

# Report to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

**20 January 2025**

<b>Subject:</b>	Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023-2024
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Adult Social Care – Rashpal Bishop
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Deb Ward Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Manager <a href="mailto:deb_ward@sandwell.gov.uk">deb_ward@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the Safeguarding Adults Board annual report 2023-2024.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

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

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

Living in Sandwell	In ensuring people are safeguarded, individuals with needs for care and support living in Sandwell are better able to live a life they choose, where risks are identified, and support is timely and appropriate.
One Council One Team	Working together in partnership ensures Sandwell citizens with needs for care and support are effectively safeguarded, supporting relationships built on trust that promote community strengths, building on what is strong and not what is wrong.

## **4 Context and Key Issues**

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.

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

During the reporting period, the number of safeguarding concerns concluded was 773 and the number of section 42 enquiries concluded for all categories of abuse was 210 representing 27% conversion rate. The conversion rate is an improvement from last year's position of 25% arising from the data between the safeguarding concerns and enquiries concluded during the 2022-23 period.

The current data continue to show positive increasing trends in performance in adult safeguarding which is consistent with current sustained efforts towards system improvements and changes in the culture of practice. The number of Contacts open at the end of the reporting period with the Contact Reason being 'Enquiry relating to Safeguarding' have continued to decrease month on month. In terms of risk outcomes, 98% of the enquiries concluded by the fourth quarter of 2023/24 resulted in the risk either being reduced at 64% or removed at 34% with only 2% of risk remaining and 95% overall across the reporting year. This among other factors demonstrates that we are doing very well as an authority in ensuring safety in the system.

### **4.2 Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs):**

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.

In 2024, the SSAB Business Team and Safeguarding Adults Board has continued to develop the use of impact statements and learning tools to support the powerful delivery of key messages underpinning practice changes and learning for all. On 18th March 2024, the SSAB held a multi-agency SAR learning event that engaged positively with families and individuals with lived experience, identifying key learning and

resource development. Please see some of the hard-hitting films and statements on page 24 of the Annual Report.

Within this reporting period, April 2023 – March 2024, the SAR Standing Panel have published 1 review. In addition, 1 is awaiting publication, 2 reviews are progressing. A new referral has recently been agreed to meet the threshold for a SAR.

In addition, Sandwell actively participates in the West Midlands Regional SAR group, ensuring that we learn with our peers and lead practice developments, where appropriate.

**Board Priorities 2022-24. Extended until April 2025, agreed by Board members:**

1. Listen to the voices of service users and front-line staff
2. Develop more inclusive performance data
3. Work with all partners to look at Sandwell’s “Front Door” including pathway, referrals and thresholds
4. Specific projects to be discussed with the Five + Statutory Boards which all focus on prevention
5. Board Governance

**Consultation carried out:**

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

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	No financial implications.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The report tabled is a statutory function of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
<b>Risk:</b>	Understanding the Safeguarding picture helps better manage the risk to individuals, families and members of the public as well as organisational reputation.
<b>Equality:</b>	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.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	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.
<b>Social Value:</b>	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.
<b>Climate Change:</b>	No implications identified.
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	No implications identified within the report, however, SSAB acknowledges that responsibility.

## 6 Appendices

- Annual Report 2023-2024
- Visual Report

## 7. Background Papers

None.