

## Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Draft Strategic Plan – 2018/19

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Division and Local Member: All

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Strong synergies exist between the work of Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee, which has a valuable role in the assurance and accountability of the SSAB.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to consult with the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee in relation to the SSAB's refreshed Strategic Plan for 2018/19.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

#### **2.1. That the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee:**

1. **Notes the contents of this paper alongside the draft 2018/19 Strategic Plan**
2. **Considers and comments on the proposed strategic priorities for 2018/19**
3. **Continues to promote adult safeguarding across the County Council and in commissioned services**

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB or “the Board”) is required by The Care Act 2014 to produce and publish a strategic plan for each financial year. The report must set out what the Board intends to do over the next year to help and protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Somerset during that timeframe. In common with many other Safeguarding Adults Boards, the Board has chosen to develop a three-year plan that is refreshed annually. The 2018/19 financial year will be the final refresh of this Strategic Plan ahead of a new plan being developed for 2019/20.
- 3.2. The SSAB operates as an independently-chaired, multi-agency body under The Care Act 2014. It became statutory from April 2015. Its main objective is to seek assurance that local safeguarding arrangements and partner organisations act to help and protect people aged 18 and over who:
  - have needs for care and support;
  - are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse, neglect or exploitation;
  - are unable to protect themselves from the risk of, or experience of, abuse or neglect as a result of their care and support needs.
- 3.3. Safeguarding is everybody's business, and the Board has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners.

### **3.4. The SSAB's Strategic Plan for 2018/19**

The development of this strategy has been informed by broad consultation and reflects the agreed priorities of all members of the SSAB. It has been informed by feedback from members of the public, multi-agency professionals, the findings to emerge from audits, the learning to emerge from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and the analysis of comparative performance data.

We recognise that we can achieve more by working collectively in partnership and commit ourselves to the objectives contained within it. Our overarching priorities remain:

- a) Prevention: adults at risk are identified early and have their needs met promptly and effectively. Safeguarding risk is better understood and appropriately assessed. Public safeguarding awareness is improved.
- b) Making Safeguarding Personal: Safeguarding is person-led, outcome-focused, enhances involvement, choice and control, and improves quality of life, wellbeing and safety
- c) Think Family: The SSAB adopts a 'think child, think parent, think family' approach to its work together with the Safeguarding Children Board and other local partnerships
- d) Board Effectiveness: Somerset has an effective Safeguarding Adults Board which fulfils its statutory responsibilities, has strong leadership and governance arrangements, and promotes a culture of collective accountability, respectful challenge and continuous learning

## **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1. As part of the refreshing the Strategic Plan the SSAB has sought feedback from Healthwatch. In addition, it has sought feedback from the public and professionals through an on-line survey that was available from 22/12/2017 to 26/01/2018 inclusive, and actively promoted via Healthwatch, local partner organisations and social media. The responses received have been summarised in Appendix 2 and have informed the forthcoming year's core activities.

## **5. Implications**

- 5.1. Safeguarding activity by its nature is an inherently risky area and has the potential to bring a Council's reputation into discredit and the wider safeguarding system into question. The Strategic Plan, a legal requirement by the Care Act 2014, provides partner agencies and the public with assurances that adult safeguarding is being monitored and scrutinised in Somerset and the SSAB welcomes this opportunity for the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee to comment on the draft 2018/19 plan.

## **6. Background papers**

- 6.1. Appendix A – Draft SSAB Strategic Plan 2018/19  
Appendix B - Questionnaire results

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author