What we did in the last year
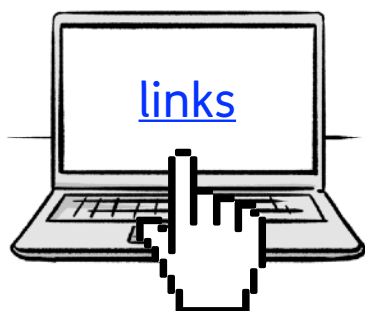
Easy Read

2021 - 2022

Contents

In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.

Some words are blue and underlined.

These are links that will go to another website which has more information.
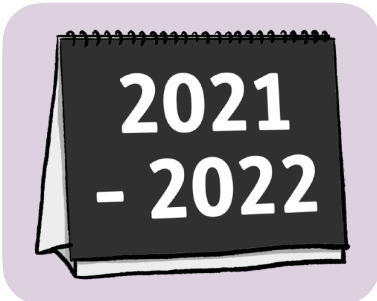
Introduction

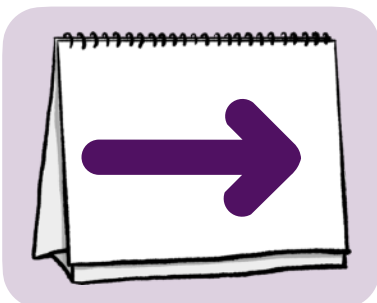This is a report from West Sussex **Safeguarding** Adults Board.

Safeguarding is keeping people safe from harm and abuse.

This is a report about:

- What we have done in the last year.

- What we want to do in the next year.

Who we are

West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board works 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 adults that they support are safe.

What we do

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.

This is our Annual Report for the last year.

Our goals for the last year

We had 3 main goals for the last year.

1. Working well with others, which included:

- Sharing information.

- Checking the way people were supported with safeguarding.

- Improving the way we deal with safeguarding.

2. Learning about and improving how we work, which included:

- Checking risks - risks are when people might be harmed or in danger.

- Making sure staff know how to ask or see when someone might be at risk or is being harmed.

- Understanding the differences between making a service safe for adults and making it good quality.

- Understanding how safeguarding works and what to do if someone is worried about a person's safety.

3. Talking to other people and organisations, which included:

- Making sure other organisations followed our safeguarding rules.

- Making adults who need safeguarding the most important part of our work.

- Thinking about different facts about people, like their age, race, religion and disability and how they might be treated differently.

- Working with care services and families of adults who use health and care services.
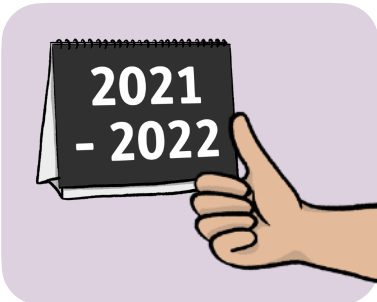
- Asking health and care staff we work with questions to check they are working in the right way.

What went well

We have lots of small groups called subgroups that work to help us reach our goals.

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

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Subgroup

This group looks at the need for Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

This year the group has:

- Worked on 6 Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

- Looked at 10 reports that people had sent us asking us to do a Safeguarding Adults Review.

- Looked for anything that was the same in the different reports about safeguarding people told us about.

- Made sure that people from different organisations were involved in looking at safeguarding.

- Made guidelines for people who did Safeguarding Adult Reviews to make sure they knew what they had to do.

- Asked people involved in Safeguarding Adult Reviews what they thought about how the reviews could be improved.

Quality and Performance Subgroup

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

This year the group has:

- Started a new way to check people were supported in the right way.

- Looked at information we have already collected to try and find out if there is any unfairness for patients in health and social care services.

Learning and Policy Subgroup

This group is in charge of:

- Helping others learn from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

- Helping others learn from what we have found when checking people are supported in the right way.

- Making new guidelines for how we should work.

This year the group has:

- Helped all the organisations we work with to agree a new way of sharing information with each other.

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

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

- Created information booklets and podcasts about the 6 Safeguarding Adult Reviews we have done this year.

