

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (KMSAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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Summary

This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board's (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2019–March 2020. The Annual Report sets out the responsibilities and structure of the Board and details how the multi-agency partnership delivered against its priorities for the year. The report also provides information pertaining to Safeguarding Adults Reviews, funding arrangements and safeguarding activity information. An easy read version of the report has been commissioned and will be made available on the Board's website.

The Annual Report was endorsed by the KMSAB on 24 November 2020. The Annual Report was considered by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2020. The comments of this Committee are set out in section 5 of the report.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The Care Act 2014 made it a requirement for each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). Medway Council's duty is met through a joint SAB with Kent County Council; the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB)

1.2 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 KMSAB Strategic Plan is available on the link below:
<https://kmsab.org.uk/p/about-kmsab-1/annual-report-and-strategic-plan-1>
- Publish an Annual Report detailing 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](#) in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.

1.3 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; and
- the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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”. As such, this report presents the 2019-2020 Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

1.4 The KMSAB has a pooled budget made up of contributions from its key partners –

- Kent County Council
- Medway Council
- Local Health Commissioners and Providers
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service

2. Background

2.1 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.

3. The 2019-2020 Annual Report

3.1 The Annual Report details how the Board delivered against its strategic priorities of ‘prevention’, ‘awareness’ and ‘quality’ during 2019 – 2020. Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The complete revision of the Board’s main policy document, “Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy, Protocols and Practitioner Guidance for Kent and Medway”, which was finalised by members of

¹ Care and Support Statutory Guidance. [Care and Support Statutory Guidance \(14.134\)](#)

the Practice, Policies and Procedures Working Group. This document sets out: legal responsibilities in relation to adult safeguarding; arrangements for working together across Kent and Medway; and provides guidance on how to recognise and respond to actual or suspected abuse against adults at risk. The feedback received on the new document has been extremely positive.

- Learning and Development Working Group Members responded to intelligence gathered from training evaluation, consultation, and safeguarding reviews to develop a new multi-agency training programme. The programme includes courses on; collaborative working in multi-agency section 42 enquiries, self-neglect and hoarding; adult safeguarding legal literacy; and exploitation. The programme was scheduled for launch in April 2020, but due to Covid-19 pandemic, members had to respond quickly and work efficiently to move delivery of training from face to face to a virtual learning platform (Zoom).
- To help share the message on how to recognise and report abuse and neglect, and highlight the support and services available for those at risk or experiencing abuse, Board members arranged and held a safeguarding adults awareness raising campaign. The focus of the 2019 campaign was to prevent adults at risk being abused by empowering individuals from local communities to take positive action if they felt concerned about someone's welfare. The strapline for the campaign was 'noticing is not nosiness' to reiterate the national focus that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- To support safeguarding adults awareness week and to enable agencies to raise awareness of adult safeguarding throughout the year, the Communications and Engagement Working Group created a communications toolkit. This included posters, information for social media messaging and images and video files. Contact was made with businesses and local community groups to encourage them to support the campaign.
- A safeguarding adults conference was held to raise awareness about types of adult abuse and how to report concerns. The conference was specifically aimed at non partner organisations, such as local charities and voluntary groups, who have close links with local communities. People attending the conference were provided with the communications toolkit to help them raise awareness among the groups they represent. The evaluation forms submitted, strongly indicated that conference attendees benefitted from attending, with increased knowledge of the subject areas covered and through networking with others.
- Quality Assurance Working Group members used the tools in the, newly designed, quality assurance framework to identify areas of good practice and areas for development. To ensure rigour and consistency,

all quality assurance submissions are peer reviewed by working group members.

- Board members continued to monitor action plans developed in response to the findings of Safeguarding Adults Reviews, to ensure these were progressed and completed. Findings inform the work programme for each of the Board's working groups. For example, as self-neglect was identified as a theme from a previous SAR and new SAR referrals received:
 - Practice Policy and Procedures Working Group members updated the self-neglect and hoarding policy and are currently hosting focus groups to establish how this is implemented in practice, including any barriers.
 - Members of the Quality Assurance Working Group added this to the Self-Assessment Framework, asking agencies to detail how they ensure that policies are understood and embedded.
 - Learning and Development Working Group members hosted additional training sessions on self-neglect and hoarding, the sessions were led by Professors Suzy Bray and Michael Preston-Shoot, whose research was influential in the development of legislation and policy on self-neglect. The newly commissioned training programme also includes a module on self-neglect.
 - Self-neglect was covered during safeguarding adults awareness week, including a dedicated session at the safeguarding conference.

3.2 The 2019-2020 Annual Report also provides examples of how partner agencies are meeting the Board's three strategic priorities at a local level.

4. Medway Council

4.1 1564 safeguarding concerns were raised in 2019/2020 compared to 1387 concerns raised in 2018/2019, which is an increase of 12.8%. This can be seen as a reflection on the work in raising awareness of safeguarding, one of the three objectives of the KMSAB in its' strategy for 2018-2021.

