

Health and Wellbeing Board
10 December 2015

Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-2015

Purpose of the report:

By receiving this Annual Report, the Health and Wellbeing Board will be informed of the activity and progress in relation to safeguarding adults in Surrey.

Introduction:

1. Safeguarding the Population is one of the five priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi agency Board constituted specifically to safeguard adults in Surrey who are at risk of abuse and neglect. The Safeguarding Adults Board has identified the need to maintain effective links with the Health and Wellbeing Board as supporting one of its key priorities. The Annual Report 2014 -2015 for the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board is at Annex 1.

Purpose of the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board

Background

3. 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.
4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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

7. 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

8. 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 9 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.
9. 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 as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against abuse or neglect, or the risk of abuse or neglect.

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| Conclusions: |
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By receiving this Annual Report, the Health and Wellbeing Board will be informed of activity and progress in relation to safeguarding adults in Surrey.

Recommendations

Board Members are asked to take the Annual Report back to their respective organisations and consider any implications on service development and working practices which their organisation should act upon.

Next steps:

- i. Board Members are asked to contact Independent chair of Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board if there are any further questions.
- ii. Board Members are asked to take the Annual Report's priorities back to their respective organisations and consider the implications on service development and working practices which their organisation should act upon supporting and where appropriate implementing.
- iii. To identify whether there are any areas where the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board and the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Boards need to work together to deliver their mutual priorities.

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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

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