

**By:** Graham Gibbens – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Penny Southern – Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health

Deborah Stuart-Angus – Independent Chair, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board

**To:** County Council – 13 December 2018

**Subject:** **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Summary:** This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board's (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2017–March 2018. The Annual Report sets out the responsibilities and structure of the Board and then details how the multiagency partnership delivered against its five priorities for the year. The report also provides safeguarding activity information and summarises the Board's priorities for 2018-2019. An easy read version of the report has been commissioned and will be made available on the Board's website.

**Recommendations:** County Council is asked to **COMMENT** on the progress and improvements made during 2017-18, as detailed in the Annual Report from the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and **ENDORSE** the 2017-18 Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the 2017-2018 Annual Report produced by Victoria Widden, Board Manager of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB). It has been endorsed by Deborah Stuart Angus, the Independent Chair and by members of that Board.
- 1.2 Under the Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adults is a statutory responsibility for all Agencies, with Local Authorities taking the lead. Safeguarding continues to be a key 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 Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 1.3 The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) is a statutory multi-agency partnership which assures that adult safeguarding arrangements in Kent and Medway are in place and are effective. It

oversees how agencies co-ordinate services and work together to help keep Kent's and Medway's adults safe from harm, promote wellbeing, prevent abuse and protect the rights of citizens. The work of the Board is supported by KMSAB policies and procedures, which all agencies sign up to.

1.4 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 Adults 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 Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board is required to publish an Annual Report each financial year.

1.7 The following agencies are currently represented on the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board: 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, 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 Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board, 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 2017–2018 Annual Report**

- 3.1 The report details how the Board delivered against its priorities for 2017 – 2018. Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The KMSAB held a development day on 14 July 2017, those present agreed the Board's vision mission statements and strategic priorities. The group then determined the most suitable structure to deliver these. The new structure (detailed on page 6 of the annual report) allows the Business Group to focus on how Working Groups and others are delivering the Strategic Plan. This enables the overarching Board to focus on strategic issues and priorities. Funding for the new structure was agreed and the new model became operational on 1 January 2018.
- Having agreed the KMSAB vision, mission statement and strategic priorities, members developed a three-year strategy and business plan. To accompany the publication of the KMSAB's annual report 2017-8, the Board is consulting on KMSAB Strategic Plan 2018-21. For more details please see the consultations directory, (<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti>) .
- Kent County Council and Medway Council ensure that Making Safeguarding Personal is integral to the safeguarding process and seeks the views and wishes of the adult concerned, throughout the Enquiry, and will try to meet their desired outcome(s) whenever possible. The Making Safeguarding Personal literature was reviewed to ensure that it was Care Act compliant and that the questions were clear and suitable for everyone to answer. Easy read versions are also available. An additional factsheet has been developed to provide more information on the safeguarding process for anyone experiencing this, should they require it.
- Board members arranged and held a safeguarding adults awareness raising campaign between 9-13 October 2017. The campaign was framed around the theme "Respect not Neglect", which reflected findings highlighted in recent KMSAB Safeguarding

Adults Reviews. The events were well attended, and very positive feedback was received.

- Three Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) learning events took place in March 2018, reaching a total of over 460 members of multi-agency staff. In preparation for the events, working group members undertook a thematic review to establish the key learning from the four KMSAB SARs, two case audits and two out of area SARs, to share at the event. In addition to this thematic summary, the workshops considered one case in detail to emphasise the message that safeguarding is personal. One of the strengths of this section of the workshop was the involvement of relatives and carers, who spoke about what the person was like and their experiences of spending time with them. As self-neglect was one of the main concerns identified in the thematic review, the workshops consequently included a session on this. Feedback from the event was extremely positive.
- The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board commissions multi-agency safeguarding adults training specifically for staff from the statutory sector, covering the roles and responsibilities of statutory partners in relation to Safeguarding Adults Section 42 Enquiries. Following a successful tender process, the new multi-agency safeguarding adults training programme was launched in May 2017, and training commenced in June 2017. The Board's multi-agency training programme for 2017-18 was completed, with a total of 761 staff attending training.

3.2 Section 3 of the Annual Report provides an update on Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) activity. To ensure a robust and consistent process for determining whether a case referred for a Safeguarding Adults Review meets the criteria, a multiagency decision-making panel, chaired by a member of the SAR working group, is convened when a new referral is received. Each agency brings a summary of their involvement, these are considered to assess if the referral meets the criteria for a SAR or whether any other review or action is required. The recommendation of the panel is sent to the Independent Chair of the KMSAB for a final decision.

3.3 The KMSAB received seven new SAR applications between April 2017 and March 2018, of these:

- 2 cases progressed using the case audit review methodology
- 2 cases did not meet the criteria and no further action was required
- 3 cases did not meet the criteria and were addressed through the NHS Safeguarding Management process.

3.4 Four SARs were completed and signed off by KMSAB members during the reporting period; Mrs D, Mrs C, Violet Hughes and Beryl Simpson (please note all names are pseudonyms). In addition, some KMSAB

agencies were also involved in two SARs which were led by other Safeguarding Adults Boards. The lessons from these SARs continue to influence the focus of KMSAB's policies, procedures and multi-agency training programme.

3.5 Section 5 of the report identifies the key priorities for the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board for 2018-2019:

- Prevention - to deliver a preventative approach in all that we do.
- Awareness - to improve awareness of adults at risk and safeguarding within, and across, our partner agencies and communities.
- Quality - to quality assure our work, learn from experience and consequently improve practice.

3.6 Section 6 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.

3.7 There continues to be an increase in safeguarding enquiries. In 2016–2017 there were 5809 safeguarding enquiries in Kent compared to 5884 safeguarding enquiries in 2017-2018, a 1.3% increase. In Medway there was a 59.4% increase, from 308 safeguarding enquiries in 2016-2017 to 491 safeguarding enquiries in 2017–2018.

3.8 The increase in Enquiry levels observed in recent years can be attributed to operational changes introduced in October 2015 to ensure compliance with the Care Act. The increase observed in Kent in 2017-18 is far smaller than those observed during the two years prior, now that new process has been embedded. Going forward the year-on-year changes are likely to be smaller. Furthermore, Medway has promoted awareness of adult safeguarding and has carried out in-house training over the past year, and this is thought to have contributed to the increase in concerns and enquiries seen in Medway in 2017-18.

#### **4. Conclusion**

4.1 During 2017-18, 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 through stricter governance and clearer lines of accountability, implementing more robust arrangements to reflect clear Board deliverables.

## 5. Recommendations

- 5.1 County Council is asked to **COMMENT** on the progress and improvements made during 2017-18, as detailed in the Annual Report from the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and **ENDORSE** the 2017-18 Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.

## 6. Background Documents

None

## 7. Contact Details

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