- Carried out a survey about the information booklets and podcasts to see if they are useful to people.

- Written new guidance about safeguarding young people.

- Used a newsletter to tell health and care staff about ways they can learn about safeguarding.

Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Information Subgroup

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

This year the group 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.

- Made sure the information that we share is correct.

Multi-Agency Risk Management Subgroup

This group gives information to workers when they are helping adults with care needs where there are safeguarding concerns or high risks.

This year the group has:

- Helped to create West Sussex County Council's Complex Case Review Panel which helps adults with care needs where there are safeguarding concerns or high risks.

- Helped different organisations to work well together.

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

Our other achievements

We have made and shared information for people who live in West Sussex about what safeguarding is.

This includes:

- A new safeguarding leaflet and Easy Read leaflet which were created with the help of people with learning disabilities.

- New posters with messages from people who have had safeguarding support.

- A new information pack for local community groups and organisations to learn about safeguarding.

- Leaflets for health and care staff telling them about important safeguarding messages.

You can find all of these things on our website:
www.westsussexsab.org.uk/what-is-safeguarding/resources

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.
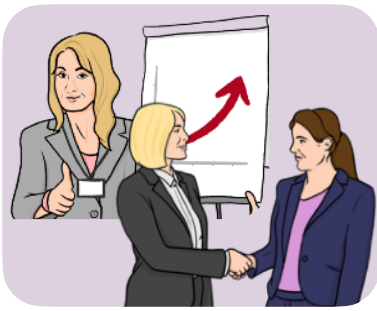
We did this by:

- 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.

- 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 improve the way that they carry out safeguarding.

- Checking the health and social care staff we work with are supporting people with safeguarding well. We do this every 2 years.

- Improving the ways we carry out safeguarding with young people by checking on what we found out when we first looked at this in 2020.

- 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.

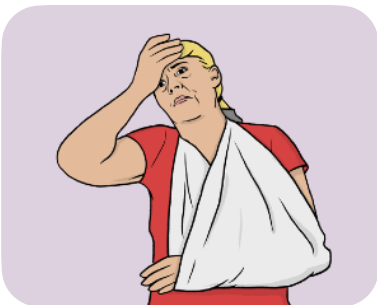By law we have to do a Safeguarding Adult Review when:

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

Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.

Neglect is when someone does not look after you properly.

- An adult has been abused or neglected which harmed them or made them have a worse standard 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 completed 6 Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

All of them were 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 learnt that we need to:

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

- Work to improve people's health, the care they get and how we check what care they need.

- Follow our rules and guidelines.

- Improve how we make decisions about how much risk someone is at.

- Organise our information in a clear way.

- Share information with different organisations that should work together.

- Deal with any worries people have about how good their care is.

- Make it easier to collect information so we can make better decisions about safeguarding.

We have included everything we learnt in our plans for the future.

Our goals for next year

We have 3 goals to work on in the next year.

These are:

1. Safeguarding people with complex needs - this means people who have two or more care needs and need a high level of support.

2. Safeguarding older people.

3. Talking and listening to people in West Sussex so they know more about safeguarding.

We have thought about how to do these things and included them in our plans for the future.
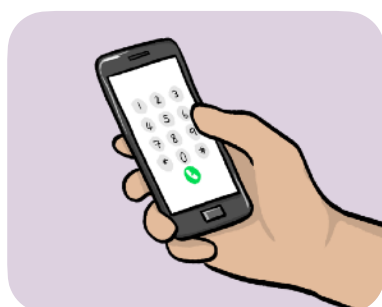
For more information

You can look at our website here:
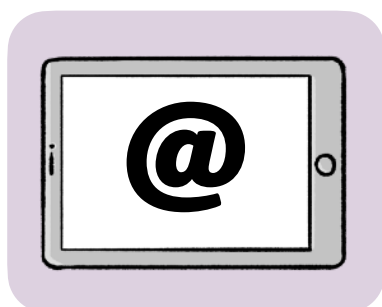www.westsussexsab.org.uk

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