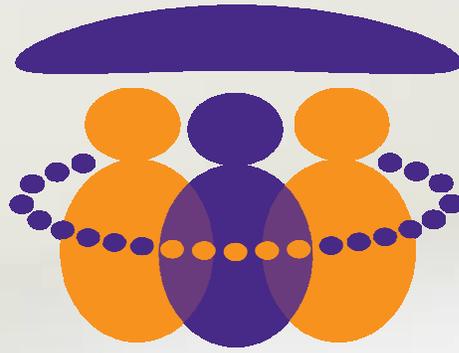




& our Partners,

Committed to Safeguarding Adults



Harrow Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2014/2015 (Easy to Read Version)



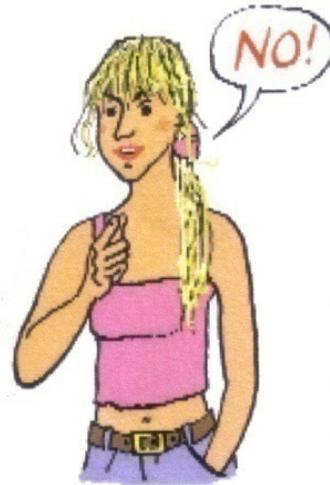
In partnership with:



Providing opportunity, promoting change

Working together for a safer London

Say **NO**
to abuse



1. Introduction

What is “safeguarding adults”?

“Safeguarding adults” is about keeping people with a disability or mental health problem safe from abuse or harm.



It is only about people who are aged 18 years or older as there are other arrangements for protecting children.

What is abuse? Abuse can be:

- physical (hitting, pushing, slapping, punching)
- financial (to do with your money)
- neglect (not being looked after properly)
- emotional/psychological (for example – being made fun of because of your disability)
- institutional (more than one person in a care home is being abused)
- sexual (being made to do something that you don't want to do – for example, kissing)
- discriminatory (for example - being made fun of because your disability makes you look different to other people)

How do we let people know about safeguarding adults?

- we have “easy to read” leaflets



- we have information on the Council's website



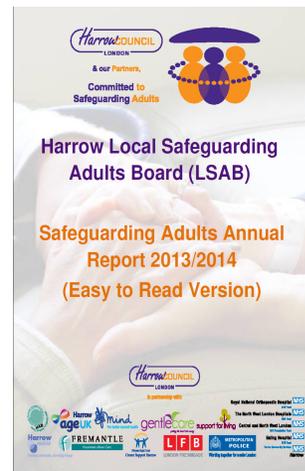
- the Safeguarding Adults Team visit staff where they work to tell them what to do if they are worried that someone may have been abused



- we write in magazines and newspapers about what members of the public should do if they are worried that someone may have been abused



- this report is written every year and is easy to read



- we go to special days in Harrow to give out information about keeping people safe from abuse



Why do we need a report about safeguarding adults?

The Harrow Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) is a group of managers (from the Council, the Hospitals, the Police, care homes, care agencies and voluntary groups) that meet every 3 months to work together to try and keep people with a disability or mental health problem safe from abuse. The names at the bottom of the front page show how many different groups get together at LSAB meetings.

This is the 8th time that the LSAB has written a report to tell everyone what was done last year and what it is going to do next year. This report also tells you about how many people were abused in a year, who was abused, where it happened and who was the abuser.

What did we do together last year to keep people safe?

- 2,143 people had some training in safeguarding adults



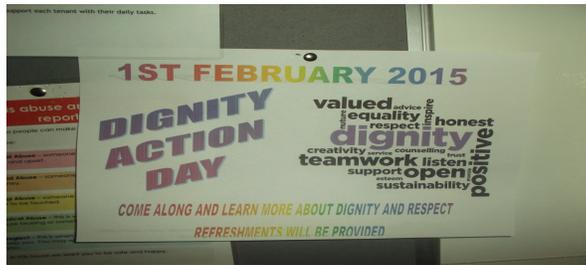
- a lot of different people went to training for the first time e.g. dentists who work in Harrow



- some volunteers and users also had training e.g. at Harrow MIND, Harrow Mencap and Sancroft which is very good



- special events were held for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2014 – last year it was all about dignity



- last year the LSAB decided to join a national project called “Making Safeguarding Personal” which makes sure that people who are being abused are in control of the investigation if they want to be
- a lot of information was collected from the people who called because they were worried that someone may have been abused. This information is called “statistics”



2. Statistics (numbers)

For the fourth year the LSAB has been able to see what other Councils are doing to protect vulnerable people at risk of abuse. This means that the LSAB can check what work is going well in Harrow and what needs to be done better.

