

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027



What we want to achieve for 2024-2027

This Strategic Plan sets out the strategic themes and objectives that the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) want to achieve for the next three years.

Our vision is for all agencies across East Sussex to work together and effectively build resilience and empower communities in responding to abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and to widely promote the message that safeguarding is everybody's business in that:

- Abuse is not tolerated.
- People know what to do if abuse happens.
- People and organisations are proactive in working together to respond effectively to abuse.

A SAB Partnership Event was held on the 4th of March 2024 to identify and agree priority areas for the next three years, these are outlined on page 7. Over recent years the board has focused its work on embedding the Mental Capacity Act in practice, safeguarding transitions for young people at risk and working with multiple compound needs the board will continue to work on these areas and sustain this thematic work.

How will the effectiveness of this strategic plan be measured?

Annual Report - The board has a statutory duty to produce an annual report at the end of each year which details the work of the board and its effectiveness.

Bi-Annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment – We ask partners to complete a self-assessment to evidence the effectiveness of their local safeguarding procedures and practice and provide assurance to the SAB.

Development Event - The board holds a bi-annual development event following the self-assessment activity which is another way the board can measure its effectiveness and make improvements for the following year.



Partnership

The SAB has formal links with a number of other strategic partnerships in East Sussex, including the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safer Communities Partnership, Children and Young People's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Board also works closely with the neighbouring Brighton & Hove and West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards and many of our policies, protocols and procedures are adopted on a pan-Sussex basis.

The work of the SAB is underpinned by the Care Act 2014 and has the overarching purpose of ensuring that agencies work in partnership to deliver joined up services that safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

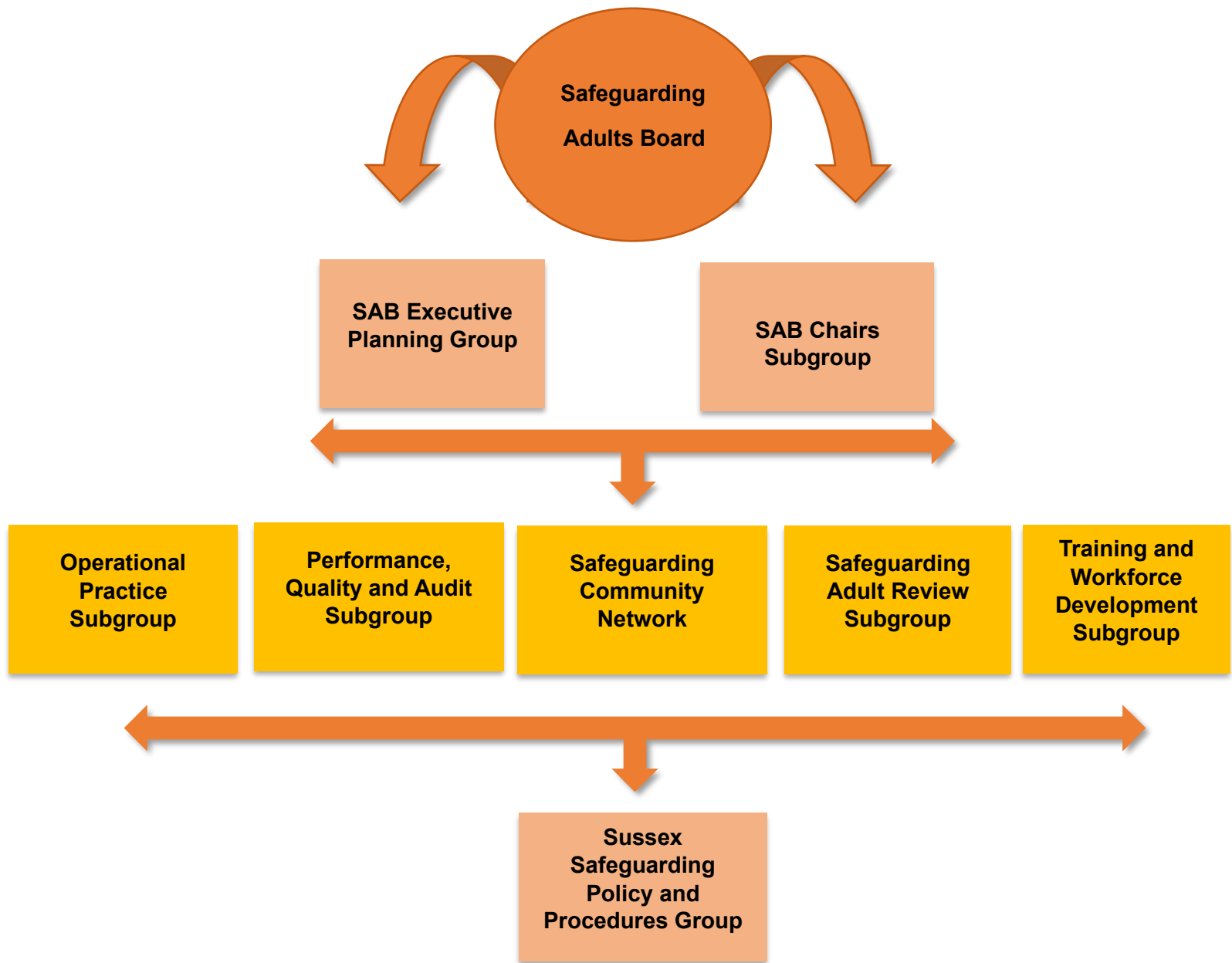
We do this by:

- Gaining assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act and its statutory guidance.
- Gaining assurance that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) are central to safeguarding, and practice is person-centred, and outcome focused.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect, where possible.
- Ensuring partner agencies are effective when abuse and neglect has occurred and give timely and proportionate responses.
- Striving for continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and that this enhances the quality of life of adults in East Sussex.

