

BRIEFING REPORT

Adults and Health Committee

Date of Meeting:	23 rd January 2023
Report Title:	Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report (2021-2022)
Report of:	Helen CHARLESWORTH-MAY, Executive Director, Adults, Health and Integration
Report Reference No.	AH/13/2022-23

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** This is the Annual Report of the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board. The report provides a comprehensive overview of how Strategic Partners worked together during 2021/2022 to prevent and protect Adults at Risk of abuse during this time. It also describes the purpose, aims and priorities of the Safeguarding Adults Board and notes challenges and achievements during this year including the on-going impact of COVID and international issues influencing Adult Safeguarding responses in Cheshire East. Finally, the report includes 2 “stories of difference”, describing how the Strategic Aims of the Safeguarding Board are implemented every day by Frontline Practitioners and the impact and safeguarding outcome for Adults at Risk who are residents of Cheshire East.
- 1.2.** The purpose of the report is to enable the Safeguarding Adults Board to fulfil its Statutory Duty to produce and publish an Annual Report. This report also provides an opportunity to evidence how the Safeguarding Board is fulfilling the Councils priority to “Protect and support our communities and safeguard children, adults at risk and families from abuse, neglect and exploitation” as stipulated in the Councils Corporate Plan 2021-25. Finally, the report acts as a reminder that Safeguarding is Everyone’s Business and the importance of effective communication and partnership working.

2. Background

- 2.1.** The Safeguarding Adults Board consists of 3 statutory partners from the Local Authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups (ICP's) but also Senior Representation from Housing, Probation, Cheshire Fire and Rescue, Mental Health Services, Prison Services, Voluntary and Faith Sector Groups. It has responsibility to lead adult safeguarding arrangements across the Cheshire East footprint and to oversee and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies.
- 2.2.** The Care Act 2014 endorses the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal and the Safeguarding Adults Board should ensure that all partners work in a "person centred, outcome focussed" way. Moreover, assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in Cheshire East.
- 2.3.** In addition to producing an Annual Report, the Safeguarding Adults Board also has a duty to produce a 3- year Strategic Plan which sets out the objectives of the Board and how they are going to be achieved. This plan is based on feedback from Partner Agencies regarding the effectiveness of the Board and aspirations for the future. Finally, the SAB has a statutory duty to commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews to enable learning where it is established that an Adult at Risk has died because of abuse or neglect AND agencies have not worked effectively together. During this year the Board published its first Statutory SAR concerning "Mervyn" and is referenced within the SAB Report.
- 2.4.** The Safeguarding Adults Board meets on a quarterly basis. However, there are many activities and subgroups which meet regularly throughout the year to support the work of the Board. A vital function of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to connect with other Partnership Boards and there are strong connections with the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, the Domestic Abuse Partnership, the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership, and the Early Help Board. Cheshire East is an active participant in the NW ADASS Safeguarding Network and the Independent Chair has established links with his Peers across the Cheshire footprint.

3. Briefing Information

- 3.1.** It should be noted that this Annual Report captures activity between April 2021 and March 2022, when the impact of COVID pandemic was still evident and staff were adapting to new ways of working. During this time our Statutory Adult Safeguarding duties under the Care Act remained unchanged, and staff have worked tirelessly and creatively during this time to respond to Safeguarding Adult Concerns. This briefing report would like to highlight key information contained in the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report.

