



Annual Report 2014-15

Essex Safeguarding Adult Board



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Foreword from the Chair

Once again I am pleased to be able to introduce the Annual Report of the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board.

The last year has been one of many challenges as the Board has continued to build the capacity required to play its part in ensuring that vulnerable adults in Essex are safe. The launch of the Care Act has seen an impact in all aspects of adult health and social care, not least in the world of safeguarding. The Act is of course, the biggest reform of social care since the 1940s and consolidates social care law into a single statute with broad duties on local authorities in relation to care and support, focusing on the promotion of 'individual well-being'.

The legislation also provides for the first time a formal statutory base for safeguarding adult boards and I am pleased that following a review of governance we have been able to create a Board structure in keeping with the new expectations placed upon it. The new, streamlined, Board met for the first time late in the year coinciding with the launch of the Care Act. This will enable the Board to deliver a more robust challenge and ensure greater consistency in safeguarding arrangements throughout the County.

Throughout the course of the year the Board has spent time appreciating the full implications of The Mental Capacity Act (2005) is designed to protect people who lack capacity to make particular decisions, but also to maximise their ability to make decisions, or to participate in decision-making, as far as possible. The Board are also under no illusions as to the extent of the difficulties surrounding the management of Deprivation of Liberty referrals. This presents real challenges in achieving timely assessment although there is some confidence that delays will be reduced as agencies both train and recruit assessors.

Recognising some of the challenges that face most Boards throughout the country, I am especially pleased that we have established formal liaison arrangements between the Safeguarding Boards (Adults and Children) the Safer Essex Board and the Strategic Domestic Abuse Board. These meetings have begun a helpful dialogue across important areas of the partnership, ensuring we work closely together to improve the wellbeing and safety of residents in Essex.

Hidden Harms continues to be a growing concern for us all and the Board is pleased to have been able to work closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, creating and increasing awareness among agencies of the need to address these issues. When given the opportunity to speak at local conferences I have encouraged the need for practitioners to use their experience and to have a healthy professional curiosity; we must not leave it too late before we act and the Board are keen that we develop strategies that support practitioners' professional judgement.

Whilst this Annual Report intentionally reports on some progress made, the Board is also aware of where and what we need to do better. Standards of care remain inconsistent and we need to use our audit and commissioning processes to ensure

improvement and greater consistency. This includes a better focus on joint work throughout local partnerships as well a continuous need to maintain and improve frontline practice.

Finally and on behalf of the Board I would like to thank all staff for their continued dedication to safeguarding adults in Essex, which I see on my visits to forums and conferences. Whilst it is important to be proud of what has been achieved, we must take time to reflect on our priorities for the coming year, and ensure we are equipped to deal with these challenges. We are being encouraged to innovate and consider new ways of working which will be an ongoing challenge in the year ahead.

Simon Hart
Independent Chair
ESAB June 2015

Executive summary

This report represents an update of the work of the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board for 2014-15 as required by the Care Act 2015. The report provides a summary of Board activities and its effectiveness in assessing and challenging safeguarding practice across partner agencies. This includes a focus on the challenges that the Board has provided, what it has done to gain assurance in these areas and what further needs to be done.

The Board has undergone change in 2014-15, with a review of Board membership and sub-committees structures. This report considers the impact of these changes on safeguarding practice. This report also demonstrates that the Board is working closely with other strategic partnerships including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Essex Safeguarding Children's Board, Safer Essex and Essex Strategic Domestic Abuse Board. The Board has also strengthened co-ordination of its scrutiny functions with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of Essex County Council with closer collaboration in regard to respective workplans.

Key highlights

- Introduction of new and improved online tool for completing safeguarding audit. Whilst based on a self assessment the Board has strengthened arrangements for moderation and the tool now allows ESAB to more effectively monitor the robustness of agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Greater cross-board working with the Essex Safeguarding Children Board through the violence against women and girls event and Karma Nirvana honour based abuse roadshow.
- Recognising the need to significantly improve Board external and internal communications, a new joint appointment with the ESCB has been made to drive communications over the coming year. Already progress has been made with social media presence and AskSAL campaign with the intention to also develop a regular Board bulletin for practitioners and managers.

