

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2019-2022

Introduction

This is the second Strategic Plan from the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). It covers the period 2019-2022 and the strategic plan has been updated for the year 2020-21. The first plan, 2016-2019, was developed to embed and test compliance against the Care Act 2014 and its statutory guidance. Although we achieved the majority of the measures and targets we set ourselves, we will continue to develop our safeguarding approaches to ensure that we achieve our priorities around prevention and early intervention, engagement, assurance and making safeguarding personal. On reflection from the first plan, our next plan is more focused and strategic and in the remaining two years, the Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to achieve its statutory obligations by reviewing this strategic plan annually, publishing an annual report and conducting any safeguarding adults reviews in accordance with section 44 of the Care Act (2014). The remainder of this strategic plan outlines our aims over the remaining two years of the current strategic plan, detailing what we will achieve to safeguard adults with care and support needs in Brighton & Hove.

This strategic plan puts service users and their carers at the heart of what we do.

Principles

The work of Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board is underpinned by the six safeguarding principles as defined in the Care Act (2014)

Empowerment – Residents will be supported and encouraged to make their own decisions through informed consent.

Prevention – In Brighton & Hove we believe it is better to take action before harm occurs.

Proportionality – To safeguard the residents of Brighton & Hove we will take the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk.

Protection – We will support and ensure representation for those in greatest need in Brighton & Hove.

Partnership – Solutions will come from agencies and residents working together across Brighton & Hove, all having a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

Accountability – The work of the Board will be transparent and accountable to the residents of Brighton & Hove.

Vision

The Board's vision is that we will all work together to enable people in Brighton & Hove to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse. The Board has identified six priorities that will support the vision to become a reality.

Local safeguarding challenges

Neglect and **omission** continues to represent the largest volume of enquiries, with **financial** and **material abuse** representing the second highest category. The proportion of enquiries relating to **self-neglect** follows a trend in recent years in having increased again, from 8.3% in 2017/18 to 9% in 2018/19. The percentage of enquiries relating to **domestic abuse** increased to 10% from 6.3% in the previous year and is an area where it is felt further consideration will be required in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. It continues to be the case that at 55% in 2018-19 the highest proportion of safeguarding enquiries related to people aged **65 and over**. The number of **repeat safeguarding referrals** has been of concern to the SAB previously and remains an area of focus. From the safeguarding enquiries undertaken during 2018-19 where **desired outcomes** were identified, 61% of people identified that these outcomes had been met and 33% identified they had been partially met. However, in 24% of cases no desired outcomes were identified so this will remain a further area of focus.

In addition to the above local challenges the SAB has received a number of Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals with recurring themes, that included **coercion and control, trauma, substance misuse** and **complex and multiple needs**. A thematic Review is being commissioned by the SAB to explore these and consider areas of learning.

There are emerging safeguarding challenges in areas such as **transitions** between children and adult services, for example through **County Lines**, as well as in both **Modern Slavery** and **Cuckooing**. The SAB recognises the need to support with increasing awareness of these challenges and will work with partners in continuing to develop responses to these.

Pan Sussex collaboration

We will continue to develop strong 'cross border' collaboration with West Sussex SAB and East Sussex SAB. We are developing a Sussex-wide Learning and Development Strategy and devising new ways to share learning from individual Safeguarding Adult Reviews. We will be publishing the updated Sussex Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Protocol as well as an Information Sharing Protocol and will continue to work together to review, update and develop policies and procedures where possible.

Our joint work following the Safeguarding Assurance & Peer Challenge Event in 2019, and in preparation for the next Event in 2021, will serve to further strengthen links with our Pan Sussex colleagues. The Business Managers from all three SABs meet on a regular basis to drive this work forward.

Implementation and Governance Arrangements

It should be recognised that priorities will be subject to change and will be continuously reviewed. Therefore, this strategic plan will be refreshed annually by the full SAB membership. An annual business plan will detail the key actions required to deliver the strategic plan, in line with our priorities listed below. The Board's sub groups will be key in delivering the strategic plan.

Three Year Strategic Objectives

Strategic Aim 1: Accountability, Assurance & Leadership

SAB Priority: Ensure the SAB provides strategic leadership to embed the principles of safeguarding across agencies and contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

Desired outcome: Confidence in Multi-agency safeguarding responses, and people are safeguarded from abuse and neglect.