A full list of the partners of the East Sussex SAB is listed at Appendix 1.



Safeguarding Adults Board Arrangements in East Sussex



Strategic Themes 2024 – 2027

Leadership and Partnership Working

Ensure the SAB provides strategic leadership and embeds the principles of safeguarding and contributes to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

Ensure effective governance is in place and Board members understand their roles and responsibilities under the Care Act 2014.

Ensure mechanisms are in place for partners to be held to account for safeguarding practice and the SAB has the right information/data to be assured that local safeguarding arrangements are effective.

Ensure that there is appropriate representation from partners and organisations on the SAB and its subgroups.

Continue to develop arrangements with other Boards to be responsive to specific safeguarding themes.



Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Assurance that multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, audited and up to date and that these are easily accessible and used effectively by all frontline staff.

Ensure robust feedback mechanisms on safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, to ensure practice is in line with current best practice and the Care Act 2014.

Undertake assurance activity to test compliance and effectiveness of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.

Raise awareness of safeguarding policies and procedures related to specific local safeguarding themes and challenges.



Performance, Quality and Audit

Assurance that learning from SAB and SAR activity is effectively embedded into practice to facilitate organisational change across agencies.

Ensure learning from SARs, other reviews and multi-agency audits are effectively embedded into practice and facilitate organisational change.

Ensure good safeguarding practice is highlighted and included in SARs and disseminated across the workforce.

Ensure the SAB has robust multi-agency safeguarding data to shape learning, awareness, and practice.

Strategic Themes 2024 – 2027

Prevention and Engagement

Ensure adults with lived experience, carers, professionals and the local community shape the work of the SAB and safeguarding practice is person-centred.

Develop processes to enable meaningful feedback to the SAB from adults and carers who have experienced safeguarding interventions.

Build the resilience of those who may be at risk of abuse and neglect.

Continue to develop approaches to safeguarding which recognise the value of prevention and early intervention especially in relation to exploitation and multiple compound needs.

Produce information for the community which is easily accessible and raises awareness of adult safeguarding and increases confidence in raising concerns.



Organisational Learning and Workforce Development

Ensure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse and neglect are suspected.

Ensure SAB multi-agency training remains current and promotes equality and diversity.

Develop training resources which are easily accessible and engaging, and which take into account time constraints of busy frontline staff.

Personalise SAR learning and ensure the adult is at the centre of the learning taking place.

Ensure learning from SARs considers the recommendations and implications for practice as well as the impact for individual organisations.

Collaborate with partners and other Boards to share joint learning.

Safeguarding Adults Board Priorities 2024 -2027

Self-Neglect

Improve and develop effective multi-agency working and practice with adults who self-neglect.

Develop a shared understanding, and early recognition of the issues involved in working with adults who self-neglect with a focus on substance misuse, mental capacity, exploitation, and multiple compound needs.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Ensure informal carers who take on adult caring responsibilities have an understanding and awareness of adult safeguarding and what support they can access for the person they are caring for as well as for themselves.

Promote and raise awareness of the important role informal carers have in preventing neglect, abuse, or harm and ensuring informal carers know how to raise and report safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding and Homelessness

Promote positive practice with professionals working at the interface of homelessness and adult safeguarding.

Ensure professionals use trauma informed approaches and consider local multi-agency risk management pathways and legal frameworks to identify what action is needed to reduce or remove potential risk.

Multi-Agency Working

A key area of learning identified in many SARs commissioned in Sussex is the need for more effective partnership working in order to protect the adult .

Multi-agency working will be promoted and embedded within these priority areas of work over the next three years.

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Safeguarding Adults Board Objectives for the next three years

Year 1

Conduct a **multi-agency self-neglect audit** to identify key areas for learning and ensure local procedures are effective.

Review existing self-neglect pathways and local guidance to ensure processes are understood and used effectively.

In partnership with the community and voluntary sector **consult with local carers on their knowledge and understanding of adult safeguarding.**

Develop a podcast series 'Conversations in Self-Neglect' on positive practice shared by practitioners.

In collaboration with SAB partners develop Best Practice Guidance and Resources to **improve staff skills and knowledge in safeguarding adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.**

Year 2

Develop a **local campaign to raise awareness of safeguarding and local reporting pathways to informal carers.** Launch during National Carers Week

Embed trauma informed approaches in all safeguarding guidance documents.

In partnership with Brighton and Hove and West Sussex SABs **develop a Sussex Self-Neglect event to raise awareness of positive practice and early prevention.**

In collaboration with SAB partners promote and raise awareness through **a series of learning events, best practice in Safeguarding and Homelessness.**

Year 3

In partnership with care for the carers **develop local prevention guidance for informal carers with practical information on recognising early signs of abuse and neglect.**

Develop an East Sussex Self-Neglect – Early Interventions Toolkit for practitioners who support adults who self-neglect. Launch of the Toolkit through multi-agency Learning Events.

Conduct a **second multi-agency self-neglect audit** to identify what has changed since the audit undertaken in year 1.

Appendix 1

Board Membership

- East Sussex Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH)
- NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- NHS Sussex Safeguarding GP
- Sussex Police
- Care for the Carers
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
- District and Borough Councils
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT)
- East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP)
- Healthwatch
- HMP Lewes
- East Sussex Partners in Care (ESPIC)
- Lay members
- Probation Service (PS)
- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb)
- Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT)
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT)
- Trading Standards (East Sussex County Council)
- Voluntary and community sector representation