

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan 2023-2026



Working Together to Keep People Safe

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014 section 43. The main focus of the SAB is to ensure that safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that adults are able to live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding adults' duties apply to an adult who has care and support needs, is experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect, and is unable to protect themselves as a result of their needs.

In order to safeguard adults we work together as a partnership to prevent adults becoming at risk of harm through abuse or neglect. We understand that the risk of abuse can increase with age, disability, ill health or a person's vulnerabilities, life events or circumstance, and it is our aim to reduce the risk of harm whilst supporting people to maintain control over their lives in a way that suits them.

Our statutory partners:

North Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board, Northamptonshire Police, and West Northamptonshire Council.

Other partner agencies:

East Midlands Ambulance Service	Department for Work and Pensions
Healthwatch North & West Northamptonshire	HMP Fivewells and Onley
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
Northamptonshire Children's Trust	Northamptonshire NHS Healthcare Foundation Trust
Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service	Agencies from the Voluntary & Community Sector

Our vision

In Northamptonshire our vision for Safeguarding Adults at risk of abuse or neglect is that we are:

'Working together to keep people safe'

- We believe that people should be able to live a life that is free from harm, communities have a culture that does not tolerate abuse, that Northamptonshire is a place where we work together to prevent abuse, and where people know what to do when abuse happens.
- To make this vision a reality, everyone needs to work together as a partnership involving the person at risk, their families and all the agencies across the partnership. Our strategic priorities drive partnership working.

Our core functions

The Board has the following core functions:

- To publish a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report in each financial year in accordance with the duties outlined within the Care Act 2014.
- Publish Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), in accordance with section 44 of the Care Act 2014, and ensure that any learning is disseminated and implemented across the partnership.

In order to fulfil its duties, the Board will:

- Assure itself of the delivery of the strategic plan through the oversight of robust governance.
- To act as the accountable body for the statutory partners responsible for key safeguarding decision making.
- Lead on adult safeguarding arrangements across the locality that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Establish an effective structure to deliver against its strategic priorities.
- Contribute to the overall aims by carrying out key tasks:
 - Develop a safeguarding culture that focuses on people's personalised outcomes, and the Making Safeguarding Personal principles.

- Disseminate learning from SARs and seek assurance that agencies implement the recommendations and actions to prevent similar incidents from occurring again.
- Develop an effective Quality Assurance Framework to evidence the impact of the strategic plan and safeguarding arrangements, to include partner self-assessment, single and multi-agency case audit activities.
- Support organisations to carry out their safeguarding responsibilities by developing multi-agency policies and procedures.
- Understand the impact of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender reassignment, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect.
- Raise awareness of safeguarding and emerging themes.
- Analyse data and intelligence to increase understanding of the prevalence of abuse and neglect locally to support the effectiveness of the Quality Assurance Framework.
- Ensure local agencies provide learning opportunities to increase confidence, skills and knowledge to safeguard adults.
- Develop a robust mechanism to understand the wishes and feelings of adults to help improve local safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure sufficient funding is available to enable NSAB to carry out activities appropriately.
- Share information in line with Data Protection and GDPR and balance the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that, to protect adults, it may be necessary to share information on a 'need-to-know basis'.
- Consider implications of national and local policy.
- Develop and maintain links with relevant strategic/scrutiny networks e.g., Health and Wellbeing Board, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships, Integrated Care Partnership.

Our Strategic Plan

We will work together with partner agencies and people in our communities to support adults to live their best lives free from abuse or neglect. To do this, we will follow the six safeguarding principles:

	Key Principles	Description	What this means to local people
1.	Empowerment	People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions, and informed consent.	"I am asked what I outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."
2.	Prevention	It is better to take action before harm occurs.	"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."
3.	Proportionality	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.	"I am sure that professionals will work in my best interests as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as is needed."
4.	Protection	Support and representation for those in greatest need.	"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent I want."
5.	Partnership	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.	"I know that staff treat my personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together, and with me, to get the best outcomes for me."
6.	Accountability	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.	"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."

