



West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board strategic plan


Three-year strategy and 2025/26 business plan

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About us



The West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory Board; a multi-agency partnership consisting of both statutory and non-statutory organisations from across the health, social care, and uniform services.

We benefit from a large membership of senior staff representing organisations in West Sussex who are responsible for the development and implementation of effective multi-agency safeguarding policies, protocols, and practices. This is with an ongoing shared commitment to safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

This three-year strategy sets out our shared vision; what we are committed to achieve over the next three-year period; and how we plan to meet our objectives.

We conduct our work in line with the Care Act 2014, and specifically within the principles of effective safeguarding work, which we'll take a look at now.

To work effectively together organisations in the Board follow the six principles of adult safeguarding

- **Empowerment:** supporting adults to make their own decisions;
- **Prevention:** taking action before harm occurs;
- **Proportionality:** responding in a way that is least intrusive in line with the risk;
- **Protection:** supporting those who are most in need;
- **Partnership:** working with local services and communities;
- **Accountability:** being transparent about our role in adult safeguarding.

Our desired outcomes



Each year our annual business plan is informed by a set of overarching strategic objectives. For the period 2025–2028, we want to ensure that we are always working towards the following desired outcomes.

A pan Sussex approach

We know that for our Sussex-wide agencies, consistent approaches to policy, procedure, and protocol are essential to support their work. This is why we are committed to working with our colleagues in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, where appropriate, to develop pan Sussex approaches. This means having consistent processes and expectations, so that staff feel confident in their approach, regardless of locality. We'll achieve this through effective pan Sussex collaboration in our Pan Sussex Policy and Procedures group.

The effective embedding of learning

We continue to prioritise the effective embedding of learning in frontline practice, as well as at a strategic level. This means that we want to develop more clarity around who our learning resources are aimed at and develop learning resources that are fit-for-purpose, support learning progression, and encourage reflection both at a practice and organisational level.

Championing person-centred, strengths-based, and trauma-informed care

We want to re-evaluate what it is to be 'Making Safeguarding Personal' in light of what we now know about adult safeguarding practice. This means that we want to champion person-centred, strengths-based, and trauma-informed practice. We'll achieve this through improved education around what these approaches mean and sharing positive practice examples.

Our business plan

In a meeting of the Board in March 2025, Board members discussed and agreed the following Board priorities for 2025/2026. Each of these will be progressed with reference to our three strategic objectives outlined on page 3 of this document.

Family involvement in safeguarding processes

As we move forward with an increasing demographic of adults with care and support needs remaining in their own homes for longer, there is a concurrent increasing involvement of family members and unpaid carers to support those adults. We will therefore be focussing on how we can better involve families in safeguarding processes, whether this be in their role as a protective factor, as perpetrators of abuse (whether intentionally or otherwise), and as contributors in safeguarding enquiries or Safeguarding Adults Review processes.

To achieve this we will identify how we can better engage with families, where appropriate, including any new resources needed to support their understanding of adult safeguarding. We will work closely with family-facing organisations to celebrate and promote successful family-centred working and use learning from this to inform a whole family approach to adult safeguarding.

Self-neglect in relation to mental capacity

In the 2024/25 year, we completed a number of workstreams related to improving staff awareness of the signs of self-neglect and how to work with adults who are self-neglecting. This year, we will be taking this further and looking specifically at the impact of mental capacity on self-neglect, and at the criteria for considering self-neglect as safeguarding.

This means that we will be seeking assurance that the tools and resources we produced in 2024/25 are embedded in practice and being used consistently across the partnership. We will also be looking to improve understanding amongst frontline staff of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and increase confidence in its implementation where there are concerns that an adult is self-neglecting.

What's next?

Our Board subgroups will produce an annual work plan, which will identify workstreams to progress these Board priorities.

The subgroups will identify how they can best support the progression of these priorities, alongside the overarching strategic objectives. This will include activity to:

- better understand the current status quo;
- develop new resources to support staff; and to
- seek assurance that new resources or processes are having the intended impact.

We will report progress on all objectives to the Board at our quarterly meetings, as well as in the 2025/26 annual report.