

Introduction

The Essex Safeguarding Adult Board

The Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB) is a statutory strategic partnership, working together to prevent both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, for people with care and support needs. ESAB is not a body that manages safeguarding operations. All operations are delivered by its three statutory partners, the ICBs: Essex Police and Adult Social Care. The function of the Board is to:

- provide strategic oversight of safeguarding activity in Essex
- fulfil the statutory functions outlined in the Care Act 2014 and the related guidance
- help to protect the right of the people who live in Essex, to live a life free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Safeguarding Partnership Boards

ESAB is one of several partnership boards that operate in Essex covering different elements of safeguarding in the County, others are:

- SET Domestic Abuse Board (also operates across Southend and Thurrock)
- Essex Safeguarding Children Board

Governance arrangements for the three Boards work differently, for example:

- ESAB is the only Board with a statutory framework
- ESCB do not have an Independent Chair with decision making responsibilities but an appointed Facilitator
- The SET Domestic Abuse Board operates across Southend, Essex and Thurrock

The three boards work closely together to share priorities, work jointly and reduce duplication, for example:

- The three Boards share a learning and development sub-committee
- ESCB and ESAB can share learning events and a shared workstream is set out for 2022 on Suicide Prevention; Think family and Transitional safeguarding
- The Board Business managers meet monthly to facilitate this joined up approach
- ESAB and the SET Domestic Abuse Board have completed several joint reviews where a case meets the statutory criteria for both a Safeguarding Adult Review and a Domestic Homicide Review
- The Director of Safeguarding for Children and the SETDAB Chair are full members of ESAB, as ESAB representatives are also members of SETDAB and ESCB.

ESAB Independent Chair

ESAB has been independently chaired by Deborah Stuart-Angus, since January 2020 and she has recently accepted a contractual extension to remain as the Chair for a further two years. The Board is supported by a full time Board Manager, Michala Jury, a Safeguarding Adult Review Officer, a Business Support Officer and part time Senior Communications Officer. There is a current unfilled part time vacancy for a Practice Support Officer.

Annual Report 2021-22

ESAB is about to publish its Annual Report for 2020/21. ([Appendix 1](#)). The report details:

- the Board's impact and how it has challenged its partners
- how the Board has met adult safeguarding strategic priorities from April 2021 until March 2022, and what members have achieved
- the Board's structure, its lawful purpose and the activity completed through its Sub-Committees
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews, which have concluded in the reporting year; implementation of lessons learned and any ongoing Reviews
- the Board's income and expenditure
- our Business Plan – which details all next steps for building on Board's strategic priorities going forward.

(This report is supported by a detailed presentation which addresses the above in a more explanatory way, in order to particularly assist new Members).

Levelling Up and Strategic Priorities for 2021-24

The Strategic Plan has been in place since 2021, and is supported by our Business Plan – which in turn is supported by a new Board structure and individual sub-committee delivery plans.

ESAB strategic Plan (Appendix 2) and Business Plan (Appendix 3) agreed by ESAB members January 202.

Our Strategic Plan and Business Plan are commensurate with, and contribute to Everyone's Essex, particularly in relation to Levelling Up commitments, given that our priorities and delivery objectives are based on the prevention of abuse and neglect; developing and disseminating learning, and assessing quality in what we do. It is also evident that many recommendations that develop and exist as a direct outcome from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), also impact on the Levelling Up Agenda. This is because we clearly set out areas for improvement across our safeguarding partnerships via SAR related action plans for improved health outcomes, and systems and practice performance, in the prevention of abuse and neglect. We also gain systematic assurance and proffer challenge, from and to, our

partners in relation to their safeguarding activity and accountability. There are therefore, direct connections with the following Levelling Up commitments:

Health:

- Health lifestyles
- Promoting independence
- Place-based working
- Carers
- Levelling up health and reducing health inequalities

And 'Family', with

- Safety
- Outcomes for vulnerable children
- Levelling up outcomes for families

Our aforesaid work also contributes directly to the Ambitions For The Future of for Essex, in the desire to strengthen communities – by participation –by ESAB working to make communities safer and and enjoying life long into old age, by providing learning that will contribute to reducing health inequalities.

Covid 19 and Care Home Providers

All ESAB work is now back to business as usual and we have worked hard to catch up with the delays Covid caused to our ongoing work, such as the impact on deploying Safeguarding Adult Reviews and early plans for shared projects with other Boards. Covid updates however remain as a standing Board agenda item, to keep members abreast of issues and to provide overviews of any risk areas that may develop. In October 2021 Adult Social Care commissioned a Care Home Covid-19 Review to develop learning for Essex, from the Pandemic and its impact on Care Home providers; staff, residents and their families, in relation to sector support.