

## Essex Safeguarding Adults Board - update

Reference Number: PAF/23/20

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| <b>Report title: Essex Safeguarding Adults Board - update</b>  |  |
| <b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee  |  |
| <b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer  |  |
| <b>Date:</b> 12 November 2020  | <b>For:</b> Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions |
| <b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at <a href="mailto:graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk">graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk</a> . |  |
| <b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable   |  |

### 1. Introduction

This is an annual update from the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (the last one having been received in October 2019).

### 2. Action required

**The Committee is asked to consider:**

- (i) **the attached latest update (Appendix B).**
- (ii) **any issues identified which may require further scrutiny work.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee receives an annual update on the work and priorities of the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB). The Committee last considered the work of the Board in October 2019 and a link to that update is here -

[Essex Safeguarding Adults Board - 2019 report](#) .

An extract of the minutes of that meeting is reproduced in Appendix A.

- 3.2 The Chairman and Vice Chairmen have discussed with appropriate officers the format of the required update for this year. It has been agreed that it will cover:

- The structure of ESAB;
- The links with other partnership boards;
- The ESAB Annual Report;
- The ESAB Strategic Plan 2021-24;

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- The impact of Covid-19 and a focus on two operational safeguarding matters (Supporting Care Providers through the pandemic, and Domestic Abuse during the pandemic).

### **4. Update and Next Steps**

The update is attached as Appendix B. Next steps are as proposed under Action Required.

The following are expected to attend to support the update:

Paul Bedwell – Board Manager ESAB

Fiona Davis - Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Adults)

Deborah Stuart-Angus – Independent Chair ESAB

Jane Foster-Taylor – Chief Nurse Thurrock CCG (Mental health commissioning lead across all Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups)

### **5. List of Appendices**

Appendix A – extract minutes from 14 November 2019 meeting of the Committee.

Appendix B - Essex Safeguarding Adults Board - Briefing Pack for People and Family Scrutiny Committee - November 2020

**Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 10.15am in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 10 October 2019**

Minute 5 – Essex Safeguarding Adults Board

The Committee considered report PAF/24/19. The following joined the meeting to introduce the update and support the discussion.

Fiona Davis, Director Safeguarding and Quality Assurance,  
Paul Bedwell, ESAB Safeguarding Board Manager,  
Neale Thomas, Criminal Justice Commissioning Support

Contributors outlined the Board's three-year strategic priorities and actions for the current year as well as reflecting on some key outcomes from the previous year.

During discussion the following was highlighted and/or noted:

- A key output during the last year was agreed revised safeguarding guidelines with Southend and Thurrock councils which were also now more aligned with London Boroughs so as to be coterminous in arrangements cross border wherever possible.
- The views of District Councils had been sought to help shape future priorities.
- In terms of measuring performance, the County Council's safeguarding team were measured against delivery of the strategic plan. A performance dashboard looked at day to day safeguarding (referrals, substantiated referrals etc) and there was ongoing work with the police to determine any further data that they may collect which could further inform the Board.
- The majority of budget funding for the Board was contributed by the County Council, Police and Health.
- There would be a number of activities and media releases during national safeguarding week in November.
- There would be further focus on transitions between children's and adult services and ensuring appropriate levels of support to young adults.
- A number of thematic reviews were underway at present and the report to the Committee had highlighted the one on homelessness. It was highlighted that the review included input from Healthwatch Essex.
- A Horizons review had looked at what pushed people to the margins of society through intensive work with targeted rolling cohorts of 10 individuals. Most of these individuals would have deprivation and emotional wellbeing and mental health challenges. To date the project had worked with a total of 53 people and 16 who

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had been street homeless had been rehoused. There was also evidence of other outcomes such as reduced substance abuse. A mosaic of funding for the project had been received from Public Health, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and others. Members queried whether the Horizons project could be extended beyond its pilot area. Harlow, for example, had not been included as it had had a previous comparable service - "streets are homes". However, the project would be re-procured next year and it was likely that it would expand to reach to these other areas.

- Some members suggested a link between delays in Universal Credit causing rent arrears which could lead to homelessness. There was some floating support available to those experiencing delays to try and mitigate that problem and work with landlords and district council housing departments. Officers agreed to provide some further data on the numbers who had benefited from that service.
- Waiting lists for Deprivation of Liberty assessments had reduced. The Board had been receiving quarterly reports on this. Further contracted resource had been put in place. However, there was a concern that a change in legislation next year, which would introduce wider ranging Liberty Protection Safeguards for those 16 years and above, may significantly increase the number of people needing the assessments (will not just be those in formalised care settings).

### Conclusion

The Chairman thanked the contributors for attending and they left the meeting.