Our Strategic Themes for 2023-2026

Priorities	Aims and Objectives	What we will do	Lead Group	Timescale	Key Indicators of Impact
Promoting a person centred approach to safeguarding					
Making Safeguarding Personal	Objective 1 Seek assurance that the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) principles are embedded in practice to evidence that front line workers adopt a person centred, outcomes focused approach to safeguarding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via audit activities, evidence the partnership is using a person-centred approach to safeguarding. • Promote MSP and develop materials to support the workforce. 	Quality & Performance	Year 1	SARs and audit evidences there is good practice in place.
	Objective 2 Ensure the partnership continues to promote the importance of multi-disciplinary meetings including the Adult Risk Management (ARM) process to reduce/remove risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the importance of multi-disciplinary meetings (ARM) to support high risk individuals. • Seek assurance from the ARM Oversight Panel lead that ARM and its administration is effective. 	Delivery Board	Year 1	Updates and audit evidences there is good practice in place.
	Objective 3 Seek assurance that the use of the Mental Capacity Act 2015 and it's five principals are embedded in practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit activities evidences that professionals understand the 2-stage test, that the rationale for assumed capacity is recorded, and when capacity is in doubt, that a mental capacity assessment has been undertaken by an appropriate professional. 	Quality & Performance	Year 1	SARs and audit evidences there is good practice in place.
	Objective 4 Ensure the partnership has mechanisms in place to capture the voice of people with lived experience (or their representatives) who have been involved in the safeguarding process to help contribute to NSAB's strategic priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/refresh the Communication & Engagement Strategy. • Implement a plan for stakeholder (including those with lived experience) engagement and co-production. • Audit activities evidences the partnership is capturing service user voice and their services help to make them feel safer. 	Communication & Engagement	Years 1 & 2	Partners have practice in place to report on peoples' lived experience of safeguarding.
	Objective 5 Seek assurance that robust transitional safeguarding arrangements are in place to support young adults with care and support needs moving into adulthood. Also adults transitioning from services such as mental health and prison, continue to have their needs met once back in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing good practice locally and with other SABs. • Understand what local arrangements are in place. • Link with the Children's Partnership to review local arrangements. 	Quality & Performance	Years 1 & 2	Activities evidence strong practice is in place within the partnership to reduce risk of harm.

	<p>Objective 6 Seek assurance that the workforce recognises when a person has been affected by a traumatic event(s) and where this has a lasting, adverse effect on their mental and physical well-being, and they take a holistic view to their presenting circumstance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing good practice locally and with other SABs. • Undertake engagement activities to understand local knowledge of trauma informed practice by way of front line worker engagement events and audit. • Develop resources to support workforce confidence. 	Learning & Development	Year 2	Activities evidence strong practice is in place within the partnership to reduce risk of further harm.
Working together to prevent the abuse and neglect of adults					
Prevention	<p>Objective 7 Work together as a Board to provide local leadership to safeguard adults from risk of abuse and neglect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage open, honest, respectful challenge, and scrutiny. • Ensure the Board Business Office is staffed appropriately to effectively meet the demands of NSAB activities. 	NSAB Chair	Business as usual	Board/Sub Group attendance and engagement is strong with active participation.
	<p>Objective 8 Deliver a targeted preventative approach based on data and intelligence to help recognise emerging safeguarding themes, and raise awareness to partners and communities to support them to keep people safe from abuse and neglect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a greater understanding of factors that increase risk, including social isolation, cost of living etc. • Engagement and co-production to include stakeholder events with under-represented groups and communities. • Use the website and Twitter to promote key safeguarding messages. • Develop easy read literature and other tools such as voice over recordings. • Develop a quarterly newsletter. 	Communication & Engagement	Years 1, 2 & 3	Partners and community groups recognise signs of abuse and know how to respond.
	<p>Objective 9 Effectively manage and publish Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). Reflect on learning from local and national statutory reviews and good practice to inform new ways of working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the individual/family to contribute to SARs. • Ensure strong governance is in place. • Develop skills to use alternative methodologies to identify relevant learning. • Review/refresh the Safeguarding Adult Review Protocol in response to recent SARs. • Disseminate learning from SARs to equip the workforce with review findings. • Review themes from SARs and take action where there are repeat incidences in referrals. 	Safeguarding Adult Review	Business as usual	Partners respond to the findings, amend internal policy and practices and ensure learning is embedded, resulting in no similar incidents occurring.

	<p>Objective 10 Seek assurance that the system workforce is knowledgeable and confident in the application of their safeguarding duties and responsibilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/refresh the Training Strategy and consider the value of the training assurance return. • Develop innovative ways in which to share learning from SARs including NSAB Weeks of Learning and bitesize learning videos. • Develop practice resources for key areas i.e., Mental Capacity Act & Assessment, ARM, professional curiosity, transitional safeguarding, trauma informed practice, advocacy, think family etc. to increase workforce knowledge and confidence. 	Learning & Development	Years 1, 2 & 3	Colleagues have more confidence in their safeguarding roles and responsibilities.
Ensure quality is embedded across all areas of NSAB work					
Quality	<p>Objective 11 Develop a data and intelligence led approach to safeguarding to include a robust dashboard to help inform the Board and partners of emerging safeguarding issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain qualitative and quantitative partnership data to strengthen safeguarding adults work to support NSAB's understanding of emerging system concerns and risks. • Continue to develop an effective quality assurance framework to include single and multi-agency audit. • Develop/review/refresh NSAB multi-agency policies and procedures to support workforce knowledge. • Seek assurance that partners understand each other's roles, responsibilities and legal duties to ensure a collaborative safeguarding response. • Consider benchmarking safeguarding concerns received through to s42 enquiries to reduce the number of inappropriate referrals. • Implement the quality assurance process to ensure agency recommendations and learning from SARs has been embedded. 	Quality & Performance	Years 1, 2 and 3	Triangulate data and intel to show the impact of working together.