

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Report of Vanessa Bainbridge, Independent Chair, Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. It is a Care Act requirement for the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board to give an annual account of the work of the Board.
- 1.2. The annual report, attached for members' information, highlights the current work of Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) during the year 2022-23.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The workings of the Board and its current sub-committees, and importantly what they have achieved, are shown within the body of the report and also the links the Board has with other strategic partnerships within the City.
- 2.2 The work of SSAB in 2022-23 focused on the strategic priorities as identified in its Strategic Delivery Plan 2019-24, which, following a refresh in 2021, were revisited again in 2022 to ensure they were still the priorities SSAB needed to focus on:
 - Prevention
 - Local Areas of Risk:
 - Self-Neglect
 - Mental Capacity
 - Homelessness
 - At Risk/Vulnerable/Complex Cases (including Substance Misuse) who don't meet statutory thresholds (via the Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM) process)
 - Domestic Abuse (supporting the work of the lead body, Sunderland Domestic Abuse Board)
 - Suicide Prevention (supporting the work of the lead bodies, Sunderland City Council's Public Health Team and the Suicide Prevention Action Group)

These priorities informed the Board's local actions to safeguard adults in Sunderland and were underpinned by the Care Act's six key principles of adult safeguarding.

- 2.3 The report highlights significant progress against its strategic priorities through the work of the SSAB & its Sub Committees, and through the training offer the SSAB commissions. It also features the Key Achievements; Good Practice, Partnership Working and Making Safeguarding Personal activity undertaken by the SSAB's statutory partners, and a 'Year in Figures' Performance Summary giving the headline activity figures for 2022-23 in relation to the Safeguarding Adults operational process. It also highlights how partners continued to use innovative ways of working that were previously developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance safeguarding adults activity.
- 2.4 The report has particularly emphasised the individual/service user experiences and used good practice case studies to illustrate the positive outcomes that have been obtained for a number of people who were either supported through the safeguarding adults enquiry process, or who benefited from 'lower-level keeping safe' preventative activity, advice and support to safeguard them and aid them to live safe and independent lives of their choosing.
- 2.5 The report also sets out the future direction of travel for the Board with regard to closely monitoring the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, progressing the Safeguarding Adults Review process regarding a complex case with themes of learning disability, physical health problems and cross-boundary working, and publishing the learning from this case, and continuing to build on the excellent partnership working that has characterised the last year.

In addition, a range of work focusing on the key SSAB priorities of Prevention, Self-Neglect, Mental Capacity and Homelessness, the Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM) process, domestic abuse, and suicide prevention will continue to be taken forward.

3.0 Contribution to delivering the Healthy City Plan

- 3.1 The activity of the SSAB supports the delivery of the Healthy City Plan. In particular, it supports continued partnership working across the SSAB's statutory partners of health, social care and police, along with a range of wider key partners such as housing, voluntary sector and commissioned services, e.g., advocacy, to support adults at risk of abuse and/or neglect to live safe, fulfilling lives as independently as possible. This supports the meeting of the Healthy City Plan statements of: *"High quality support and social care that enables those who need it to live the life they want to lead"* and *"Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives"*.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- Note and comment on the content of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23.