

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

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>29 OCTOBER 2024</b>
<b>REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>CLAIRE EDGAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADULTS, WELLBEING AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SURREY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24</b>
<b>ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA:</b>	<b>NO ONE LEFT BEHIND / TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITY / EMPOWERED AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES</b>

<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>
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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 2023/24 is presented to Cabinet (Annex 1).

<b>Recommendations:</b>
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It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet considers and notes the attached Surrey Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2023/24.

<b>Reason for Recommendations:</b>
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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.

<b>Executive Summary:</b>
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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, NHS Providers, HMP Probation Service and Trading Standards. SSAB agencies were asked to contribute to the report and highlight their achievements and challenges within the 2023/24 year in relation to their safeguarding adult's work.
5. Key learning includes the importance of multi-agency collaboration between health services, police, housing, and social care to address complex safeguarding issues, including domestic abuse, self-neglect, and mental health challenges. Safeguarding Adults Reviews highlighted recurring themes such as neglect and mental health crises, emphasising the need for early intervention and coordinated agency responses. Training initiatives, which engaged over 835 participants, reinforced safeguarding practices, particularly focusing on Making Safeguarding Personal.
6. Key outcomes include strengthened safeguarding responses due to improved collaboration across agencies, leading to better management of complex cases. Enhanced training programs resulted in 97% participant satisfaction, with improvements in safeguarding awareness. The implementation of SAR recommendations will support the development of more effective responses to safeguarding concerns and increased engagement across the county. These efforts will establish a stronger foundation for proactive safeguarding measures in the future.

#### **Consultation:**

7. 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:**

8. There are no implications within this report.

### **Financial and Value for Money Implications:**

9. The current annual contribution agreed across partners for the Surrey Adult Safeguarding Board (SAB) is £348,065. The pooled budget is managed by Surrey County Council. Currently the County Council contributes £117,500 (£34%), Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board £117,450 (34%), Surrey Police £79,000 (22%) and the remaining £34,655 (10%) is funded by District & Borough Councils and other health organisations in Surrey.
10. 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.
11. In 2023/24 £260,569 was spent on the Board's activities, which represented an underspend of £88,036 against the £348,065 of contributions received from partners. This amount was carried forward in the pooled budget alongside surplus funds from previous years. In total this meant at the end of the 2023/24 financial year there was £262,135 of funding held in the pooled budget to cover the costs of the SAB in future years. It is anticipated that some of this funding will need to be used to cover SAB costs in 2024/25 above the annual contributions received from partners, including costs of Safeguarding Adults Reviews that commenced in previous years. The use of the remaining surplus funds will be confirmed by partners through the SAB's agreed governance, which could include returning some funding to partners in line with the % funding contributions to the SAB.

### **Section 151 Officer Commentary:**

12. 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.
13. 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.

14. 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:**

15. 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 Care Act 2014 Schedule 2 (4)(1) requires the Safeguarding Adults Board to publish an annual report summarising the work that has been done by the Board, this report demonstrates to the Cabinet this duty is being met.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

16. 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.

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

**Other Implications:**

18. 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.

<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	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:**

19. The Board's Annual Report once accepted by Cabinet will be circulated/ actioned as below:

- Published on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board website.
  - Circulated with the Surrey SAB 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
  - 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 2023/24 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
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