

## Cabinet

<b>Report Title:</b>	Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	15 November 2016
<b>Lead Councillor(s):</b>	Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care
<b>Local Councillor(s):</b>	All Councillors
<b>Director:</b>	Sue Cook, Corporate Director, Children and Adults
<b>Assistant Director or Head of Service:</b>	Sue Hadley, Independent Chair, Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board
<b>Author:</b>	Tim Sykes SAB Manager

### Brief Summary of Report

1. The Care Act 2014 requires the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to publish an annual report (Appendix A). It must publish a report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective 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 action. The SAB must conduct any Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.
2. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. The key focus for the SAB remains the development of strong active partnerships that support the overall strategic direction of the County Council to keep 'adults at risk' safe and protected.
4. The role of the SAB is to assure itself that safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014, working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible, ensuring individuals and agencies give timely and proportionate responses when abuse and neglect have occurred and ensuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving, enhancing the quality of lives of people living in Suffolk.
5. It is the intention of the SAB to share this report with all partner agencies and those who have influence over the services provided to adults in Suffolk.

### What is Cabinet being asked to decide?

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Cabinet is being asked to receive the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-2016 and endorse the proposed programme of work for 2016-17, in conjunction with the governance arrangements of the statutory partner organisations forming part of the SAB.</li> </ol> |
|--|

## **Reason for recommendation**

7. Suffolk County Council is the lead authority for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse in Suffolk. The SAB became statutory as a result of the Care Act in April 2015.
8. The Annual Report outlines safeguarding activity for the reporting period of 2015-2016 and sets out the proposed annual programme of work to be undertaken in 2016-17 as part of the [Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2015-17](#).

## **What are the key issues to consider?**

9. Cabinet is asked to note the key themes and issues covered by the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) during the last year 2015-2016.
10. The key focus for the SAB remains the development of strong active partnerships that support the overall strategic direction of the county council to keep 'adults at risk' safe and protected.
11. Cabinet is asked if the themes and work plan adequately reflect the Board's scrutiny role in overseeing robust systems, procedures and processes, so as to ensure close monitoring of safeguarding activity, and a timely response to emerging concerns by victims or their families.
12. Cabinet is asked to note the progress made by the SAB on the 2015/16 priorities and the priorities for 2016/17.
13. Cabinet is also asked to note the progress made by agencies towards achieving outcomes from two Safeguarding Adults Reviews published in October 2015.

## **What are the resource and risk implications?**

14. The Annual Report outlines the work of the Board and its partners in mitigating risk within Care settings and developing improvements in the quality of provision. The Board will develop and strengthen its Risk Register and Performance data set across partners as part of the 2016/17 work plan.
15. The SAB is a partnership board consisting of strategic leads and senior managers from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations. The Board is supported by a range of subgroups that are attended by managers and operational staff from the same range of partner organisations. SAB meetings are undertaken on a quarterly basis, with subgroups meeting either bi-monthly or quarterly in support of the full board.
16. In terms of funding, the Board is supported by Adult and Community Services, Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) as statutory partners, alongside contributions from each of Suffolk's district and borough authorities with an Independent Chair funded through these organisations, alongside a full time board manager and one-part time administrator who are also funded through the partnership
17. In terms of risk, the SAB is responsible for co-ordinating and supporting organisations working with adults at risk of harm as well as offering an appropriate degree of challenge and holding members to account. Winterbourne View and other cases have highlighted clearly the need for such oversight, as have higher levels of referrals to all agencies at a time of increased financial pressure.

18. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the SAB annual report does not contain a decision to develop or revise a service that would positively/negatively impact on people according their protected characteristics.

### **What are the timescales associated with this decision?**

19. The Annual Report relates to the work of the board in the 2015-2016 financial year.

### **Alternative options**

20. The Annual Report is the result of full consultation with SAB partners who have all contributed to their development. All alternative options have been explored with SAB members.

### **Who will be affected by this decision?**

21. The SAB has held a statutory role from April 2015 in co-ordinating and overseeing adult safeguarding activity across the county. All service users of partner agencies will thus be affected by the work of the Board alongside professionals, managers and senior managers within each affiliated agency.