- Engagement with the care sector was identified as a priority and as such a quarterly Care Provider Forum was launched in January 2015.
- With the county councils health overview and scrutiny committee ESAB continued to seek assurance from Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust about the robustness of its services following critical Care Quality Commission Reports dating back to 2013.

Areas for further development in 2015-16

- Continuing concerns about care standards have led ESAB to focus on the quality of health and social care being commissioned in Essex and particularly to include a priority in its business plan looking at this area for 2015-17.
- ESAB will look to increase safeguarding awareness through a re-launched website and targeted campaigns, driven by the Communications sub-Committee.
- ESAB will challenge agencies to ensure areas of hidden harm in Essex are being given sufficient priority and that there are adequate systems in place to measure risk around Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Preventing Radicalisation of adults and Modern Slavery.

Local context

Essex is one of the largest counties in the UK; the current population projection of Essex (excluding Southend and Thurrock) is over 1.42 million, with this figure estimated to rise by 5% to over 1.49 million by 2020. Of the 1.42 million, nearly 1.13 million (79%) are adults 18+. Colchester is the largest conurbation, with the total population of adults recorded at over 142,000 (POPPI & PANSI, 2015).

By 2020 Essex's ageing population is predicted to increase by 13%, 1 percentage point higher than the national average at 12%. As the county's demographic profile changes, there will be differences between the health and wellbeing of different groups of people and between different parts of Essex. For example, we know that Essex residents in the most deprived parts of the county tend to have lower life expectancy due to poorer health. The life expectancy of females living in the most deprived areas of Essex is 80.4 years, compared to 85.5 years in the least deprived. The life expectancy of males is even wider in the most deprived areas (most deprived: 75 years, least deprived: 82.9 years) (JSNA, 2015).

Findings from the 2011 Census show that there are variations in the age profile of Essex residents. Within specific districts of Essex these differences are clear. Understanding the age profile of our population is vital to the continuity of providing sufficient services and safeguards to people's needs. For example in Essex under one-in-five (18.3%) are aged over 65. This statistic shows that the percentage of residents of Essex as a whole is particularly low, however once this is broken down in to the population of each district, it shows that in Tendring over one-in-four people (27.0%) are aged 65 or over. This is expected to increase to 37% in 2037. With the lowest area being Harlow District where under one-in-seven (15.0%) are aged 65 or over.

Analysis shows that there is an association between physical disabilities and age. It is estimated that of the people in Essex with a physical disability, 60% are aged 65+. With the older population (65+) expected to grow from 28% by 2033 across Essex, it is also anticipated that the number of people with physical disabilities will also increase (JSNA, 2015).

Predicted demographic change, reduced mortality rates, increased survival rates and improved health care will lead to an increase in the number of older people with learning disabilities. As of 2014, it is estimated that there are nearly 33,000 adults 18+ living with a learning disability in Essex (including Southend and Thurrock). Areas with the highest number of people with a learning disability are Colchester, Southend and Basildon (POPPI & PANSI, 2015).

Over a quarter of the people living in Tendring (25.7%) has a long-term limiting illness or disability. This compares to 3.8% for Essex and 4.4% for England. Colchester is estimated to have the largest number of adults with learning disabilities and Maldon the smallest (POPPI & PANSI, 2015).

Statutory framework

The Care Act highlights six principles that inform the ways in which professionals and other staff work with adults. The Board have used these basic principles upon which to base its strategic plan. The principles are:

Principles	Individual outcome
Empowerment	People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. <i>"I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."</i>
Prevention	It is better to take action before harm occurs <i>"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."</i>
Proportionality	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. <i>"I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed."</i>
Protection	Support and representation to those in greatest need. <i>"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."</i>
Partnership	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. <i>"I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me."</i>
Accountability	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. <i>"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."</i>



The role of Board Members

In 2014-15 ESAB worked hard to ensure there would be robust “Care Act compliant” governance arrangements in place. Throughout this period a review of the board’s membership and governance arrangements was completed and ESAB were able to meet for the first time in their post review form in January 2015, well ahead of the statutory implementation date.

The Care Act set out clear requirements for safeguarding board membership in that they must include:

- Essex County Council,
- Clinical Commissioning Groups in the Essex area,
- The Chief Officer of the Police.

