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To: County Council – 7 December 2017

Subject: **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2016 – MARCH 2017**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Annual Report April 2016–March 2017, which details the work of the multi-agency partnership and how it managed safeguarding adult’s issues in 2016-2017. The report provides safeguarding activity information and also contains key statements from partner organisations regarding how they dealt with safeguarding issues in their respective agencies and outlines key priorities for the year ahead.

Recommendations: County Council is asked to **COMMENT** on the progress and improvements made during 2016-17, as detailed in the Annual Report from the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and **ENDORSE** the 2016-17 Annual Report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the 2016-2017 Annual Report (attached as Appendix 1) produced by Deborah Stuart-Angus, the Independent Chair of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) and endorsed by members of that Board.
- 1.2 Following the Care Act 2014 safeguarding adults is now a statutory responsibility for all Agencies, with Local Authorities taking the lead. Safeguarding continues to be the major priority of the Adult Social Care and Health Directorate. In meeting this responsibility, it is essential that the Directorate plays a key role in the workings of the KMSAB.
- 1.3 The KMSAB works to make sure that all agencies are working together to help keep Kent and Medway's adults safe from harm and to protect the rights of citizens, in line with the Care Act 2014 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

1.4 The enactment and implementation of the Care Act 2014, placed Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory basis from April 2015. The Care Act (14.116) states that the following organisations **must** be represented on the Safeguarding Adults Board:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Groups in the Local Authority's area
- Police

1.5 The Care Act (14.10) also requires that each Local Authority **must**:

- make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom
- set up a Safeguarding Adults Board
- arrange, where appropriate, for an independent advocate to represent and support an adult who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) where the adult has 'substantial difficulty' in being involved in the process and where there is no other suitable person to represent and support them
- co-operate with each of its relevant partners (as set out in Section 6 of the Care Act) in order to protect the adult. In their turn each relevant partner must also co-operate with the local authority.

1.6 In line with the Care Act 2014, the KMSAB is required to publish an Annual Report each financial year.

1.7 The following agencies are currently represented on the KMSAB: Medway Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Acute Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Community Health Trusts, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, NHS England, Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Prison Service, both Kent and Medway Community Safety Partnerships, Healthwatch, District Councils, Advocacy Services, Housing providers, elected Members from both Kent County Council and Medway Council and representatives from independent provider organisations.

1.8 The Care Act 2014 states that once the Annual Report is published, it should be submitted to the Chief Executive (where one is in situ) and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes

2.1 The work of the KMSAB, which is detailed within the Annual Report, plays a key role in supporting KCC's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes':

“Older and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently”.

3. The 2016–2017 Annual Report

3.1 The report contains a wealth of information from each of the key agencies engaged in the KMSAB.

3.2 Section 3 of the report details how the Board delivered against its priorities for 2016 – 2017. Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- Board members arranged and delivered a safeguarding adults awareness raising campaign from 3– 7 October 2016, it was centred on the theme “Abuse: See It, Report It, Stop It”. The campaign provided general information on how to identify and report abuse, and the support and services available for those at risk or experiencing abuse. The campaign received positive feedback and there has been an increase in referrals.
- The Learning and Development Working Group led on a significant project to review the course structure and content for the Board’s multi-agency training programme. The group designed a new training specification and drew up the commissioning and tender strategy for the new training offer. The tender process was successful a new provider was commissioned to deliver the training.
- In response to an increase in the number of commissioned SARs, the Board established a Safeguarding Adults Review Working Group to strengthen quality assurance processes and to oversee the progress of SAR action plans and related learning.
- A ‘Multi Agency Case Audit’ process has been established to create further scope for delivering learning from case analysis, enabling practice improvement and to deliver learning from the analysis of complex safeguarding cases.

3.3 Section 3 also provides an update on Safeguarding Adult Review activity. Five new SAR referrals were received in 2016-17 of these; two were commissioned as SARs, one was commissioned as a Domestic Homicide Review and the other two referrals did not meet the criteria and were managed through other processes.

3.4 One SAR, ‘Mrs D’, was completed during this reporting period, the executive summary, detailing the findings was published in June 2017 and is available at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/information-for-professionals/adult-protection/safeguarding-adult-reviews>. The lessons from all Kent and Medway SARs and from other

National SARs continue to influence the focus of KMSAB's multi-agency learning and development strategy and training programme.

- 3.5 Section 7 outlines the activity data for adult safeguarding in Kent and Medway. This includes referral data, the background data in regard to victims and the current trends in relation to adult safeguarding in Kent and Medway.
- 3.6 There has been a significant increase in safeguarding enquiries, especially in Kent. In 2015–2016 there were 3,906 safeguarding enquiries in Kent compared to 5,715 safeguarding enquiries in 2016–2017. This is a 46.3% increase. In Medway there was a 14.9% increase, from 268 safeguarding enquiries in 2015–2016 to 308 safeguarding enquiries in 2016–2017.
- 3.7 Section 8 identifies the key priorities for the KMSAB for 2017–2018:
- To engage with residents of Kent and Medway, empowering and enabling them to contribute to safeguarding and the work of the Board
 - To ensure that lessons are learnt from the outcomes of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Children's Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Multi Agency Case Audits and these directly influence practice improvements
 - To ensure that structure and governance arrangements enable the KMSAB to meet its statutory duties effectively and efficiently
 - To ensure that Policy, Procedures and Guidance documents are compliant, easy to use and reviewed and updated regularly
 - To provide a high quality multi-agency training offer.
- 3.8 The KMSAB Constitution was signed off by the Board at their June 2016 meeting. This constitution details how the Board will operate, outlines roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements. Work to develop the Board's strategic plan for 2018–2021 has commenced. The outcome of this will determine the future structure of the Board and related working groups. A Business Group will be established to manage the implementation of the strategic plan, monitoring and signing off the outcomes delivered by the working groups. This allows the Board to focus on strategic priorities and Safeguarding Adult Reviews outcomes.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 During 2016–17, the KMSAB and its partner agencies have built on the good work from the previous year. The KMSAB has continued with its scrutiny and challenge role through stricter governance and lines of accountability, implementing a more robust governance structure to reflect clear Board deliverables.

5. Recommendations

5.1 County Council is asked to **COMMENT** on the progress and improvements made during 2016-17, as detailed in the Annual Report from the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and **ENDORSE** the 2016-17 Annual Report.

6. Background Documents

None

7. Contact Details

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