4.2 Of those concerns, 846 were investigated under a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry or other enquiry (non statutory sec 42). The conversion rate from concern to enquiry is 51.4%.

4.3 There has been an increase in the number of cases where risk was removed, from 28% in 2018/2019 to 42.5% in 2019/2020. A decrease in cases where risks were reduced, from 55% in 2018/2019 to 46% in 2019/2020, and therefore a decrease in cases where risk remains from 17% in 2018/19 to 11.4% in 2019/2020.

4.4 In 2019/2020 the KMSAB delivered multiagency safeguarding adults training. Medway ASC staff were able to attend 239 sessions. Moving forward Medway

ASC will commission single agency safeguarding training to complement the changed KMSAB training offer.

- 4.5 The Medway Safeguarding Adults Executive Group (MSAEG), chaired by Ian Sutherland (Director for People – Children and Adult Services) brings together senior representatives from all the key, local agencies responsible for the effective delivery of Adult Safeguarding. The Group meets quarterly and has a work plan. The MSAEG works collaboratively to deliver the strategic priorities of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board, strengthening delivery, oversight and governance. A focus for the year was improving information received on safeguarding concerns with an emphasis on making safeguarding personal by ensuring that the person who is the subject of the concern/enquiry is well supported throughout the process.

5. The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 December 2020

- 5.1 The Interim Chair of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) introduced the Annual Report for April 2019–March 2020. The Annual Report set out the responsibilities and structure of the Board and detailed how the multi-agency partnership delivered against its priorities for the year. The report also provided information pertaining to Safeguarding Adults Reviews, funding arrangements and safeguarding activity information. The Interim Chair advised that the Independent Chair of the Board had recently resigned.

- 5.2 The following issues were discussed:

- 5.2.1 **Increase in safeguarding concerns** – the 12.8% rise in concerns in 2019/20 compared to the previous year was highlighted, accepting there had been a campaign to raise awareness. Whether all concerns raised were investigated was queried. The Interim Chair advised that all concerns were looked at initially and a decision was reached on each referral. About 50% of referrals were classified as safeguarding concerns. In all cases, the action taken was recorded. How the Board could be sure this increase in cases was due to the campaign to raise awareness was questioned. The point was made that in terms of safeguarding concerns per 100,000 adults, Medway was below average and perhaps this showed there was more to do to raise awareness. The Interim Chair commented that there was always more that could be done to raise awareness. Next year's report was likely to show an increase in numbers due to the restrictions in place during the pandemic and an increase in mental health problems. The Board had the resources to manage an increase in numbers. The Director added that demographic changes were also expected to lead to an increase in concerns. In 2019/20 domestic abuse had led to a significant increase in referrals. The comparator table included in the report largely comprised counties and this would be looked at.

- 5.2.2 **Self-neglect** – a concern was raised that there was very likely to be a significant increase in cases of self-neglect as a result of the pandemic. The Interim Chair agreed with that assessment, adding the Board and adult social care staff were focused on identifying people who needed help but were not asking for it. An additional 6 social workers had been made available to

prepare for the expected surge in demand. The Director added that less than 1% of referrals were self-referrals. Often people who were at risk did not consider themselves to be vulnerable.

5.2.3 Oversight and management of risk when multiple agencies were working with an individual – how a lead was selected and monitored in these situations was queried. The Interim Chair responded that the agencies would decide on a lead organisation to take responsibility and the latter would then allocate the role to an individual.

5.2.4 Transition to adulthood – it was noted that one of the completed safeguarding reviews mentioned in the report covered the transition from a young person to adulthood. The Interim Chair commented that the Board was looking to identify young people around the age of 14 to ensure there was a plan in place for when they moved into adulthood and did not slip through the net. The Director added that, in this case, the young person had been a Kent care leaver placed in Medway and co-ordination around transitioning was not as good as it should have been.

5.2.5 Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust – surprise was expressed that KMPT staff had needed training to support them in identifying people at risk of radicalisation. The Interim Chair advised that the training had been delivered due to concerns staff did not fully understand radicalisation amongst young people. The training was needed across all the partners, although the police were the most aware of these issues.

5.2.6 The Committee noted the report and agreed to forward its comments to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6. Risk management

6.1 While there are no specific risks identified, the KMSAB Annual Report 2019-20 presents an analysis of Safeguarding Adults activity, to raise awareness of abuse, prevent it occurring and ensure a timely and effective multi agency response when it occurs.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The KMSAB Annual Report is funded by the KMSAB. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

8. Legal implications

8.1 Section 43 (1) of The Care Act states that “Each Local Authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (“SAB”) for its area”

8.2 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance section 14.103 further states that “The objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults who have needs for care and support, who are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of their needs are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect. This is whether or not the adult is having their needs met or they meet the local authority’s eligibility criteria for care and support services.”

8.3 The production of the KMSAB Annual Report is in accordance with the duty outlined in the Care Act 2014. The report is within the remit of the Committee to note and comment upon.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

9.1.1 Note the comments of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out at section 5 of the report, and

9.1.2 Comment on and note the Annual Report set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-2020

Background papers

None