

From: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 18 January 2023

Subject: Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: None

Future Pathway of report: Kent Health and Wellbeing Board – April 2023

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board’s Annual Report for April 2021–March 2022. 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 and safeguarding activity information.

Recommendation(s): The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, 2021 – 2022, 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. [Care and Support Statutory Guidance \(14.134\)](#)

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

- Publish a strategic plan to set out how it will meet its main objectives and what members will do to achieve this. The newly developed 2022-2025 strategic plan is available on the link below:
<https://kmsab.org.uk/p/about-kmsab-1/annual-report-and-strategic-plan>
- Publish an Annual Report to detail 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.
- 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; and
- 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 2021 - 2022 Annual Report to the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee.

2. KMSAB Annual Report 2021 – 2022

2.1 The Annual Report details how the Board delivered against its strategic priorities of ‘prevention’, ‘awareness’ and ‘quality’ during 2021 – 2022. Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Board commissioned a translation of its ‘Adult abuse and what to do about it’ leaflet into Ukrainian. This was completed and made available on the KMSAB website in April 2022. In addition, hard copies of the leaflet were printed so that these could be shared with Ukrainian families.
- The Board continued to deliver its multiagency training programme. Between April 2021 – March 2022, 59 workshops were held, with 683 delegates participating. The training was closely aligned to the Board’s priorities and learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR). Feedback from delegates presented a positive picture in relation to the quality of training, increase in knowledge and how learning is embedded into practice.

- As a result of feedback received from attendees and the training provider, the half-day workshop on self-neglect and hoarding was extended to a full day session, from September 2021. The expansion allowed the learning objectives to be covered in more depth, reflecting the complexities of the topic and the learning from SARs. Additional self-neglect and hoarding workshops were commissioned to meet demand.
- Quality assurance activity identified a need to produce guidance for professionals to help them prevent adults from going missing from health and care settings, and to ensure people who go missing are found safely and are supported on their return. To address this, members of the Practice Policies and Procedures Working Group developed a protocol document "[multi-agency response for adults missing from health and care settings](#)".
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board member's 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. The national campaign reached over 79.4 million people through Twitter hashtags, with 59.5 thousand interactions and 47.4 thousand shares. By comparison, in 2020 the reach was 12.5 million and in 2019, 5.5 million. Locally, there were 3890 visits to the KMSAB webpages during the week, with 779 clicks to the 'report abuse page' and 510 visits to the 'useful resources for the public' page. Public facing events included attendance at coffee mornings and information stands at supermarkets and shopping centres.
- Public engagement activity continued throughout the year, for example, members of the KMSAB Business Unit hosted a stand at the Kent Police Open Day, where 14,000 members of the public were in attendance. The aim was to speak to members of the public, share safeguarding resources and raise awareness of how to recognise and respond to adult safeguarding concerns. Approximately 700 people visited the stand and engaged with the facilitators. When compared to the previous week's figures, there was a 35% (344 views to 465) increase in visits to KMSAB webpages in the week following the event.
- The Board Business Unit launched quarterly 'KMSAB open forum sessions', providing an opportunity for anyone with an interest in adult safeguarding to hear from people with a lived experience of safeguarding, and other subject matter experts. The following sessions were held in 2021-2022:
 - Safeguarding Adults Awareness – two sessions aimed at the charity and voluntary sector.
 - Sharing learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
 - The Mental Capacity Act 2005.

- One of the themes identified in safeguarding adults reviews was the need to promote a person centred approach, making safeguarding personal. A dedicated page on the KMSAB website was developed to share the substantial amount of high-quality resources which had been produced by other leads, such as the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Social Care Institute for Excellence, and the Local Government Association.
- During 2021-2022, members of the Quality Assurance Working Group (QAWG) continued to implement the quality assurance framework, which sets out the methods and tools used to measure effectiveness of partners' safeguarding activity. One of the quality assurance tools is the 'Self-Assessment Framework' (SAF). All agencies represented on the Board are asked to complete an annual SAF, a series of questions to measure progress against key quality standards. The purpose is to enable them to evaluate the effectiveness of their internal safeguarding arrangements and identify and prioritise areas needing further development. The standards are informed by national good practice, learning from SARs, any new legislation and guidance, policy and practice and feedback from service users and carers. In 2021 the number of agencies required to complete the SAF was increased, to include the 12 district/borough councils in Kent. North-East London NHS Foundation Trust and G4S (patient transfer services) were also asked to complete a return, as they were each involved in a SAR, commissioned by the Board.

2.2 Twelve SARs have been published since the last annual report. Further details of the reviews, learning from these, and actions taken by the Board, are set out in section three of the annual report. In summary, recommendations relate to:

- Identifying and responding to self-neglect and hoarding.
- Raising awareness of KMSAB policies and procedures.
- Working with individuals who are dependent on alcohol or substances.
- Suicide prevention.
- 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.
- Ensuring that organisations recognise the rights of carers to a carers assessment.
- Safe discharge from hospitals.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 During 2021-2022, 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.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Recommendation: The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, 2021 – 2022, attached as appendix A.

5. Background Documents

None

6. Report Author

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