



Strategic Plan

2022-25

1. About Us

The Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board (BHSAB) is a multi-agency strategic partnership that has a unique statutory role in co-ordinating the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Brighton and Hove and ensures the effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies in this area. It comprises senior officers within adult social care, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, voluntary organisations and service user representative groups.

The BHSAB has three statutory duties under the Care Act 2014:

- **To publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan will be developed in partnership and make use of all available evidence and intelligence.**
- **To publish an Annual Report detailing what it has done during the year to achieve its main objectives and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews and subsequent action.**
- **To conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.**

2. Our Vision

The **vision** of the BHSAB is that people are able to live together in safety, in a city that does not tolerate abuse, neglect and exploitation and that works in partnership to actively prevent abuse occurring and ensuring that when it does happen everyone knows how to report it and that it is effectively responded to.

Our **mission statement** is that we, as the BHSAB, will work effectively, supporting and constructively challenging ourselves and each other to identify where we can make best use of our time and efforts in achieving improved outcomes in adult safeguarding that benefit those who use services and those who care for them.

We will do this by -

- Gaining assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and accompanying statutory guidance.
- Ensuring that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal are central to safeguarding and practice is person centred and outcome focused.
- Working collaboratively with our partner agencies to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
- Ensuring individuals and agencies provide timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect has occurred.
- Striving for continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and supporting partner agencies to embed learning from local and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews, other learning reviews and multi-agency audits.

3. Our Strategic Plan

This is the BHSAB's third Strategic Plan and will cover the period from 2022-25 whilst also being updated on an annual basis to reflect emerging themes and challenges. The first BHSAB Strategic Plan, from 2016-2019, embedded and tested compliance against the Care Act 2014. The second Strategic Plan, from 2019- 2022, built on these foundations and broadened the focus of the SAB with six wide-ranging priority areas identified.

In this third Strategic Plan four specific areas of focus have been identified that build on the previous priorities, and with four objectives in each priority area. These priorities have been identified by the multi-agency partnership through several processes; these include a SAB Development Event, Self-Assessment and Peer Challenge in 2021, and learning from BHSAB activities such as SARs and audit processes. It will also inform the local community and all interested parties about the work programme of the BHSAB.

1) Strategic Priority: **Accountability and Leadership**

Aim: For the SAB to continue to provide strategic leadership in embedding the principles of safeguarding and contributing to the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Objectives -

- Ensure there are effective and broad governance arrangements in place so that all Board members understand their roles and responsibilities under the Care Act 2014.
- Continue to develop, and review, relevant policies, procedures, and processes to support consistent and current safeguarding practice.
- Develop and strengthen arrangements with other Boards and Partnerships to share information and effectively respond to safeguarding themes, issues and emerging trends.
- Ensure clear and transparent annual budget plans are in place for all SAB activities to enable the work of the Board to be undertaken.

2) Strategic Priority: Performance and Quality

Aim: Assurance that quality assurance mechanisms and an increasing use of safeguarding data contribute to a multi-agency focus on performance alongside both local and national learning from SAB activities being embedded to facilitate effective organisational change.

Objectives -

- Ensure learning from SAB activities such as SARs, other reviews, and multi-agency quality assurance audits is effectively communicated and embedded into practice to facilitate organisational change.
- Ensure there are effective quality assurance mechanisms in place to hold partners to account for safeguarding practice.
- Ensure effective arrangements are in place for the commissioning and undertaking of SARs to ensure these are proportionate, focused and timely, following national guidance so as to shape learning and continuous improvement.
- Ensure the use of multi-agency safeguarding data to identify themes, issues and to respond to emerging trends which can then be used to influence future priorities and effect change where required.

3) Strategic Priority: Promotion and Engagement

Aim: Adults, communities, professionals, and agencies, work together to shape the work of the SAB and to ensure safeguarding practice is responsive and person-centred.

Objectives -

- Continue to develop the membership and work of the SAB to ensure it includes appropriate representation from adults, communities, professionals, and agencies involved in safeguarding to enable effective organisational change.

- Ensure that communication and engagement strategies are easily accessible and consider the diversity of local communities and reflect changing demographics.
- Develop a culture where all professional and agencies identify and respond to safeguarding issues effectively, using a preventative approach and engaging the adult and/or their representative appropriately about how best to progress concerns and achieve their desired outcomes.
- Support in the development of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in response to increasing complexity of need and multiple disadvantage; including transitions, exploitation, and trauma-informed approaches.

4) Strategic Priority: **Integration and Workforce Development**

Aim: Ensure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse, neglect and exploitation has taken place.

Objectives -

- Continue to work with partner agencies to identify and develop a range of effective multi-agency learning resources in response to learning from SAB activities, and that promotes equality and diversity.
- Promote awareness of adult safeguarding, including the role and responsibilities of the SAB and SARs, offering professionals across organisations the opportunity to be involved in these activities.
- Explore the development of an updated pan-Sussex Learning and Development Strategy that provides a Sussex-wide approach to sharing training resources and learning from SAB activities.

Our four Areas of Focus for 2024-25 based on our Strategic Priorities.

Our four areas of focus for 2024-25 are derived from our strategic priorities and reflect the views of our partner members. These areas of focus were identified through a BHSAB Self-Assessment and Peer Challenge process and other SAB activities, both recently published and ongoing SARs, as well as individual priorities identified by our statutory partners. They build on the previous areas of focus.

- 1. Embedding learning from SAB activities**
- 2. Transitional Safeguarding**
- 3. Development of effective outcomes in Self-neglect**
- 4. Embedding trauma-informed and multiple and intersectional needs into organisational practice**

1) Embedding learning from SAB activities

- Undertake assurance activities to understand how partner agencies are effectively embedding learning from SAB activities across their organisations.
- Develop a Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) framework within Brighton and Hove to support professionals and agencies who are working with individuals with multiple compound needs.
- To receive evidence that feedback is being obtained from people and carers who are in contact with services and been supported through safeguarding interventions to understand the impact this had upon their lives and difference being made through this work.

2) Transitional Safeguarding

- Conclude the review being undertaken in relation to transitional safeguarding and work with the reviewer to share learning from this across the partnership.
- Support the development of effective local arrangements in relation to transitional safeguarding and accompanying resources to support an improved understanding of, and response to, transitional safeguarding arrangements.
- To receive evidence that feedback is being obtained from people and carers who are supported through transitional safeguarding arrangements to understand the impact this had upon their lives and difference made through this work.

3) Development of Effective Outcomes in Self-Neglect

- Engage in, and share learning from, the Thematic Review being undertaken across Sussex in relation to self-neglect and work with the reviewer to share learning from this across the partnership.
- Develop a shared understanding and early recognition of the issues and barriers involved in working with adults who self-neglect with a focus on multiple compound needs, substance use, mental capacity, and exploitation.
- To receive evidence as to how partners are responding to self-neglect, sharing and embedding existing resources such as the hoarding behaviour framework, and working to develop and promote further shared resources to support an improved understanding of, and response to, self-neglect.

4) Embedding trauma-informed and multiple and intersectional needs into organisational practice

- To ensure that partners continue to work individually and in partnership to embed policies, procedures, and processes for people with multiple and intersectional/compound needs in recognising this continues to be a key adult safeguarding issue for the city.
- To ensure that trauma-informed approaches continue to be adopted and used by organisations across the city who work in adult safeguarding to promote a person-centred response and increase engagement and access for people who use services.
- To receive evidence from partners as to how they are assured that these areas of focus are being embedded within their organisations.