

From: Dan Walkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 15 January 2025

Subject: **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report presents the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board’s (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2023–March 2024. The Annual Report sets out the responsibilities and structure of the Board and details how the multi-agency partnership delivered against its strategic priorities for the year. The report also provides information pertaining to Safeguarding Adults Reviews and safeguarding activity.

Recommendation(s):

The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to CONSIDER and COMMENT on the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023–2024.

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 Board's 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 \(SAR\)](#) 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”². As such, this report presents a the 2023-2024 Annual Report to the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee, attached as Appendix A. The full 2023-2024 Annual Report will be published on the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board website, once it has been formally approved.

2. KMSAB Annual Report 2023–2024

2.1 The Annual Report details how the Board delivered against the following strategic priorities in 2023-2024:

- Promote Person Centred Safeguarding
- Strengthen System Assurance
- Embed Improvement and Shape Future Practice.

2.2 Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Board continued to implement their quality assurance framework. This included a Self-Assessment Framework (SAF), a series of questions

² [Care and support statutory guidance](#) (14.161)

to measure progress against key safeguarding quality standards. The purpose of the SAF is to enable agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of their internal safeguarding arrangements and identify and prioritise areas needing further development. The Quality Assurance Working Group uses strategic plan priorities, intelligence gathered, best practice (local and national) and learning from SARs when developing the standards to be measured.

- During 2023/2024, Practice, Policy and Procedures Working Group members completed their review and revision of the following documents:
 - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Protocol: When Adults at Risk Abuse Each Other
 - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board - A Quick Guide to Identifying and Responding to Self-Neglect and Hoarding
 - Protocols for Kent and Medway to Safeguard Adults who are at Risk of Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

- The Board Business Unit continued to deliver '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 2023-2024:
 - Homelessness and adult safeguarding
 - Scamming and adult safeguarding (linked to learning from SAR Alice)
 - SAR Akram, sharing good practice
 - Adopting a trauma informed approach
 - Suicide prevention and adult safeguarding
 - Carers – an anti-racist perspective
 - Kent fire and Rescue Service, Safe and Well Visit and fire safety equipment (linked to the unpublished SAR Phyllis)

- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board members supported National Safeguarding Adults' Awareness Week, established by the Ann Craft Trust. Members shared safeguarding information with their workforce and used the opportunity, and momentum, 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 campaign led to a significant increase in visits to KMSAB webpages, with a total of 6214 visits to the KMSAB webpages during the week, this included 282 clicks to the 'worried about an adult' page for the public.

- As part of National Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week 2023, the KMSAB and Community Safety Partnership hosted a half-day joint seminar, "who cares for the carers?", to share the learning from Kent and Medway's recently completed Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. Over 90 practitioners attended the event, which received positive feedback. The event, and the distribution of the

resource pack beforehand, saw 953 visits to the [‘information for carers’](#) pages on the KMSAB website in one week.

- Members of KMSAB and the Business Unit hosted a stand at the Kent Police Open Day on 3 July, where 10,000 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 600 people visited the stand and engaged with the facilitators. Highlights of the website data, following the event, included a 169% increase in visits to the “adult safeguarding explained” page, a 361% increase in the ‘report abuse page’ for members of the public and a 794% increase in visits to the “useful resources for the public” page.
 - As professional curiosity has been identified as a theme in Safeguarding Adults Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and other reviews, the KMSAB developed professional curiosity webpages to support practitioners. The page provides a central repository for guidance, resources, videos and useful links. Between 27 July 2023 (the date the website was published) and 31 March 2024 the content was accessed 4994 times.
 - To support the sharing of SAR learning, and in acknowledgement of individuals’ different learning styles and preferences, published SAR reports are now accompanied by a short video summary. The videos are available on the following link: [Kent and Medway SAB - Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(kmsab.org.uk\)](#). The SAR video in respect of [Elizabeth Eastley](#) was shared at a meeting of the national network of Board Managers. Following this Trafford used the video during their safeguarding adults awareness week activities.
 - The KMSAB learning and development managers hosted two half-day self-neglect and hoarding Safeguarding Adults Review workshops in March 2024, with over 140 delegates in attendance. Course content included [‘Keith’s story’](#) – a real life account from a person with lived experience of hoarding. The workshops were interactive and led delegates through a case study drawn from national and local SAR learning. Feedback received indicated that the sessions were valuable, both in terms of content and in providing multi-agency networking opportunities.
- 2.3 Appendix two provides highlights of how partner agencies’ delivered the Board’s three strategic priorities. At the request of members, the returns for the statutory partners have been included in full.
- 2.4 Fourteen safeguarding adults reviews (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:

- Self-neglect and hoarding
- Safe-discharge from hospitals and other settings
- Legal literacy and Making Safeguarding Personal
- The importance of advocacy
- Multi-agency working and information sharing
- Carers assessments
- Suitability of informal carers
- Co-occurring conditions of mental ill-health and substance misuse
- Placement availability
- Transition planning

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 During 2023-2024, KMSAB and its 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. Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations: The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023 –2024.

5. Background Documents

None

6. Report Author

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