

Combined Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Partnership - Formal (public)

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) Annual Report 2023/24 and future plans
HWBS/Surrey Heartlands IC Strategy priority populations:	All The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) works collaboratively across statutory, voluntary and third sector organisations to enable people in Surrey to live a life free from abuse and neglect.
Assessed Need including link to HWBS Priority - 1, 2 and/or 3/IC Strategy Ambition 1 and/or 2:	Priority 3 / Ambition 1 - Prevention
HWBS or IC Strategy Outcome(s):	People are safe and feel safe
HWBS system capabilities/IC Strategy Ambition 3 enablers:	Empowered and Thriving Communities / Working with Communities
HWBS/IC Strategy Principles for Working with Communities:	Community capacity building – ‘Building trust and relationships’ Co-designing - ‘Deciding together’
Interventions for reducing health inequalities:	
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Sponsor(s)/Champions:	Cllr Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Surrey County Council
HWB/ICP meeting date:	11 December 2024
Related HWB/ICP papers:	N/A
Annexes/Appendices:	Annex 1 - Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24

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2. Executive summary

The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is a statutory multi-agency Board with responsibilities set out in the Care Act 2014. The primary duty of the SSAB 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. The Board is chaired by an independent chair, Teresa Bell.

SSAB submits its 2023/24 annual report and identifies opportunities for enhanced collaboration across the Surrey system within its 4 priorities in 2024/25.

3. Recommendations

The HWB and Surrey Heartlands ICP are asked to:

1. Consider and note the attached SSAB's Annual Report for 2023/24.
2. Consider how they can support SSAB's 'Journey for 2024/25'.

4. Reason for Recommendations

Consideration of the annual report 2023/24 by the HWB Board and Surrey Heartlands ICP supports SSAB in being transparent by providing information to the public via this combined meeting on the performance of SSAB and its strategic plan.

The SSAB requires support from system partners for its 'Journey for 2024/25'.

5. Detail

The Board would like to support HWB and ICP 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.

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.

The report also includes data from a number of our partners including Surrey County Council Adult Social Care, Surrey Police and Trading Standards. All SSAB agencies were asked to contribute to the report and highlight their achievements and challenges within the 23/24 year in relation to their safeguarding adults duty.

6. Opportunities/Challenges

Challenges

The section on SSAB Member Updates includes a summary from each partner agency on their identified challenges. These inform our action planning and risk register. The challenge of meeting statutory duties and keeping people safe in the context of

increasing demand and complexity of concerns, under the pressure of resource constraints across the sector, remains the partnership's greatest challenge.

Opportunities

The opportunities for system working with the HWB/ICP in 2024/25 include support for the following SSAB actions:

Priority 1:

Prevention and Awareness

- Improve community awareness including using available opportunities to increase public involvement, and to engage media interest.
- Ensure the role of carers and the challenges they face are recognised and action is taken to prevent carer breakdown and abuse/neglect.
- Support the use of best practice to reduce avoidable safeguarding incidents.
- Highlight neglect and acts of omission issues and develop stronger mechanisms to address these

Priority 2:

Communication and Engagement

- Coordinate the development and delivery of an annual communication strategy that sets out what the SSAB will do.
- Focusing on key messages, target audiences, ensuring that the message has been delivered.
- Develop a model to gain the voice of adults with care and support needs and carers, and link with existing services and groups.
- Work closely with other Boards to ensure smarter working, eliminate duplication, and share Surrey wide comms benefits.

Priority 3:

Quality and Improvement

- Identify from audits and available data trends and research, adults in need of care and support who are or have been experiencing abuse or neglect (increase in neglect, and abuse in people's own homes) this will help drive our workplans and agenda.
- Develop an assurance process to capture the voice of people with lived experience, particularly in respect of making safeguarding personal, and using this to drive practice improvements.

Priority 4:

Reflection and Learning

- Disseminate learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other statutory reviews to ensure that learning is embedded across the partnership.
- Share learnings, be they good practice or areas of development.

7. Timescale and delivery plan

The Board's Annual Report has been presented to SCC Cabinet for agreement on 29 October 2024.

The report will now be:

- Published on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board website.
- Circulated with the Surrey SAB newsletter.

8. What communications and engagement has happened/needs to happen?

See 'Journey for 2024/25' regarding a communication strategy above.

SSAB will coordinate the development and delivery of an annual communication strategy in 2024/25. We will do this by:

- Continuing to progress our existing communication strategy with key agencies and partners – via newsletters, social media and stronger links with agencies' comms leads.
- Ensure that the communication strategy includes key message and target audiences, such as homelessness and lived experience and learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

SSAB will develop a model to gain the voice of adults with care and support needs and carers, linking with existing services and groups. We will do this by:

- Mapping existing networks that gain the voice of the adult with care and support needs and carers.
- Working with existing networks to gain the voice of the adult/carer regards the SSAB comms work.
- Creating a clear pathway for homeless adults with care and support needs in regard to safeguarding concerns and gaining their voice.
- Further developing links with existing groups to inform our quality assurance processes.

9. Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

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 Surrey County Council to be satisfied that the Council's duty is being met.

10. Next steps

The Board's Annual Report will be circulated as follows:

- Published on the SSAB website.
- Circulated with the SSAB newsletter.
- Distributed to:
 - Chief Executive 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.

Actions included in our 'Journey for 2024/25' will be progressed.

Questions to guide discussion:

- How will the HWB and ICP use this SSAB report to inform their work?
- How can the HWB and ICP support SSAB's 'Journey for 2024/25'?
- Have you any suggestions for how we might increase the influence and voices of people with lived experience in our adult safeguarding work?

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