



People's Board

21 March 2024

Report Title	Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
Cabinet Portfolio	Adult Social Care
Cabinet Member	Councillor Marlene Quinn
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	For information only – no decision required.
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Ian Cardwell Independent Chair – Safeguarding Adults Board
Contact Officer	Francesca Smith Head of Safeguarding Adults Unit francescasmith@sthelens.gov.uk

Borough Priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life.	
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities.	x
	Create safe and strong communities and neighborhoods for all.	x
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy.	
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture.	
	Be a responsible Council.	

1. Summary

- 1.1 Publishing an annual report for the Safeguarding Adults Board is a requirement within the Care Act 2014. The Annual Report which sets out how the St Helens Safeguarding Board has performed and met its priorities and objectives during the 12 months.
- 1.2 The report outlines progress against the business objectives for 2022/23, which were focused on:
 - a. Ensuring the delivery of safeguarding services to adults at risk of abuse and neglect, with a particular emphasis on the approach of 'Making Safeguarding Personal'.
 - b. To dynamically adapt the boards approach to safeguarding adults to respond to emerging societal trends, priorities, reports, and guidance.
 - c. For the Board to be recognised as leaders in the field of safeguarding adults in St Helens through providing excellent standards of partnership working and to effectively engage with our community.
 - d. The Board will provide consistent leadership focusing on delivering positive outcomes for those using our services.

2. Recommendation for Decision

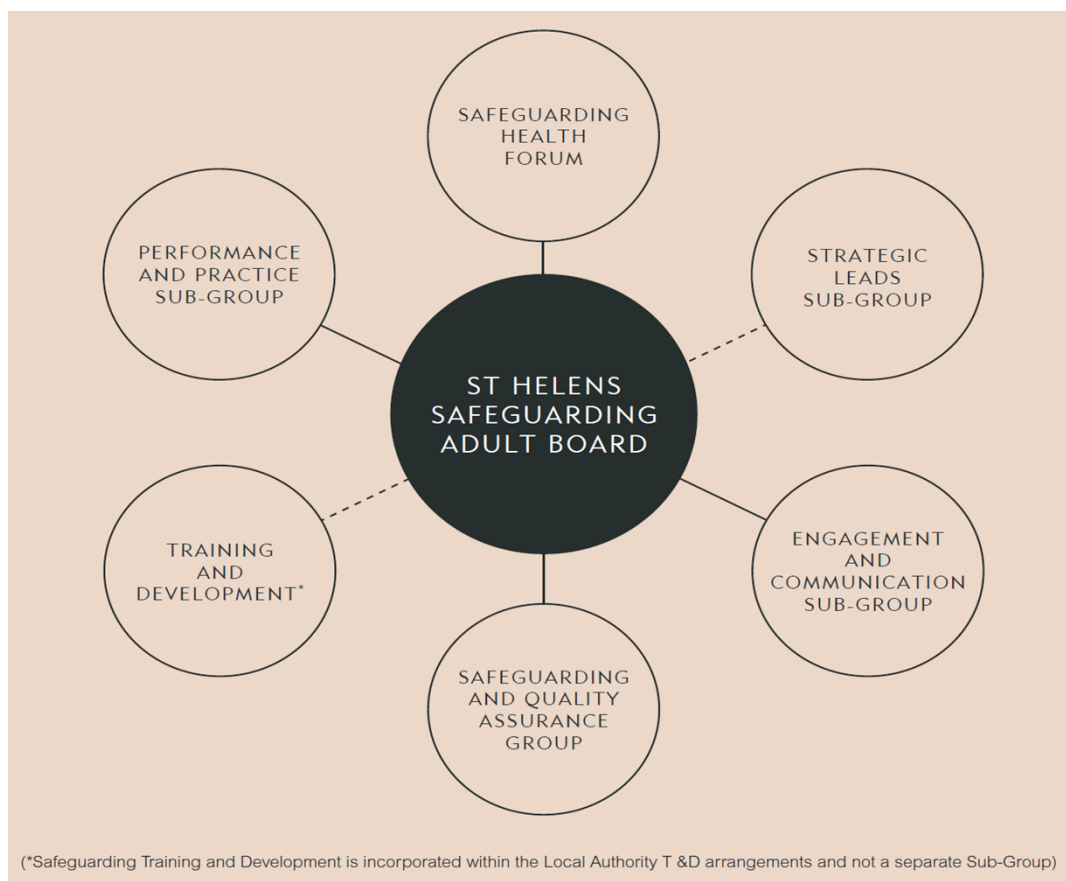
- 1) Note the contents of the report**
- 2) Note ongoing objections over the next 1-3 years**

3. Purpose of this report

- 3.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board has several statutory responsibilities and functions. These are:
 - To develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.
 - Commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.
 - Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been (Care Act 2014).
- 3.2 The purpose of this annual report is to fulfil the final responsibility set out above and it also refers to our strategic plans and objectives for the next 3 years period. The report outlines our approach to delivering best practice.

4. Background / Reason for the recommendations

- 4.1 The work of the Board is driven by its vision to promote partnership working by working together to help people feel safe and free from abuse and neglect. The Government's Statutory Guidance on the Care Act 2014 defines adult safeguarding as: *"Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted."*
- 4.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. The focus of the Board is to ensure safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that vulnerable adults at risk can live their lives free from abuse or neglect. The Board is overseen by an Independent Chair and meets quarterly. The Board delivers several priorities and there are a number of multi-agency Sub-Groups that support the delivery of these. The diagram below of the Board and related subgroups:



- 4.3 St Helens are now members of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group (MSARG), as an active member of the MSARG, there are opportunities to have a consistent SAR process across the Region and share any learning from SARs in other areas.

