



Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Summary Report – April 2014 to March 2015

1) Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This is a concise summary of the key issues, successes and challenges for the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) 2014 – 2015. This has been prepared by the Board for the Adult Social Care Select Committee.

2) Background

- 2.1 The Care Act made Safeguarding Adults Boards statutory from 1 April 2015 onwards. Prior to that legislation, it was a local decision as to whether a Safeguarding Adults Board would be in place. In Surrey, there has been a Safeguarding Adults Board voluntarily in place for more than 10 years. The Board has had a Strategic Plan, published Annual Reports and undertaken and published Serious Case Reviews.
- 2.2 The main objective of Safeguarding Adults Board, as set out in the Care Act, is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who meet the criteria. The criteria is an adult aged 18 years or older who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

3) SSAB

- 3.1 The SSAB is a multi-agency strategic, rather than operational, partnership made up of senior officers from a range of agencies including Adult Social Care, Health, Police, District and Borough Councils, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service. The Board additionally has members from service user representative groups in the voluntary sector who have an important influence on the Board. The Board met 3 times in 2014-2015 and its work was supported by the Business Management Group and a number of sub-committees.

4) Priorities 2014-2015

- 4.1 Preparing to become statutory and fulfil the requirements of the Care Act.
- 4.2 Safeguarding adults at risk especially those who are self funders or hard to reach.
- 4.3 Supporting agencies implement the Mental Capacity Act.
- 4.4 Ensuring Making Safeguarding Personal is implemented in Surrey
- 4.5 Supporting partners workforce development

5) Achievements 2014-2015

- 5.1 SSAB has comprehensively revised its accountability framework. All agencies have agreed to the Board's new Constitution, Risk reporting and dispute resolution processes. This increases the multi-agency accountability for safeguarding adults.
- 5.2 SSAB has undertaken many activities to raise awareness of adult safeguarding. This includes an independently evaluated campaign led by ASC Communications team, quarterly newsletters distributed to over 900 individuals, distributed leaflets, attended events such as the University of Surrey event and Surrey Information Summit.
- 5.3 All SSAB agencies have agreed to implement the new multi agency performance management framework. This includes submitting safeguarding data to the Board and this will enable the Board to hold agencies to account for the delivery of safeguarding and to better share learning to improve practice.
- 5.4 SSAB agencies have agreed contributions to a pooled budget. This will share responsibility for the Board as recommended by the Peer Review team that were invited by ASC to review safeguarding in March/April 2014.
- 5.5 All SSAB statutory agencies have voluntarily undertaken a self assessment of their adults safeguarding and implemented action plans. They took part in a 'Challenge and Support' day to share learning and agree priority actions.
- 5.6 SSAB agencies have actively implemented action plans from Serious Case Reviews. The Board has introduced a new process to ensure actions are embedded and reviewed 6 months later. This has supported Board agencies to ensure a learning culture is part of their everyday safeguarding activities.
- 5.7 SSAB has an agreed multi-agency training framework in place including a Competency Framework, multi-agency classroom based training courses and DVDs to support individual agencies learning.

6) Key Challenges 2014-2015

- 6.1 SSAB has faced several challenges in delivering the Work Plan for 2014-2015. Generally, in Surrey we have an older and wealthier population than many other areas. This means there are more people who fund their own care and who require safeguarding but who are not known to ASC. This means partner agencies have to continually do more to raise awareness of safeguarding to get the message to those who are hard to reach.
- 6.2 Safeguarding statutory guidance was not available until late October 2014 with some of the supporting documents only published in February and March 2015. This put a considerable pressure on agencies to respond to this important piece of safeguarding adult's legislation that made substantial changes to the way agencies are expected to prevent and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- 6.3 Changes in chairs on SSAB sub-committees have resulted in occasional delays in implementing individual work programmes and in some cases actions have had to be carried forward to the next year. In addition, staff changes during the year have resulted in 18 agencies on the Board having new people representing safeguarding at a strategic level.
- 6.4 Making less money go further - a pressure on all services when expectations have risen.

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