

2 September 2021		ITEM: 8
Health and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/21		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Jim Nicolson, Independent Chair of Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board		
Accountable Assistant Director: Les Billingham, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care and Community Development		
Accountable Director: Ian Wake, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

The Care Act 2014 states that all local authorities have a duty to establish a Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) and as a minimum must have three members; locally executive representation is provided by Thurrock Council, Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group and Essex Police. The Act and the accompanying Statutory Guidance set out the responsibilities of the SABs, which includes helping and protecting adults in its area by developing, sharing and implementing a joint safeguarding strategy.

SABs have three core responsibilities:

1. To produce and publish an Annual Report detailing how effective our work has been.
2. In collaboration with stakeholders and Healthwatch, produce a Strategic Plan setting out how we will meet our objectives, and
3. Conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) for any cases which meet the criteria.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Safeguarding Annual Report be noted by Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The aim of the Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) is to ensure the effective co-ordination and delivery of services to safeguard and promote the

welfare of at risk adults in accordance with the Care Act 2014 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance. To achieve this aim TSAB works with partners and local communities to ensure that safeguarding services work well, are constantly improving and meet the needs of local people by:

- Preventing abuse and neglect from happening.
- Responding quickly when abuse or neglect does happen, and
- Always putting the adult's wishes at the centre of the process.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding adults, and the role everyone can play in responding to, and preventing, abuse and neglect.

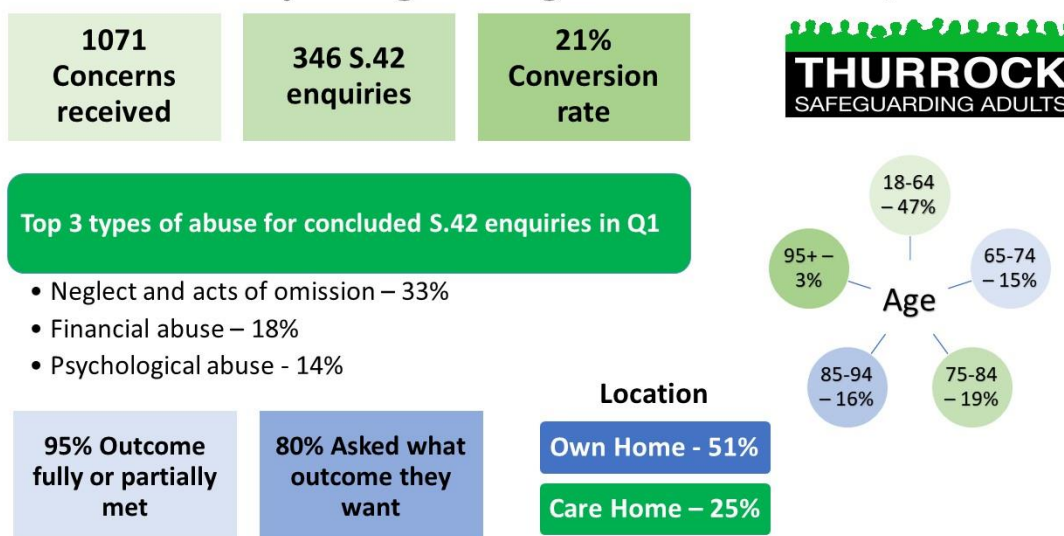
2.2 The Care Act 2014 requires that each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) publish an Annual Report, that it be shared widely and specifically to key partners including, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Local Authority, Essex Police, Healthwatch and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.3 The Annual Report sets out the adult safeguarding activity within Thurrock for the period 2020/21 and what our priorities are moving forward.

3. Safeguarding data

3.1 The information below gives a summary of safeguarding data for the year. Work has been ongoing this year to improve the accuracy of recording of abuse types to enable more accurate information moving forward. COVID-19 has significantly affected safeguarding activity nationally and in Thurrock, the audit and operational groups will continue to monitor the data for trends over the next year.

Summary Safeguarding Adult Data 2020/23



4. Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)

- 4.1 No SAR referrals were made in 2020/21 although the Board did review SARs from the eastern region to look at the recommendations and whether there was learning for Thurrock. The Board also raised awareness of the SAR criteria with its partner agencies.

5. Finance

- 5.1 During 2020/21 the SAB was funded by the three core partners, Thurrock Council, Thurrock NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Income	£
Budgets contributions from the CCG – £18,750, OPFCC – £18,750 & Thurrock Council – £74,160	£111,660
Carry forward from 2019/20	£49,473
Ring fenced money for SARs	£15,000
Total	£176,133

- 5.2 The total expenditure during 2020/21 was £89,782 which was mainly staff costs. Due to COVID-19, the Board was unfortunately unable to undertake all the activities planned for the year, and for which funds had been allocated. The resultant underspend will therefore be carried forward to fund plans to implement the Board's Priorities in 2021/22.

6. Strategic Objectives

- 6.1 Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board published the refreshed Strategic Plan in 2020 which was developed in partnership with the local community. The Strategic Plan was also produced in an Easy Read format. The Board's Priorities for 2020/23 are:

- To increase our understanding of abuse and neglect: using data to create profiles by location, abuse type, perpetrator, care and support need.
- To contribute to implementing the recommendations of the Sexual Abuse/Violence Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- To focus on perpetrator disruption.
- To strengthen transitional safeguarding arrangements.

- 6.2 For all the workstreams task and finish groups were established to help to gather information about the issue in order to create more detailed delivery plans. We also:

- Developed a new and improved performance dashboard. This provides a more visual picture about abuse and neglect in Thurrock.

- Commenced our audit programme, auditing cases based upon themes such as safeguarding and domestic abuse.
- Finalised the exploratory study of the scale and nature of sexual exploitation of adults and transition aged young people in Thurrock.

6.3 During the coming year, April 2021 to March 2022, our main focus will be to work through the delivery plans for the Strategic Objectives 2020/23. We will:

- Develop a quality assurance framework to assess the quality of the work we do in order to safeguard adults.
- Publish the exploratory study of the scale and nature of sexual exploitation of adults and transition aged young people in Thurrock virtually in order to share the findings and recommendations.
- Ensure that training is available for staff on a range of topics including; modern day slavery, domestic abuse, cuckooing and sexual exploitation.
- review the learning from both local and national reviews around how our approach to transitions could be improved.
- Continue to analyse the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable people and plan to address any additional safeguarding needs that emerge as a consequence.
- Update our SAR policy and form and implement the recommendations for the National SAR analysis to ensure we are prepared for future referrals/best practice.
- Refresh our prevention strategy with new themes.
- Continue to work closely with our local partnerships; Community Safety Partnership, and Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Essex and Southend Safeguarding Adult Boards.

7. Reasons for Recommendation

7.1 That the committee note the contents of the annual report and the future strategic priorities of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

8. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

8.1 The annual report was co-produced with core partners of the SAB, with the three statutory partners providing an update to be included in the annual report.

9. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

9.1 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

10. Implications

10.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Bradley Herbert**
Senior Management

All anticipated costs of implementing activities identified within the Strategy will be fully met within the existing ring-fenced budget allocation for 21/22 financial year.

10.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Law

The publication and circulation of this Annual Report fulfils one of the three key legal requirements placed on the Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board by the Care Act 2014.

10.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

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 community. 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.

10.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

The Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board works in close cooperation with the Community Safety Partnership to develop harmonised responses to address common themes in terms of victims and perpetrators as well as general improvement in service delivery.

11. 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):

12. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - [Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020/21](#)

Report Author:

Paula Ward

Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Manager