- 4.4 Safeguarding continues to improve and develop. The main focus in the last 12 months was to ensure people's 'desired outcomes' and 'Making Safeguarding Personal' continues to be embedded in practice. Additional engagement has been completed with front line teams and providers to ensure wide buy in of the approach. This has been successful and there are some case studies included in the report to demonstrate this.
- 4.5 The total number of concerns this year has increased by 11% compared to 21/22. There was an average of 470 concerns per reporting quarter for 22/23. Every year prior to Covid there was an increase in referrals with the exception of 20/21. The increase in referrals could be attributed to raising Safeguarding awareness, sharing learning from SARs, providing ongoing training and development sessions. The cost-of-living crisis may also have impacted this figure.
- 4.6 Neglect is the highest category of abuse whereby in previous years this was physical abuse. A large proportion of referrals identify more than one type of abuse. Domestic abuse may include financial, physical, sexual, emotional or all elements of abuse. Concerns regarding discriminatory abuse, modern slavery and sexual exploitation have continued to be low. Concerns regarding self-neglect have increased by 74% (117). A recent self-neglect audit has been completed, self-neglect training has been implemented and learning from SARs shared.
- 4.7 Key achievements in 2022/23 have included:
- The safe transfer of safeguarding responsibilities and duties from St Helens CCG to the ICB.
 - Working collaboratively with the Local Authority Safeguarding Unit, to revise the Safeguarding Adult Multiagency Process, creation of the local Person in a Position of Trust policy and the Multiagency risk Assessment and management (MARAM) Process.
 - Continued partnership working with the Local Authority, Healthwatch, St Helens and the Care Quality Commission to identify any thematic concerns in care homes, in order that focussed clinical quality support can be provided by the Quality Team.
 - Delivered bespoke training to Primary Care on the management of safeguarding adults abuse category - self-neglect.
 - Supported agencies through workshops, evaluation reports and case studies to undertake and implement learning whereby cases did not meet the threshold for a safeguarding adult review.
 - Continued to support the use of the Restore2 model in care homes to support staff to identify a deteriorating in a resident's health and support effective communication with GP Practices.
- 4.8 The objectives going forward include:

- Make safeguarding personal and support adults at risk to achieve the outcomes they wish.
- To adapt our approach to safeguarding adults to respond to emerging societal trends, priorities, reports, and guidance and developing innovative ideas to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational services.
- To provide consistent leadership focussing on positive outcomes for those using our services.
- To be recognised as the leaders in the field of safeguarding adults in St Helens by providing excellent standards of partnership working and engaging with our community, building awareness and confidence in our safeguarding service.

These objectives will be delivered over the next 1-3 years and are in line with the CQC assurance expectations.

5. Consideration of Alternatives

5.1 The report is for information and is a statutory requirement.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Safeguarding is always evolving, and the board partners are all committed to ensure we learn from local, regional, and national learning. The Board will continue to raise awareness of all types of abuse and support victims and their families. Following the publication of the annual report the board will produce a series of communications across social media and the council website. Safeguarding week will commence in the autumn and the board alongside the safeguarding team will support this.

6.2 A clear implementation plan will be developed to ensure targets of the board are met in a timely manner.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The Care Act 2014 requires each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to publish an annual report. Pursuant to Schedule 2 of the Care Act, as soon as feasible after the end of the financial year, the Board must publish a report on:

- What has been done during that year to achieve its objectives;
- What it has done during that year to implement its strategic plan;
- What each member has done during that year to implement its strategic plan;
- The findings of the reviews arranged by it under section 44 (Safeguarding Adults Reviews) which have concluded in that year (whether or not they began in that year);

- What it has done during that year to implement the findings of reviews arranged but it;
- Where it decides not to implement a finding of a review under section 44, the reasons for its decision;
- The performance of member agencies and how effectively they are working together should also be included.

7.2 The SAB must send a copy of the report to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council, the local policing body that is required to sit on the SAB, the Local Healthwatch organisation for the local authority's area, and the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for that area.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 N/A

9. Equality Impact Assessment

9.1 No equality impact assessment is required for this report, as it is a report for information and does not ask the Board to make any specific decision in relation to Safeguarding. However, equalities information is monitored and is included in the report.

10. Social Value

10.1 N/A

11. Net Zero and Environment

11.1 N/A

12. Health and Wellbeing

12.1 Effective delivery of services to safeguard vulnerable adults is a critical aspect of community cohesion. The Board provides essential oversight and scrutiny of the delivery of those services and, critically, ensure that partners collaborate to improve services.

13. Customer and Resident

13.1 Keeping residents safe and responding to concerns raised in a timely, caring, and appropriate manner is an essential aspect of safeguarding adults.

14. Asset and Property

14.1 N/A

15. Staffing and People Management

15.1 N/A

16. Risks

16.1 N/A

17. Policy Framework Implications

17.1 In line with existing policies and links to the borough strategy.

18. Impact and Opportunities on Localities

18.1 N/A

19. Background Documents

19.1 N/A

20. Appendices

20.1 Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 22/23