

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 January 2024

Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report - April 2022 – March 2023

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Summary

This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board's (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2022–March 2023. The Annual Report sets out the responsibilities and structure of the Board and details how the multi-agency partnership delivered against its strategic priorities for the year. The report also provides information pertaining to safeguarding adults reviews and safeguarding activity.

1. Recommendation

1.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the Annual Report.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1 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).

2.2 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 Board's 2022- 2025 strategic plan is available on the link below:

<https://kmsab.org.uk/p/about-kmsab-1/annual-report-and-strategic-plan>

- Publish an Annual Report to detail 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 Reviews](#) in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.

2.3 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.

2.4 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 2022 - 2023 Annual Report to the Committee. The report is also due to be presented to the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2024.

2.5 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.

3. Background

3.1 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.

4. KMSAB Annual Report 2022 -2023

4.1 The Annual Report details how the Board delivered against the following strategic priorities in 2022-2023:

- Promote Person Centred Safeguarding

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

- Strengthen System Assurance
- Embed Improvement and Shape Future Practice.

4.2 Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Board's 'Adult abuse and what to do about it' leaflet was translated into Ukrainian. The document was made available on the KMSAB website and hard copies were shared at events and with agencies who requested them. The leaflet was used and adapted by other Boards and partnerships such as Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board and Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership.
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board members supported 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. The campaign led to a significant increase in visits to KMSAB webpages, with a total of 3524 visits during the week. This included 1147 clicks to the "worried about an adult?" pages for the public, 191 views to the 'report abuse' page and 956 visits to the 'useful resources for the public' page.
- As part of Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week, the Board hosted an open session on Predatory Marriage, led by Daphne Franks, who has lived experience of the issue. Attendance included representatives from the Kent and Medway registrar services..
- Members of KMSAB and the Business Unit hosted a stand at the Kent Police Open Day on 3 July, where 10,000 members of the public were in attendance. The aim was to speak to members of the public, share safeguarding resources and raise awareness of how to recognise and respond to adult safeguarding concerns. Approximately 1000 people visited the stand and engaged with the facilitators. Highlights of the website data, following the event, included a 241% increase in views to the KMSAB website during July. The "report abuse" webpage for the public saw 249% increase (412 from 118).
- Practitioners advised that members of the public would benefit from a credit card sized concertina leaflet, setting out how to respond to adult safeguarding concerns. In response to this, the communications and engagement working group members agreed the content for the leaflet. The Board business unit sought funding, from the KCC Community Safety Unit, for the design and printing of 2000 copies.
- The Board continued to implement their quality assurance framework. This included a thematic Self-Assessment Framework (SAF), a series of questions to measure progress against key quality standards. The purpose of the SAF is to enable agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of their internal safeguarding arrangements and identify and prioritise

areas needing further development. The thematic SAF focused on measuring how agencies are embedding the learning from safeguarding adults reviews.

- The Board's safeguarding adults review (SAR) policy was completely re-drafted to incorporate different methodologies for undertaking reviews. The revised document followed the format of the Board's main policy document, with sections for policy, protocols and guidance, it was also cross referenced against the national SAR quality markers. The updated policy has been well received by all agencies and adds greater consistency and rigor to all stages of the SAR process.
- The Board continued to deliver a multi-agency training programme. Between April 2022 – March 2023, 57 workshops were held, with 703 delegates participating. Analysis of feedback presented a positive picture in relation to people's experiences of the course and the reported increase in their knowledge and skills.
- Members of the Practice, Policies and Procedures Working Group reviewed and significantly updated the Board's main policy document, "Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy, Protocols and Practitioner Guidance for Kent and Medway", which all Board members and relevant partners are required to work to.
- The Board, in collaboration with the training provider DCCi, delivered four workshops to share the learning from safeguarding adults reviews.

4.3 Fourteen safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) have been published since the last annual report. Further details of the reviews, learning from these and actions taken by the Board, are set out in section four of the annual report. In summary, recommendations relate to:

- Multiagency working and information sharing - how agencies work together to support adults at risk.
- Identifying and responding to self-neglect and hoarding.
- Safe discharge from hospitals.
- Carers, including raising awareness of carers rights to a formal carer's assessment.
- Legal literacy – in particular the application of the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Capacity Assessments for individuals who may have fluctuating capacity.
- Working with individuals who are dependent on alcohol or substances.
- Barriers to engagement - how to work with individuals at risk of harm who decline services.
- Quality of referrals and referral mechanisms - the different ways in which concerns are reported to the local authority and the consequences of this.
- Defensible decision making.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 While there are no specific risks identified, the KMSAB Annual Report 2022-23 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.

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Appendices

Appendix A - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022 – 2023, which includes the following appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Annual Report 2022-2023 Data
- Appendix 2 - Annual Report Partner Highlights

Background Papers:

None.