The Act also sets out that boards can also include other organisations that it considers appropriate. In Essex in addition to our statutory partners we also have membership from:

- Essex Fire and Rescue Service,
- The Police and Crime Commissioners Office,
- Representation from advocacy organisations,
- National Probation Service,
- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company,
- Representation from City, District and Borough Councils,
- Representation from care provider organisations.

Statutory guidance suggests that given the multifaceted and critical role of the board the chair must:

- Lead collaboratively,
- Provide advice, support and encouragement to partners,
- Offer constructive challenge,
- Hold main partner agencies to account,
- Ensure that interfaces with other strategic functions are effective,
- Acting as a spokesperson for the Board.

The Act states that safeguarding boards give consideration to the appointment of an independent chair. Essex has adopted this approach and appointed Simon Hart as its independent chair to fulfil this function. Although the Act and its statutory guidance do not set out too much detail about the specific role of board members it is very clear about the role of the board. The guidance is however clear in setting out that members of a safeguarding adult board are expected to consider what assistance they can provide in supporting the Board in its work. Specifically the Care Act statutory guidance¹ states “Local SABs decide how they operate but they **must** ensure that their arrangements will be able to deliver the duties and functions under Schedule 2 of the Care Act”.

¹ Section 14.114, Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Department of Health, October 2014 (Health, 2014)
[Essex Safeguarding Adult Board](#)
[Annual Report 2014-15 Final July 2015](#)

Board priorities

One of the key priorities for the Board in 2014-15 was to 'Develop and deliver an action plan to ensure that The ESAB is compliant with the requirements of the Care Act. As well as the Board's compliance, it also sought assurance from partners including Essex County Council that it would be Care Act compliant.

As a result of a number of cases around poor care standards, ESAB sought to have a better engagement with the care sector. This will be a key opportunity for the sector to become more involved and influential with the Board through their significantly increased representation. The Board has committed to support a quarterly Care Provider Forum which was launched in January 2015.

Another key action for ESAB in 2014-15 was 'Participate in cross cutting projects with the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) and other strategic partnerships to develop a range of policy areas including Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking and Honour Based Abuse.' Successful joint learning and development opportunities have been launched and have seen 285 people complete training in these areas to the end of financial year 2014-15.

Activities of Board/Sub-Committee

ESAB's membership and governance review has meant significant change for all of the sub-groups during 2014/15. In addition to new Committees being established, the membership of existing groups has been refreshed to ensure they include full representation from partner agencies. The impact of this revised membership has seen a greater level of challenge at meetings and holding partners to account where there have been concerns about quality and safety. The Board is already seeing greater evidence of challenge through reports and auditing arrangements.

Throughout this period of change the sub groups, continued to work hard towards the Boards priorities set out within its Business Plan for 2014-15. The details of the number of meetings and agencies that attended are detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

Training

In total 594 people attended ESAB training courses in 2014-15. The table below shows the range of courses which ESAB commissions and the total number of participants who attended those courses. A more detailed report on the evaluation of training, including comments about the training and evaluation scores is available on the website www.essexsab.org.uk/training.

Course	Numbers attended
DASH risk checklist	28
Domestic abuse basic awareness	71
Domestic abuse enhanced awareness	88
Honour based abuse	54
Human rights and safeguarding adults	40
MARAC	44
Provider manager	57
Safeguarding adults basic awareness	119
Safeguarding and the law	69
Training for trainers	24
E-learning	718*

**718 participants applied for e-learning, although the usernames can be reused so the figure could be much higher.*

The Board will also need to further develop training evaluation arrangements to ensure that we are clear about the impact of both single and multi agency training concerned with safeguarding.

Events activity

These two events ran in conjunction with Essex Safeguarding Children's Board. Hidden harm and the challenges faced by staff and organisations will continue to be a theme within the next years business plan and will be a topic for the 2015-16 annual conference.

