

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director, Children & Public Health

to

Cabinet

on

2nd November 2021

Agenda
Item No.

Report prepared by: Paul Hill (Southend Safeguarding
Partnership (Adults) Business Manager)

Southend Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020/2021

People Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member: Councillor Laurie Burton & Cllr Trevor Harp
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the Annual Report from the Southend Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (SSSP) is to provide an annual assurance assessment for the Council in respect of its 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

Cabinet is asked to note the Annual Report from the Southend Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (SSSP)

3. Background

3.1 When Southend Council reviewed and updated its arrangements following the DfE's issue of the updated Working Together document in 2018, the Council decided to combine many of the functions of the old Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) creating the new Southend Safeguarding Partnership.

3.2 In 2019-2020, an Interim Annual Report was published. This 2020-2021 Report is the first substantive one published.

3.3 The Annual Report of the SSSP for the Financial Year 2020-2021 is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Annual Safeguarding Report is co-owned by the SSSP's three Statutory Bodies, the Local Authority, Police and Health. The Annual Report which has been informed by all 3 statutory partners provides an account of safeguarding activity and ambitions, for both children and adults in Southend.

- 3.4 The pandemic placed unprecedented demands on Southend residents, services, and their staff for the 2020 / 2021 financial year so it is more important than ever to ensure that the SSSP reviews and accounts for its work in the previous year and sets in priorities for the 2021 / 2022 financial year.
- 3.5 The report opens with a commentary from the SSSP's Independent Advisor and Scrutineer Maggie Atkinson. It outlines the SSSP's mission, vision and values, its structure, and the links it has with local, regional, and national work on safeguarding for both adults and children.
- 3.6 The report sets the context and examines the performance of the SSSP and outline the strategy for 2021/2024 and the workplans that emerge from it. The report summarises and captures the outcomes from the work of partner organisations, the SSSP's sub-groups and the income and expenditure of the SSSP.

4. Other Options

N/A

5. Reasons for Recommendations

To keep the Council informed of the position in respect of safeguarding children and adults in Southend. Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 and section 41 of the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT 2018) document, together require the Southend Safeguarding Partnership to produce and to publish an annual report.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The work of partners and the Council in safeguarding children and adults directly contributes to all of the Southend 2050 outcomes and particularly Safe and Well.

6.2 Financial Implications

N/A

6.3 Legal Implications

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

6.4 People Implications

N/A

6.5 Property Implications

N/A

6.6 Consultation

N/A

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

N/A

6.8 Risk Assessment

N/A

6.9 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.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

The SSSP works alongside the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to safeguard children and adults living, studying and working in Southend.

6.11 Environmental Impact

N/A

7. Background Papers

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-secure-childrens-future>
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>
- The Care Act (2014)
 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents>
- Care Act Guidance (2014)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

8. Appendices

Appendix 1- Southend Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report (2020-2021)

Appendix 2- Southend Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report (2020-2021)
(Executive Summary)