

MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD 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 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 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 that 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 encouraging 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) were published since the last annual report. Priority learning for partner agencies relates to:

- Legal literacy, Mental Capacity Assessments and fluctuating capacity
- Professional Curiosity and the voice of the person (include Think Family).
- Agency collaboration/multiagency working.

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. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 January 2022

4.1 The Independent Chair of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) introduced the Board's Annual Report for April 2020 - March 2021, which 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.

4.2 The following issues were discussed:

4.2.1 **Safeguarding Review Cases** – the point was made that all the cases referred to in the report highlighted a lack of communications between the services involved, such as between social care and housing. This showed a need for the system to work together better and for high risk groups to be the responsibility of all involved. The Independent Chair agreed and commented the Board was looking at improving collaboration and had invited Housing to be part of Safeguarding Group.

4.2.2 **Training** – in response to a query about training staff in mental health services on safeguarding, the Independent Chair confirmed that all staff working with adults were required to undertake safeguarding training. In addition, the Board's website offered guidance on how to make referrals. With regard to training provided by the Board, the Independent Chair advised that the statutory partners who contributed to the Board financially had access to training, but not other partners. The Board now ran training webinars and would like to expand training to all agencies and charities. The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care commented that any care provider had to provide training to their staff, as this was part of CQC requirements and the Council audited this to ensure all providers were trained. The CQC would also look at this during inspections. This was in addition to training from Board.

4.2.3 **Domestic Abuse** – why levels of domestic abuse in the home were so high in Medway and why so many allegations were not dealt with were queried. The Independent Chair responded that he did not know why levels were so high but the densely populated nature of much of Medway may explain this as it was more likely to be heard by a neighbour and reported. In addition, an increased level of reporting may be due to increased awareness and good local services. Interventions to prevent cases of repeat victims was vital. In response to a point that male victims did not receive as much attention as women, the Independent Chair commented all incidents of domestic abuse were abhorrent, whether the victims were men or women. He felt the priority should be on supporting women as the overwhelming number of offences, both in volume and severity, were committed against women, which also often impacted on children.

4.2.4 A point was made that budgetary constraints prevented the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) from pursuing prosecutions where the evidence was not clear cut. The Independent Chair added that the CPS was measured in terms of successful court outcomes and often in domestic abuse cases it was one person's word against another's. In addition private prosecutions were rare as accessing legal aid was difficult.

4.3 The Committee noted the Annual Report and agreed to forward its comments to the Health and Wellbeing Board when it considers the Annual Report.

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. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Medway Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Annual Report

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None