- i. **Violence against women and girls event** - Also run in conjunction with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, attended by 50 safeguarding leads, the event looked at female genital mutilation and family dynamics and an Essex honour based abuse case. Feedback highlighted areas for development:
 - Mapping of local information/ Clear pathways/referral route
 - Training and Awareness raising
 - Education in schools
 - Specialised support for victims
 - Education for perpetrators

- ii. **Karma Nirvana honour based abuse roadshow** - The roadshow held on Friday 30th May 2014 aimed to raise awareness on the new law for the criminalisation of forced marriage and how victims and professionals can use the law to protect victims. Responses about how the roadshow had impacted on work focussed on:
- reviewing policy and guidance
 - increased knowledge of resources available
 - developing training for frontline staff
 - recognising signs of HBA
 - greater awareness of legal situation
 - better understanding of peoples roles and responsibilities.

Serious Case Review sub-committee activity

Although the statutory requirement within the Care Act for Safeguarding Adult Boards to conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) was not implemented until April 2015 ESAB worked during 2014-15 to update procedures in line with the Board's new statutory responsibilities.

During the year, ESAB received six Serious Case Review (SCR) referrals to consider which resulted in:

- One referral met the threshold and has moved forward to become a formal review. This is expected to report during 2015-16.
- One referral also met the threshold and is being taken forward by Southend Adult Safeguarding Board. Although the incident occurred in Essex, the significant majority of the adults care and support was provided or commissioned in Southend and it was agreed by the two Boards that Southend would lead the review.
- Three referrals did not meet the threshold for a SCR but it was felt that the cases provided an opportunity for significant learning. System based reviews are therefore being completed on these cases using methodology developed by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). These reviews are expected to report in 2015-16.
- The final referral did not meet the threshold for a SCR.



Performance activity

Ask SAL - ESAB's Safeguarding Adults Line was launched in 2010. This line gives information and advice about abuse and safeguarding adults, or taking disclosures of specific concerns about the safety of somebody in Essex. There were a total of 542 calls made to the Ask SAL helpline during 2014-15, 503 (93%) calls answered within the minute (compared with 545 calls made in 2013-14 and 506 (93%) of calls answered within the minute). Further details can be found at www.asksal.org.uk.

2014-15 Safeguarding audit – As part of its remit in ensuring that there are robust safeguarding arrangements in Essex, the Board designed within an online audit tool called *Enable* which is hosted by Virtual College. Headlines include:

- Organisations appear to be performing particularly well in:
 - Senior Level Commitment to Safeguarding, and Accountability
 - Core Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
 - Learning, Development and Staff Support and
 - Information Sharing.
- Organisations are performing less well around areas of hidden harm:
 - Service development is informed, where appropriate, by the views of vulnerable adults, their relatives and carers,
 - The organisation has an effective strategy in relation to honour based abuse (HBA) - this includes forced marriage (FM) and female genital mutilation (FGM),
 - The organisation has an effective strategy in relation to Prevent (The Counter Terrorism Strategy),
 - The organisation has an effective strategy in relation to modern slavery.

During moderation a number of organisations have been asked to provide additional information to evidence their scoring. See www.essexsab.org.uk for full audit report.

Significant scoping work has been completed to identify performance data from a range of sources. Early analysis of the information has however highlighted that whilst a significant body of information is available there is a significant challenge in identifying credible baselines/ benchmarks to measure performance. Further work is underway to address this challenge including discussions with other authorities and safeguarding boards that will facilitate the development of a scorecard for future reports. Additionally recent moves to new information recording systems within Essex Police will in future allow the provision of an improved level of information to the board. This has however resulted in data not currently being available for inclusion in this annual report.

Safeguarding Performance Data

Safeguarding Referrals - The total number of safeguarding referrals received in 2014/15 was 5978. As a percentage, this number has increased by 8.5%, compared to 2013/14. Data shows that of those 5978 referrals, 3759 (62.9%) were aged 65 and over, with 2219 (37.1%) being under 65 years old.

Figures broken down into referrals by Service User category show that the majority was in relation to Physical Disability, with 2591 (43.3%). Other known high scoring categories included Learning Disabilities with 927 (15.5%), Mental Health 617 (10.3%) and Dementia 596 (10%). There were also 1085 (18.1%) referrals from 'Other Vulnerable People'.

