

<b>5 November 2020</b>		<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thurrock Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Jim Nicolson - Independent Chair of Adult Safeguarding Board Fran Leddra - Principal Social Worker and Strategic Lead Adult Social Care		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Les Billingham - Assistant Director Adult Social Care & Community Development   Adults, Housing and Health		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Roger Harris - Corporate Director, Adult's Housing and Health		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## Executive Summary

The Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) is a multi-agency partnership, comprising statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. The role of the Board is to ensure that robust safeguarding procedures are in place across the Borough, to protect those adults more vulnerable to abuse and/or neglect. The Board provides a strategic and operational scrutiny of the three statutory core partners; these being the Local Authority, Police, and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Where abuse and neglect does occur the Board and its partners are committed to tackling this and promoting person-centred care for all adults experiencing such abuse or neglect.

The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear statutory framework for how local authorities and other key partners, such as care providers, health services, housing providers and criminal justice agencies, should work together to protect an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It also specifies three core responsibilities for Boards, namely;

1. To produce and publish an Annual Report - This has been completed and is the subject of this Report.
2. Produce and publish a Strategic Plan - This has also been completed in collaboration with stakeholders and Healthwatch.
3. Conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews if the need arises - No Safeguarding Adult Reviews were commissioned in 2019/20.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

**1.1 That Members of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.**

**1.2 For members of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be presented with some of the key data and strategic priorities of the TSAB.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 The Care Act 2014 requires that each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), having published an Annual Report, will disseminate it widely and specifically to key partners including the Chief Executive and Leader of the Local Authority; Essex Police; Healthwatch; and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.2 The Annual Report is a public document that informs both our partners and our communities of the breadth of safeguarding work undertaken in the preceding year, with some key data and information about the Board's strategic priorities. The report of the TSAB for 2019/20 is attached.

2.3 The TSAB Annual Report highlights the achievements against the following three strategic priorities for 2019/20;

1. Implement a Communications Strategy;
2. Implement a Prevention Strategy, and;
3. Understand the scale of adult sexual exploitation and the gaps in transition from children's to adult's services for those at risk.

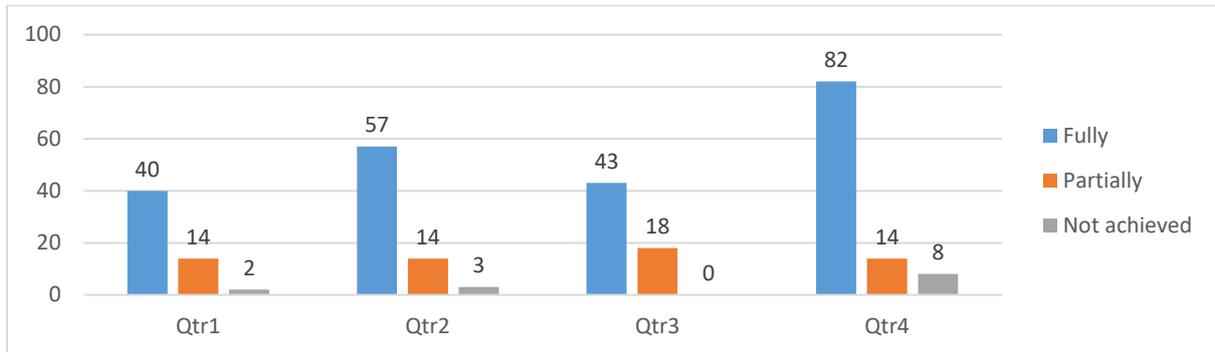
2.4 In regard to performance the Annual Report has comprehensive data, of which the key is the total number of Concerns reported and Enquiries subsequently undertaken and with what outcomes.

2.5 Despite a reduction in Quarter 4, probably attributable to the Covid pandemic, as well as in the previous Quarter, the total number of Concerns reported in 2019/20, was 1000, which represents an increase of 167 (20%) compared with the total of 833 in 2018/9.

2.6 The total number of Enquiries in 2019/20, also increased, resulting in a yearly total of 444. This represents an increase of 175 (68.9%) compared with 269 in 2018/19.

2.7 Dividing the number of Concerns by the number of Enquiries that arise from them provides a Conversion Rate for 2019/20, of 44%, which compares favourably with current national averages, as it does with the local conversion rate of 32% in 2018/19. Managers attribute this to the fall off in the number of Concerns at the end of the year, freeing up time to complete more Enquiries.

2.8 It was also very encouraging to see that peoples' desired outcomes are being met in a significantly higher number of cases, as can be seen from the table below. Other improvements in recording were also noted.



2.9 During the coming year, April 2020 to March 2021, our main focus will be to begin implementation of the Strategic Objectives which are in the new Strategic Plan 2020/23, by developing a detailed, measurable action plan for each explaining what we want to achieve and how we will do it..

2.10 We will also:

- Analyse the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable people and plan to address any additional safeguarding needs that emerge;
- Work with agencies to test how well the safeguarding system works;
- Continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership, and improve our connections with the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership;
- Improve resilience within communities and individuals;
- Take a broader approach to safeguarding by discussing a more diverse range of topics that will engage all board member agencies;
- Target community engagement to increase accessibility, content, and reach, and introduce TSAB content on social media platforms.

### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the TSAB to publish an Annual Report. The HOSC will wish to be made aware of that Report and the strategic priorities of the Board

3.2 Safeguarding is a corporate and partnership priority.

### 4. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

4.1 The TSAB produces this report following consultation with all the statutory and non-statutory partners that make up the Board. Many of whom have contributed and helped write specific sections of the report, reflecting the views of the service users and communities they engage with.

## **5. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance, and community impact**

5.1 The work of the SAB contributes the Council's Priorities and Vision in the following areas:

- **People** – a Borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.
- This means high quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

5.2 The TSAB achieves this by empowering communities and developing their ability to identify and report abuse or neglect. It promotes effective multi-agency collaboration to create safer communities, which in turn helps prevent abuse/neglect.

5.3 The TSAB works closely with all partners to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of all residents and visitors by responding swiftly to allegations of abuse and neglect; supporting preventative initiatives and providing information to raise awareness of available services.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**  
**Interim Senior Management Accountant,**  
**Finance, Governance and Property**

The TSAB received ring-fenced funding from the Council; the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex; and the Clinical Commissioning Group, which meets all its planned expenditure.

### **6.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**  
**Deputy Head of Law, Legal Department**

In producing this Annual Report, the TSAB has discharged its responsibilities in respect of one of the core roles as defined by the Care Act, 2014.

Confirmation of discharging its responsibilities in relation to the remaining two is contained within this Report.

### 6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**  
**Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities, Adults, Housing and Health Directorate**

In addressing adult safeguarding the focus of the TSAB is to help and support those suffering inequality, neglect, and abuse within all sections of our communities. This Annual Report details the work both completed and planned to improve further the resilience of individuals, their carers and friends as well as the wider community to combat abuse and neglect.

### 6.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

There is close cooperation with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on matters of shared interest. Many areas of operation covered by the Annual Report are also subject to complementary activity by the CSP.

### 7. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2020/21, available via; <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2020-v01.pdf>

### 8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report 2019/20.

### **Report Author:**

Jim Nicolson

Independent Chair Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board

Adult Social Care and Community Development