

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Report of Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board

1. 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 2021-22.

2. 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 2021-22 focused on the strategic priorities as identified in its Strategic Delivery Plan 2019-24, which were refreshed in 2021 following an exercise to review and follow the data, and refresh performance and assurance frameworks:
 - Prevention
 - Local Areas of Risk:
 - Self-Neglect
 - Mental Capacity
 - Homelessness
 - People at Risk/Vulnerable/Complex Cases (including Substance Misuse) who don't meet statutory thresholds: development of Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM)
 - Domestic Abuse (supporting the work of the lead body, Sunderland Domestic Abuse Board)
 - Suicide Prevention – particularly in light of the effects of COVID-19 (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 & it's 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 2021-22 in relation to the Safeguarding Adults operational process. It also highlights how partners continued to work differently in the 2nd year of the COVID-19 pandemic to enable safeguarding adults activity to still be maintained and progressed.

- 2.4.** The report also sets out the future direction of travel for the Board with regard to work on focusing on recovery following COVID-19, and implementation of the lessons learned from the 'Alan' SAR published in 2021, to ensure key issues and needs are better understood across the health & social care workforce, and good practice and innovation are not lost going forward. In addition, a range of work focusing on the key SSAB priorities of Prevention, Self-Neglect, Mental Capacity and Homelessness, plus prioritising the Service User Voice – continuing to embrace the values of Making Safeguarding Personal. Also, further work to embed the Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM) process for managing the most complex safeguarding adults cases, and evaluating the impact of this; continuing to promote the principles of Professional Curiosity amongst professionals working with people at risk of abuse and/or neglect, including raising awareness of the SSAB's recently-developed Professional Curiosity Guidance resource.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1.** The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the content of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22.