

Report to Council

26 January 2021

Subject:	Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-2020
Director:	Neil Cox, Director of Prevention & Protection
Contact Officer:	Deb Ward - Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Operation Manager Deb_ward@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council receive the Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-2020 and the Easy Read version.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 To present the Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report 2019 - 2020 for approval.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.
	Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods. Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The local Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board has a responsibility to ensure that all agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare and wellbeing of adults with support needs. It co-ordinates and quality assure the activities of member agencies. The Safeguarding Adults Board requires representatives from the Local Authority, the NHS and the police. The Board is responsible for developing shared plans for safeguarding and working with local people to enable adults with support needs/adults at risk, whether they are known to local services, to work in partnership to stay safe.
- 4.2 The Care Act 2014 requires that Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board produces an Annual Report. This is a summary and representation of the work of all partners within the Borough covering the period April 2019 – March 2020.
- 4.3 We have looked at our data considering the previous year's data, regional data and national data for 2018-19. This year the number of concerns reported to SMBC, as the lead agency for safeguarding adults, has increased compared to the previous reporting year and the conversion rate from concern to enquiry has also increased. Not all concerns raised became a safeguarding enquiry.
- 4.4 We can see from our data who raises concerns, for example a family member, police, housing, hospital and other sources and we can see which of these concerns became a safeguarding enquiry. For this reporting period of the 6% reported concerns from the public 27% of those concerns became active safeguarding investigations. This would suggest that the work around the See Something Do Something Campaign and helping communities to better understand safeguarding is having a positive impact.
- 4.5 38% of abuse in Sandwell takes place in an individual's own home, this is in line with the regional and national average. However, for Sandwell this does represent a reduction in comparison to both last year's reporting period and previous years. This remains a priority for the Quality & Excellence Sub Group in terms of understanding the impact of neglect and financial abuse; being the primary types of abuse are identified as happening in an individual's home.



Identifying abuse where it happens in an individual's own home is challenging. Individuals may not in the first instance think they are being abused and we need to consider the impact of isolation and loneliness as these two factors may make it harder for individuals to report abuse.

Furthermore, work has been undertaken with colleagues from the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) to better support and enable professionals to consider domestic abuse / coercive control when financial abuse has been identified.

- 4.6 All of the concerns that are raised and dealt with are representative of the Sandwell population.

In the 18-64 age range, 35% of people have long term care and support needs and have formal support funded by Adult Social Care (ASC) and 11% of individuals from within this age range are from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.

In the 75-84 age range, 29% of people have long term care and support needs and have formal support funded by Adult Social Care (ASC) and 4% of individuals from within this age range are from a BAME background.

- 4.7 Sandwell has consistently been able to demonstrate that citizens involved in a safeguarding investigation were asked what they wanted to happen as an outcome of involvement from professionals. Of the number of people who expressed an outcome, 94% felt their outcome at the end of the safeguarding process was fully or partly met.
- 4.8 The Board receives data from SMBC about whether individuals and/or their representatives feel they are safer because of the help they received from people responding to the safeguarding concern. For this reporting period, 73.5% of people said they feel as safe as they want to and 84% said care and support services helped them feel safe.
- 4.9 The priorities below will inform the work of the Board, Sub Groups and any specific project groups. Examples of work undertaken to date include:
- A review of board membership ensuring Board members are appropriately senior and can make decisions on behalf of their organisations



- The appointment of a development worker within the Board Business team with a focus on effective engagement
- A commitment to proactively work with the third sector with a view to developing an early help partnership for adults
- Supporting safeguarding in its broadest sense being the business of everyone, contributing to communities and neighbourhoods in Sandwell being a place where people feel respected, cared for and safe.

4.10 For 2020-2021 SSAB has five key priorities, agreed in consultation with partners. These are: -

- Listen to the voices of people who use services and frontline staff
- Develop more inclusive and meaningful data that contributes to effective assurance
- Work with all partners to look at Sandwell’s “Front Door” including pathway, referrals and thresholds
- Agree specific projects with all statutory Boards with a focus on prevention
- Focus on the Board Governance.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 The production of an Annual Report by the Safeguarding Adults Board is a requirement of The Care Act 2014.

6 Implications

Resources:	All activity will be met from existing budget allocation.
Legal and Governance:	The Care Act 2014 included a requirement for each Local Authority to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). One of the requirements of the Board is that it produces an Annual Report.



Risk:	The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision/project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks. No significant risks were identified that require reporting. All risks are identified within an existing SSAB Risk Register which has been updated to reflect Covid-19 risks and is reviewed 6 monthly, or more frequently as required.
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:	This report provides information on the activity of the Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board during 2019 - 2020 and therefore does not raise any direct health and wellbeing implications.
Social Value	The Care Act 2014 requires that Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board produces an Annual Report. This report provides a summary and representation of the work of all partners within the Borough covering the period April 2018 – March 2019.

7. Appendices

1. Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019 – 2020
2. Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Easy Read 2019 - 2020

8. Background Papers

None

