

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



## CABINET

**DATE:** 26 OCTOBER 2021

**REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER:** SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

**LEAD OFFICER:** SIMON WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

**SUBJECT:** SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

**ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA:** TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITY/ EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is a statutory multi-agency Board with responsibilities set out in the Care Act 2014.

The Board is chaired by an independent chair, Mr Simon Turpitt.

There is a statutory duty for all Safeguarding Adult Board's to publish an annual report.

To support the transparency of the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Annual Report 2020/21 is presented to Cabinet (Annex 1).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet considers and notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2020/2021.

#### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This recommendation demonstrates that the Council is fulfilling its statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014 in having established a 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 and its strategic plan.

#### DETAILS:

1. Surrey has had a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in place for over a decade with the Board being statutory since the implementation of the Care Act in April 2014. The primary duty of the SAB 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. The Board would like to support elected Members, as community leaders, 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.

3. The report highlights the work of the Board over the past year in relation the strategic priorities
  - Prevent Abuse and Neglect
  - Improve the management and response to safeguarding concerns and enquiries
  - Learn lessons and shape future practice
4. The report also includes data from Surrey County Council Adult Social Care, Surrey Police and Trading Standards. SSAB agencies were asked to contribute to the report and highlight their achievements and challenges within the 20/21 year in relation to their safeguarding adult's work.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

5. The Annual Report is a description of the Board's activities and challenges faced during the year. As a multi-agency report, members of the Board were invited to contribute.

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

6. There are no implications within this report.

#### **FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

7. The SAB budget in 2020/21 was £298,555. A pooled budget is managed by Surrey County Council with contributions from the County Council, Police, NHS organisations and District & Borough Councils. This arrangement ensures partner agencies have greater responsibility for the functioning of the Board.
8. Expenditure of the Board includes costs for the Independent Chair, support staff, Safeguarding Adults Reviews (previously called Serious Case Reviews), training, conferences, awareness raising, etc. If the Board's costs exceed the budget in a given year, then partners would be asked to make additional contributions in line with their funding shares, although this is very unlikely to happen based on past experience. It was agreed by partners that £50,000 would be carried forward in the 2021/22 budget to ensure that sufficient funds were available to cover the cost of the agreed Safeguarding Adults Reviews. If there is an underspend in a given year, partners will agree how this money is managed under the Memorandum of Understanding that is under development.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY**

9. Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial outlook is uncertain. The public health crisis has resulted in increased costs which are not fully funded in the current year. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected from next year onward, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report. The pooled budget arrangement for the operation of the Board is a good example of effective joint working across Surrey and given constrained public sector funding it will be important that all partners continue to contribute their agreed funding shares. The Section 151 Office can confirm that Surrey County Council's funding share is planned for within the Council's Adult Social Care budget.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER**

10. The production and publication of the Annual Report is a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014.

#### **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY**

11. The publication of the report 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.

12. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this Report.

#### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below
Environmental sustainability	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

#### **SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADULTS' IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

14. The Board's Annual Report will be:
- Published on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board website
  - Circulated with the Surrey SAB newsletter
  - Distributed to:
    - Chief Exec of the Council and Leader of the Council
    - Board members for them to cascade within their own agencies
    - The Police and Crime Commissioner
    - The Chief Constable
    - Healthwatch Surrey
  - Presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board by the SAB Independent Chair

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**Consulted:**

As a multi-agency report all members of the Board were invited to contribute.

**Annexes:**

Annex 1: Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/2021

**Sources/background papers:**

- 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 and Annual Plan