

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (KMSAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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Summary

This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board's (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2020–March 2021. 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 will be commissioned and will be made available on the Board's website. The Annual Report was endorsed by the KMSAB on 7 December 2021.

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.

1.4 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 2020 - 2021 Annual Report to the Committee. The report will also be submitted to the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.5 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.

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

3. The 2020 – 2021 Annual Report

3.1 The Annual Report (Appendix 1) details how the Board delivered against its strategic priorities of 'prevention', 'awareness' and 'quality' during 2020 – 2021. Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Board's Business Unit developed and promoted a Coronavirus advice section on its website, providing a central repository and to share relevant information, advice, support and guidance in relation to adult safeguarding and the COVID pandemic. Key messages were also shared through the Board's newsletter.
- The Board's multiagency training programme was adapted so it could be delivered through a video conferencing platform, rather than classroom based. For the seven-month timeframe from September 2020 to the end of March 2021 a total of 51 training workshops took place with 576 delegates participating. The training was closely aligned to the Board's priorities and learning from safeguarding adult reviews. Feedback from delegates presented a positive picture in relation to the quality of training, increase in knowledge and how learning is embedded into practice.
- In response to the learning gained from ongoing Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), the Practice, Policy and Procedures Working Group strengthened the "[Kent and Medway multi-agency resolving practitioner differences; escalation policy for referrals and adult safeguarding](#)" document to cover differences of opinion when agencies are referring clients between each other. It emphasised that, in situations where the escalation process is required, the agency making the original referral should maintain case oversight until resolution is agreed. A flow chart was added for ease of reference.
- It is a requirement of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance that all relevant Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) partners must have policies and procedures, in line with those of Safeguarding Adults Boards, for responding to concerns against any person who works with adults, in either a paid or unpaid capacity, in positions of trust. Previously the Board's main policy document included a section on this, however due to changes in working practices and to offer more guidance for all agencies, the Board developed a stand-alone policy 'Managing Concerns around People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT)' to set out agencies' responsibilities.
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board members chose to align with the national safeguarding adults awareness week, established by the [Ann Craft Trust](#). The purpose of the week was 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. Unlike previous years, the pandemic response meant that the Board was mainly reliant on social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, to raise awareness. A social media content plan, setting out the messages to be sent by partner agencies' communication teams, was developed and shared.

- The new Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board website was launched as part of safeguarding adults awareness week. This significantly improved the accessibility and availability of Board information, as previously information was on different pages on Kent County Council's website, making it hard for practitioners and members of the public to find. As at November 2021, the home page has been accessed 494,006 times.
- Two 'virtual' safeguarding adults awareness briefings, hosted by the Independent Chair of the Board, Deborah Stuart Angus, were held in October 2020. The briefing sessions were aimed at non-partner organisations who work closely with their local communities (e.g. charities, faith organisations, advocacy, businesses). Again, the emphasis was on raising awareness about the types of abuse, channels for reporting concerns, and to encourage agencies, organisations and businesses to evaluate their internal processes to safeguard adults at risk. Case studies were used to generate discussion and to help embed the knowledge shared. The events attracted over 60 attendees and feedback received during and after the event was very positive.
- The Board's main leaflet, which explains how to recognise and report abuse, was translated into the 18 languages most commonly spoken across Kent and Medway, to help all communities raise awareness of the signs of abuse and how to report it. The leaflet is also available in easy read.

3.2 Eight safeguarding adults' reviews (SARs) have been published since the last annual report. Further details of the reviews, and learning from these, are set out in section three of the annual report, but in summary priority learning for partner agencies relates to:

- Legal literacy – in particular the application of the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Capacity Assessments for individuals who may have fluctuating capacity.
- Professional curiosity - the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value.
- Making Safeguarding Personal - professionals working with adults at risk to ensure that they are making a difference to their lives. Considering, with them, what matters to them so that the interventions are personal and meaningful.
- Agency collaboration/multiagency working - how agencies work together to support adults at risk with complex needs.

3.3 In addition, the annual report covers the work being undertaken by the Board and partner agencies to address other recommendations arising from SARs, including:

- Exploring the reasons why people may not wish, or feel able to, engage with services.
- Raising awareness of the escalation policy.

- Exploring the barriers to the use of the Kent and Medway Multi-agency policy to support people that self-neglect or demonstrate hoarding behaviour.
- Ensuring that organisations recognise the rights of carers to a carers assessment.
- Safe discharge from hospitals.

4. Medway Council

- 4.1 1692 safeguarding concerns were received in 2020/2021 compared to 1564 concerns raised in 2019/2020, which is an increase of 4.2%.
- 4.2 Of those concerns, 630 were investigated under a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry or other enquiry (non-statutory sec 42). 2020/21 saw a decrease of 15.4 percentage points bringing us more in line with the national (37%) and comparator group (42%) published data for 2019/20.
- 4.4 Of the closed Enquiries where a risk was identified, 43% saw the risk removed and 55% reduced leaving just 3% where the risk remained. This is an improvement on the 8-17% of previous years and the national for 2019/20 (10.5%).
- 4.5 Of the 8 Safeguarding Adult reviews published by the KMSAB, 2 relate to Medway citizens. The completed reviews are available on the KMSAB website.
- 4.6 In 2020/2021 the KMSAB delivered multiagency safeguarding adults training. As planned Medway ASC were able to commission bespoke single agency safeguarding training to complement the KMSAB training offer.
- 4.7 The Medway Safeguarding Adults Executive Group (MSAEG), chaired by the Director of People 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. Risk management

- 5.1 While there are no specific risks identified, the KMSAB Annual Report 2020-21 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.

6. Financial implications

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

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Section 43 (1) of The Care Act states that “Each Local Authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (“SAB”) for its area”
- 7.2 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.”
- 7.3 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.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the Annual Report, make any comments and for these to be referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board when it considers the Annual Report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-2021

Background papers

None