

Report to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

21 November 2023

Subject:	Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023
Director:	Director of Adult Social Care – Rashpal Bishop
Contact Officer:	Deb Ward Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Manager deb_ward@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the Safeguarding Adults Board annual report 2022-2023.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Care Act 2014 requires each Safeguarding Adults Board to publish an annual report.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	People live well and age well In ensuring people are safeguarded, individuals with needs for care and support living in Sandwell are better able to live well, live the life they choose and age well.
	Strong resilient communities Effective safeguarding is key in all communities. SSAB is committed to hearing what people are telling us, building on community strengths and acting on what people are telling us making Sandwell a safer place for all.



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The purpose of the annual report is to update on the work and commitment of the Safeguarding Adults Board, create a better understanding of the safeguarding picture in the borough, and inform members as to agreed priorities for the forthcoming year. Producing a report is a statutory function of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Safeguarding Adults with care and support needs and what we know about abuse in the borough:

- 4.2 During this reporting period, the number of safeguarding concerns reported to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) as the lead agency for safeguarding adults, decreased. The conversion rate from concern to enquiry has decreased overall. Not all concerns raised became safeguarding investigations, other responses may have included signposting or a proportionate response that ensured an individual was safe. This demonstrates that the key messages delivered through social media and campaigns on how to report a safeguarding concern and what is safeguarding are being understood and acted upon. We can also see from the data the areas we need to continue to focus on.
- 4.3 Over the reporting period, the data tells us that 58% of people are abused in their own home. This is in line with the national picture and central government plan to undertake a review which will be reported on in more detail next year.

Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs):

- 4.4 Undertaking SARs is a statutory function of the Safeguarding Adults Board. Sandwell SAB commissions a SAR when an adult with need for care and support dies or is seriously injured and there is evidence of abuse and neglect and reason to believe that agencies could have worked better together to safeguard the individual. The purpose of SARs is to ensure that clear learning is identified and changes in practice or systems are made as a consequence.
- 4.5 During this reporting period, SSAB have considered
- 1 new referral



Some of the key learning includes:

- Failure to appropriately identify risk and record it.
- Absence of multi-agency working or understanding about when/how to convene a multi-disciplinary meeting.

4.6 SSAB Priorities for 2023-2024:

- Listening to the voices of people who use services and front-line practitioners
- Develop more inclusive Performance Data
- Embedding learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- Board Governance

4.7 Consultation carried out:

The SSAB Annual Report is co-produced with all partners. A shorter, one-page visual report is also available.

5 Implications

Resources:	No financial implications.
Legal and Governance:	The report tabled is a statutory function of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
Risk:	Understanding the Safeguarding picture helps better manage the risk to individuals, families and members of the public as well as organisational reputation.
Equality:	The SSAB Annual Report is the responsibility of the SSAB and is a summary and assessment of the work of all partners in meeting the safeguarding agenda. This Board undertakes Equality Impact Assessments as required.
Health and Wellbeing:	Accepting the report and the priorities identified for SSAB will further safeguard communities and promote system wide health and wellbeing for the people of Sandwell.
Social Value:	Supporting the activity of SSAB supports safer lives safer communities, building on strengths and enabling communities and all its members regardless of the complexity of their needs to make positive contributions and lead more fulfilled lives.



Climate Change:	No implications identified.
Corporate Parenting:	No implications identified within the report, however, SSAB acknowledges that responsibility.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Annual Report 2022-2023

Appendix 2 - Visual Report

Appendix 3 – Presentation

7. Background Papers

None.

