that we will work with all agencies and law enforcement to identify and bring them to justice.”

*Detective Chief Inspector Mark Rogers, Metropolitan Police Central Specialist Crime Unit*

### 3.3 Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence

(joint priority with SSCP)



Serious youth violence is a key focus for the SSAB and the SSCP. Serious violence and knife crime is a national problem and almost every area of London has been touched by its devastating effects. In Southwark we have seen a decrease in the number of knife crime offences, however the levels of violence remain unacceptably high and have a devastating effect on our communities.

#### Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan

Southwark's Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan is a comprehensive action plan that brings together the recommendations of the [Cross-Party Panel on Serious Youth Violence](#), the [Southwark Extended Learning Review](#) carried out by the Violence & Vulnerability Unit and the [Southwark Youth Violence Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) into a single plan of action and delivery. The plan has been co-designed by all partners (council, police, health, voluntary sector and others).

#### Community Harm and Exploitation Hub

A central part of the Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan is the creation of a Community Harm and Exploitation Hub (CHEH), a multiagency team that will

incorporate and build upon the existing Southwark Anti Violence Unit (SAVU) team. The CHEH will hold casework and provide comprehensive and bespoke support to individuals and their families who are vulnerable to being exploited and getting involved in gangs, county lines, the drugs market, violence, human trafficking, modern slavery and other forms of exploitation.

The first stage of the CHEH rollout focuses on individuals aged 16-25, and on developing information, advice and guidance for parents, carers, and communities.

In subsequent stages and subject to resources the hub will be aligned with and take referrals from voluntary sector organisations, with particular emphasis on vulnerable adults. This work has started through the [Southwark Cuckooing Forum](#).

While working with the CHEH will be voluntary for the cohort, the CHEH will use a range of partnership-wide enforcement tools to deal with those who are supported but continue to engage in criminality whilst on the programme.

### 3.4 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

(joint priority with SSCP)

#### All Age Disability Service

During 2018-19, Children's and Adults' Services in Southwark developed an [All Ages Disability service](#). The operational model of the service focusses on age up to 25 years and a reshaping of the Learning Disabilities 25+ Service (LD25+) to create a seamless care assessment pathway. These developments were subject to a period of staff engagement and consultation between March and July 2019 to review and make any changes. Since



June 2019 the implementation programme has begun and as a result the latter part of 2019/20 witnessed a trend of improved service performance. For instance, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, 100% of all annual health checks were completed/ reviewed within timescales (compared to 85% in 2017/18)

### **Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeR)**

The SSAB partners continue to support and contribute to the LeDeR process. For more information, see [section 4.3](#).

### 3. Learning from Case Reviews

#### 4.1 Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

The SSAB must carry out a SAR when an adult at risk dies or is seriously harmed, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect them.

Three cases were considered during 2019/20, but none were deemed by the partnership to meet the criteria for a SAR. However, a decision was made to carry out an internal review into one case as three were lessons that could be learnt.

#### 4.2 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

The Community Safety Partnership, which sits within the SSAB, must carry out a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) if someone aged 16 or over dies as a result of violence, abuse or neglect by someone they were in a relationship with or someone who was a member of the same household. The aim of these reviews is to improve responses to domestic violence across the partnership.

Tragically, we lost one of our residents to domestic violence in 2019/20, and a review into the death is now under way. We also continued to progress work on four reviews into the deaths of individuals in previous years. These reviews are due for completion in 2020/21, and lessons from them will be laid out in next year's annual report.

Learning from all reviews is shared across the partnership as it arises, and any actions arising from this learning are progressed prior to the review being published, where possible.

### 4.3 Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeR)

[The Learning Disability Mortality Review \(LeDeR\)](#) programme was set up by government to ensure that possible learning opportunities from circumstances leading to individual deaths are captured and shared. All deaths of people with learning disabilities aged four and over must be reviewed.

There have been 28 notifications of death of people with learning disabilities in the borough since the LeDeR process started. 17 of these have been reviewed, with a further ten reviews in progress.

Emerging themes from completed reviews include:

- The importance of good record-keeping
- Flagging of individuals with learning disabilities when they access hospital services.
- The need for individuals to be offered longer appointments where necessary, to accommodate any additional needs they might have.
- The need for close collaborative working between agencies, including sharing information regarding communication strategies unique to individuals.
- The importance of offering carers' assessments to those caring for individuals with learning disabilities.
- Clear healthy lifestyle advice for people with learning disabilities tailored to their condition and cognitive and communication ability
- Need for learning disabilities awareness among frontline staff.

## 4. Looking Ahead

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership consultation on priorities, planned for March 2020, was delayed. A consultation was undertaken in summer 2020, and the following high-level priorities were agreed:

1. **Managing Complexity**
2. **Homelessness**
3. **Domestic abuse (joint with SSCP)**

The partnership were also clear that Black Lives Matter/[Southwark Stands Together](#), COVID-19, and Making Safeguarding Personal should be overarching themes running through all of the agreed priority areas.

Progress against the agreed priorities will be detailed in next year's report.

## Contact information

If you have any questions about the content of this report, or thoughts about what we should include in future reports, please contact [ssab@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:ssab@southwark.gov.uk).

If you are concerned about an adult at risk in the borough of Southwark you should notify us immediately on [OPPDContaktteam@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:OPPDContaktteam@southwark.gov.uk).

If the adult has been injured you should seek advice from their GP, or in an emergency call 999.

If you believe a crime has been committed you should notify the police.

