

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 February 2024

Wards: All

Subject: Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) Annual Report 2022/23

Lead officer: Aileen Buckton, Independent Chair, Merton Safeguarding Adults Board

Lead member: Cllr Peter McCabe, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Contact officer: Catherine Dunn, Merton Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

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Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet note the content of the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) Annual Report for the period 2022-23.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides LSG with an overview of the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) Annual Report which covers the period April 2022 to March 2023. The full report can be found in Appendix 1.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is an independent board which operates at a strategic level to oversee safeguarding arrangements in a local area and ensure that adults at risk being supported and protected from neglect and abuse. Core members of a SAB are the local authority, police, and Integrated Care Board (ICB) with an independent chair but will also include partners such as the fire service, probation services, housing, Healthwatch, voluntary sector and representatives from community safety, children services, and other health bodies. The Merton Safeguarding Adults Board includes the following agencies:

- St George's University NHS Foundation Trust
- Healthwatch Merton
- Merton Connected
- Probation Service
- London Fire Brigade (LFB)
- Clarion Housing Group Limited
- Mental Health Trust
- NHS Southwest London Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)

- London Borough of Merton
- Metropolitan Police
- Safer Merton
- Merton Children's Safeguarding Partnership

2.2. The Merton Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory duty to publish an annual report outlining how effective the work of the Board has been against its strategic priorities as set out in its [Strategic Plan](#) for 2021-24. This will be published on the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board website alongside annual reports from previous years.

2.3. The Annual Report 2022/23 provides a summary of the work that has been undertaken over the previous financial year through the MSAB as a partnership and its sub-groups but also its member agencies. This includes assurance of effective safeguarding arrangements in Merton and progress against the strategic priorities of the Board, as well as information on Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) carried out that year. An overview of the MSAB governance is provided in the report itself.

3 DETAILS

3.1. A key highlight from this year in the work of the MSAB as a partnership was our engagement with people who have lived experience of safeguarding through working with the daughters of SK 'Sandra' who was the subject of a SAR published last year. Sharing their experiences of caring for their mother - as well as her experience of engaging with services - has been invaluable in giving a voice to SK as a person and identifying areas of learning and improvements for future. They have continued to work with us over the year 2023-24 and demonstrated the immense value of hearing from people with lived experience to strengthen safeguarding practice.

3.2. The successful launch of a Community Adult Safeguarding Champions Network last year was an additional highlight and an important step forward for the MSAB in strengthening connections with the wider community in Merton. This group is made up of representatives from local organisations and the wider community and meets regularly with the aim of raising awareness of safeguarding adults, sharing key messages, and building insight into key safeguarding issues for local communities across Merton.

3.3. During 2022-23, the MSAB received 3 Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) referrals over the course of the year which were considered by the SAR Subgroup. 1 SAR was published in this reporting period – 'Annabel'. Safeguarding Adults Reviews are carried out when an adult with care and support needs dies and there are concerns about abuse and neglect or how agencies have worked together. The focus of these reviews is on learning, not blame so that actions can be identified to improve how the system work in future and better safeguard individuals.

3.4. Further detail on this SAR ('Annabel') is included in the report and work is underway to implement these actions. For more information on SARs, recent

reviews and learning briefings, these can be [accessed on the MSAB website](#).

- 3.5. Merton continues to have a good track record on Making Safeguarding Person with 95% of enquiries concluded in 2022/23 where a person's preferred outcomes were fully or partially met and risk reduced in over 93 % of cases. The Annual report also includes analysis of safeguarding data for 2022-23 including more detailed ethnicity analysis of safeguarding concerns and enquiries. Further work is being carried out through the MSAB Performance and Quality subgroup to develop multi-agency safeguarding data for the Board's assurance.
- 3.6. The report includes detail about training and multi-agency learning sessions over the course of the year. [Level 1 Safeguarding Adults Training](#) is available on the MSAB website which can be accessed by partner agencies and the wider community, as well as Members. This training covers awareness of adult safeguarding, recognising signs of abuse and neglect and what steps to take.
- 3.7. The commitments for the following year (the current financial period 2023 – 24) are set out in the report and progress on these will be reported in next year's annual report for 2023/24.
- 3.8. The current strategic plan runs from 2021 – 2024 so work will be undertaken by the MSAB to set a new strategic plan for the following four years to further our work as a partnership and provide assurance of effective safeguarding arrangements in Merton.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. N/A

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. The Annual Report has had contributions from key partners such as the ICB, Police, Health, Fire Brigade as well as colleagues internally in Adult Social Care. The MSAB Board reviewed and approved the final draft on 6 Dec 2023 and a previous draft was considered by the Strategic Safeguarding Group on 21 November 2023.
- 5.2. The Annual Report was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 January 2024 and the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel on 24 January 2024.

6 TIMETABLE

There are no financial or resource implications from this report as it summarises activity over the past financial year March 2022 - March 2023

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None arising from this report

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Merton Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory duty to produce an annual report outlining progress against the priorities in its Strategic Plan as specified in the Care Act.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. N/A – none arising from this report

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. N/A – none arising from this report

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. N/A – none arising from this report

12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1 -MSAB Annual Report 2022- 23

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

[MSAB Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024](#)