

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET**

DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

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, 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 2019/2020 is presented to Cabinet (Annex 1).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet considers and notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2019/2020.

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. The Board has been 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. Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board has presented its Annual Report annually to Cabinet for the past 10 years.
3. It is a statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014 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.

4. 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.

Care Act 2014

5. The Care Act states each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board for its area. The objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults with care and support needs in its area from abuse and neglect. 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.
6. 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,
 - is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
 - as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

CONSULTATION:

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

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

8. There are no implications within this report.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

9. The SAB budget in 2019/20 was £288,500. The budget has been increased to £298,500 in 2020/21 as an additional partner organisation has agreed to make a contribution. 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.
10. 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, the Council would retain the

funding in the pooled budget and carry this forward with partner contributions then reduced accordingly in the next financial year.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

11. 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.
12. 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

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

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

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

SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADULTS IMPLICATIONS

16. 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:

17. The Board's Annual Report will be:
 - Published on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board website
 - Circulated with the Surrey SAB newsletter
 - Distributed to:
 - 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

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

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

Annexes:

Annex 1: Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/2020

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
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