

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2015****REPORT OF: MEL FEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE****LEAD OFFICER: DAVID SARGEANT, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE****SUBJECT: SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) was a voluntary and not statutory, multi agency Board during the time covered by the Annual Report 2014-2015.

The Board 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) became a statutory board from 1 April 2015 as part of the implementation of the Care Act 2014. It will be a statutory requirement for the Board to publish an Annual Report next year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

1. Considers and notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report prior to it being published.
2. Agrees the next steps for the publication of the Annual report.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

These recommendations demonstrate that the Council is well placed to fulfil its obligations under the Care Act to have an established Safeguarding Adults Board in its area.

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.

<b>DETAILS:</b>
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## **Background**

1. Surrey has had a Safeguarding Adults Board in place for over a decade. The Board was originally set up under the Department of Health guidance: 'No Secrets' (March 2000). It has had 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.
2. Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board has presented its Annual Report to Cabinet for the last five years. This is a voluntary arrangement, however, in future years it will be a statutory requirement under the Care Act for the Annual Report to be sent to the Chief Executive and Leader of the local authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable, Healthwatch; and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. Whilst the period covered by this Annual Report is prior to the introduction of the Care Act, much work has been done during this time by the Independent Chair, Adult Social Care and partner agencies to prepare the Board for becoming statutory in April 2015. This has included sharing financial responsibility for supporting the Board with a pooled budget and introducing two new positions to provide support for the Board's functions.
4. The Board would like to support elected members to have a good understanding of the range of abuse and neglect issues that can affect adults and of the importance of balancing safeguarding with empowerment, as required by the Care Act (Section 14.193 of the statutory guidance). It is anticipated the Annual Report will increase that understanding.

## **Safeguarding children and adults**

5. Surrey has had a statutory Safeguarding Children's Board in place since 2004. The legislative framework for safeguarding children is different from that of safeguarding adults. However, one of the aims of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to ensure elected members and the public are as well informed on safeguarding adults as safeguarding children. This will increase confidence that people living in Surrey are safeguarded irrespective of their age.

## **Care Act 2014**

6. The Care Act states that each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (a 'SAB') for its area. The objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults in its area in cases of the kind described in section 42(1) of the legislation (this is set out in paragraph 7 below). The way in which a SAB must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does. A SAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective.
7. Section 42(1) of the Care Act describes the adults that must be protected by safeguarding as: an adult in the Local Authority area (whether or not ordinarily resident there who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) and 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.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

8. The Annual Report is a description of the Board's activities and challenges faced during the year. It will be shared with all partner members of the Board and made available to the public.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

9. There are no implications within this report.

#### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

10. The activities of SSAB were funded by Adult Social Care during 2014/15. The cost of running the Board is budgeted to be £290,000 per year. This includes costs for the Independent Chair, support staff, Serious Case Reviews, training, conferences etc.
11. A pooled budget with financial contributions from Police, health services, District and Borough Councils has been put in place from April 2015. This ensures partner agencies have greater responsibility for the functioning of the Board. This is similar to the way the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board is financed. Surrey County Council contributes £117,450 (40.5%) towards the Board's overall running costs. This contribution is funded out of the Care Act revenue element of Surrey's Better Care Fund.

#### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

12. No significant financial issues arise from this report.

#### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

13. The Annual Report which members are asked to note summarises work carried out by SSAB under Department of Health Guidance rather than legislative requirements. It is therefore presented to Members for information and signifies to them that the SSAB has been working in line with established good practice.
14. The implementation of the Care Act 2014 puts the safeguarding of adults on a statutory basis. The Annual Report demonstrates that SSAB is prepared for the new statutory requirements. Next year the Authority will be under an obligation to consider fully the contents of the report and how it can improve its contributions to both safeguarding throughout its own organisation and to the joint work of the Board.

#### **Equalities and Diversity**

15. 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.

#### **Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications**

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

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

17. The Board's Annual Report will be:

- Presented to the Social Care Services Board
- Placed on the Surrey County Council website
- Signposted in the Surrey Safeguarding Adults newsletter
- 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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#### **Annexes:**

Annex 1: Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014 - 2015.

#### **Sources/background papers:**

- Department of Health 'No Secrets' statutory guidance
- Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance Issued under the Care Act 2014 by the Department of Health
- Association of Directors of Social Services: Safeguarding Adults: Advice and Guidance to Directors of Adult Social Services, March 2013
- Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan