

Shropshire Safeguarding Adults Board
Strategic Plan
2015 – 18

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Foreword from the Independent Chair

The Care Act and related Guidance came into force in April 2015. This gives definition to the status, role and function of our Safeguarding Adults Board and we have done a great deal of work to understand the changes required of us and have the important elements in place. We are starting from a good position. Whilst the Board is newly established, it has an Independent Chair and has strong commitment from its members, many of whom benefit from their experiences on the joint board with Telford and Wrekin. We also welcome our new members who bring fresh enthusiasm, energy and innovation.

We face new challenges ranging through the inclusion of self-neglect as a category of abuse, the requirement for public involvement in the production of this Strategic Plan, through to changes in Board membership and accountabilities. Some of these we can address and deliver quickly. Others will need commitment and more work during the first year of this strategy and will form a definitive element in years two and three.

The prime focus of the work of the Board is to ensure that safeguarding is consistently understood by anyone engaging with adults who may be at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect and that there is common commitment to improving outcomes for them. This means understanding how to support and empower people at risk of harm, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and other types of harm to resolve the circumstances which put them at risk. We want to develop and facilitate practice which puts the person in control and generates a more person-centred set of responses and outcomes. This includes being confident that effective advocacy services are in place for anyone who may need them at any point during a safeguarding episode.

When things go seriously wrong and people die or are permanently affected by abuse, we have a responsibility to look into this thoroughly by means of a Safeguarding Adult Review. This process seeks to identify and report on learning so that multi-agency practice will improve. Equally important, is our role in promoting good practice and giving our residents confidence that concerns can be expressed and will be responded to effectively.

All working in adult safeguarding have the difficult task of understanding risk, assessing the level of this for the individual concerned and constructing a plan with the person affected to manage this which works for the person and is understood by those around them. This demands sound grasp of the legal basis for the work along with effective listening and communication. This often presents a challenge in a society where there is a pressing tendency to avoid rather than to manage risk. A key task for the Board is to evaluate the quality of risk management in safeguarding in Shropshire and assure all of us that the right balance is being struck.

This Strategy sets our tone and purpose for the coming three years. It is not a fixed document and will be reviewed and developed annually but gives definition to what is important for adult safeguarding in Shropshire and how your Safeguarding Adults Board will work to ensure that everything is being done to prevent abuse and that a timely and proportionate response is made when it occurs.

Ivan Powell
Independent Chair

What is Safeguarding?

The Care Act Statutory Guidance (section 14.7) describes adult safeguarding as *“protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances”*.

A local strategy

Whilst the production of a strategic plan is a statutory requirement (Care Act Guidance, section 14.107) a local strategy is key to supporting our aim to work with Shropshire people and with partners to ensure that adults with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse or neglect are:

- living as safely as they can
- fully involved in the safeguarding process and the development of any ongoing safeguarding plan if required.
- receiving effectively co-ordinated services

Since the publication of ‘No Secrets’ in 2000, we have worked to promote an understanding and actions that “safeguarding is everybody’s business”. The development of this strategy marks a commitment for a shared vision and actions that will keep adults at risk safe and protected from abuse and neglect.

Background

The Care Act 2014 provides the legal framework for adult safeguarding, setting out the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners. It places a duty on Local Authorities to establish Safeguarding Adults Boards and also stipulates local authorities’ responsibilities, and those with whom they work, to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

The role of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and protect adults in its area by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does and each Board may do anything which appears to it, to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective.

The Care Act Guidance details the statutory requirement to have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and that the Board has three primary functions:

1. It must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective, and what the members will do to achieve these objectives. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the Local Healthwatch organisation.
2. It must publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective 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 or any on-going reviews.
3. It must conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review.

Additionally the Care Act specifies core membership for the Board and suggests wider membership is desirable. There is clarity about the formal delivery and oversight of the Boards objectives through strategic and business planning. The Board has responsibility for setting the vision for safeguarding locally and ensuring delivery of this Strategic Plan along with its annual update.

Shropshire Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has previously been a joint board with colleagues in Telford and Wrekin Council. This has provided a good foundation upon which to move forwards. SSAB members have been involved in a development day which has helped shape the board structure, membership and its strategic priorities in this document.

The Vision for Shropshire

“Shropshire is a place where adults with care and support needs and children live a life free from abuse or neglect”.

Our “Business as Usual Activity”

Shropshire recognises that safeguarding adults is not just about reacting when abuse has been identified but it is very important to prevent abuse from happening in the first instance. Safeguarding is a range of activity and the development of a culture that promotes good practice and caring within services. The person at the centre of the concern should feel safe in their homes and in their communities.

The following areas are identified as business as usual activities for the SSAB. They should be reflected in the structure of the Board and its business plan:

- a. assurance and challenge
- b. undertaking section 42 enquires
- c. undertaking safeguarding adult reviews
- d. performance (including identifying trends from our communities)

Our strategic priorities

In addition to our business as usual activity, to deliver our vision we have identified the following priority areas to work on over the next three years:

1. preventing abuse from occurring – we need to do this for three main reasons:
 - to develop a culture of caring for others
 - to stop harm from happening to people and
 - to minimise the impact of dealing with abuse on our services
2. Making Safeguarding Personal and implementing personalisation – personalisation means giving people as much control as possible over their lives. The SSAB needs to be confident that this practice is embedded in all services. The Board also needs to be confident that when a safeguarding concern has been raised, the person affected is part of all decisions that are made.
3. public and workforce awareness of their responsibility to safeguard people and report concerns if necessary – the public and the workforce are essential if we want to stop abuse happening in the first instance and respond effectively if it has happened. Everyone needs to understand their responsibility at all stages.
4. establishing effective working relationships with other Partnerships – The Shropshire Safeguarding Board should not work in isolation. In order to be effective and achieve as wide a reach as possible, other strategic partnerships need to be clear about their role in Safeguarding adults with care and support needs from abuse.

SSAB Resources 2015-16

Still under development.

SSAB Business Plan 2015-16

This section sets out in detail how our strategic priorities will be met. Each sub-group will be expected to develop a business plan that clearly demonstrates how the Board priorities will be met. The SSAB's performance dataset, audit programme and other associated learning and improvement activity will enable the SSAB to evaluate the impact of its priorities. The priorities and the impact of the plan will be reported in the SSAB Annual Report.

It is to be recognised that this is a starting point for much of the work that lies ahead, and some of the priorities will need to be developed further as additional statutory guidance is issued and reviews of the Business Plan are completed. There will be an increasing requirement going forwards to scrutinise individual agency performance, which will then be reported upon in future SSAB Annual Reports.



Business Plan Template

SSAB meeting name:

Year: 2015/16

What do we need to do?	Why do we need to do it?	What difference will it make?	Who is responsible for making it happen?	When will it be done by?	Letter/no. of SSAB strategic priority