- 3.2.** The Safeguarding Board has continued to meet virtually using Microsoft Teams and the Head of Adult Safeguarding has maintained effective communication with the Independent Chair of the SAB. The Board has continued to adopt a “themed approach” to Board meetings. This has enabled the Golden Thread of Adult Safeguarding to flow from Top to Bottom and vice versa, including case presentations to Board members by Social Workers and Practitioners. Key Themes during this year were Substance Misuse, Discriminatory Abuse, Mental Health and Criminal Justice Service response to Adult Safeguarding.
- 3.3.** Adult Safeguarding is not only about Protection but Prevention. During this year Cheshire East SAB joined with colleagues at the Ann Craft Trust as part of the national campaign to raise awareness during National Safeguarding Adults Week in November 2021. Secondly, the Boards dedicated Safeguarding Trainer, funded by a Lifelong Learning Grant, delivered basic Adult Safeguarding Training to 809 Non-SAB Board Partners and to 204 Statutory Partners. The total number of 1013 exceeded the target of 600 by 413. An excellent achievement. Thirdly, many SAB Board partners joined members of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership in December 2021 and March 2022 as part of the Serious and Organised Crime Boards Day of Action. These multi agency events aimed to raise awareness about Safeguarding and Community Safety and to hear how Cheshire East Residents may have been impacted by these issues.
- 3.4.** The Safeguarding Board has retained a supportive and encouraging role to organisations, providers, and practitioners during the pandemic, recognising the longer-term impact of COVID on all Front-Line Staff. The Board is planning to hold another Safeguarding and Dignity Award Event in 2023.
- 3.5.** The Annual Report evidences the number of Safeguarding Concerns submitted to the Local Authority during 2021/2022. Page 7 of the Report describes the key activity evidencing that Cheshire East received 5039 safeguarding concerns in 2021/2022 compared with 4252 the previous year. Each one is triaged to see whether at the Information Gathering stage, the concern should progress to a full Section 42 Enquiry, and it is noted that 1413 concerns did in fact result in a full Enquiry. Most referrals come from Care Providers, followed by NWS and the Police. The number of referrals from Care Providers is attributable to increased awareness about identifying and reporting concerns, together with recruitment challenges and longer-term impact of COVID. It should also be noted that safeguarding enquiries are much more complex with key issues of substance misuse, trauma, self-neglect, and engagement being common themes.
- 3.6.** Finally, in last year’s Annual Report it was noted that Professor Michael Preston Shoot facilitated a Development Day for SAB Members. As a consequence of the Development Day and in response to an increase in the number of Safeguarding Adult Review requests, the SAB arranged a staff Conference. This focussed on how and when to undertake a Safeguarding

Adults Review, a Domestic Homicide Review or LeDer Review and considered learning from national SARs and DHRs. During 2021/2022 the SAB received 8 SAR referrals, 3 were deemed to meet the criteria for a statutory review and 2 for a Discretionary SAR and 3 did not meet either criterion.

- 3.7.** The report ends with personal case studies of Mike and Julie highlighting the impact of self-neglect on individuals. But more importantly how Social Worker's turned Making Safeguarding Personal into a reality and worked with each person to achieve their own outcomes and used the Complex Safeguarding Forum to ensure a multi-agency response to risk and trauma.

4. Implications

4.1. Legal

- 4.1.1.** The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report demonstrates compliance with the statutory duties under the Care Act 2014.

4.2. Finance

- 4.2.1.** **There are no financial implications or changes required to the MTFS because of this briefing paper.**

- 4.2.2.** The Safeguarding Adults Board is funded by a mixture of funding sources. The Better Care Fund contributes £52k per year and £10k pa is received from Cheshire Police, and there is a CEC base budget contribution of £23k pa.

- 4.2.3.** The funding supports the Independent Chair, the Safeguarding Board Manager and Administrator. The SAB is responsible for Commissioning Safeguarding Adults Reviews as they occur. The number of SAR requests continue to increase. The Safeguarding Trainer is funded externally each year.

- 4.2.4.** The Safeguarding Adults Board would like to be able to undertake more proactive preventative work and to also offer multi-agency training. This can only be achieved by additional funding if it is made available in the future.

4.3. Human Resources

- 4.3.1.** There are no Human Resources Implications. The Report will be published on the Safeguarding Board Website: www.stopadultabuse.org

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021/2022 Cheshire East SAB 3-year Strategy