



Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019

Foreword

The Care Act 2014 reinforced the importance of adult safeguarding as a crucially important area of public policy and, for the first time, introduced statutory responsibilities for Safeguarding Adult Boards. This fresh emphasis is both welcome and essential. It requires us to work together to help make sure that some of the most vulnerable in our communities are protected from abuse and neglect. Equally importantly, it requires us to give people choice and control when agencies with safeguarding responsibility intervene in their lives.

The development of this strategy has been informed by wide consultation and reflects the agreed priorities of all members of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB). We know that we can do more by working together in partnership and commit ourselves to the achievement of the objectives contained within it. Those strategic objectives are:

- Prevention
- Making Safeguarding Personal
- Think Family
- Board Effectiveness

The objectives reflect where the SSAB is following significant efforts to improve our overall performance. We believe that we are now well placed to build on that work and, by putting people at the heart of everything we do and working with our partners on the Safeguarding Children Board, significantly raise the quality of safeguarding in Somerset. I anticipate that whilst this strategy will develop in response to review and operational demand, the core strategic objectives will be retained for a period of at least three years.

Over this three year period and beyond the SSAB will seek assurance that safeguarding arrangements in Somerset are effective in protecting adults who, as a result of their care and support needs, experience, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect. As the independent chair of the Board I have a responsibility for holding its members to account, and for creating an environment where joint working and supportive challenge thrive. Together, we must make sure that the SSAB adds value and never becomes a talking shop. Together we can and will make a difference. These are significant responsibilities. I look forward to working with the SSAB to make sure that we do everything in our power to meet them.



Richard Crompton, Independent Chair
Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

Our Vision

The shared vision of the multi-agency SSAB is “**to work in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm or abuse**”.

Members work together and with local communities to ensure:

- There is a culture of not tolerating abuse
- People work together to prevent abuse
- People know what to do when abuse happens.

To make this vision a reality, it is essential that agencies supporting adults at risk of harm work together to:

- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect
- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or wellbeing of an adult
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect
- **Make safeguarding everybody’s business.**

The Board is required to ‘publish its strategic plan each financial year. The plan should address both short and longer-term actions and it must set out how it will help adults in its area and what actions each member of the Board will take to deliver the strategic plan and protect better’ (Care and Support Statutory Guidance, 14.152)

No.	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	Measuring Success
1. Prevention				
a)	We will plan promotion events and activities to coincide with June 2017 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and the regional 'Stop Adult Abuse' awareness week, and continue to promote our Thinking it, Report it campaign	Business Manager / All members	June 2017 / Ongoing	<p>Desired outcome: Adults at risk are identified early and have their needs met promptly and effectively. Adult Safeguarding risk is better understood and appropriately assessed. Public safeguarding awareness is improved.</p> <p>Performance Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levels of safeguarding concerns for adults at risk - Training take up and evaluation - Public feedback demonstrates improved awareness of safeguarding issues - Multiagency practitioner feedback demonstrates awareness of safeguarding issues and risk - Campaign feedback, reach and impact
b)	We will work together with Devon & Somerset Trading Standards to address financial abuse and scams	Business Manager / All members	Throughout the year	
c)	We will seek enhanced assurance of local agency training delivery, take-up, application and impact, and find ways to more closely align agency training functions	Learning & Development Subgroup	Throughout the year	
d)	We will deliver a multi-agency Safeguarding Adults conference to raise the profile of adult safeguarding, address areas of practice requiring improvement, share lessons learnt from case reviews, and offer workshops to local Safeguarding Leads	Learning & Development Subgroup	By March 2018	
e)	We will establish and oversee the work of a Somerset Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Forum to enhance local understanding and application of the Act	MCA Subgroup	Throughout the year	
f)	We will monitor progress in relation to the Mental Health Crisis Concordat and its 'Think Differently, Act Differently' subgroup to improve the experience of people in mental health crisis by ensuring services are appropriately commissioned and resourced	SSAB Board	Quarterly (June, Sept, Dec, Mar)	

No.	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	Measuring Success
2. Making Safeguarding Personal				
a)	We will ensure the views of service users, carers, frontline staff and Board members inform our work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will implement a Safeguarding Experience service user/carer/provider feedback process and monitor responses on a quarterly basis to enhance the effectiveness of safeguarding activity We will introduce and invite service user stories to Board meetings and conferences 	Quality Assurance Subgroup	From May 2017	<p>Desired outcome: Safeguarding is person-led, outcome-focused, enhances involvement, choice and control, and improves quality of life, wellbeing and safety</p> <p>Performance Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User feedback, data and audit demonstrates a greater focus on outcomes Advocacy take-up improved
b)	We will ensure individuals experiencing safeguarding concerns have appropriate and timely access to advocacy through the promotion of advocacy services and knowledge, and monitoring of data		Throughout the year	
c)	We will establish multiagency Adult Safeguarding Audit groups to assist the Board in quality assuring local practice and service delivery, improving quality, performance and learning		By December 2017	
3. Think Family				
a)	We will support the development of a multi-agency Think Family Strategy for Somerset	All Members	Throughout the year	<p>Desired outcome: The Safeguarding Adults Board adopts a 'think child, think parent, think family' approach to its work together with the Safeguarding Children Board and other Boards</p> <p>Performance Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audits and case reviews demonstrate a 'think family' approach Training reflects a 'think family' approach
b)	We will work with other Strategic Partnership Boards in Somerset to keep people safe from harm and improve their health and wellbeing in support of the prevention agenda, reducing duplication of effort and maximising effectiveness; this will include work to better support victims of exploitation, coercive control and grooming	SSAB Chair / Business Manager	Throughout the year	

4. Board Effectiveness				
a)	Undertake annual Adult Safeguarding organisational self-audit process, enabling the Board to hold members agencies to account, monitor implementation of previous year's identified actions and gain assurance of the effectiveness of local safeguarding activity	Quality Assurance Subgroup	Q1 2017/18 – issue Q2 – analysis Q3 - report	Desired outcome: Somerset has an effective Safeguarding Adults Board which fulfils its statutory responsibilities, has strong leadership and governance arrangements, and promotes a culture of collective accountability, respectful challenge and continuous learning
b)	Commission, participate in and support Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), ensuring learning from both local and national reviews is widely shared and action taken across agencies to address identified concerns or embed identified good practice	SAR Subgroup	Throughout the year	
c)	Use data, information and local intelligence to identify risks and trends, and formulate action in response, to include monitoring of SSAB communication tools	Quality Assurance Subgroup	Throughout the year	Performance indicators include: - Member attendance and participation - Annual Safeguarding Adults Board effectiveness survey results - Quality and findings of agency self-audits and action planning - Website hits and feedback - Newsletter reach and feedback - Peer Review outcome
d)	Ensure policies, procedures and practice guidance are reviewed to reflect new or emerging legislation, policy or learning, and made more easily accessible to frontline services via the SSAB Website	Policy & Procedures Subgroup	Throughout the year	
e)	Support Elected Members and Committee functions to better understand their roles and responsibilities in effectively scrutinising and monitoring the effectiveness of the Board in protecting vulnerable adults from abuse	Learning & Development Subgroup	May/June 2017 (post election)	
f)	We will enhance local assurance mechanisms through the implementation of a peer challenge process in order to increase SAB member understanding of each other's work and methods of service delivery and identify opportunities to strengthen multi-agency working	Quality Assurance Subgroup	By Sept 2017 – ongoing	