

# Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda  
Item No.

7

## Report of Southend LSCB & SVAB Chair

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### to Health & Wellbeing Board

on

Date 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Report prepared by: Christine Doorly (LSCB & SVAB Chair) &  
Helen Wilson (LSCB & SVAB Business Manager)

For discussion	x	For information only	Approval required	
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**Title of Report: Annual Reports on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**

### **Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)**

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#### **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide an annual assessment for the Health and Wellbeing Board in respect of the effectiveness of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults services in Southend. This report contributes to the requirements of statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and the Care Act 2014.

#### **2. Recommendations**

That the Board notes the LSCB & SVAB Annual Reports and reflects the priority areas for development in its strategic planning for 2015-16

#### **3. Background & Context**

3.1 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and

- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. (Working Together 2013)

3.2 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory partnership responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding children arrangements in all agencies. The LSCB works alongside the Success for All Children Group, which is responsible for leading and coordinating improvements in services for all outcomes for children, including their safety. Both the LSCB and the Success For All Children Group work with the Health and Wellbeing Board which provides strategic leadership across all services.

3.3 Effective safeguarding children systems are those where:

- the child's needs are paramount, and the needs and wishes of each child, be they a baby or infant, or an older child, should be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates;
- all professionals who come into contact with children and families are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;
- all professionals share appropriate information in a timely way and can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues and local authority children's social care;
- high quality professionals are able to use their expert judgement to put the child's needs at the heart of the safeguarding system so that the right solution can be found for each individual child;
- all professionals contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote a child's welfare and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans and outcomes;
- LSCBs coordinate the work to safeguard children locally and monitor and challenge the effectiveness of local arrangements;
- when things go wrong Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are published and transparent about any mistakes which were made so that lessons can be learnt; and

- local areas innovate and changes are informed by evidence and examination of the data.

3.4 The Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (SVAB) will become a statutory partnership from April 2015, responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding adults arrangements in all agencies. The SVAB works in Partnership with the LSCB and Health and Wellbeing Board to provide strategic leadership across all services. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Boards should:

- identify the role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults;
- establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications that increase the SVAB's understanding of prevalence of abuse and neglect locally that builds up a picture over time;
- establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements;
- determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit;
- establish mechanisms for developing policies and strategies for protecting adults which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and consultation with all relevant agencies but also take account of the views of adults who have needs for care and support, their families, advocates and carer representatives;
- develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect in its area;
- identify types of circumstances giving grounds for concern and when they should be considered as a referral to the local authority as an enquiry;
- formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances and professional and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults;
- develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect;

- identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training;
- carry out safeguarding adult reviews;
- produce a Strategic/Business Plan and an Annual Report;
- evidence how SVAB members have challenged one another and held other boards to account;
- promote multi-agency training and consider any specialist training that may be required.
- consider any scope to jointly commission some training with other partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership.

3.5 This report provides an annual statement of the LSCB and SVAB's effectiveness in the discharge of their safeguarding responsibilities. The report contains three elements:

- The annual report from the independent chair of the LSCB covering the effectiveness of safeguarding of children, and identifying key priorities locally to improve that effectiveness. (Appendix 1).
- A review of activity and outcomes of work by the LSCB and its partners regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and identified areas for development (Appendix 2)
- The annual report from the independent chair of the SVAB covering the effectiveness of safeguarding vulnerable adults and identifying key priorities locally to improve that effectiveness. (Appendix 3).

3.6 Working Together 2013 states that the LSCB Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.

The Care Act Guidance 2014 states that the SVAB chair must publish an annual report that clearly identifies what both the SVAB and its members have done to carry out and deliver the objectives and other content of its business plan.

3.7 The areas of challenge and development identified by the LSCB are as follows:

- ❖ Bi-annual meetings of partnership board chairs, facilitated by the local authority chief executive, to enhance strategic communication and development
- ❖ Reducing the numbers of young people admitted to hospital as a result of substance misuse and self harm
- ❖ Reducing the numbers of young children admitted to hospital as a result of accidental poisoning
- ❖ Implementation of the revised Domestic Abuse Strategy across Southend, Essex and Thurrock and resolution of the operational issues relating to the functioning of the MARAC
- ❖ Strengthening of operational links and working practices; training of wider population; and improving data flows and mapping of intelligence around Child Sexual Exploitation
- ❖ Improving access to specialist support services for victims of sexual violence and exploitation
- ❖ Improving awareness of female genital mutilation, forced marriage, trafficking and modern slavery and support to victims and those at risk
- ❖ Increase recruitment and retention of foster carers, as identified by the Corporate Parenting Group
- ❖ The development of any proposals to ensure improve information sharing through the development of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- ❖ Ensuring the re-commissioning of forensic and ongoing support services for child victims of sexual abuse provide appropriate, accessible, and joined up pathways for children and young people

- ❖ Continue to develop focus across all services on achievement of outcomes for children and young people
- ❖ Embed more strongly the children's voice across all services
- ❖ Use of the big lottery funding to improve safeguarding children outcomes for those living in the areas of highest deprivation
- ❖ Ensuring safeguarding children practice of all LSCB partners is responsive and accessible to the increasingly diverse population of Southend
- ❖ Ensuring the continued improvements in the quality and implementation of Child in Need Plans

3.8 The areas of challenge and development identified by the SVAB are:

- ❖ The impact of domestic abuse on vulnerable adults
- ❖ Enabling vulnerable adults to feed back about their experiences of safeguarding services to inform service development
- ❖ Oversight of the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Standards
- ❖ Oversight of the proposed development of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- ❖ Embedding the Family Focus Protocol
- ❖ Oversight of the implementation of the Care Act 2014
- ❖ Development of awareness and action to prevent exploitation, human trafficking, modern slavery and female genital mutilation

#### **4. Health & Wellbeing Board Priorities / Added Value**

How does this item contribute to delivering:

- HWB Strategy Ambitions
  1. Monitors the effectiveness of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to ensure a positive start in life
  2. Monitors the effectiveness of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to reduce the impact of substance and alcohol misuse on children and vulnerable adults
  3. Monitors the effectiveness of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to ensure mental wellbeing is improved

4. Monitors and coordinates the effectiveness of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults
5. Monitors the effectiveness of safeguarding of vulnerable adults to ensure they are able to live independently
6. Monitors the effectiveness of safeguarding of vulnerable adults, including the elderly to ensure a coordinated and personalised approach

- HWB added value outcomes;

1. Increased physical activity (prevention) – Not applicable
2. Increased aspiration & opportunity (addressing inequality) – Addresses the effectiveness of services to safeguard vulnerable adults and children
3. Increased personal responsibility/participation (sustainability) – Not applicable

## **5. Reasons for Recommendations**

Ensures coordination of strategic priorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults

## **6. Financial / Resource Implications**

None identified

## **7. Legal Implications**

Fulfils statutory responsibilities, as defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) and the Care Act 2014 to present the LSCB and SVAB Annual Reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board

## **8. Equality & Diversity**

Monitors and coordinates the effectiveness of safeguarding of the most vulnerable in society

The Board, the LSCB and the SVAB have the responsibility to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults have their safety and welfare needs addressed. The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Procedures for both Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults addresses the “recognition of additional vulnerability” and covers the considerations which must be taken into account when meeting the

needs of particular groups. All the LSCB and SVAB sub groups address equality matters, with a standing item on all agendas.

## **9. Background Papers**

- The Children Act 2004 Every Child Matters: Change for Children
- Children Act 1989
- The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report – Lord Laming (2009)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)
- The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report : A Child Centred System ( May 2011) – DfE website
- A Child Centred System: The Government’s response to the Munro Review of Child Protection (July 2011) – DfE website
- SEN and Disability Green Paper (2011) – DfE website
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) guidelines (2010) – DfE website
- Family Justice Review (Nov 2011)
- Children’s Commissioner –Report on the findings of the OCC’s enquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups (Nov 2012)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2014)
- No Secrets (2000)
- Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- The Care Act (2014)
- Care Act Guidance (2014)

## **10. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – LSCB Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children 2013-14

Appendix 2 – LSCB Review of Child Sexual Exploitation

Appendix 3 – SVAB Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults 2013-14

## HWB Strategy Ambitions

<p><b>Ambition 1. A positive start in life</b>  A. Children in care   B. Education- Narrow the gap   C. Young carers   D. Children’s mental wellbeing   E. Teen pregnancy   F. Troubled families</p>	<p><b>Ambition 2. Promoting healthy lifestyles</b>  A. Tobacco – reducing use   B. Healthy weight   C. Substance &amp; Alcohol misuse</p>	<p><b>Ambition 3. Improving mental wellbeing</b>  A. Holistic: Mental/physical   B. Early intervention   C. Suicide prevention/self-harm   D. Support parents/postnatal</p>
<p><b>Ambition 4. A safer population</b>  A. Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults   B. Domestic abuse   C. Tackling Unintentional injuries among under 15s</p>	<p><b>Ambition 5. Living independently</b>  A. Personalised budgets   B. Enabling community living   C. Appropriate accommodation   D. Personal involvement in care   E. Reablement   F. Supported to live independently for longer</p>	<p><b>Ambition 6. Active and healthy ageing</b>  A. Integrated health &amp; social care services   B. Reducing isolation   C. Physical &amp; mental wellbeing   D. Long Term conditions– support   E. Personalisation/ Empowerment</p>
<p><b>Ambition 7. Protecting health</b>  A. Increased screening   B. Increased immunisations   C. Infection control   D. Severe weather plans in place   E. Improving food hygiene</p>	<p><b>Ambition 8. Housing</b>  A. Partnership approach to; Tackle homelessness   B. Deliver health, care &amp; housing in a more joined up way   C. Adequate affordable housing   D. Adequate specialist housing   E. Strategic understanding of stock and distribution</p>	<p><b>Ambition 9. Maximising opportunity</b>  A. Population vs. Organisational based provision   B. Joint commissioning and Integration   C. Tackling health inequality (improved access to services)   D. Opportunities to thrive; Education, Employment</p>