The total number of referrals closed (as a percentage) last year (2013/14) was 69.5%. For 2014/15 this figure has increased to 79.5%, meaning that there were 10% more referrals closed in 2014/15 compared to last year.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) – The total number of DoLS in Essex has seen a vast increase in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14. With figures rising from 672 in 2013/14 to 4,197, with up to a further 500 additional requests being screened and will likely be added to that number. This is an increase of 625% referrals (before including the potential 500 additional requests).

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) - Since 9th February 2014 there have been 906 police referrals, 115 external referrals and 72 Thurrock cases, bringing the total to 1093 incidents which have gone through the Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team (JDATT)/MARAC process.

Figures in the table below are before the new system came, which was before the JDATT was incorporated in to the MARAC figures.

Area	June 2013 – May 2014		June 2014 – May 2015	
	Number of Level 2 cases (heard at MARAC meeting)	Number of Level 1 cases (electronic Information sharing only)	Number of Level 2 cases (heard at MARAC meeting)	Number of Level 1 cases (electronic Information sharing only)
Basildon/Brentwood/Wickford/Billericay	354	0	384	66
Chelmsford/Maldon/Braintree	429	0	427	67
Southend Adults/CastlePoint/Rochford	275	0	279	29
Colchester	233	0	323	43
Epping	197	0	169	19
Harlow/Uttlesford	210	0	268	32
Southend Children	248	0	306	34
Tendring	243	0	297	63
Thurrock	255	0	251	31
Totals	2444	0	2704	384
Totals over a 2 year period	5532			

Communications and engagement activity

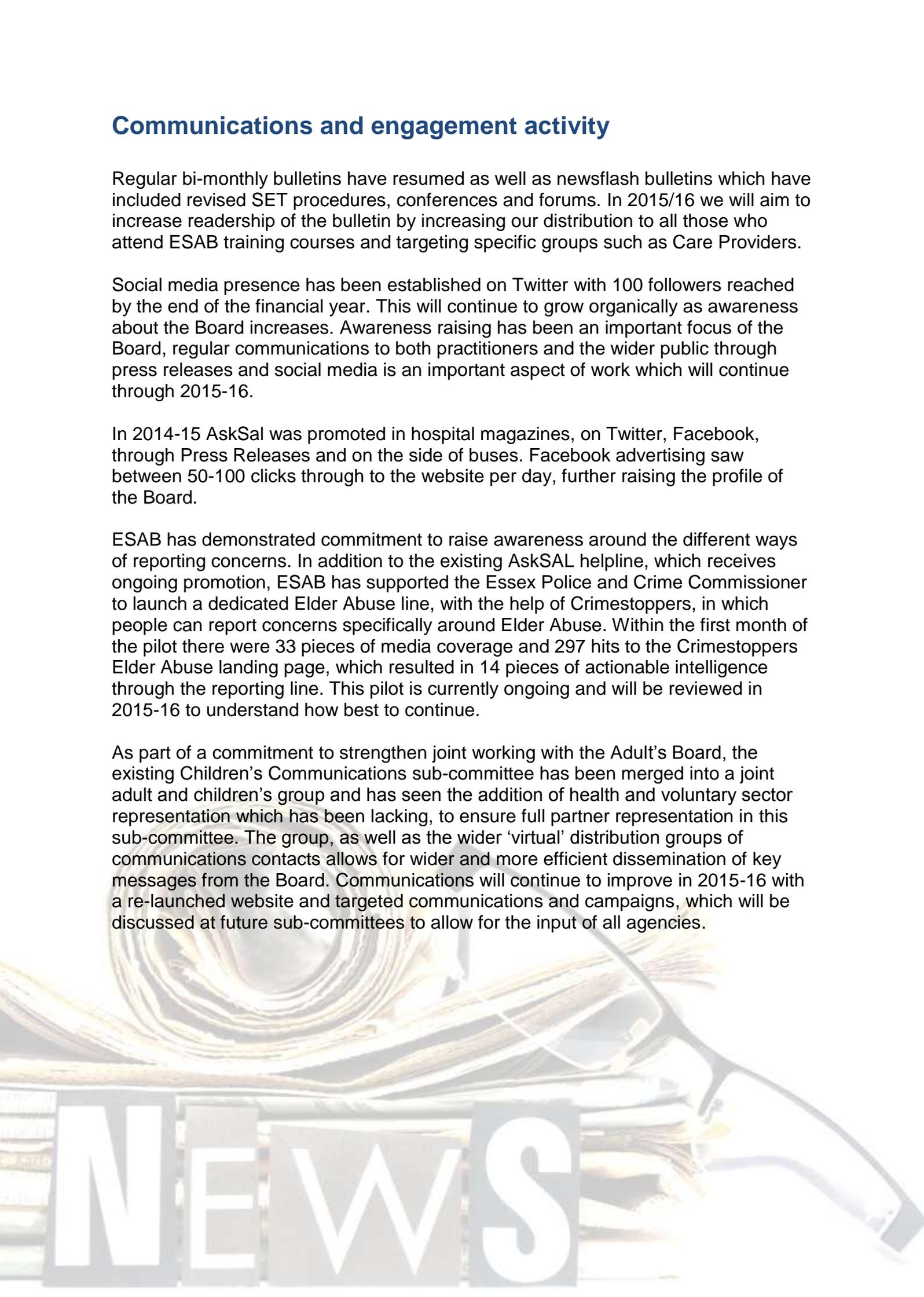
Regular bi-monthly bulletins have resumed as well as newsflash bulletins which have included revised SET procedures, conferences and forums. In 2015/16 we will aim to increase readership of the bulletin by increasing our distribution to all those who attend ESAB training courses and targeting specific groups such as Care Providers.

