

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

**Report of Corporate Director,
Department for People
to
Cabinet**

**On
7 January 2014**

**Agenda
Item No.**

Report prepared by: Sarah Range
Safeguarding Adults Strategic Manager

**Southend-On-Sea Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board
Annual Report 2012/13**

**Executive Councillor: Councillor Lesley Salter
A Part 1 Agenda Item**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs the Cabinet of the impending publication of the Annual Report of the Southend-On-Sea Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (SVAB). Although the Council is the lead agency, safeguarding responsibilities fall across all local statutory partners, including Health and the Police. The Board has an independent Chair, who also chairs the Southend Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the report and the priorities for 2013/14.

3. Background

- 3.1 A vulnerable adult is someone 18 or over: "*who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation* (Department of Health. No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse.)"
- 3.2 The Department of Health requires all local authorities to have robust arrangements in place to protect vulnerable adults from exploitation and abuse. Southend Borough Council and partners adhere to the SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) Safeguarding Adults Guidelines, which governs the investigation process for all allegations of abuse.

- 3.3 Although there is no statutory requirement currently to have a Safeguarding Adults' Board, the Board has been in place since 2002 and is well established.
- 3.4 The draft Care and Support Bill contains proposals to establish Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Boards on a statutory basis and to require local authorities to make 'enquiries' where there are concerns about possible abuse or exploitation. The Bill, when enacted, will make it a requirement for Safeguarding Boards to publish an annual Strategic Plan as well as an Annual Report.
- 3.5 The Board meets 4 times a year and was supported until early 2013 by an Executive Committee and a number of task and finish Action Groups.
- 3.6 The Safeguarding Board agreed the Annual Report for 2012/13 at its' meeting on the 19 Sept 2013 – the current DRAFT annual report is attached as **Appendix 1**. Members will observe the significant activity that took place during the year. Key points of interest include:-
- Staff from various partner and commissioned agencies undertook training during the year.
 - The Safeguarding Adults Board launched a number of initiatives with partner agencies in 2012/13 to increase service user's feelings of safety.
 - The Council received 682 safeguarding alerts during 2012/13; an increase of 9.8% from the previous year.
 - Most alerts were about concerns for older people, relating to either financial abuse or neglect.
 - A third of alerts were in relation to standards in care homes, which compares to recent year trends.
 - During 2011/12 the Board undertook its' first Serious Case Review and the Executive Summary of this review was published on the 11 September 2012.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 None.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To keep the Council informed of the position in respect of safeguarding vulnerable adults in Southend and agree areas for further development.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities
The work of partners and the Council in safeguarding vulnerable adults directly contributes to the Council's priority of empowering adults to feel safe.
- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report but discharging our safeguarding responsibilities does place significant demands upon the overall budget for care management and adult social care.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Council is required to have robust arrangements in place to safeguard vulnerable adults and it is anticipated these requirements will be enshrined in legislation once the Care and Support Bill has made it's' passage through Parliament.

8. People Implications

- 8.1 The Council is required to ensure that staff across the care sector, including staff working for independent providers, are aware of safeguarding procedures, can work toward preventing abuse from occurring and how to report any concerns they may have.

9. Property Implications

- 9.1 There are no property implications arising from this report.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 The Annual Report has been widely discussed with our local partners and was agreed by the SVAB on the 19 September 2013.

11. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues arising from this report but there are close links and interdependencies between safeguarding responsibilities, domestic violence and hate crime.

12. Risk Assessment

- 12.1 From December 2013, Risk logs are maintained for the SVAB. There is a standing item on the SVAB agenda identifying risks to the efficacy of safeguarding services identified by partners, and agreeing mitigating actions to address these.

13. Value for Money

- 13.1 Fulfilling our responsibility to safeguard adults and promote their welfare is a statutory requirement. The Council works in partnership with other organisations and local authorities to ensure we fulfil those responsibilities in the most cost effective way. From July 2013 the SVAB now has dedicated board management, which is shared with the LSCB, with some additional administration resource shared between both Boards.

14. Community Safety Implications

- 14.1 SVAB arrangements support the safety for our most vulnerable adults across the localities and partnerships.

15. Background Papers

- 15.1 None.

16. Appendices

Southend-on-Sea Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board Annual Report 2012/13.