West Sussex
Safeguarding Adults
Board
Making Safeguarding Personal

What we did in the last year

2025 to 2026



Easy Read

Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information.

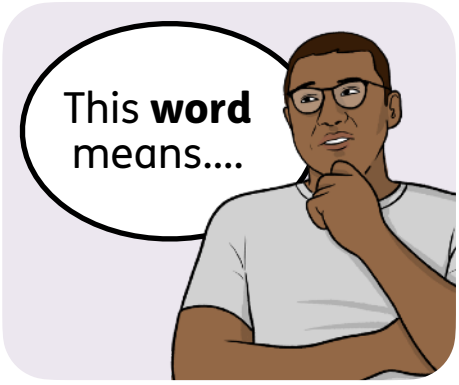
It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

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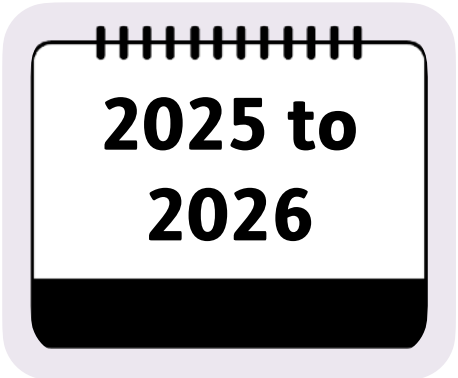
About this booklet

This is a report from West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board.



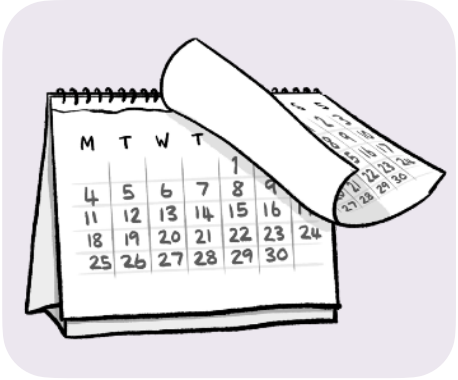
Safeguarding is keeping people safe from **abuse**.

Abuse is when someone causes harm or distress to another person.



This is a report about:

- What we have done in the last year.



- What we are going to do next year.

What is the Safeguarding Adults Board?



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



This includes adults with care and support needs because of their disability, mental health or illness.



We work with lots of people and organisations like the council, the NHS and the police.

It is our job to:



- Make sure that services follow the rules about keeping people safe.



This means services should think about what each person needs and how to make life better for them.



- Make sure that care and support services act in the right way and work together if abuse, **neglect** or **self-neglect** happens.



Neglect is when someone does not look after you properly.

Self-neglect is when people become unsafe because they do not look after themselves.

Our subgroups



We have 5 groups called subgroups.

Their job is to help us do our work.

Different subgroups look at things like:



- How to keep adults safe.



- If the people we work with are doing their jobs well.

Different subgroups also look at things like:



- Safety in care services, like care homes.



- Helping people learn and writing new rules for how we work.



We also have a group called the **Chairs Subgroup**, made up of the people in charge of each subgroup.



The Chairs Subgroup meets to share information about the subgroups and plan for meetings with our Board members.

Our priorities for 2025 to 2026



Priorities are the most important things we work on.

We had 2 priorities for 2025 to 2026.

They were:



1. To get families involved in making plans about safeguarding.



2. To look into how **mental capacity** affects self-neglect.

   Mental capacity is about whether you are able to make decisions for yourself.

What went well

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



- Wrote new training to help staff get the information and skills they need to help keep adults safe.



- Wrote a pack to help staff talk about supporting homeless people.



- Started doing more surveys online to make them quicker and easier.

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



- Shared things we have learned with other groups across the country.



- Changed how we do adult safeguarding reviews to look more at what we can learn from them.



- Written a new webpage about safeguarding for families, friends and carers.



- Written guides about how to work with other organisations that work with adults.

More things we did well last year

Last year we also:



- Had our websites checked by people with disabilities.



- Checked how well we do our work.



- Started a new **blog** about safeguarding.

  A **blog** is an online page where someone shares information or ideas about a topic.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews



We do a **Safeguarding Adult Review** to check what we could have done better when someone has been harmed or died.

We think about doing a Safeguarding Adult Review if:



- 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 their life worse.



We also think about doing a Safeguarding Adult Review if we think that a support organisation could have done more to protect an adult who was abused or neglected.



In the last year, we looked into doing Safeguarding Adults Reviews for 8 people.



We decided to do reviews for 2 of these people, as well as 1 from last year.

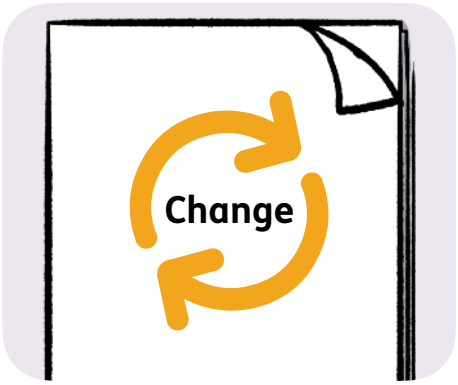
What we learned from the past



People had told us about abuse in a care home organisation in West Sussex from 2016 to 2019.



We looked into it, and in June 2025 we published a report about what we learned.



The report said that we had made some changes to stop abuse like that happening in the future.

But it also said that:



- People with learning disabilities sometimes get worse healthcare than other people.



- We need to look into all complaints about health and social care organisations in the same way.



- Social care needs to be available for more hours a day.



We looked into some Safeguarding Adult Reviews we had done in the past to see what we could learn.

We learned that staff need to:



- Understand more about the law.



- Know more about what to do if an adult is not looking after themself.



- Be ready to ask more questions about how well adults are looking after themselves.



- Find better ways to include families in keeping adults safe.



We learned that staff need to help adults be more included in decisions about their own safeguarding.

What we have done because of reviews



We have kept working with a man called Tom, who was abused by his wife and carer.



Together we made a video talking to Tom about what happened to him, which we have shared with Safeguarding Adults Boards around the country.



They thanked Tom for his time, and for sharing his experience.



After looking into what happened to Colin, we have been working with West Sussex Fire and Rescue to help make sure adults live in safe homes.

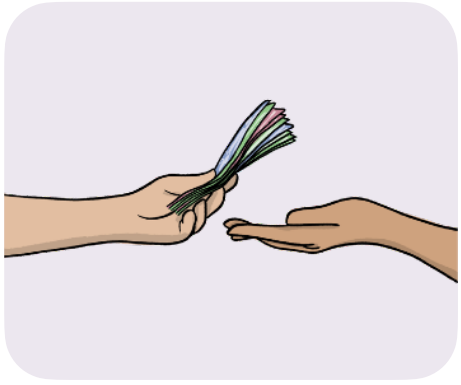
Our priorities for next year

We have 2 priorities for next year:



1. To make sure that all staff are talking to adults on their own.

   This is in case there are any problems that adults feel they cannot talk about in front of the people they know or are being helped by.



2. To find better ways to help adults who might:

   - Feel under pressure to give their money or things they own to someone.



   - Have their money or things they own stolen.

If you are worried about someone's safety



If you think someone's life is in danger, you should call 999 straight away.

Otherwise, please tell West Sussex County Council if you or someone you know:



- Has care and support needs.

AND



- Is being abused or neglected, or you think they might be.

You can tell West Sussex County Council that you are worried by:



- Filling in the form on their website here: www.westsussexsab.org.uk/raise-a-concern/types-of-concerns/concerns-about-an-adult

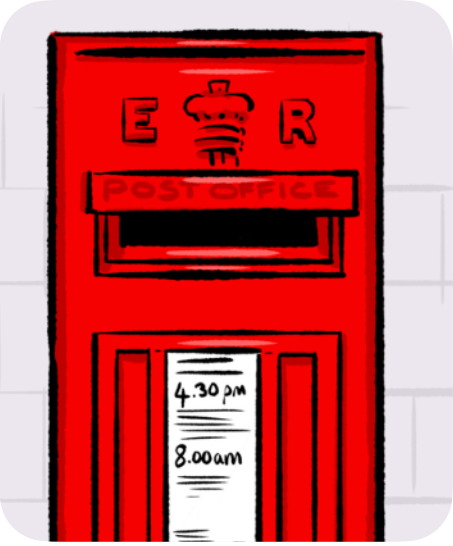


- Calling 01243 642 121



- Calling using Relay UK: 18001 01243 642 121

You can tell West Sussex County Council that you are worried by:



- Writing to:

  Adults CarePoint
  Second Floor
  The Grange
  County Hall
  Chichester
  PO19 1RG



You can also call Sussex Police on 101 if there has been a crime.

Find out more



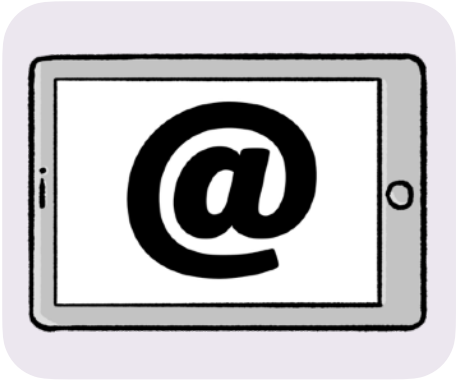
You can look at our website here:

www.westsussexsab.org.uk

If you need more information, please contact us by:



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