

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director (Adults & Communities) and  
Executive Director (Children & Public Health)

to  
**Cabinet**

on  
28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Report prepared by: Paul Hill and Sue Rollason  
(Southend Safeguarding Board Business Managers)

Agenda  
Item No.

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## Annual Report on Safeguarding Children and Adults 2019/20

People Scrutiny Committee  
Cabinet Member: Cllr Harp  
A Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

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### 1. Purpose of Report

To provide an annual assurance assessment for the Chief Executive and elected members of their responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults in Southend. This report contributes to the requirements of statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the Care Act 2014.

### 2. Recommendations

**That the report is noted and the actions detailed in Section 6 are approved**

### 3. Report Summary

The report offers more information on work delivered in the period; in the following areas:

- Evidence Led Work (New Dashboard)
- Communication (New Website)
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Increase the voice of residents of Southend
- Workforce Supervision
- Concentrate on Neglect
- Delivery of the Making Safeguarding Personal Agenda
- Review and Audit Partnership Safeguarding Provision
- Involve the Education Sector
- Deliver against an agreed work plan
- Reflect and Learn from Case Reviews
- Improve Partnership response to child exploitation
- Review Partners response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour

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The report also identifies the priorities for 2020/23:

- Partnership Priorities
  - Ensure all Partners (Public, Private, Third Sectors and our Communities) have an opportunity to engage in working together and keeping people in Southend safe from harm and abuse.
  - Support communication between partners; ensuring vulnerable people have the information they need. (incl. data and information sharing)
  - Make arrangements that facilitate shared management of risk and delivery of services.
  - Create opportunity to build professional relationships and encourage Partners to work together to meet complex needs.
  - Make sure all practitioners and managers have the appropriate skills, competencies and training to fulfil their role; and are selected appropriately.
  - Ensure Partners learn from case reviews, organisational assessments and published guidance.
- Adults and Children's Shared Priorities
  - Neglect – promote the understanding of the issue.
  - Prevention – work with Partners to identify and reduce the cause of harm and abuse.
  - Ensure Partners hear the voice of the victim and think of the impact of abuse on the wider community (including family and close relationships)
  - Ensure that Partners have the tools and forums to discuss complex needs and the facility to manage any internal conflict.
  - Ensure that any change or new guidance is considered and implemented with the victim at the centre of its thinking
  - Ensure we develop the professional curiosity of practitioners.
  - Highlight the importance of reporting and recording accurately, to
  - ensure Partners have the best information and can understand the history of a victim.
- Vulnerable Adult Priorities
  - Domestic Violence – work with Partners to ensure victims are aware and receive the support they need.
- Children Priorities
  - Ensure Partners develop their understanding of Harmful Sexual Behaviour and put in place appropriate measures to protect victims.
  - Develop Partners ability to keep people safe on-line.

## 4. Background

### 4.1. Children and Social Work Act 2017

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Local Safeguarding Children's Boards ceased and local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were established in line with statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2018. The change in governance arrangements were delivered in Southend in October 2019.

*(Note: A review of the 'new' arrangements will be completed in October 2020)*

#### 4.2. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

In June 2018, the Department for Education released the revised version of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018 new guidance). These had a significant impact on local arrangements and some of the key changes are set out below:

- Abolishment of Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards (LSCB’s) and the introduction of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA): *Southend Safeguarding Partners took the opportunity to change the governance of both the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board and Safeguarding Adults Board. The new governance framework created a combined Adults and Children’s ‘Southend Safeguarding Partnership’ (SSP).*
- Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Police are identified as having the lead – described as the “Safeguarding Partners” whilst other organisations included in the SSP are identified as “Relevant Others”
- Introduction of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, replacing existing Serious Case Reviews;
- Changes to Child Death Reviews, led by child death review partners who are identified as the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

#### 4.3. The Children’s Act 2004

The Safeguarding Partnership must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area (this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004). The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles.

