

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**13 February 2025**

### **Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023-2024**

Report from: Dr Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Victoria Widden, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

#### **Summary**

This report introduces the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board's (KMSAB) Annual Report for April 2023–March 2024. 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 Wellbeing Board 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](#) (SAR) 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 2023 - 2024 Annual Report to the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 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”<sup>1</sup>. 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.
- 3.2 The Annual Report details how the Board delivered against the following strategic priorities in 2023-2024:
- Promote Person Centred Safeguarding
  - Strengthen System Assurance
  - Embed Improvement and Shape Future Practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Care and Support Statutory Guidance. [Care and Support Statutory Guidance \(14.134\)](#)

### 3.3 Some of the key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Board continued to implement their quality assurance framework. This included a Self-Assessment Framework (SAF), a series of questions to measure progress against key safeguarding 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 Quality Assurance Working Group uses strategic plan priorities, intelligence gathered, best practice (local and national) and learning from SARs when developing the standards to be measured.
- During 2023/2024, Practice, Policy and Procedures Working Group members completed their review and revision of the following documents:
  - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Protocol: When Adults at Risk Abuse Each Other
  - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board - A Quick Guide to Identifying and Responding to Self-Neglect and Hoarding
  - Protocols for Kent and Medway to Safeguard Adult who are at Risk of Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- The Board Business Unit continued to deliver 'KMSAB open forum sessions', providing an opportunity for anyone with an interest in adult safeguarding to hear from people with a lived experience of safeguarding, and other subject matter experts. The following sessions were held in 2023-2024:
  - Homelessness and adult safeguarding
  - Scamming and adult safeguarding (linked to learning from SAR Alice)
  - SAR Akram, sharing good practice
  - Adopting a trauma informed approach
  - Suicide prevention and adult safeguarding
  - Carers – an anti-racist perspective
  - Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Safe and Well Visit and fire safety equipment (linked to the unpublished SAR Phyllis)
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board members supported National Safeguarding Adults' Awareness Week, established by the Ann

Craft Trust. Members shared safeguarding information with their workforce and used the opportunity, and momentum, 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 6214 visits to the KMSAB webpages during the week, this included 282 clicks to the 'worried about an adult' page for the public.

- As part of National Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week 2023, the KMSAB and Community Safety Partnership hosted a half-day joint seminar, "who cares for the carers?", to share the learning from Kent and Medway's recently completed Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. Over 90 practitioners attended the event, which received positive feedback. The event, and the distribution of the resource pack beforehand, saw 953 visits to the ['information for carers'](#) pages on the KMSAB website in one week.
- 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 600 people visited the stand and engaged with the facilitators. Highlights of the website data, following the event, included a 169% increase in visits to the "adult safeguarding explained" page, a 361% increase in the 'report abuse page' for members of the public and a 794% increase in visits to the "useful resources for the public" page.
- As professional curiosity has been identified as a theme in Safeguarding Adults Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and other reviews, the KMSAB developed [professional curiosity webpages](#) to support practitioners. The page provides a central repository for guidance, resources, videos and useful links. Between 27 July 2023 (the date the website was published) and 31 March 2024 the content was accessed 4994 times.
- To support the sharing of SAR learning, and in acknowledgement of individuals' different learning styles and preferences, published SAR reports are now accompanied by a short video summary. The videos are available on the following link: [Kent and Medway SAB - Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(kmsab.org.uk\)](#). The SAR video in respect of [Elizabeth Eastley](#) was shared at a meeting of the national network of Board Managers. Following this Trafford used the video during their safeguarding adults awareness week activities.

- The KMSAB learning and development managers hosted two half-day self-neglect and hoarding Safeguarding Adults Review workshops in March 2024, with over 140 delegates in attendance. Course content included '[Keith's story](#)' – a real life account from a person with lived experience of hoarding. The workshops were interactive and led delegates through a case study drawn from national and local SAR learning. Feedback received indicated that the sessions were valuable, both in terms of content and in providing multi-agency networking opportunities.

3.4 Appendix three provides highlights of how partner agencies' delivered the Board's three strategic priorities. At the request of members, the returns for the statutory partners have been included in full (appendix two). Medway Council's highlights include:

- Medway Council has information on the Council website to support residents' understanding of safeguarding adults. The website includes information about what adult abuse is, enquiry types and how to report abuse. During 2023-2024 there were 15,736 visits to the safeguarding pages.
- During safeguarding awareness week, Adult Social Care ran an information stand in the Pentagon Shopping Centre. Both the Operational Safeguarding Lead and Councillor Murray were able to meet some of the residents of Medway and raise their awareness of adult safeguarding by sharing key information, answering questions and signposting to resources and services.
- The Principal Social Worker introduced a 3 weekly Mental Capacity Forum. The forum enables practitioners to present cases and scenarios relating to mental capacity which are complex. At the forum practitioners receive support and supervision from the Principal Social Worker, managers and peers. The impact of the forum is that practice is strengthened as a variety of strategies are contemplated, legal frameworks and implications are considered, and the person's voice kept at the centre of discussions, resulting in well thought out, legally compliant interventions.
- Safeguarding audits take place every quarter. Audit outcomes are shared at the Quality Assurance & Performance Improvement Board. The impact of this is that areas of good work can be shared and if there are areas of concern, this forum provides the opportunity for decisions to be made promptly and for concerns or risks to be escalated quickly and appropriately.
- Public Health colleagues developed a strategy for engaging with and improving outcomes for disadvantaged and hard to reach groups. The

Principal Social Worker makes up part of this strategic group. An outcome of the strategy is that a new team has been created called the Medway Multi Disadvantaged Team. The team consists of a variety of partners from Housing, Health, Social Care, Drug and Alcohol Services, Counselling Services and Mental Health Services. The Team's aims to ensure services working in collective partnership, are transparent in both successes and challenges faced. The team use their collective powers, resources and knowledge to flex and change systems to create opportunities for success for all.

3.5 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 three of the annual report. In summary, recommendations relate to:

- Self-neglect and hoarding
- Safe discharge from hospitals and other settings
- Legal literacy and Making Safeguarding Personal
- The importance of advocacy
- Multi-agency working and information sharing
- Carers assessments
- Suitability of informal carers
- Co-occurring conditions of mental ill-health and substance misuse
- Placement availability
- Transition planning

#### 4. Risk management

4.1 While there are no specific risks identified, the KMSAB Annual Report 2023-24 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.

#### 5. Financial implications

5.1 The KMSAB Annual Report is funded by the KMSAB. The Medway Council partner agency contribution towards the KMSAB is £22,645 per annum and is within the existing revenue budget. There are no additional direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

## 6. Legal implications

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

6.2 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance, section 14.133, further states that “The main objective of a SAB is assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who meet the criteria set out at paragraph 14.2<sup>2</sup>)”

6.3 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 Board to note and comment upon.

### Lead officer contact

Victoria Widden, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

E-mail: [Victoria.Widden@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Widden@kent.gov.uk)

### Appendices

Appendix A. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Summary Report 2023 – 2024,

Appendix 1 Annual Report 2023-2024 Data

Appendix 2 Strategic Partners’ Highlights

Appendix 3 Annual Report Partner Highlights

### Background papers

[https://www.kmsab.org.uk/assets/1/kmsab\\_2023-2024\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.kmsab.org.uk/assets/1/kmsab_2023-2024_annual_report.pdf)

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- <sup>2</sup> has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
  - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
  - as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect