



# What we did in the last year

2022 to 2023



Easy  
Read

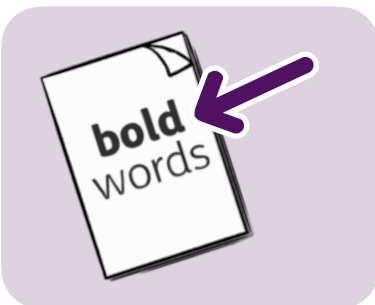
# Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



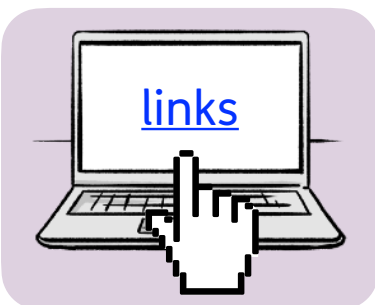
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people may find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this booklet

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# About this report



This is a report from West Sussex **Safeguarding** Adults Board.



**Safeguarding** is keeping people safe from harm and abuse.

This is a report about:



- What we have done in the last year.



- What we are going to do next year.

# Who are the Safeguarding Adults Board?



We work with other health and care services to improve the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs.



We work with lots of people and organisations. The main 3 are:

- West Sussex County Council.



- West Sussex NHS.



- Sussex Police.



We work with care and support services in West Sussex to make sure the adults that they support are safe.

To help keep adults safe, we make sure that:



- Services have rules to keep adults safe.



- Rules about safeguarding are right for each person.



- Services get better at keeping people safe.



- Services quickly speak up about why something has gone wrong.



- Services work together to stop things going wrong.



When things go wrong, it can mean people are not safe.

This can lead to **abuse** and **neglect**.



**Abuse** is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.



**Neglect** is when someone does not look after you properly.

# Our main jobs

We have 3 main jobs to do:



1. Follow our Strategic Plan - this is the main plan of what we need to do about safeguarding adults in West Sussex.



2. Write an Annual Report - this is a document we write every year about the work we have done.



3. Do Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) to check what we could have done better when an adult with care needs was harmed or has died.



# Our priorities for 2022 to 2023



**Priorities** are the most important things we work on.

We had 3 priorities for 2022 to 2023.

## 1. Safeguarding people with complex needs



**Complex needs** are where a person has more than 1 disability or health condition, that means they need extra support.



We asked care staff about what services should do to safeguard people with complex needs.



We looked at what had happened when a person with complex needs was not safe.



We helped people with complex needs to speak up about what they thought.

## 2. Safeguarding older people



We started asking care staff about what **organisations** should do to keep older people safe.



**Organisations** are groups that work together. They might be companies, charities or services.



We started to look at what had happened when older people were not safe.



We helped to teach care organisations in West Sussex about ways they can keep older people safe.

### 3. Speaking up about our work



A group looked at what else we could do to teach organisations about safeguarding.



They agreed on some ideas for new ways for us to speak up about safeguarding.



We made a new leaflet and posters in November 2022.

# What went well



We have lots of small groups called subgroups.

They work to help us do our work.

Here are some of the things they did well in the last year:

## Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Subgroup



This group looks at the need for Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

This year, they:



- Worked on 6 Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

This year, they also:



- Looked at 9 cases that might need a Safeguarding Adult Review.



- Checked Safeguarding Adult Reviews to see what parts of safeguarding need to be improved.



They especially did this for older people and people with complex needs.



- Looked at Safeguarding Adult Reviews from across South East England.

This year, they also:



- Told other areas about what they had learned about safeguarding.



- Listened to people, their families and care and support staff about:
  - What they think we did well.
  - What could be done better.

# Quality and Performance Subgroup



This group checks that the people we work with are doing their jobs well.

This year the group has:



- Shared what they learned in 2021 to 2022.

- Checked cases to do with safeguarding:



- People with complex needs.



- Older people.



- People who have self-neglected - these are people who have become unsafe because they have not looked after themselves.

This year, the Quality and Performance Subgroup has also:



- Spoken to staff about how to best safeguard older people.



- Looked at information to find out how to improve safeguarding for older people.



- Looked at ways to better share things we have learned.



- Created a new way for checking that services learn from Safeguarding Adult Reviews.



# Learning and Policy Subgroup

This group is in charge of:



- Helping others learn from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other work.



- Making new guidelines for how we should work.

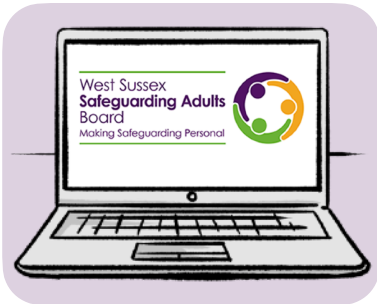
This year the group has:



- Created information booklets and **podcasts** about safeguarding.

**Podcasts** are recordings a bit like radio programmes that are available on the internet.

This year, the Learning and Policy Subgroup has also:



- Created online information about us and our work.

You can look at this here:

[www.westsussexsab.org.uk/learning-and-podcasts/core-safeguarding-learning-resources/](http://www.westsussexsab.org.uk/learning-and-podcasts/core-safeguarding-learning-resources/)



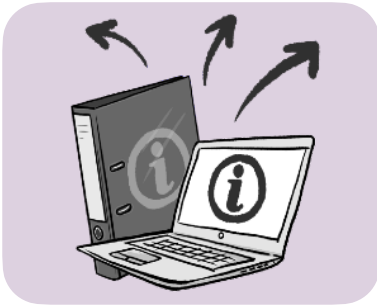
- Spoken to some care services to check that they know about safeguarding.

## Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Information Subgroup



This group looks at risks in health and care services, like care homes.

This year, the Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Information Subgroup has:



- Shared information about safeguarding and quality issues with different organisations.



- Looked at care homes with a very high or very low number of safeguarding reports.



- Spoken up about safeguarding issues.



- Spoke to other organisations about what they knew about care homes.

# Multi-Agency Risk Management Subgroup



This group gives information to workers when they are helping adults with care needs.

This year, the group has:



- Helped different organisations to work well together.



- Told health and care staff about different services they can get support from.

# Other things we have done



We have worked with Safeguarding Adults Boards in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove.

Together, we made information about safeguarding, including:



- New posters to help people understand how to speak up about safeguarding.



- A new poster to explain who we are and what we do.



- A new leaflet that includes information about:
  - Safeguarding and who might need it.
  - How to speak up if you think someone is not safe.



We made a video that explains what we have learned from our work, and what organisations will do differently.



You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXcylafPn9A>



We have also worked with organisations called the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Community Safety and Wellbeing team.



Together, we made a video explaining what we have learned from our work.



You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bjV3bg7PLU>



We have also:

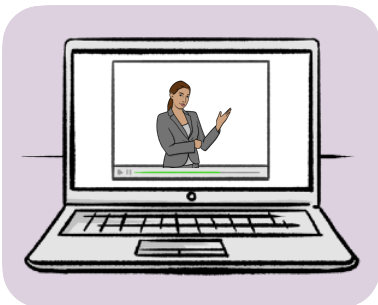
- Shared an **animation** called 'Tricky Friends' that explains:
  - What a good friendship is.
  - When a friendship might harm someone.
  - How to get support if your friendships make you sad.

An **animation** is a short film like a cartoon.



You can watch 'Tricky Friends' here:

[www.westsussexsab.org.uk/what-is-safeguarding/tricky-friends-animation/](http://www.westsussexsab.org.uk/what-is-safeguarding/tricky-friends-animation/)

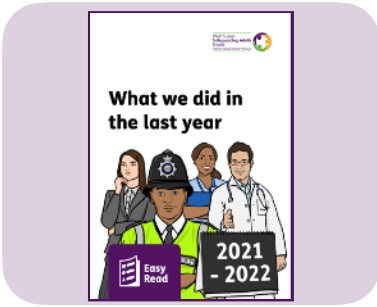


- Made a video about our work.

