

From: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 18 January 2022

Subject: **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board 7 December 2021

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board’s (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2020–March 2021. The Annual Report sets out the responsibilities and structure of the Board and details how the multi-agency partnership delivered against its priorities for the year. The report also provides information pertaining to Safeguarding Adults Reviews, funding arrangements and safeguarding activity information. An easy read version of the report will be commissioned and will be made available on the Board’s website. The Annual Report was endorsed by the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board on 7 December 2021.

Recommendation(s): The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, 2020 – 2021, attached as appendix A.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 made it a requirement for each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). Kent County Council’s duty is met through a joint Board with Medway Council; the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB).
- 1.2 The KMSAB does not provide frontline services, it has a strategic role which is “greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners”¹. The KMSAB sets the strategic direction for adult safeguarding in Kent and Medway and seeks assurance and provides challenge to ensure that adult safeguarding arrangements in Kent and Medway are in place, are effective and are person centred and outcome focused. The KMSAB membership works collaboratively to raise awareness of adult safeguarding and prevent abuse and neglect.

¹ [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#) (14.134)

1.3 Under the Care Act 2014, the KMSAB has three core duties, it must:

1. Publish a strategic plan to set out how it will meet its main objectives and what members will do to achieve this. The KMSAB Strategic Plan is available on the link below:
<https://kmsab.org.uk/p/about-kmsab-1/annual-report-and-strategic-plan-1>
2. Publish an Annual Report detailing what the Board has done during the year to achieve its main objectives and implement its Strategic Plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy, as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews and subsequent actions
3. Conduct any [Safeguarding Adults Review](#) in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.

1.4 The Care Act 2014 states that, once the Annual Report is published, it must be submitted to:

- the Chief Executive (where one is in situ) and Leader of the Council
- the local Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
- the local Healthwatch
- the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.5 The supporting statutory guidance states that “it is expected that those organisations will fully consider the contents of the report and how they can improve their contributions to both safeguarding throughout their own organisation and to the joint work of the Board”. As such, this report presents the 2020 - 2021 Annual Report to Kent County Council’s Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee.

2. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020 – 2021

2.1 The Annual Report details how the Board delivered against its strategic priorities of ‘prevention’, ‘awareness’ and ‘quality’ during 2020 – 2021. Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Board’s Business Unit developed and promoted a Coronavirus advice section on its website, providing a central repository and to share relevant information, advice, support and guidance in relation to adult safeguarding and the COVID pandemic. Key messages were also shared through the Board’s newsletter
- The Board’s multiagency training programme was adapted so it could be delivered through a video conferencing platform, rather than classroom based. For the seven-month timeframe from September 2020 to the end of March 2021 a total of 51 training workshops took place with 576 delegates participating. The training was closely

aligned to the Board's priorities and learning from safeguarding adult reviews. Feedback from delegates presented a positive picture in relation to the quality of training, increase in knowledge and how learning is embedded into practice

- In response to the learning gained from ongoing Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), the Practice, Policy and Procedures Working Group strengthened the "[Kent and Medway multi-agency resolving practitioner differences; escalation policy for referrals and adult safeguarding](#)" document to cover differences of opinion when agencies are referring clients between each other. It emphasised that, in situations where the escalation process is required, the agency making the original referral should maintain case oversight until resolution is agreed. A flow chart was added for ease of reference
- It is a requirement of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance that all relevant Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) partners must have policies and procedures, in line with those of Safeguarding Adults Boards, for responding to concerns against any person who works with adults, in either a paid or unpaid capacity, in positions of trust. Previously the Board's main policy document included a section on this, however due to changes in working practices and to offer more guidance for all agencies, the Board developed a stand-alone policy 'Managing Concerns around People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT)' to set out agencies' responsibilities
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board members chose to align with the national Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week, established by the [Ann Craft Trust](#). The purpose of the week was to share messages with the public on how to recognise and report abuse and neglect, and to highlight the support and services available for those at risk or experiencing abuse. Unlike previous years, the pandemic response meant that the Board was mainly reliant on social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, to raise awareness. A social media content plan, setting out the messages to be sent by partner agencies' communication teams, was developed and shared
- The new Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board website was launched as part of Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week. This significantly improved the accessibility and availability of Board information, as previously information was on different pages on Kent County Council's website, making it hard for practitioners and members of the public to find. As at November 2021, the home page had been accessed 494,006 times
- Two 'virtual' safeguarding adults awareness briefings, hosted by the then Independent Chair of the Board, Deborah Stuart Angus, were held in October 2020. The briefing sessions were aimed at non-

partner organisations who work closely with their local communities (e.g. charities, faith organisations, advocacy, businesses). Again, the emphasis was on raising awareness about the types of abuse, channels for reporting concerns, and to encourage agencies, organisations and businesses to evaluate their internal processes to safeguard adults at risk. Case studies were used to generate discussion and to help embed the knowledge shared. The events attracted over 60 attendees and feedback received during and after the event was very positive

- The Board's main leaflet, which explains how to recognise and report abuse, was translated into the 18 languages most commonly spoken across Kent and Medway, to help all communities raise awareness of the signs of abuse and how to report it. The leaflet is also available in easy read.

2.2 Eight Safeguarding Adults' Reviews (SARs) have been published since the last annual report. Further details of the reviews, and learning from these, are set out in section three of the annual report, but in summary priority learning for partner agencies relates to:

- Legal literacy – in particular the application of the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Capacity Assessments for individuals who may have fluctuating capacity
- Professional curiosity - the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value
- Making Safeguarding Personal - professionals working with adults at risk to ensure that they are making a difference to their lives. Considering, with them, what matters to them so that the interventions are personal and meaningful
- Agency collaboration/multiagency working - how agencies work together to support adults at risk with complex needs.

2.3 In addition, the annual report contains examples of work being undertaken by the Board, and partner agencies, to address other recommendations arising from SARs, including:

- Exploring the reasons why people may not wish, or feel able to, engage with services
- Raising awareness of the escalation policy
- Exploring the barriers to the use of the Kent and Medway Multi-agency policy to support people that self-neglect or demonstrate hoarding behaviour

- Ensuring that organisations recognise the rights of carers to a carers assessment
- Safe discharge from hospitals.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The KMSAB Annual Report is funded by the KMSAB. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 During 2020-2021, KMSAB and our partner agencies have built on the good work from the previous year. The Board has continued with its scrutiny and challenge role and continues to share vital messaging on how to recognise and respond to adult safeguarding concerns.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Recommendations: The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, 2020 – 2021, attached as appendix A.

6. Background Documents

Care and Support Statutory Guidance. [Care and Support Statutory Guidance \(14.134\)](#)

10. Contact details

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