Social media presence has been established on Twitter with 100 followers reached by the end of the financial year. This will continue to grow organically as awareness about the Board increases. Awareness raising has been an important focus of the Board, regular communications to both practitioners and the wider public through press releases and social media is an important aspect of work which will continue through 2015-16.

In 2014-15 AskSal was promoted in hospital magazines, on Twitter, Facebook, through Press Releases and on the side of buses. Facebook advertising saw between 50-100 clicks through to the website per day, further raising the profile of the Board.

ESAB has demonstrated commitment to raise awareness around the different ways of reporting concerns. In addition to the existing AskSAL helpline, which receives ongoing promotion, ESAB has supported the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner to launch a dedicated Elder Abuse line, with the help of Crimestoppers, in which people can report concerns specifically around Elder Abuse. Within the first month of the pilot there were 33 pieces of media coverage and 297 hits to the Crimestoppers Elder Abuse landing page, which resulted in 14 pieces of actionable intelligence through the reporting line. This pilot is currently ongoing and will be reviewed in 2015-16 to understand how best to continue.

As part of a commitment to strengthen joint working with the Adult's Board, the existing Children's Communications sub-committee has been merged into a joint adult and children's group and has seen the addition of health and voluntary sector representation which has been lacking, to ensure full partner representation in this sub-committee. The group, as well as the wider 'virtual' distribution groups of communications contacts allows for wider and more efficient dissemination of key messages from the Board. Communications will continue to improve in 2015-16 with a re-launched website and targeted communications and campaigns, which will be discussed at future sub-committees to allow for the input of all agencies.



NEWS

Impact and challenge

The main objective of a Safeguarding Adult Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements, and partners, act to help and protect adults in its area. A fundamental part of the board's role is to provide sufficient challenge between its members around their safeguarding arrangements as well as identifying arrangements for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training.

ESAB through its meetings and a range of other activity has been able to demonstrate challenge and impact in a number of areas including:

