

2022/2025

West Sussex  
**Safeguarding Adults**  
Board  
Making Safeguarding Personal



# West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

## **Three-Year Strategy** | 2022/2025

**Version:** 3

**Effective from:** April 2024

**Review date:** April 2025

# About us

## What is the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)?

Our Board consists of a multi-agency partnership of both statutory and non-statutory organisations and one lay member. Members are senior staff from organisations who are responsible for effective multi-agency policies, protocols, and practices to safeguard adults from abuse and neglect.

## What is a three-year strategy?

Our three-year strategy sets out:

- Our Board's vision
- Our aims and objectives for this three-year period
- How we will work towards these objectives in the form of our annual business plan

## What we do

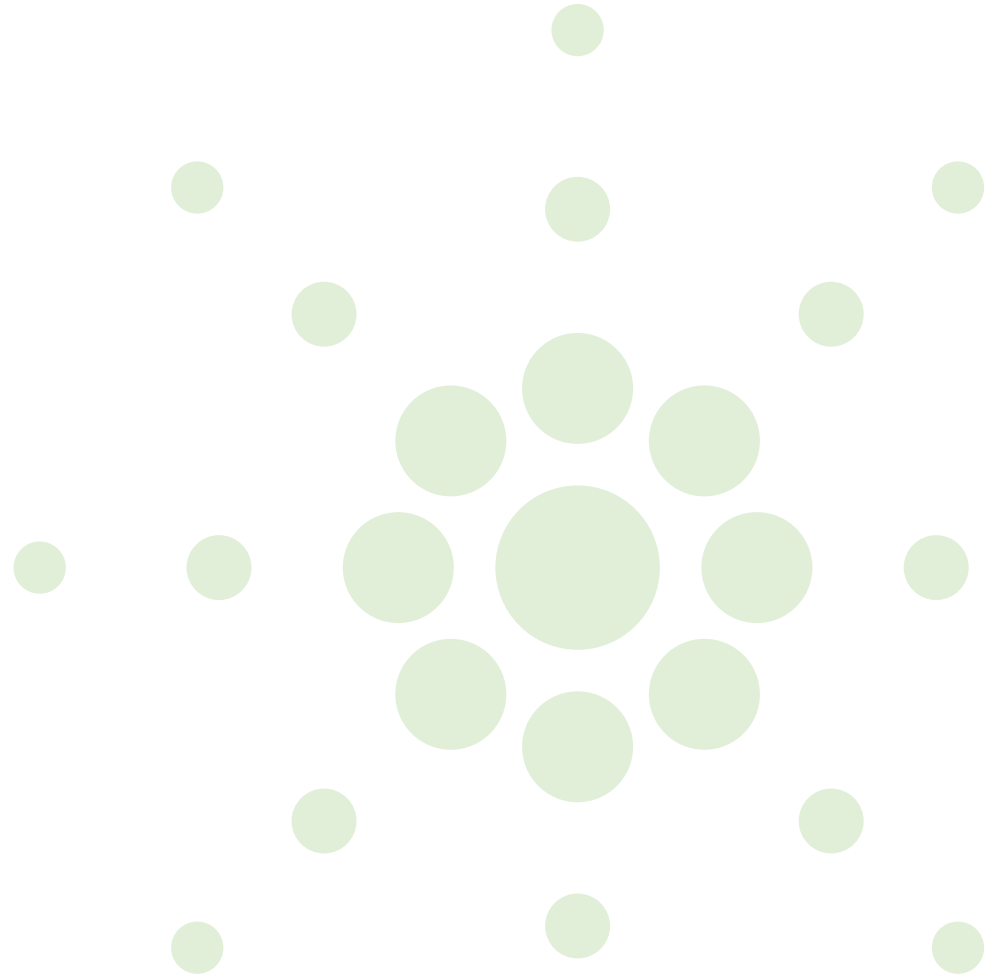
We seek assurance that organisations work in partnership to deliver joined-up services that safeguard adults from abuse and neglect. The work of the SAB is underpinned by the Care Act 2014. The core purpose of the Board is to:

- Ensure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance.
- Ensure that safeguarding practice is person-centred, and outcome focused.
- Work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
- Ensure agencies/individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect has occurred.
- Ensure that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults with care and support needs.

# Our vision

For organisations in West Sussex to work effectively together, with adults who have care and support needs, to live free from abuse and neglect. To do this, we follow the six key safeguarding principals:

- **Empowerment:** Presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent
- **Prevention:** It is better to act before harm occurs
- **Proportionality:** The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection:** Support and representation for those in greatest need
- **Partnership:** Local solutions through services working with communities
- **Accountability:** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding



# Our three-year strategic objectives

## 1. **Accountability and leadership to ensure:**

- Strategic leadership to continue embedding the 6 principles of safeguarding and active contribution to the prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Compliance with the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).
- Risks, and how these may impact on safeguarding services, are monitored and responded to.
- Our policies and procedures, including pan Sussex policies, are reviewed regularly to support consistent and current safeguarding practice.

## 2. **Quality assurance, learning, and shaping practice to ensure:**

- Effective quality assurance processes are in place to hold partners to account for safeguarding practice.
- Multi-agency safeguarding data is used to identify themes and issues which can then be used to influence practice and effect change where required.
- Learning from Reviews and quality assurance processes are effectively communicated and embedded into practice to facilitate organisational change and reduce risk.
- Sharing our learning with other Safeguarding Boards/Panels and considering learning from other Board/Panels.
- Continual review of Board processes to support effective and efficient partnership working for Board activity.

### **3. Promotion and engagement to ensure:**

- Partners work closely together to promote safeguarding messages and that staff in all organisations are engaged in new developments and resources.
- A culture where all agencies' staff respond to safeguarding concerns whilst working with the adult and/or their representative to decide on how best to address the concerns and achieve their desired outcomes.
- The involvement of adults and/or their representatives in shaping the work of the SAB and safeguarding responses.
- Consultation with relevant community groups to ensure safeguarding resources are easily accessible.
- Promoting awareness of adult safeguarding and how concerns can be raised.



# Our annual business plan based on our Board priorities for 2024/25

## Agreeing our Board priorities

Our annual business plan is based on our two Board priorities for 2024/25. These were considered and decided upon during a bespoke Board meeting in February 2024, where we considered data, learning from SARs, learning from audits, and work undertaken in 2023/24.

The two priorities agreed for 2024/25 are:

- Self-neglect
- Multi-agency working

Self-neglect was also a priority for our Board in 2023/24.

Linking to both Board priorities will be the consideration of the Mental Capacity Act. This will particularly be in relation to developing tools and guidance for supporting a multi-agency approach to assessment of capacity for adults who are self-neglecting.

In addition, our Board recognises that there needs to be further consideration of protected characteristics and how these may impact on safeguarding referrals, and Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARS). In response to this, our Board will look for evidence of any increased risk for safeguarding for particular demographic groups. This will include considering data, details of referrals to our subgroups, and actions our Board can take to address any arising issues, including targeted promotion about safeguarding where this is indicated as a need.

## How we will take forward our Board priorities

We will be taking forward our priorities via our subgroups, the main workstreams of which are the following:

### Self-neglect

- Develop an action plan resulting from our Thematic Safeguarding Adults Review on self-neglect (carried out in 2023/24) to improve systems, policy, procedure, and practice in relation to self-neglect.
- Following the self-neglect staff survey (carried out in 2023/24), use the results to identify issues, barriers, and what is needed to better support practice.
- If indicated/required following the above, review the Sussex self-neglect policy and procedures and Thresholds Guidance including referral pathways.
- Create a self-neglect tool kit to support practice in working with those who self-neglect to include resources in relation to assessing mental capacity.

- Continue to develop and promote resources linked to working with those who self-neglect including; Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), Mental Capacity Act assessments, risk assessment, and multi-agency practice.
- Following conclusion of self-neglect workstreams, hold staff briefing sessions to promote existing and new resources in relation to working with those who self-neglect.
- Continue to promote self-neglect in newsletter and feature case study at Board.

### Multi-agency working

- Re-promote our existing resources via staff briefing sessions (mentioned above).
- Featured newsletter article on multi-agency working and our available resources referencing the need for MSP practice.
- Carry out a multi-agency working survey to identify issues, barriers and positive factors and following this, implement an action plan to take forward any identified improvements.