

Item No.	Classification	Date: 30 th September 2021	Meeting: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission
Report title:	An overview of the arrangements for safeguarding children and adults in Southwark.		
From:	David Quirke-Thornton - Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services, Southwark Council Clair Kelland - D/Supt, Public Protection, MPS Sam Hepplewhite - Place-Based Director (Southwark), NHS SEL CCG		

1. Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) and Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB).

- 1.1. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) outlines that the purpose of local safeguarding arrangements is to support and enable local organisations to work together in a safeguarding system. Therefore, Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the organisations in Southwark co-operate to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and young people and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
- 1.2. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 legislated for new arrangements for the safeguarding of children. The Act names the statutory partners as
1. the Local Authority
 2. the Police
 3. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).
- The arrangements replaced the previous Safeguarding Children Boards with a new safeguarding children partnership.
- 1.3. The Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. The main role of Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that adults at risk due to health needs, social care needs or disabilities are able to live their lives free of abuse or neglect.
- 1.4. Whilst there are distinct duties and functions respectively for children and adults, within Southwark we have adopted a joint model. The key three safeguarding partner leads are the same for the Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) and Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and are shown in the table below;

Partner Organisation	Lead Representative	Representative with delegated authority
Southwark Council	Chief Executive	Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services
Southwark CCG	Accountable Officer	Place-Based Director (Southwark), NHS SEL CCG
Southwark and Lambeth Police	BCU Commander	Detective Superintendent

- 1.5. All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. In situations that require a clear, single point of leadership, the three safeguarding partners will decide together who will take the lead. In cases of disagreement, the independent chair can be called upon to mediate.

2. Independent Chair, SSCP and SSAB

- 2.1. Anna Berry was appointed in February 2020 as the independent chair for both the SSCP and SSAB to enable us to have independent scrutiny of the arrangements for safeguarding both children and adults. The role of the independent chair includes ensuring the SSCP and SSAB operates effectively, with a clear focus and vision, as well as driving forward continuous improvement and ensuring both the SSCP and SSAB delivers against its agreed priorities.

3. Partner agencies

- 3.1. Partnership work is vital to the successful delivery of safeguarding services and interventions in Southwark. We remain confident that safeguarding is at the heart of the services delivered by statutory and voluntary services in Southwark, and we also remain committed to maintaining an open dialogue with all our partners, and working jointly with partners to ensure the best, person-centred outcomes for all residents in the borough. We have strong partnership commitment within the SSCP and SSAB and a full list of membership can be found within the annual report, which is embedded at the end of this report.

4. Safeguarding Reviews

- 4.1. Responsibility for how lessons are learned from serious child and adult safeguarding incidents lies at a local level with the safeguarding partners, who are responsible for identifying cases which meet the criteria for either a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR), as set out in Working Together 2018, or a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR), as set out in the Care Act 2014.
- 4.2. When the SSCP is advised that a child has died or is seriously harmed, together with being aware or suspecting that the child has been abused or

neglected, the safeguarding partnership must consider whether a review should be undertaken.

- 4.3. The SSAB must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult with needs if,
- (a) there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SSAB, members of it or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult, and
 - (b) the adult has died, and the SSAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died).

OR

- (c) the adult is still alive, and the SSAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.
- 4.4. For cases that meet either of the above thresholds, a full and comprehensive review is undertaken, which is contributed to by all partners as well as the family. Once a review has been completed, the SSCP and SSAB monitor the implementation and impact of any multi-agency lessons to be learned, and ensure that the learning from all case reviewing activity is embedded in practice. Where appropriate, final anonymised reports are published on the Safeguarding Partnership website.
- 4.5. In addition, a summary of the reviews undertaken each year, and the key learning, themes or trends are summarised within the annual report, copies of which are below.

5. Annual Reports

- 5.1. The Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Boards have a statutory duty to publish an annual report. Each report comprehensively reviews the safeguarding activity across the reporting period. It sets out the structure and full membership of the respective groups, summarises the work of the subgroups and includes an analysis of progress against agreed priorities, and will set out future priorities. In addition, all of the key learning, themes and trends from any child or adult death where a review has been completed are also summarised with the annual report.
- 5.2. A copy of the latest published SSCP and SSAB annual reports (2019/20) are available on the safeguarding partnership website, and can be accessed via these links;



SSAB-annual-report-
2019-20-final.pdf



SSCP-Annual-Report
-final.pdf