

8 November 2018		ITEM: 8
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report 2017/18		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Jim Nicolson, Independent Chair of Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board		
Accountable Assistant Director: Les Billingham, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care and Community Development		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Care Act 2014 set out a requirement for all Local Authorities to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board, the board is statutory under this Act. Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must publish an Annual Report; this report presents the Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Annual Report 2017/18 for consideration.

The Annual Report sets out the profile of adult safeguarding activity within Thurrock for the period 2017/18; describes the strategic objectives, and documents the SAB's achievements and challenges. Additionally, the report should refer to Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) that were commissioned during this period, however Thurrock has not had cause to commission a SAR.

The Annual report provides an opportunity to engage with stakeholders, most importantly on the Strategic Plan for the forthcoming year.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Members of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Care Act 2014 requires that each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) publish an Annual Report, that it be disseminated widely and specifically to key partners including, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Local Authority, Essex Police, Healthwatch and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.2 It is considered good practice for the Independent Chair to attend relevant forums to discuss both the Annual Report and Strategic Plan in order to raise the profile of Adult Safeguarding, to promote the SAB, and to continuously engage with its stakeholders.

3. TSAB Annual Report

3.1 The Care Act 2014 set out that each Local Authority must establish a SAB. The SAB's key role is to assure itself that safeguarding arrangements are in place as set out in the Care Act 2014; that those arrangements are person centred; that agencies collaborate effectively to prevent abuse from occurring and provide timely and proportionate responses when abuse does take place.

3.2 SABs have three core duties; to develop and publish a Strategic Plan, publish an Annual Report, and commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews as the need arises.

Summary of Safeguarding Adults Activity

3.3 Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Some adults with care and support needs may not be able to protect themselves, which places them at a higher risk of abuse and neglect. Adult safeguarding is the action taken by individuals and organisations to prevent or stop abuse and neglect of people with care or support needs.

3.4 There were 712 safeguarding concerns raised regarding suspected abuse or neglect during 2017/18, of these 177 were progressed to enquiry stage under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014. Data gathered during 2017/18 tells us that the most common reason for referral was neglect/acts of omission, financial abuse and physical abuse. The age and gender breakdown of people referred into the safeguarding process is similar to that of most other English local authorities, most adults subject to safeguarding processes are women, and the majority (both men and women) are aged 65 years and over.

3.5 Historically the emergency services are recognised to have high rates of raising safeguarding concerns, with a low conversion rate. During 2016/17 a project was undertaken with Essex Police to address this, which saw an improvement with a reduction in inappropriate concerns raised. East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust are currently reviewing their processes to redirect their concerns which are relevant for social care but do not have a safeguarding element. It is hoped that this will have a positive impact and increase the conversion rate from concerns received to enquiries undertaken.

3.6 Anecdotal evidence suggests that some cases recorded as physical abuse are cases of domestic abuse, this is a crucial distinction to make as it alters

the pathway for targeted person centred support and effective risk management.

- 3.7 Physical disability, learning disability and mental disorder are the leading reasons for supporting individuals who are the subject of a safeguarding concern.
- 3.8 During 2018/19 the SAB are working closely with Adult Social Care to improve data collection, recording and overall data integrity.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

- 3.9 DoLS exist to protect adults in care settings where treatment is required but the adult lacks the mental capacity to make decisions about that treatment.
- 3.10 In the year 2017/18 there were 779 DoLS applications made to Thurrock Council. The majority of DoLS applications are reviewed by six trained assessors, however Adult Social Care also utilise external assessors in order to manage demand.

Request Status	Count	%
Not Granted	7	1%
Granted	499	64%
Request Withdrawn	169	22%
Not signed off yet	104	13%
Total	779	100.00%

Finance

- 3.11 During 2017/18 the SAB was funded by the three core partners, Thurrock Council, Thurrock NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. This arrangement continued for 2018/19.

INCOME 2017/18	£
Thurrock Borough Council	37,500
Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group	18,750
Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner	18,750
SAR Fund: EPUT & NELFT	10,000
2016/17 carry forward	38,790
TOTAL	123,790

Strategic Objectives

- 3.12 The TSAB has a three year Strategic Plan which included the following Strategic Objectives (SO) during 2017/18, the table below sets out progress toward achieving the objectives.