- Essex County Council Social Care, in readiness for the implementation of the Care Act, went through a significant reorganisation during 2014/15 including major changes to safeguarding arrangements. During the period of this report the board sought assurance and received updates about the impact of the reorganisation, particularly relating to ensuring compliance with Care Act requirements.
- Care Quality Commission inspections of three acute NHS Trusts in Essex have highlighted a range of quality and safety concerns that, ESAB, in collaboration with the County Councils Overview and Scrutiny committee have sought assurance around. Moving forward from these concerns the board have included a priority in their business plan for 2015-17 to continue to seek assurance about the quality and safety of commissioned healthcare in Essex.
- Continuing concerns about care standards along with local press reports have led ESAB to focus on the quality of health & social care being commissioned in Essex and particularly to include a priority in its business plan looking at this area for 2015-17. ESAB have also sought to improve engagement with care providers through inclusion of representative from the sector within the board's membership and the establishment of a care provider safeguarding forum to ensure there is an open communication channel to the sector.
- Cheshire West Judgement – Following the Cheshire West judgement ESAB challenged Essex County Council about its arrangements for Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) assessments. In addition to regular reports to the board on progress in managing the challenging demands on capacity, ESAB also collaborated with the council through a task and finish group to ensure that DoLs policies were revised swiftly to bring them in line with the judgement as well as to facilitate discussions with Southend and Thurrock to consider what additional measures could be established to mitigate the significant risks that the ramifications of the judgement posed to the council and its partner agencies.
- Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat – through a working group led by Essex Police, ESAB have worked collaboratively with commissioners and care providers to take forward the governments Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat requirements. Through the working group a Concordat was developed and signed by key agencies across Essex. Additionally Action Plans have been established across the county to deliver the Concordats commitments.

- The ESAB adult safeguarding self-assessment audit has provided the board with a useful opportunity to gain assurance about the robustness of safeguarding arrangements across the county. In addition to noting the audits submitted by its partner agencies the ESAB support team have provided feedback to challenge agencies where their submissions need to include additional evidence to back up their scores. Findings from the audit will be presented to ESAB along with an action plan setting out plans for sharing good practice among agencies and developing areas where organisations are performing less strongly.

Additionally the board has also challenged in other areas, for example, seeking assurance around Local Government Ombudsman review action plans and the County Councils preparedness for the implementation of the Care Act.



Budget

The Board continues to focus on value for money and transparency in its finances and has continued to maintain and develop its activities within budget during 2014-15.

Contributions were received from Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups, Essex County Council, Essex Police and a number of City, Borough & District Councils as well as income we generate through training and other activity.

2015/16 Budget Report

	INCOME		EXPENDITURE
Essex Clinical Commissioning groups	49,845	Staff	178,719
Essex County Council	110,079	Office Costs	10,194
Essex Police	58,564	Room bookings/costs	794
District & Borough Councils x 6	5,650	ESAB Chair	12,000
Training Course Income	41,085	AskSAL	17,227
DVD training pack	254	ESAB Events	2,094
		Serious Adult Review (SAR)	2,256
		ESAB Training	31,163
		SAP Project	7,905
TOTAL:	265,807	TOTAL:	265,807

The Board's financial planning for 2015-16 has been completed to ensure that for the fourth year in a row it will not be necessary to increase contributions from its partners. ESAB is however mindful that as Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) are now statutory it is likely that review activity for the board is likely to increase and may therefore become a financial pressure that will need to be monitored carefully throughout the year.



Future challenges and looking ahead

2015-16 is going to be a big year for the Safeguarding Board in that for the first time we will be operating as a statutory board with specific statutory functions. We have published our strategic plan (available from ESAB website www.essexsab.org.uk) for the next two years that sets out six clear strategic outcomes for the board:

- i. ESAB can gain assurance that adults in Essex are experiencing safe, high quality social care provision
- ii. Adults in Essex have access to safe, high quality health service provision in Essex
- iii. Minimise impact of Deprivation of Liberty changes resulting from the Cheshire West Supreme Court judgement
- iv. ESAB are assured that areas of hidden harm in Essex is being given sufficient priority within its partner agencies and that there are adequate systems in place to measure risk around Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Preventing radicalisation of adults and Modern slavery in Essex
- v. ESAB is able to assure itself that safeguarding information sharing procedures are established and being used effectively at an operational level
- vi. ESAB is an effective strategic board fulfilling its statutory objective to help and protect adults who have needs for care and support, who are experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect.

These priorities will be delivered through the Board's newly created sub-committees with the intention that by our next annual report we will be able to demonstrate progress we have made against the plan.