Strategic objectives

- Ensuring robust mechanisms are in place for partners to be held to account for their safeguarding practice, with enhanced standards to test compliance with MCA standards.
- Ensuring clear and transparent annual budget plans are in place for all SAB activities.
- Developing arrangements with other Boards to be responsive and adapt, based on available data, to emerging safeguarding themes. These include; neglect and acts of omission, self-neglect, financial and material abuse, domestic violence and abuse, psychological trauma, modern slavery, cuckooing as well as criminal exploitation including transitions.
- Developing the SAB and broader governance arrangements.
- Undertaking horizon scanning and responding to any changes that may impact on the efficacy of Safeguarding in Brighton & Hove, including: Key transformation programmes, Key commissioning plans, Impact of local resource changes and funding, Statutory requirements and changes in best practice. This includes engagement with children safeguarding partners following the implementation of the Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership to establish joint working arrangements.
- Developing a proportionate and pragmatic response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic Aim 2: Policies, Strategies & Procedures

SAB Priority: To be assured that multi-agency safeguarding strategies, policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure currency, reflecting emerging legislation, policy and/or learning, and that these are easily accessible to frontline staff and used effectively.

Desired outcome: Our partners work within a framework of policies and procedures that keep people safe.

Strategic objectives

- Establishing robust feedback mechanisms on safeguarding policies and procedures, including self-neglect, to ensure safeguarding practice is in line with current best practice and the Care Act 2014.
- Undertaking assurance activity to test compliance and effectiveness of implementation of local safeguarding and adult protection policy and procedure.
- To raise awareness of safeguarding policy and procedure related to specific local safeguarding challenges.
- To raise awareness of the updated Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) referral process and to ensure threshold decision making in relation to referrals received is consistent across Sussex.

Strategic Aim 3: Performance, Quality and Audit / Organisational Learning

SAB Priority: Assure learning from SAB activity is effectively embedded into practice to facilitate organisational change across agencies, refocus quality assurance mechanisms, and better use safeguarding data to define SAB priority areas of business.

Desired outcome: Confidence that services are learning and improving in their safeguarding practice and adult safeguarding risk is better understood by the SAB and appropriately assessed by partners.

Strategic objectives

- To be assured that learning from reviews and multi-agency audits is effectively embedded into practice and facilitating organisational change across agencies, leading to better outcomes for adults.
- Assuring the SAB has robust multi-agency safeguarding data to shape any multi-agency training offers, awareness

- and practice, and affect change when required.
 - Assuring a culture of openness and transparency is adopted for learning and recognising success
 - Reviewing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to be assured that learning is taken from this in relation to safeguarding adults practice.
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Strategic Aim 4: Prevention & Early Intervention

SAB Priority: Ensure the SAB has a focus on prevention that clearly identifies how it will aim to reduce incidence of abuse and neglect (including self-neglect) in Brighton & Hove.

Desired outcome: Adults at risk are identified early and have their needs met promptly and effectively.

Strategic objectives

- To undertake public safeguarding awareness raising campaigns, to include raising awareness of local safeguarding challenges.
 - Assurance of safe recruitment processes
 - Assurance of Quality of Care provision in the city.
 - Assurance around arrangements to manage allegations against people in a position of trust.
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Strategic Aim 5: Engagement & Making Safeguarding Personal

SAB Priority: Adults, carers, the local community and professionals assisting to shape the work of the SAB and safeguarding responses and safeguarding practice is client centred.

Desired outcome: Public safeguarding awareness is improved. Clients and professionals feel empowered for their voices to be heard in safeguarding practice and policy development.

Strategic objectives

- Assuring adults are involved and consulted in the process of helping them to stay safe and agreeing goals to achieve

that.

- Developing processes to enable meaningful feedback to the SAB from service users and carers who have experienced safeguarding interventions.
 - Quality assure activity to gauge whether safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused.
 - To produce information and reports for local communities that promote equality and diversity (including the Anti-Racism pledge developed by the local authority), are easily accessible and raise awareness of adult safeguarding and how concerns can be raised.
 - Ensuring engagement strategies consider the diversity of local communities and reflect changing demographics.
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Strategic Aim 6: Integration / Training and Workforce Development

SAB Priority: Assure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse and neglect are suspected. This to include emerging local safeguarding challenges.

Desired outcome: Clients are supported by a skilled and competent workforce.

Strategic objectives

- To assure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse and neglect are suspected.
 - To assure the training strategy includes mechanisms to review the impact and effectiveness of training in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Explore opportunities for multi-agency training delivery that promote equality and diversity and focus on key identified issues e.g. annual conference, staff briefings
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Measuring Success

Action plans will be developed by the Board's Quality Assurance, Learning & Development and Pan-Sussex Policy and Procedures sub groups respectively as well as being supported through the Strategic Leadership Group and the Practitioners Adult Safeguarding Alliance (PASA). Progress updates will be provided as part of sub group reports at each Board meeting. Task and finish groups will be set up as required.

The Board will engage with other Boards, both regionally and nationally, as well as with Safeguarding Children's Partnerships (SCP), including the BHSCP's Exploitation sub group, to update and develop policies, procedures and protocols.