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**Merton Safeguarding Adults Board Three Year Strategic Plan 2021 to 2024**

**Statutory objective**

The Care Act 2014 sets out that the overarching objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:

 • Have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and

• Are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and

• As a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

**Statutory requirements**

As well as its main objective the Care Act 2014 sets out the Board’s specific functions. One of these is that it must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objectives and what the members will do to achieve these objectives. In order to give clear direction, Merton Safeguarding Adults Board has produced an overarching plan for the three years from 2021 to 2024. At the start of each financial year, a targeted action plan will be drawn up which sets out in more detail how it will meet the objectives of the three-year plan over the next twelve months

The strategic plan will ensure everyone - Board Members, all professionals and the public are clear about what we want to do and how we can work together to make it happen. While the strategy gives a broad sweep, it will be delivered through a more targeted one-year work plan.

**The impact of Covid-19: Reviewing our priorities**

The overarching themes included in our strategy for 2021-2024 were born out of discussions and feedback at our Challenge Event in May 2021. On the day we discussed the feedback from the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Tool, which was completed by partners prior to the event.

Since 2020 Covid-19 has had a huge impact on us all. Though the Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect the duties to safeguard adults at risk as laid out in the Care Act 2014, we have all had to change the way in which we work and this has created new challenges in safeguarding adults at risk. In reviewing our priorities and objectives, we have considered the challenges as well as our recovery plan from the pandemic. In reviewing previously identified objectives, we also thought about specific issues which may now need to be a focus. We felt that it was important to explicitly state our intention to seek to learn from the experiences of Covid-19 in order to improve future responses. The Board will also have an important role to play in seeking assurance about local arrangements and risk assessments.

**How the strategy will be delivered**

A new work-plan will be developed each year, where Board Members will agree on exactly what they need to do to achieve each of the agreed strategic priorities. Our targeted aims for 2021-22 will be complemented by a more detailed action plan which will be monitored regularly by the Board and its subgroups. This will also consider our responses to specific and thematic issues, such as modern slavery, domestic abuse, self-neglect, transitional safeguarding and adult safeguarding in the context of Covid-19. The subgroups of the Board are pivotal in supporting the MSAB to achieve its objectives and continue to deliver on campaigns and develop tools to support professionals and residents in understanding and responding to adult safeguarding concerns. Each subgroup has their own set of priorities and specific targets which complement the overarching priorities of the Board. At the end of each year, the MSAB will publish an annual report highlighting the Board’s achievements and outline how the work plan has been deliver

**Merton Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan**

 **2021-2024**

To ensure our strategy is realistic and achievable our work in 2022-2023 will be to continue to strengthen and build on our initiatives set out in 2021-2022. In 2023-2024 we will pull together what we have achieved, review and evaluate our position.

The MSAB led by our Chair Aileen Buxton will be continually monitoring progress of the plan, as well as the work of the subgroups in order for the MSAB to be assured of progress and any risks that may be identified.

1. **Prevention and early detection**

**Aim- Adults from all communities will feel supported to keep safe. Partners, service users and residents will recognise risk and be confident in their response.**

**What we will do**

* **Learn from our experiences throughout the pandemic, consider the impacts and take action where appropriate.**
* **Ensure we have systems in place to disseminate learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, LeDeR Reviews and Section 42 Enquiries.**
* **We will seek to improve the understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act across the partnership.**
* **Work together in developing a plan for the introduction of the Liberty Safeguard Scheme in readiness for implementation.**
* **Ensure that partners, volunteers and staff have access to appropriate safeguarding training.**

1. **Building and strengthening connections**

**Aim- Partners, service users and residents from all communities are engaged and working together to ensure an inclusive safeguarding framework.**

**What we will do**

* **We will make steps to improve links with strategic partnerships, including Merton Children’s Partnership, Safer and Stronger Executive Board and Violence against Woman and Girls (VAWG).**
* **Develop our relationships with external partners and organisations and consider how we might better share information and resources.**
* **Review board governance and structure, demonstrating the relationships and interactions between the board and subgroups of the board.**
* **We will continue to develop links with the Voluntary Sector, Faith communities, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities as well as seldom heard groups in Merton.**
* **We will continue our efforts to engage with service users and carers to ensure their voices are central to safeguarding in Merton.**
1. **Making Safeguarding Personal**

**Aim- People will feel listened too and have real choice and control in shaping their safeguarding journey.**

**What we will do**

* **We will seek to ensure all partners understand and are confident about Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP).**
* **Seek to ensure that all partners have systems in place to capture safeguarding concerns of service users/carers and incorporate them into their service improvement and development.**
* **All Merton residents have access to clear and consistent information and advice.**
* **We will seek ways of ensuring the lived experience of BAME communities are heard and representation is established at board and subgroup level.**

 **Annual Priorities 2022/23**

* **Develop a programme of work to engage people with lived experience and to include their voices in the work of the Board as well as the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) action planning process. Public Health partners have agreed to work with the MSAB on an approach, which will then inform the service model and specification for commissioning substance misuse services. A bid for funding has been submitted.**
* **Work will continue around learning from SAR’s. There will also be a focus on what SAR’s are telling us in terms of themes we might be seeing and how as a partnership we can improve our practice for those at risk.**
* **The MSAB strategic priority around Prevention and Early detection focuses on enabling people to recognise risk, includes developing links with residents and the local community, particularly those who are seldom heard. The Communication and Engagement Subgroup of the Board are working with Merton Connected on developing a model of Community Safeguarding Adults Champions. They will be the vehicle for raising awareness of safeguarding adults in the community and amongst its residents, as well as informing the board of what’s needed to support the community and to identify any emerging issues.**
* **After consultation and discussions at the Board on how best to go forward with gathering meaningful data to support their work, partners have agreed to develop a comprehensive data set for the Board. This will be linked to the National Data Framework Tool, recently produced by the National Safeguarding Adults Board Managers Network.**
* **Social Care departments will be inspected by the Care Quality Commission from as a result of the Health and Care Act 2022 coming into force, which will include a focus on adult safeguarding. The same legislation will see Clinical Commissioning Groups replaced by Integrated Care Boards. Safeguarding will continue to feature prominently in these new arrangements across South West London.**
* **The MSAB will be kept updated and prepare for the implementation of the Care Quality Commission’s framework on Oversight for Local Authorities and Integrated Care Systems, due to be introduced in April 2023.**