

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 25 OCTOBER 2022****REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH****LEAD OFFICER: LIZ BRUCE, JOINT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING****SUBJECT: SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

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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 2021/22 is presented to Cabinet (Annex 1).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet considers and notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2021/22.

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.

Executive Summary:

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 2015. 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. SSAB agencies were asked to contribute to the report and highlight their achievements and challenges within the 21/22 year in relation to their safeguarding adults work as well as members of a newly established Engagement Forum

Consultation:

5. The Annual Report is a description of the Safeguarding Adults 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 2021/22 was £298,605. 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. 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 to improve the Council's financial position, the financial environment remains challenging. The UK is experiencing the highest levels of inflation for decades, putting significant pressure on the cost of delivering our services. Coupled with continued increasing demand and fixed Government funding this requires an increased focus on financial management to ensure we can continue to deliver services within available funding. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2022/23 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, 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.

10. 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 Adults Social Care budget.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer:

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

Equalities and Diversity:

12. 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.

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

Other Implications:

14. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No Implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	The Annual Report will support the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs as it provides information on the performance of this activity in Surrey and the strategic plan.
Environmental sustainability	No Implications
Compliance against net-zero emissions target and future climate compatibility/resilience	No Implications
Public Health	No Implications

What Happens Next:

The Board's Annual Report will be:

- Published on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board website
- Circulated within 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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Report Author:

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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 2021/2022

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