

West Sussex
Safeguarding Adults
Board
Making Safeguarding Personal



3-Year Strategy 2022-2025

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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 two lay members. 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 3-year strategy?

Our 3-year strategy sets out:

- Our Board's vision
- Our aims and objectives for this 3-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 6 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 3-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)/Liberty Protection Standards (LPS).
- 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 also 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 2023/24

Our annual business plan is based on our two Board priorities for 2023/24. These were considered and decided upon during a bespoke Board meeting in March 2023, where we considered data, learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, learning from audits, and work undertaken in 2022/23.

The two priorities decided upon are:

1. Self-neglect
2. Embedding learning and assurance

In addition, our Board recognises that there may be an impact on safeguarding from the current cost-of-living crisis. In response to this, our Board will look for evidence of any resulting increased risk for safeguarding. This will include considering data, details of referrals to our subgroups, and actions our Board can take to address any arising issues, including promotional information around financial fraud and scams which could also be a contributory factor to financial hardship.

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

Board priority 1: Self-neglect

- Thematic Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) on self-neglect to identify issues, barriers, and themes of recent published self-neglect SARs in Sussex in order to develop an action plan to improve systems, policy, procedure, and practice.
- Following the 2022/23 self-neglect audit, take forward a self-neglect survey for staff across the partnership to identify issues, barriers, and what is needed to better support practice.
- Review the Sussex self-neglect policy and procedures including referral pathways.
- Review the Sussex Safeguarding Thresholds Guidance for self-neglect.
- Consider creation of self-neglect tool kit to support practice.
- Bi-annual self-assessment to include focussed questions on self-neglect and multi-agency working in relation to this.
- Further develop and promote resources linked to working with those who self-neglect including; Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), Mental Capacity Act assessments and Best Interest process, risk assessment, multi-agency practice, and referral to our Multi-agency Risk Management Subgroup (MARM).
- Monitoring the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on self-neglect by considering quantitative and qualitative data from across the partnership.
- Promote self-neglect in newsletter and feature case study at Board.

Board priority 2: Embedding learning and assurance

- Re-promote our existing resources with a particular focus on learning from SARs and audits.
- Featured newsletter article on learning from SARs and audits and our available resources.
- Focussed presentation to Board to share learning from SARs and audits across the partnership to be promoted within member organisations.
- Seek information and assurance from the partnership about how learning is shared within their organisations and how this is improving practice.

- A strategy to meet staff across the partnership to share information about our SAB, key learning areas from SARs and audits, and promotion of resources.
- Carry out a survey for staff following staff briefing sessions to seek understanding of the information shared, how it will affect practice and, to ask for feedback on any improvements required to learning aids.
- Bi-annual self-assessment to include focussed questions on embedding learning.