Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board
Strategic Plan 2015-2018

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

June 2015
What is Safeguarding?

“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.” Care Act (2014)

What is the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board?

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (K&M SAB) has been established since October 2007. The Board works to make sure that all agencies are working together to help keep Kent and Medway’s adults safe from harm and to protect the rights of citizens under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The enactment and implementation of the Care Act 2014, places Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory basis from April 2015.

It is chaired by Kent County Council’s Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and meets 4 times a year.

This document sets out the Board’s Strategic Plan for the next three years.

Members

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board includes representatives from:

- Kent County Council
- Medway Council
- Kent Police
- Healthcare Providers
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Healthwatch Kent
- Healthwatch Medway
- National Probation Service (NPS) Kent Local Delivery Unit
- Kent, Surrey, Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC)
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
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- Prison Service
- Kent Community Safety Partnership
- Medway Community Safety Partnership
- District Councils
- elected Members from both Kent County Council and Medway Council
- Independent provider organisations

Responsibilities

In line with the Care Act 2014, the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board’s main objective 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 is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of
    abuse and neglect.

Under the Care Act 2014, the Board has three core duties:

- It must publish a Strategic Plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet its main objective and what the members
  will do to achieve this. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the local
  Healthwatch organisation. The plan should be evidence based and make use of all available evidence and intelligence from
  partners to form and develop its plan.
- It must publish an Annual Report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and
  implement its Strategic Plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of
  any Safeguarding Adults Reviews and subsequent action Safeguarding Adults Annual Report (PDF, 1.8 MB).
- It must conduct any Safeguarding Adults Reviews in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board will also:

- identify the role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group
  should take to ensure the protection of adults, by publishing agreed multi-agency policy, protocols and guidance
• establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications that increase the SAB’s understanding or prevalence of abuse and neglect locally that builds up a picture over time
• establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of arrangements
• determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit
• establish mechanisms for developing policies and strategies for protecting adults which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and consultation with all relevant agencies, but also take account of the views of adults who have needs for care and support, their families, advocates and carer representatives
• develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect in Kent and Medway
• identify types of circumstances giving grounds for concern and when they should be considered as a referral to the local authority as an enquiry
• formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and deal with complaints, grievances and professional and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults
• develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect
• balance the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that, to protect adults, it may be necessary to share information on a ‘need-to-know’ basis
• identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training
• carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews
• produce a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report
• evidence how SAB members have challenged one another and held other boards to account
• promote multi-agency training and consider any specialist training that may be required. The Board must work collaboratively to identify opportunities to jointly commission training with other partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board receives regular updates from PREVENT and works closely with colleagues to raise awareness.

**Principles and values**

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board multi-agency partnership is supported by the following principles and values:
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- It is every adult's right to live free from abuse in accordance with the principles of respect, dignity, autonomy, privacy and equity
- All agencies and services should ensure that their own policies and procedures make it clear that they have a zero tolerance of abuse
- Priority will be given to the prevention of abuse by raising the awareness of adult protection issues and by fostering a culture of good practice through support and care provision, commissioning and contracting
- Adults who are susceptible or subjected to abuse or mistreatment will receive the highest priority for assessment and support services
- All agencies will respond to adult protection concerns with prompt, timely and appropriate action in line with agreed protocols
- These principles are applicable to all adults whether living in a domestic setting, care home, social services or health setting or any community setting
- Protection of adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, is a multi-agency responsibility and all agencies and services should actively work together to address the abuse of adults
- Interventions should be based on the concept of empowerment and participation of the individual at risk
- These principles should constitute an integral part of the philosophy and working practices of all agencies involved with adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and should not be seen in isolation
- It is the responsibility of all agencies to take steps to ensure that adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, are discharged from their care to a safe and appropriate setting
- The need to provide support for the carers must be taken into account when planning services for adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and a carer's assessment should be offered

These principles are based upon a commitment to equal opportunities and practice in respect of race, culture, religion, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation.

The well established Safeguarding Adults Board gives Kent and Medway a strong foundation to deliver its vision. Many partner organisations in Kent and Medway have dedicated capacity/roles for safeguarding adults and many staff and volunteers have undertaken multi-agency training and single-agency safeguarding adults training. This all helps to ensure that people know how to respond appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect.

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board is subject to external scrutiny on the work it undertakes from the:
- Full Council (Kent County Council and Medway Council);
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- Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee; and
- Health and Wellbeing Board.

Board members also report within their own agencies about the performance of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board.

**Why a local vision?**

There continues to be an increasing focus on the profile of safeguarding adults work. It is clear from national developments that partnerships are a critical aspect in sustaining the impetus for improvement and hence the importance of setting out a local vision for Kent and Medway.

This document sets out Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board’s vision for 2015 - 2018. The vision sits alongside a number of other key documents, enabling the Board to strategically review and plan work.

Each provides direction and continuity to the Strategic Plan, ensuring that the achievements of the Board are built upon each year and actions are focused on the Board’s overall priorities and objectives.

**Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Vision 2015 – 2018** – sets out the overall vision of the Board and the outcomes it wants to achieve for adults at risk in Kent and Medway.

**Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Priorities 2015 – 2018** – establishes the strategic themes that need to be delivered to achieve the Board’s vision; providing the overarching direction to inform subsequent years Strategic Plans.

**Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Plan 2015 – 2016** – provides a detailed plan of specific key actions, supporting actions and target timescales required to deliver the Board’s vision and priorities.

**Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report** – reviews progress in relation to the actions laid out in the Strategic Plan.

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board has worked to promote an understanding and taken action to demonstrate that ‘safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility’. The development of this vision marks the commitment from partners for a shared commitment to keeping adults safe and protected from abuse and neglect.
Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Vision

‘Our vision is to ensure that Kent and Medway is an increasingly safer place for adults at risk of abuse and neglect.’

To achieve this vision the Board will need to work throughout the partnership and with local communities to:

- Prevent abuse and neglect from happening
- Identify and report abuse and neglect
- Respond to any abuse and neglect that is occurring
- Support people who have suffered abuse or neglect to recover and to regain trust in those around them
- Raise awareness of safeguarding adults and the role everyone can play in responding to, and preventing, abuse and neglect

National Drivers for Improvement in Safeguarding Adults

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board priorities reflect the direction set out in current national drivers for change. For this reason the priorities are designed around the six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work (Care Act 2014) as follows:

- Empowerment
- Protection
- Proportionality
- Prevention
- Partnership
- Accountability

Priorities

The Board’s priorities reflect the Board’s vision and provide direction to the further development and improvement of safeguarding practice in Kent and Medway.
**Priority – Empowerment**

Individuals will be asked what they want the outcomes from the safeguarding process to be and these outcomes will directly inform what happens wherever possible.

The Board will continue working towards supporting people to manage risk in their own lives, with professionals supporting their decision making at each stage of Kent and Medway’s safeguarding adult’s procedures.

This will be achieved by delivering good outcomes for individuals subject to safeguarding adults procedures. There will be an emphasis on reducing focus on process and increasing focus on the individual. The Board will also ensure that there is a greater public awareness of safeguarding adults, whilst also managing expectations.

**Priority – Protection**

Individuals will get help and support to report abuse and neglect and get help to take part in the safeguarding process.

The Board will continue working towards ensuring safeguarding adults procedures serve to respond to abuse or neglect and that decisions are made in line with the Mental Capacity Act.

This will be achieved by ensuring that there is a full range of policies, procedures and guidance in place that provide a framework within which partner organisations can work together effectively to respond to abuse and neglect. These policies, procedures and guidance will reflect emerging developments in national guidance and legislation as well as national, regional and local learning, and new approaches to safeguarding practice.
**Priority – Proportionality**

Individuals will be confident that professionals will work for their best interests and that professionals will only get involved as much as needed.

**The Board will continue working towards ensuring that safeguarding adults policies, procedures and guidance are used in appropriate circumstances to inform a proportional response to the concerns being raised.**

This will be achieved by ensuring safeguarding adults policies, procedure and guidance are clear and explicit about the definitions and thresholds for intervention and what the potential alternatives are if these thresholds are not met. The Board will also ensure that thresholds are consistently applied by all partner agencies.

**Priority – Prevention**

Individuals will receive clear information about what abuse and neglect is, how to recognise the signs and what they can do to seek help and support.

**The Board will continue working towards gaining assurance from all partner agencies that prevention is a core element in the delivery, commissioning and development of services. This includes providing appropriate information and training to their respective workforces on how to recognise and respond to abuse and neglect.**

This will be achieved by ensuring the right people are recruited through safe recruitment mechanisms, that all staff receive appropriate training and that there are specialist safeguarding adults staff from whom they can obtain advice and support. Maintenance of levels of safeguarding awareness and understanding through training and communication strategies is essential in the current changing environment.
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**Priority – Partnership**

Individuals will be confident that professionals will work together to get the best outcomes for them. They will also be confident that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary.

The Board will continue to develop joint working practices between and across organisations that promote co-ordinated, timely and effective responses for the individual at risk. The partnership aims to foster a ‘one team’ approach that places the welfare of individuals before the ‘needs’ of the system.

This will be achieved by ensuring the working relationships between partner agencies are sustained and developed at a strategic and operational level and links to wider networks or Boards are embedded.

**Priority – Accountability**

Individuals will receive timely help they need from the person or agency best placed to provide it.

The Board will continue to work to ensure that the roles of all agencies and staff (and their lines of accountability) are clear and explicit. Agencies across the partnership will recognise their responsibilities to each other, act upon them and accept collective responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.

This will be achieved by using a framework to self-assess the work of the Board and partner agencies. The Board will improve the performance management information available on safeguarding adults and this will include feedback from individuals who have been subject to safeguarding adults procedures. Board assurance activity will also include assessing whether risk management is proportionate and co-ordinated.
What the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board will do next?

- Formulate an Annual Plan for 2015 – 2016 with measurable outcomes
- Review progress in relation to implementation of the Annual Plan at each Board meeting
- The Board plans will continue to be flexible to accommodate any new emerging national guidance
- Raise awareness of the Strategic Plan by publishing the document
- Review the Strategic Plan and update annually in accordance with the Care Act Guidance