Conclusions

One of the questions that the Board asks itself is what difference has been made to safeguarding adults in 2014-15? We have done this through:

- Working with strategic partnerships including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Essex Safeguarding Children's Board, Safer Essex and Scrutiny Committees at ECC to gain assurance about the commissioning and delivery of quality services in the county.
- Establishing the new Board to bring greater challenge to partners. This has helped to ensure that working practice is safe across Essex and where there is concern for practice then the Board has questioned and monitored actions taken.
- The care provider forum aiming to bring the work of the Board closer to providers within Essex. Opening channels of communication will help to Board to build better relationships with providers.
- Delivering a multi-agency training programme to support practitioners in their work. This is supported by an increase in communications work through newsletters and social media.
- Conducting Safeguarding Adult Reviews to learn lessons and identify practice needing development.
- Conducting a new electronic self-assessment audit to help partners to identify where there are gaps within their organisation. The submissions have also been challenged where agencies haven't supplied evidence to back up the scores.
- Developing a strategic plan for 2015-17 building on work to date and driving forward activity to ensure the board can meet its statutory objective to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area.

References

POPPI & PANSI (2015) -

<http://www.pansi.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=383&areaID=8321&loc=8321>

<http://www.poppi.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=314&areaID=8640&loc=8640>

JSNA (2015) - Essex County Council's Equalities Strategy 2015-18

Appendix 1 – Board Attendance

Meeting attendance for 2014-15 - The following tables show the numbers who attended the Board meeting and its subcommittees.

Essex Safeguarding Adult Board

Agency:	23.04.14	23.07.14	22.10.14	21.01.15
Essex County Council	4	6	7	4
CCGs	2	3	4	2
Acute Hospitals	5	6	4	1
Health Providers	2	2	2	
NHS England	1	1		
MH Trusts	2	1	1	
Probation	1	1	2	2
Essex Police	1	1	1	1
Fire Service		1	1	1
City/District Borough Councils	1			2
Care Providers				1
OPCC				1
Healthwatch				1
*Others	3	4	2	2
Total:	22	26	24	18

*others include advocacy, lay members and independent providers

As a result of the ESAB Governance review, the representation from the Health Sector, Essex County Council and City/District & Borough councils was reduced and new mechanisms established to ensure full partner engagement.

Safeguarding Adult Management Committee

Agency:	11.04.14	9.05.14	13.06.14	11.07.14	12.09.14	10.10.14
Essex County Council		1	1	2	1	1
CCGs		4	5	5		6
Acute Hospitals		5	3	3	3	2
Health Providers		2	1	3	1	1
MH Trusts		2	1	2	2	2
Police		1	1	1		2
Fire		1	1		1	1
Others		2	2	2	3	1
Total:	Cancelled	18	15	13	11	16

As a result of the ESAB Governance and membership review SAMC meetings ceased from November 2014.

Health Leads – Sub-Committee

Agency:	11.04.14	9.05.14	13.06.14	11.07.14	12.09.14
CCGs		3	1	4	1
Acute Hospitals		5	3	4	1
Health Care Providers		3	2	2	1
MH Trusts		1	1	1	
Private Health Care Providers				1	2
Total:	Cancelled	12	7	12	5

The Health Safeguarding Adult Leads group meetings ceased in September 2014 with adult safeguarding arrangements being taken forward through a joint Health Executive Forum with the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board.

Serious Case Review – Sub-Committee

Agency:	13.06.14	12.09.14	12.12.14	12.02.15
MH Trust	1			1
Police				3
Essex County Council	1			1
Acute Hospital				1
CCG				2
Others (advocacy, lay member)	1			2
Total:	3	Cancelled	Cancelled	10

City/District & Borough Council Safeguarding Leads Meeting

Council:	1.05.14	29.07.14	30.09.14	16.12.15	24.02.15
Chelmsford City	1	1	1	1	1
Braintree District	1	1	1	1	1
Uttlesford District	1				
Harlow Council	1	1	1	1	
Epping Forest District	1	1	1	1	1
Basildon Borough	1	1	1	1	1
Brentwood Borough	1	1	1		1
Rochford District			1	1	
Maldon District	1	1	1	1	1
Colchester Borough	1			1	1
Tendring District			1		1
Castlepoint District		1	1		1
Total:	9	8	10	8	9

This is a joint sub-group with the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board, although it only became a formal sub group of the boards in January 2015 it has in fact been in existence throughout the reporting period.

Training & Development Sub-Committee

Agency	9.05.14
Acute Hospitals	1
Advocacy	1
Care Provider	1
Total:	3

The training group only met once during the 2014-15 year due to the Board re-organisation.

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