

Appendix 2: 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. 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, assurance and making safeguarding personal. On reflection from the first plan, our next plan is more focused and strategic. In the next three 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 work over the next three years, 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.

Key Challenges

- Maintaining Board involvement and contribution whilst responding to increased demands on SAB resources
- Health and Social Care integration.
- Limited SAB funding

Local safeguarding challenges

Neglect and **omission** represents the largest volume of enquiries, with **financial** and **material abuse** representing the second highest category. The proportion of enquiries relating to **self-neglect** has increased from 5.1% in 2016/17 to 8.3% in 2017/18. The percentage of enquiries relating to **domestic abuse** increased to 6.3% from 4.7% in the previous year. The proportion of enquiries relating to **memory and cognition** support has increased from 11.6% to 15.2%. Locally the risk of harm and abuse increases from the age of 65. Between 1/12/16 and 31/5/18 157 adults were the subject of one or more safeguarding enquiry. The number of **repeat safeguarding referrals** has been of concern to the SAB. Following enquiries completed in 2017/18, only 57% of individuals felt their desired outcomes had been met, while a further 16% felt their desired outcomes had been partly achieved.

In addition to the above local challenges the SAB has seen an increase in safeguarding adult review referrals relating to the death and serious harm of adults experiencing **homelessness** in the city. Recognition and response to **psychological trauma** and clients' **engagement** with local services has also become an increasing concern for the SAB.

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 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 and safeguarding rough sleepers.
- 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 engaging with the children safeguarding partners on their plans for the implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and associated arrangements that may impact on the delivery of joint/ SAB activity.

Strategic Aim 2: Policies, Strategies & Procedures

SAB Priority: Ensure safeguarding strategies, policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure currency, reflecting emerging legislation, policy and/or learning, and that these are made more 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 Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) process, and ensure threshold decision making is consistent across Sussex
- Ensuring feedback is given consistently, where appropriate, to those who have raised a safeguarding concern, and that referrers are supported to understand the decisions made

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

SAB Priority: Ensure 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

- Ensuring learning from reviews is effectively embedded into practice and facilitating organisational change across agencies.
- Ensuring the SAB has robust multi-agency safeguarding data to shape any multi-agency training offers, awareness and practice, and affect change when required.
- Ensuring a culture of openness and transparency is adopted for learning and celebrating success

Strategic Aim 4: Prevention & Early Intervention

SAB Priority: Ensure the SAB has a prevention strategy 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 develop a prevention strategy that clearly identifies how the SAB will aim to reduce incidence of abuse and neglect (including self-neglect) in Brighton & Hove and how it will measure the success of this.
- To develop a multi-agency self-neglect risk assessment tool
- To undertake a public safeguarding awareness raising campaigns, to include raising awareness of local safeguarding challenges.
- To undertake a self-neglect multi-agency audit.

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

- Ensuring adults are involved and consulted in the process of helping them to stay safe and agreeing goals to achieve.
- Developing process to enable meaningful feedback to the SAB from service users and carers who have experienced safeguarding interventions
- Undertaking quality assurance activity for assurance that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- To produce information and reports for the local community that are easily accessible, and raise awareness of adult safeguarding and how concerns can be raised
- To build resilience of those who may be at risk of abuse and neglect to assist prevention and promoting wellbeing.

Strategic Aim 6: Integration / Training and Workforce Development

SAB Priority: Ensure 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 a competent workforce

Strategic objectives

- To ensure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse and neglect are suspected
- To ensure the training strategy includes mechanisms to review the impact and effectiveness of training

Measuring Success

Individual action plans will be developed by the Board's Quality Assurance, Learning & Development and Participation sub groups respectively. 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.