How many people were worried about being abused?

In 2014/2015 we were contacted about 1,227 people where there was a safeguarding concern, compared to 1,003 the year before.

This means that 224 more people were worried that they might be being abused. These 1,227 calls are “alerts”.

The LSAB is pleased that an extra 224 people came forward because it means that a lot more people know who to call if they are worried that someone may have been abused.



Out of the 1,227 people, only 629 needed someone to look into their problems more carefully.

This is called a “referral”.



How many men and women were worried about abuse and what background were they from?

More women were worried about possible abuse than men.

Out of the 629 referrals:

- 399 were from women
- 230 were from men



350 of the 629 people were white and 271 were black or black Asian (a few people did not say what their background was).

What type of abuse were people worried about?

223 people were worried about physical abuse (hitting, pushing, slapping, punching)



159 people were worried about financial abuse (to do with their money)

183 people were worried about neglect (not being cared for properly)





177 people were worried about emotional/psychological abuse (for example – being made fun of because of their disability)



42 were worried about sexual abuse (being made to do something that they didn't want to do – for example, kissing)

6 people were worried about discriminatory abuse (for example - being made fun of because they look different to other people)



What disability did the person have who was worried about abuse?

- 363 people were over 65 years of age



- 88 people had a learning disability



- 322 people had a physical disability (for example they use a wheelchair).
Some people with a disability were also over 65 years, so have been counted twice



- 103 people had a mental health problem (for example bad depression)



Where did the abuse happen?

- 382 people were living in their own home



- 127 people were living in a care home or nursing home



- 30 people were living in “sheltered” housing (where they get help from a Warden or support workers)



- 5 people were living in the home of the person that they said was abusing them

- 21 people were in a hospital



- 6 people were at a day centre



- 12 people were in a mental health hospital ward



Who was the abuser?

- 128 were social care staff
(for example home care workers)



- 236 were family, including husband or wife



- 55 were neighbours or friends



- 34 were health care workers



- 49 were strangers



- 0 were volunteers or befrienders



What did all the information tell us?

Last year 224 more people knew who to contact if they were worried that someone might have been abused.

This is good.



Last year 2,143 people had training about abuse and about who to contact if they were worried about someone.

This is good.



Last year a lot of different people were told about abuse – for example dentists working in Harrow.

This is good.



Younger people (less than 65 years old) with a mental health difficulty (like bad depression) in Harrow may not know where to call if they are worried about abuse.

This is not so good.



Some people told the LSAB that they are worried about “door step” crime and bullying at the Bus Station.

This is not so good.



3. What is the LSAB going to do next?

- make sure that people with mental health difficulties know where to call if they are worried about abuse
- continue a project in Harrow so that people who don't feel safe in shopping centres or bus stations can ask for help easily – this is called a “Safe Place” scheme



- keep asking people if they were happy with what happened after they reported abuse and do some work with other Councils called “making safeguarding personal”
- make sure that in every possible case where a crime seems to have been committed (e.g. financial abuse is the same as theft), victims who want to report it to the Police are supported to do so



Who to call or write to if you are worried that someone is being abused

The website for information is:

www.harrow.gov.uk/safeguardingadults



The e-mail address is:

ahadultsservices@harrow.gov.uk



You can write to:

Civic Centre (Second Floor East Wing)
PO Box 7,
Station Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 2XF



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**Adult abuse - break the silence
REPORT IT**

If you or someone you know is being abused, hurt or exploited, please call Harrow Council's Safeguarding Adults Service

Abuse can be physical, sexual, financial, psychological, discriminatory or neglect.

Safeguarding Adults Service

during office hours:

tel: **020 8420 9453**

at all other times

020 8424 0999

fax: **020 8416 8269**

email: **safeguarding.adults@harrow.gov.uk**

web: **www.harrow.gov.uk/safeguardingadults**