We have also:



- Wrote newsletters explaining what we are doing.



- Created an Easy Read version of our annual report.



# What we did to make safeguarding better



We are always looking for ways to make safeguarding better for the people who live in West Sussex.

We did this by:



- Talking about any risks that there are in our services and making sure everyone knows about them.



- Asking people to share information about safeguarding with us at our meetings.

We also worked to make safeguarding better by:



- Listening to different organisations talk about issues to do with safeguarding, like:



- Being safe from fire.



- Being safe online.



- Mental health.



- Learning from what happened when people have died, because they were being treated badly.

We also worked to make safeguarding better by:



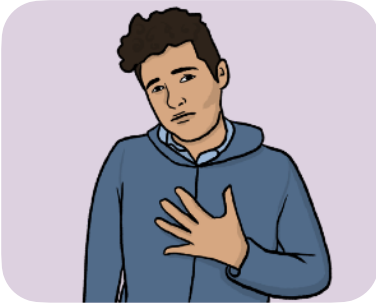
- Looking at different safeguarding issues that have happened lots of times and giving information to staff about them.



- Helping the organisations we work with to check the way that they carry out safeguarding.

We also worked to make safeguarding better by:

- Checking how different organisations safeguard:



- Children who are becoming adults.



- People who might self-neglect.



- People with complex needs.



- Older people.



- Making a list of care providers with a very high or very low number of safeguarding reports and checking what support they might need.

# Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)



We use Safeguarding Adult Reviews to check what we could have done better when someone was harmed or has died.



We do not use Safeguarding Adult Reviews to find out who is to blame.



We use Safeguarding Adult Reviews to learn from any mistakes and do better if the same thing happens in the future.

The law says we have to do a Safeguarding Adult Review when:



- An adult has died and we think that abuse or neglect was part of the reason they died.



- An adult has been abused or neglected which harmed them or made them have a worse quality of life.



- We think that an organisation could have done more to protect an adult who has been abused or neglected.



In the last year, we have finished 3 Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

All of them were:



- Older adults.



- To do with neglect.



- Asked for by West Sussex County Council Adult Social Care.

# What we learned from these Safeguarding Adult Reviews



In all of the Safeguarding Adult Reviews there were some important things for us to learn.

We learned that we need to:



- Improve how we check health services.



- Improve how health and care services work together.



- Make adults with care and support needs the most important part of how we work.



We also learned that we need to:



- Help staff to improve their skills to look after people who need care and support.



- Improve how staff keep adults safe.



- Help organisations to work together.



- Make sure people and their families are listened to.



Each time we do a Safeguarding Adult Review, we write a plan for how we will improve.



After 6 months, we check whether the ideas in the plan are happening.



This helps make sure services are improving.



We also share what we learn by giving out information and making podcasts.

# Our priorities for next year



We have 2 priorities for next year.

They are:

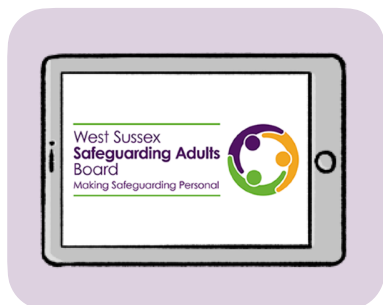


1. Safeguarding people from self-neglect.



2. Make sure that services learn from our work.

# Find out more



You can look at our website here:

[www.westsussexsab.org.uk](http://www.westsussexsab.org.uk)

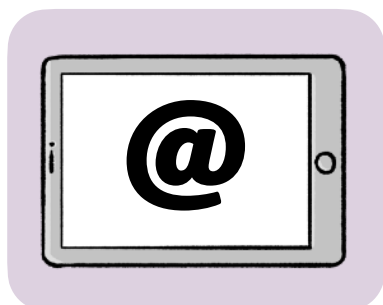
If you need more information please contact us by:



- Post:  
Safeguarding Adults Board  
1st Floor  
County Hall North  
Parkside  
Chart Way  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 1XH



- Phone: 03302 227 952



- Email:  
[safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk)

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