

**Report to:** Adult Social Care & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 15 September 2016

**By:** Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

**Title:** Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2015-2016

**Purpose:** To present the Annual report as required in the Care Act

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the contents of the report**

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### **1 Background**

1.1 The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report (**Appendix 1**) outlines the Safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex between April 2015 and March 2016.

### **2 Supporting information**

2.2 Highlights contained in the report are as follows:

#### **Priority 1.1: Ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the SAB to oversee and lead adult safeguarding and the prevention of abuse**

- In line with Care Act recommendations, an Independent Chair was recruited, ensuring an effective framework for governance and assurance as each organisation should have effective systems in place to safeguard adults.
- A Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) budget was set up for the first time, consisting of financial contributions from Adult Social Care (ASC), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Sussex Police and East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. This enabled the recruitment of the Independent Chair, the commissioning of an external reviewer for a multi-agency case review, as well as the costs of a learning event on Modern Slavery.
- A Lay member was appointed to increase community links, and transparency of the strategies and plans.

#### **Priority 2.1: Ensure Section 42 safeguarding arrangements are in place under the Care Act, with appropriate feedback and review arrangements**

- A multi-agency safeguarding case audit was undertaken, with the main focus on the new safeguarding Section 42 duties. Good information sharing at the start of enquiries was evidenced, as well as desired outcomes of the adult and/or their representative being considered. Development areas included ensuring earlier referrals for formal advocacy, a greater understanding of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and keeping communication channels open between ASC and the Police throughout safeguarding enquiries.
- Formerly known as Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) became a statutory requirement under the Care Act. No SARs were undertaken in this period, however a Multi-agency review (MAR) was undertaken and learning events have taken place across agencies.

#### **Priority 2.2: Develop clear mechanisms for responding to and monitoring quality concerns**

- A multi-agency workshop was held to focus on the changes needed to safeguarding arrangements across the partnership and work will continue on how to respond to safeguarding enquiries where there are concerns about the quality of care.

**Priority 3.1: Focus on personalising, defining and measuring safeguarding outcomes that bring safety and people's wishes together**

- Key safeguarding data includes a 43% increase in the number of safeguarding concerns received by ASC compared with last year, reflecting the three new categories included in safeguarding legislation (Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery and Self-neglect).
- There has been a significant increase in the number of enquiries resulting from concerns raised by homecare from just 12 in 2014-15 to 74 in 2015-16, following the successful awareness raising campaign with this staffing group last year, together with Homecare now being represented on the SAB. Six more enquiries were completed as a result of concerns raised by primary care (40 up from 34) however proportionately this is a 1% drop to 3% of all enquiries from 4% last year. Safeguarding awareness training with primary care began in this period, but remains a priority for 2016-17.

**Priority 4.1: Allow the voice of client's, carer's, and the local community to be heard in safeguarding policy and practice.**

- In 86% of cases where there was on-going action under safeguarding arrangements, risk was reduced or removed. This is a slight drop from 93% in 2014-15, however this reflects the nature of the additional types of abuse and neglect now included under the Care Act 2014, where there is an increased likelihood of decisions being made that balance risk factors against other quality of life decisions, such as maintaining contact with a family member who was the source of the risk.
- The proportion of people receiving support from an advocate, family member or friend where they lacked capacity in this period was 92%. This is up from 86% the previous year, and compares favourably to the national average of 61% for 2014-15.
- Of the total desired outcomes identified by adults, 99% were either met or partially met through the safeguarding enquiry process. This has increased from 81% last year, suggesting the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach is becoming embedded into practice, with the adult's wishes being central to actions taken.

**Priority 4.2: Ensure that people are aware of safeguarding and know what to do if they have a concern**

- In partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership, the SAB hosted a conference on 'Missing People, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking'. Over 120 delegates attended from a broad range of agencies. The event was timed to tie in with National Safeguarding day (29<sup>th</sup> February) and was part of a week long programme of activities to raise awareness with the public also. A total of 457 contacts were made with the public.

**Priority 5.1: Ensure that all people involved in safeguarding have the appropriate skills, knowledge and competencies**

- Key training figures from partner agencies are included in the annual report, with a particular focus on Domestic Abuse, harmful practices and Modern slavery.

**3. Care Act**

3.1 In March 2016, a refreshed edition of the Care and Support Statutory guidance was published. The Safeguarding chapter has had significant change, and a progress plan is attached as **Appendix 2**.

#### **4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The annual report shows significant progress in adult safeguarding activity from all organisations and has demonstrated the MSP principles are starting to embed into practice to put adults and their representatives at the centre of decisions and interventions made. The Care Act has brought many changes to safeguarding practice, representing a fundamental shift from being process driven to a more person centred approach.

4.2 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the report and its appendices.

**GRAHAM BARTLETT**  
**Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)**

Background documents:

None