### **Main body of report**

#### Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16

22. The 2015-2016 Annual Report reports on the work of the SAB for the previous financial year. 2015-2016 has been a year of development for the Safeguarding Adults Board in Suffolk. From 1 April 2015, the role of the Board became statutory in line with the Care Act, with some clearly defined responsibilities focused on the production of an annual report, the commissioning and undertaking of Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and ensuring effective of multi-agency safeguarding policies.
23. In 2015-2016, the SAB has made progress in a number of key areas with regards to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and the protection of adults at risk of harm. These include:
- Development of Care Coordination role for complex cases in response to Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) recommendations;
  - Support for the piloting of Learning Disability nurses in GP surgeries;
  - Identification and training of staff as Review Liaison Officers (RLOs). RLO's will be assigned to families during the SAR process;
  - Addition of a Housing sub-group to develop a self-neglect and hoarding strategy;
  - The deployment of an organisational self-audit to assess agency compliance with safeguarding policies and processes;
  - Delivery of learning events to staff across Suffolk to communicate and embed learning from the Safeguarding Adult Reviews published in 2015;
  - Working with the Learning Disability Providers Forum to share learning from the Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
24. The annual report contains information pertaining to the Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) published in Suffolk in 2015. The learning from these reviews

will enable the SAB to develop learning and action plans that can be shared nationally and will inform any amendments to the work plan for the 2016-2017 and onwards. The SAB has held learning events across Suffolk for staff to embed learning and gather professional feedback in relation to action plans. The commissioning of SARs and other reviews is now a statutory responsibility of the SAB and the SARAP (Safeguarding Adults Review Advisory Panel) sub group will look to provide the Board with learning from reviews undertaken nationally where possible. This group has recently updated and clarified its Terms of Reference, with particular reference to decision making around Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

25. Sue Hadley joined the Board in September 2016 as the Independent Chair and was tasked with reviewing the progress of the statutory Board, identifying progress made towards achieving objectives in the strategic plan and updating this plan to focus on key priorities for the next three years.
26. The Board will be reviewing its three-year strategy and work plan. The plan is clearly defined against the six key safeguarding principles, the work that it intends to undertake between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2019. This includes provision for effective risk and performance management as well as a clear annualised work plan. The plan is to be presented to the SAB in the next 3 months in association with an updated yearly work plan for 2017.
27. The Board has deployed an organisational self-audit which asks partner agencies to assess themselves against the key principles of safeguarding outlined in the Care Act. Key statutory partners have now completed their Audits and they will be invited to review their compliance through the Board's Performance and Quality sub-group to identify strengths and areas for improvement that will inform the strategic and annual plans.
28. The SAB has sought assurance from partners regarding areas of hidden harm and will continue to monitor mechanisms that exist to ensure sufficient priority and adequate systems are in place to measure risk around Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Sexual Exploitation and preventing radicalisation of adults through the CHANNEL (preventing radicalisation) arrangements.
29. In 2015-2016, the Board supported the continued development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a partnership between statutory services in Suffolk. The MASH is a single point of access for all safeguarding referrals that is operated by professionals from a wide range of services including Children's and Adults Social Care, Housing, Police and Health colleagues, operating under a shared management structure for ease of information sharing and effective inter-agency communication.
30. The intention is to review and relaunch the People's Panel in partnership with ACE Anglia, Suffolk Community Advocacy and Healthwatch. This will become an effective reference group for people who use services to ensure that they now have a route through which to input in to the work of the board.
31. The annual report contains performance data on adult safeguarding referrals and outcomes as reported in the Safeguarding Adults Return (SAR), and through the Deprivation of Liberty referral process. This data highlights the shape of referrals received within Suffolk. We have seen an annual increase in the number of Safeguarding referrals in 2015/16 of 45.5%. It is difficult to

establish the right benchmark regarding the number we would expect to see. As awareness and confidence in reporting safeguarding concerns increases we would expect there to be greater numbers of referrals being made. What is not clear is at what point we would begin to become concerned about those increased levels.

32. Care Homes remain the most frequently reported location of abuse and the SAB has asked for an annual report by partners, on the systems, processes and practices that agencies have in place to protect, enhance the wellbeing and safety of residents. However, abuse in the community or in peoples own homes is more likely to be harder to detect as well as under reported, so it is equally important the SAB and its partner agencies continue to increase the confidence of vulnerable groups to report concerns and incidents. The SAB continues to promote the message that safeguarding is everyone's business.

#### **Sources of Further Information**

- a) Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-statutory-guidance-for-implementation>
- b) SAB Website: [www.suffolkas.org](http://www.suffolkas.org)
- c) The Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2015-17:  
<http://www.suffolkas.org/the-work-of-the-sab/the-strategy/the-suffolk-safeguarding-adults-board-strategy-2015-to-2017/>

