

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 21 OCTOBER 2014



**REPORT OF: MR MEL FEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE
MR STEVE COSSER, CABINET ASSOCIATE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

LEAD OFFICER: DAVID SARGEANT, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE

SUBJECT: SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is currently a non-statutory, multi agency Board that is chaired by an independent chair, Simon Turpitt.

To support the transparency of the Board, the Annual Report is presented to Cabinet.

Cabinet is asked to consider and note the Annual Report of the Board (Annex 1).

The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) will become a statutory board from 1 April 2015 as part of the implementation of the Care Act 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

1. Notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report prior to it being published.
2. Agrees to the provision of paper copies of the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report to Surrey libraries.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

By accepting the recommendations, the Cabinet will show that the council has fulfilled its obligations to co-ordinate the activities of the SSAB. It will support the SSAB to be transparent by providing information to the public on the performance of the Board in the delivery of its strategic plan.

The provision of paper copies of the SSAB Annual Report to Surrey libraries will assist to ensure that there is easy access to the report for Surrey residents who do not have internet access.

From 1 April 2015 when the Care Act 2014 will be implemented, it will be a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce and publish a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report. The Strategic Plan will need to set out how SSAB will protect and help adults in Surrey and what actions each member of the SSAB will take to deliver the plan. The Annual Report will need to state what both the SSAB and its members have done to carry out and deliver the objectives and other content of its strategic plan. The SSAB wish to comply with these future requirements in advance of the statutory duty.

DETAILS:

1. The Board is currently constituted under the Department of Health guidance: 'No Secrets' (March 2000). The Board has an independent chair whose primary duty is to ensure that the main statutory agencies work together to improve practice which protects and promotes the safety of adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Surrey. This includes training and procedures that are effective in meeting the Board's objectives.
2. The Board has a broad membership from both the statutory and voluntary sectors including representatives from the county council, borough and district councils, the police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, NHS organisations including clinical commissioning groups, independent care providers, Age UK (Surrey), Surrey 50+, Surrey Care Association, Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and Action for Carers. The Board meets three times a year. All members have agreed to work together to implement the Board's vision that 'We will all work together to enable people in Surrey to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse'.
3. The Board had a three year Strategic Plan that ran from 2012 to 2015. This was revised in December 2013. The revised plan sets out the Board's programme of activities in relation to each of the six national principles for adult safeguarding, namely:
 - Empowerment
 - Protection
 - Prevention
 - Proportionality
 - Partnership
 - Accountability
4. The Board wishes to ensure it is transparent in its delivery of that Plan by reporting against it and publishing an annual report. The Annual Report will be shared with key partnerships and cascaded by Board members through their own agencies. These documents are made publicly available on the Board's web pages at: surreycc.gov.uk/protectingadults
5. Up to now there has been an expectation that Adult Social Care will lead in safeguarding vulnerable adults. This will change when the Care Act 2014 is implemented as it will be a statutory duty for Surrey County Council to ensure the Safeguarding Adults Board is in place and fulfilling its duties.

CONSULTATION:

6. The Annual Report has been written with contributions from the different agencies that comprise the Board. The final draft version was presented to members of the SSAB at the Board meeting in September 2014. The Lead Officer, David Sargeant is a member of the SSAB.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

7. There are no implications for risk management in the recommendations that the Cabinet is being asked to accept.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

8. The activities of SSAB are funded by Adult Social Care. The cost of running the Board is close to £220,000 per year.
9. Up until now, the costs of SSAB have been solely born by Adult Social Care, unlike the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board, The independent chair is working with the other members of the SSAB to agree multi agency contributions to fund the work of the statutory board from 1 April 2015.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

10. No significant financial issues arise from this report.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

11. The Care Act 2014 was enacted on 14 May 2014 and it will be implemented on 1 April 2015. Section 43 of the Act requires the local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (“SAB”) for its area.
12. The objective of the SSAB is to help and protect adults in its area who have health and social care and support needs, and who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect and, as a result of those needs, they are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
13. Schedule 2 of the Act sets out the requirements for membership of the SAB, its funding and other resources, the requirement for a strategic plan and the requirement for an Annual Report.
14. The SSAB must publish the Annual Report as soon as possible after the end of each financial year reporting on what it has done during the year to achieve its objective and to implement its strategy; what each member has done during the year to implement its strategy; the findings of the Safeguarding Adults Reviews held under section 44 that were concluded in that year and details of those which are still ongoing, and where it decides not to implement a finding of a review, the reasons for its decision.
15. The present Annual Report sets out to meet these requirements although the new Act is not yet in force.

Equalities and Diversity

16. The recommendations will have a positive impact on residents with different protected characteristics by making the activities of the Board more transparent. This is particularly important as safeguarding affects many people with protected characteristics. Older people are less likely to have internet access therefore the recommendation is for the report to be available in paper copies in each of Surrey's libraries.
17. No Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as it is not necessary in relation to an Annual Report.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

18. Acceptance of this Annual Report will support the safeguarding of vulnerable adults as it provides information on the performance of this activity in Surrey.

Public Health implications

19. Acceptance of this Annual Report will support public health because supporting vulnerable adults to live free from fear is essential to public health aims.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

20. If the recommendations are accepted by Cabinet the Board's Annual Report will be:
 - Placed on the SCC website
 - Sent in paper format to each Surrey library
 - Sent electronically to all Board members for them to cascade within their own agencies
 - Sent electronically to the Police Crime Commissioner
 - Sent electronically to Healthwatch
 - Sent electronically to the chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Simon Turpitt, Independent Chair of the SSAB has received this covering report.

Annexes:

Annex 1: SSAB Annual Report.

Sources/background papers:

Department of Health 'No Secrets' statutory guidance
Law Commission report on the law on Adult Social Care, 11 May 2011
Association of Directors of Social Services: Safeguarding Adults Advice Note April 2011
Department of Health: Statement of Government policy on adult safeguarding May 2011
Association of Directors of Social Services: Safeguarding Adults: Advice and Guidance to Directors of Adult Social Services, March 2013
Care Act 2014