#### 4.4. The Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 requires each SAB to publish an annual report. The Care Act (Schedule 2.4 (1) a – g) defines the minimum content of an annual report and it should be delivered as soon as is feasible after the end of each financial year.

#### 4.5. COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The performance of ‘Safeguarding Partners’ and how effectively, or otherwise, they are working together should be included in the report. Partners are engaged in the management of the Coronavirus pandemic and so it is not appropriate to ask them to assign time to the delivery of detailed contributions to this report. *(only a brief summary is included)* If in the future the Strategic Leadership Group deem appropriate a fuller version of this report will be produced. *(The attached report should therefore be referred to as the ‘interim’ Southend Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2019/20)*

#### 4.6. Assurance

The attached report provides assurance of the SSP’s, and Council’s effectiveness in the discharge of their safeguarding responsibilities.

#### 4.7. Responsibility

We as Executive Director (Adults & Communities) and Executive Director (Children & Public Health) have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children, young people and adults with additional care and support needs in Southend, and to ensure that all appropriate local authority services engage effectively with the SSP. We have met with lead members and the Chief Executive and the Council Leader with this report in order that they can satisfy themselves that we are fulfilling our responsibilities.

#### 5. Other Options

None

#### 6. Reasons for Recommendations

To keep the Council informed of the position in respect of safeguarding children and adults in Southend.

#### 7. Corporate Implications

##### 7.1. Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

The work of partners and the Council in safeguarding children and adults directly contributes to the Council's priority to look after and safeguard our children and vulnerable adults.

##### 7.2. Financial Implications

Spending on Safeguarding Children Services  
Spending on Safeguarding Adults Services

##### 7.3. Legal Implications

This report supports the Council, The Leader, the Chief Executive Director and Lead Member to discharge their statutory duties under the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.

##### 7.4. People Implications

None

##### 7.5. Property Implications

None

##### 7.6. Consultation

The SSP is an inclusive organisation which involves statutory and voluntary agencies. Consultation with children and families, which influences the way in which services are delivered, is a key strategic priority for the SSP.

The SSP Community Services Members, Service User Organisation member, and Healthwatch member represent the interests of the community on the SSP in line with statutory guidance.

#### 7.7. Equalities and Diversity Implications

The Council and the SSP have the responsibility to ensure that all children and adults with additional care and support needs have their safety and welfare needs addressed. The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Procedures for both Child Protection and Safeguarding 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 SSP sub groups address equality matters.

#### 7.8. Risk Assessment

Risk logs are maintained for the SSP. There is a standing item on the agendas identifying risks to the efficacy of safeguarding services identified by partners, and agreeing mitigating actions to address these.

#### 7.9. Value for Money

Fulfilling our responsibility to safeguard children and 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. SSP members ensure that all functions are undertaken on value for money principles. Following a full review of the function in 2019 two business managers and one post for business support were engaged to deliver the functions of Adults and Children’s Safeguarding for the SSP.

#### 7.10. Community Safety Implications

SSP support safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable members of our communities. The SSP oversee work on abuse, e-safety, violence against women and girls, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, bullying and hate crime as it relates to children and adults, and monitors the effectiveness of the implementation of the domestic abuse strategy.

### 8. Background Papers

Many are core documents and are the same as identified in previous reports. Listed is the legislation and guidance that feature most in the work of the SSP:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Children Act 1989 / 2004
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- Family Law Act 1996 (as amended)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- Licensing Act 2003

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- European Convention on Human Rights
- Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations
- The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Children Act 2004 Every Child Matters: Change for Children
- Special educational needs and disability code of practice (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)
- Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- The Care Act (2014)
- Care Act Guidance (2014)
- Working Together (2018)
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and the Freedom of Information Act (2004).
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Caldicott Standards
- Disclosure and Barring Service

## 9. Appendices

Appendix 1 “Southend Safeguarding Partnership (interim) Annual Report 2019/20”