SO	By 31 st March 2019 this Board will have published a Communication Strategy and two related local actions plans for Communication and Awareness Raising with particular emphasis on providers, carers, families and individuals and communities at risk.
Update	www.thurrocksab.org.uk went live and will be supported by printed material, social media campaigns and an engagement schedule during 2018/19.
SO	By 31 st March 2019 this Board will have produced its strategy and associated action plan for the Prevention of Harm and Abuse to Adults at Risk.
Update	A multi-agency workshop developed the concept for the Prevention Strategy, which will be finalised and implemented during 18/19.
SO	By 31 st March 2018 this Board will have worked with SET partners to consider and publish good practice in dealing with domestic abuse in older people and care settings.
Update	TSAB benefitted from a successful project led by the Southend, Essex & Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board. This SO was discharged. However, training will be delivered during 2018/19 to embed learning and improve practice.
SO	By 31 st March 2020, this Board will have conducted a review of the level of sexual exploitation of adults in Thurrock and made recommendations for further action if appropriate.
Update	A multiagency workshop led to the creation of a task and finish group to develop a joint strategy, toolkits and pathway. Work is ongoing and will continue into 2020.

Key achievements

- 3.13 In addition to making significant progress towards delivering its Strategic Objectives, the TSAB realised the following achievements:
- Development and implementation of a robust governance framework.
 - Development and ratification of the Safeguarding Adult Review Policy.
 - Undertook multi-agency out of hours visits to residential care homes.
 - Introduction of a multi-agency High Risk and Hoarding Panel.
 - Introduction of the Sexual Exploitation Task and Finish Group.
 - Funded the Lasting Power of Attorney project led by Thurrock Coalition.

- Part funded and supported the Stay Safe Project, in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership and Thurrock Centre for Independent Living.

3.14 **Strategic Objectives 2018 to 2020**

The strategic objectives for the next three years have been set in consultation with all partners. These are as follows:

- SO 1: By 31st March 2019 this Board will have published a Communication Strategy and two related local actions plans for Communication and Awareness Raising with particular emphasis on providers, carers, families and individuals and communities at risk.
- SO 2: By 31st March 2019 this Board will have produced its strategy and associated action plan for the Prevention of Harm and Abuse to Adults at Risk.
- SO 3: By 31st March 2020, this Board will have conducted a review of the level of sexual exploitation of adults in Thurrock and made recommendations for further action if appropriate.
- SO 4: By 31st March 2020 this Board will have reviewed and made recommendations for change if appropriate regarding the safeguarding gaps for at risk young people in transition to adulthood.

4. **Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 That the committee note this report.

5. **Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 The annual report was co-produced with core partners of the SAB.

6. **Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The work of the SAB contributes to the following council priorities:

- Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities
- Improve health and well-being

6.2 The SAB achieves this by empowering communities by developing their ability to identify and report abuse or neglect; effective multi agency collaboration to create safer communities by preventing abuse/neglect and working together to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of all residents and visitors to Thurrock by responding swiftly and proportionately when abuse and neglect does occur.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**
Management Accountant Social Care & Commissioning

Thurrock Council will continue to fund the TSAB at the current level of £37,500 pa and this has been identified within existing Adult Social Care budget allocations.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Sarah Okafor**
Barrister (Consultant)

On behalf of the Director of Law, I have read the report in full. The TSAB is a statutory board, established as a requirement under section 43 with its prescribed functions and responsibilities set out under Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014. Accordingly, I confirm there are no external legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

Diversity data shows that those referred to the safeguarding process have a similar demography to those in other English authorities, details of which are contained in this report. The leading reason for supporting individuals who are the subject of a safeguarding concern is physical disability, learning disability and mental ill health. The SAB will ensure that all protected characteristics, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, are treated fairly and given equal opportunity. During 2018/19 the SAB is working to improve data collection, recording and overall data integrity.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017/18
Appendix 2 - Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2017/20

Report Author:

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Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Manager