



# Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board

## Review of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adult Services in Suffolk

### Briefing Note 4



Hello, my name is Mike Hennessey, and I have worked for the last 15 months in Suffolk County Council as the Corporate Director for Adult & Community Services. I also hold the statutory position of Director of Adult Social Services.

As part of my statutory responsibilities I must improve preventative services; deliver earlier intervention, manage necessary cultural change to give people greater choice and control over services; tackle inequalities; improve access to services and increase support for people with the highest levels of need. These are all key areas that underpin safeguarding adults and areas that I and my teams work hard to improve on a daily basis.

As a senior leader in safeguarding adults, over the last year I have seen huge strides made in a range of areas delivering on the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Review Transformation Plan and I would like to thank all the staff who are working so hard to deliver the changes necessary. I recognise that you are all doing this work on top of your daily caseload, so a very big thank you from myself and my fellow safeguarding senior leaders.

I know that we are currently consulting on the draft Suffolk Safeguarding Framework, which is a significant achievement and one that we hope will help front-line practitioners across all agencies make informed decisions around safeguarding adults. There will be further policy's and guidance to support all staff around safeguarding adults being produced over the coming months and I hope you all have the opportunity to feedback on these documents, as we know everyone's input is extremely valuable. Once again thank you everyone for all your hard work and support.

#### INTRODUCTION

This briefing provides an update on the implementations of actions arising from the **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Independent Review that was undertaken in 2017**.

The Review was undertaken to examine how effectively safeguarding services to and for vulnerable adults, and older people were being provided and managed. The review was commissioned by the Suffolk Adult Safeguarding Board.

#### PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

There were a number of recommendations from the Independent Review which have been transferred into an **action plan**.

The action plan is updated monthly and monitored closely by the Senior Leadership and the Operational Teams overseeing the Transformation. The Safeguarding Adults Board also receives quarterly updates.

## 1. Improving Strategic Leadership.

We are continually looking at ways to improve communication around safeguarding adults and have now introduced a quarterly newsletter from the Safeguarding Adults Board, in addition to the updates on the transformation work. In the future we hope that all our multi-agency partners will regularly contribute to the newsletter, so it provides a rich source of information on safeguarding adults across multiple agencies. You can also follow the Safeguarding Adults Board on twitter [@SuffolkSAB](#).

Following the publication of “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018”, we are working in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children’s Board to review the governance arrangements across both adults and children safeguarding and ensure that we strengthen leadership and provide clarity over roles and responsibilities. We will update you in the coming months on the new governance arrangements once they have been agreed.

## 2. Addressing cultural and behavioural issues.



We held a safeguarding adults leadership event for the three statutory agencies (Care, Health & Police), to focus on how we can improve the way we work together on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. In total 36 people across the statutory agencies attended the two-days, which focussed on what good multi-agency working looked like and how the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board vision, mission and values could help support stronger working partnerships.

Feedback on the event was very positive, as it gave attendees the opportunity to meet fellow professionals working to safeguarding people in Suffolk. A small working party is now finalising the new draft Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board vision, mission and values ready to take to the

Board for consultation. We will keep you updated via the Safeguarding Adults Board website on the progress of this piece of work.

The Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board Training sub-group has set up a multi-agency task and finish group to develop and agree on a set of shared multi-agency workforce safeguarding standards and competencies and implement. This will be aligned to the new Intercollegiate Safeguarding Adults Competency Guidance recently published.

**3. Addressing gaps in systems, processes, and practices by developing, agreeing and disseminating a range of joint policies, tools and frameworks.**

The Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Framework is out for consultation and we have received a rich source of feedback that will help us develop a tool suitable for all agencies and all staff. We hope to complete this work by December 2018 and will then run a number of workshops in January and February 2019 to launch the document.

- 4.** The Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board agreed a multi-agency policy on Managing Professional Disputes in September 2018. The Managing Professional Disputes Policy has been developed for all staff members working for partner agencies of the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB). The policy recognises that it is inevitable from time to time for there to be disagreement between practitioners within and between agencies about the assessment of risk and the most effective safeguarding action to take. Whilst this is understandable, it is vital that such disputes do not affect the outcomes for adults with care and support needs.

The policy highlights that problem resolution is an integral part of professional co-operation and provides all staff with clarity regarding the process to be followed in the event of inter-agency dispute. In addition, it emphasises that it is important to;

- Ensure professional disputes do not increase risk or detract from the focus on the desired outcome for the adult at risk.
- Ensure professional disputes between agencies are resolved in a timely, open and constructive manner.
- Identify problem areas in working together where a lack of clarity exists and promote resolution via amendment to protocols and procedures.

The policy can be accessed via <https://www.suffolkas.org/assets/Uploads/2018-09-21-SAB-Managing-Disputes-Policy.pdf>

## **NEXT STEPS**

The consultation for the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Framework will close on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018. We aim to then review all feedback and update the draft Framework. Once this has completed, the final document will be sent to the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board for approval.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates on the development of new policies and procedures for Safeguarding Adults in Suffolk, so please look at the Safeguarding Adults Board website regularly for the latest updates and policies to review. If you have any queries or would like to feedback on any aspect of the Safeguarding Adults Transformation, we have set up a generic inbox to seek your feedback. Please head your email "Feedback" and send to:

[SABTransformation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:SABTransformation@suffolk.gov.uk)

We like to thank you for your continued support of this programme.