

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

Andrew Ireland – Corporate Director, Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

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

To: County Council – 8 December 2016

Subject: Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report April 2015 – March 2016

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Annual Report April 2015–March 2016, which details the work of the multi-agency partnership and how it managed safeguarding adults issues in 2015-2016. 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 2015-16, as detailed in the Annual Report from the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and **ENDORSE** the 2015-16 Annual Report attached. Following this meeting, this document will be available for download on the KCC website.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the 2015-2016 Annual Report 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 Social Care, Health and Wellbeing 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 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 Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board is required to publish an Annual Report each financial year.
- 1.7 The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board comprises of Senior Officers from the key agencies in Kent and Medway involved in safeguarding, including the Police, Health Service, Medway Council and Kent County Council. Following a rigorous recruitment campaign, Deborah Stuart-Angus was appointed to the position of Independent Chair, taking up the post in December 2015.
- 1.8 The Care Act 2014 states that once the 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 2015–2016 Annual Report

- 3.1 The report contains a wealth of information from each of the key agencies engaged in the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 There has been a significant increase in safeguarding enquiries, especially in Kent. In 2014–2015 there were 3,273 safeguarding enquiries in Kent compared to 3,906 safeguarding enquiries in 2015–2016. This is a 19.3% increase. In Medway there was a 9.8% increase, from 244 safeguarding enquiries in 2014–2015 to 268 safeguarding enquiries in 2015–2016.
- 3.4 Section 8 identifies the key priorities for the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board for 2016–2017.
- 3.5 In her first six months as Independent Chair of KMSAB, Deborah Stuart-Angus has undertaken a partnership consultation, which will lead to a more robust approach to Board decision making, governance and structure, and partnership agreement, which in turn will lead to a new and strong Board Constitution.
- 3.6 A review of the course content for multi-agency training at Levels 3 (The Guide to Undertaking Safeguarding Enquiries) and 5 (Decision Making and Accountability in Safeguarding) was undertaken during 2015 - 2016 to ensure that the content was fit for purpose and reflective of current legislation and policy developments. KMSAB will be commissioning new training courses to be delivered from April 2017.
- 3.7 The Self Assessment Framework was revised and updated to ensure that it was fit for purpose in light of the Care Act 2014 and to align it to the themes identified in the Local Government Association's 'Adult Safeguarding Improvement Tool'. KMSAB requires agencies to complete the self-assessment framework to measure their progress against key standards. These are then peer reviewed by another agency and findings are presented to the Board. Any actions rated red or amber require regular update reports to the Quality Assurance Working Group and Board to ensure the required standards are achieved.
- 3.8 The Practice, Policy and Procedures Working Group developed a [Protocol](#) as a means of supporting professionals and communities in Kent and Medway to identify and respond appropriately to safeguard adults who are at risk of: being trafficked, sexually exploited or modern slavery. The Protocol contains hyperlinks to the relevant sections in the

main Policies, Protocols and Guidance document to support good safeguarding adults practice.

- 3.9 Adult Reviews. In September 2014, the Board commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) in respect of Mary Smith.¹ The overview report and recommendations were presented to the Board in June 2015. Agencies developed action plans to address the recommendations. These plans were reviewed after six months and a progress report was presented to the Board in March 2016 to assure the Board of progress. Other SARs are currently being undertaken in 2016 - 2017. The lessons from all of these and from other National SARs continue to influence the focus of KMSAB's multi-agency learning and development strategy and training programme.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 During 2015 - 16, 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 lines of accountability.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 County Council is asked to **COMMENT** on the progress and improvements made during 2015-16, as detailed in the Annual Report from the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and **ENDORSE** the 2015-16 Annual Report attached. Following this meeting, this document will be available for download on the KCC website.

6. Background Documents

None

7. Contact Details

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¹ To protect the identity of the individual this is a fictitious name