

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET**

DATE:	25 JUNE 2024
REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER:	SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE
LEAD OFFICER:	HELEN COOMBES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADULTS, WELLBEING AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS
SUBJECT:	SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23
ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA:	NO ONE LEFT BEHIND / TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITY / EMPOWERED AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

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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, Teresa Bell.

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 2022/23 is presented to Cabinet (Annex 1).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet considers and notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2022/23.

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. 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 22/23 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 2022/23 was £348,667. 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, 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 2022/23 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. The Council continues to operate in a very challenging financial environment. Local authorities across the country are experiencing significant budgetary pressures. Surrey County Council has made significant progress in recent years to improve the Council's financial resilience and whilst this has built a stronger financial base from which to deliver our services, the cost-of-service delivery, increasing demand, financial uncertainty and government policy changes mean we continue to face challenges to our financial position. This requires an increased focus on financial management to protect service delivery, a continuation of the need to deliver financial efficiencies and reduce spending in order to achieve a balanced budget position each year.
10. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2024/25 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 the stable provision of services in the medium term.

11. 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:

12. S43 Care Act 2014 requires a local authority to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board to help to protect adults who have needs for care and support and who are experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect. The Surrey Safeguarding Board annual report summarises the work that has been done by the Board and enables the Cabinet to be satisfied that the Council's duty is being met.

Equalities and Diversity:

13. 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.

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

Other Implications:

15. 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 significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Environmental sustainability	No significant implications arising from this report
Compliance against net-zero emissions target and future climate compatibility/resilience	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

What Happens Next:

16. The Board's Annual Report has already been circulated/ actioned as below:

- 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 – SSAB 2022/23 Annual Report

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