

1: Community Engagement

Desired outcomes:

- Strong engagement with local people and those who use our services to inform our decision making.
- Safeguarding policies and procedures that are co-produced with people with lived experience.
- Robust working links in our local communities to raise awareness of and confidence in adult safeguarding.

No	Aim	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	Hear the voices of people with lived experience <i>Empowerment</i>	Ensure that practitioners engage with those with lived experience to hear their voices.	Learning and Development Subgroup	2024-2027	People with lived experience are empowered to give the thoughts and how they feel about their experience.
B	Increase and explore different ways to work with citizens of Somerset to improve our policies, systems and processes by understanding what matters to them. <i>Empowerment</i>	Undertake robust engagement with third sector organisations, community groups and faith groups.	Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup	April 2025	There is a citizen-led safeguarding input in place to provide input into the Board's ways of working and effective safeguarding practice.

C	<p>Continue to develop consistent and effective processes and communication channels to inform our work. Embedding MARM in agencies across Somerset.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Protection and Partnership</i></p>	<p>Multi-agency commitment to neighbourhood meeting</p>	<p>Policy and Procedures Subgroup</p> <p>Learning and Development Subgroup</p>	<p>Mar 2025</p>	<p>Positive feedback from user groups on 'MARM' and how this works effectively within their environment.</p> <p>Embedding MARM in agency recording systems (Eclipse, EMIS and RIO)</p> <p>Low/medium level concerns addressed at neighbourhood meetings to enable decisions for prevention.</p>
D	<p>Develop a Safeguarding network to improve engagement across Somerset.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Empowerment</i></p>	<p>Listening events with locality teams and care providers.</p>	<p>Learning and Development Subgroup</p>	<p>2024-2026</p>	<p>There will be a strong safeguarding network with named points of contacts to support organisations, so staff are confident and supported in raising safeguarding concerns.</p>
E	<p>Provide accessible publications and guidance</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Empowerment</i></p>	<p>Provide documents that are accessible to all areas of the community</p>	<p>Learning and Development Subgroup</p>	<p>2024-2026</p>	<p>Documents and guidance will be available in Easyread and a range of languages representative of our community.</p>

2: Promotion of MCA and how it can be used

Desired outcomes:

- People understand how to apply MCA
- People know what how to respond if they believe someone needs an assessment
- Create an environment and culture in which practitioners are confident in applying the Mental Capacity Act.

No	Aim	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	Promote the application of MCA assessments to ascertain mental capacity and how self-neglect may be addressed. <i>Prevention and Protection</i>	Disseminate the evidence-base for working with people who self-neglect	MCA Subgroup	March 2024	The Board is assured that appropriate arrangements been put in place for MCA assessments. The Board is able to evidence the quality of MCA assessments conducted. Users will be confident to conduct MCA assessments.
B	Focus on executive functioning and how this is addressed within MCA. <i>Prevention and Protection</i>	Use MCA Audit data to analyse good practice including executive functioning assessment	MCA Subgroup	March 2025	Capture good practice in relation to mental capacity assessments, particularly with a focus on executive functioning,

C	<p>Seek assurance on the approach of the local system in supporting people who neglect their own self and well-being, and coordinate work to develop practice in this area across the Somerset system.</p> <p><i>Prevention, Protection and Accountability</i></p>	<p>Audits of practice and management of practice Assurance reports to SSAB meetings</p>	<p>Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Partners are able to evidence to the Board that quality improvement and developmental work has been implemented, its effectiveness assessed, and that any gaps are understood and have plans in place to address them.</p>
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3: Role of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

Desired outcomes:

- All organisations understand the role of the Safeguarding Adults Board and how it supports assurance of safeguarding adults.
- Information and guidance are accessible and understandable for all to reference.
- Maximise engagement with both internal and external services and organisations to promote safeguarding in our communities.

No	Aim	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	<p>Improve community awareness of adult safeguarding using all available opportunities to increase public involvement and engage media interest.</p> <p><i>Empowerment</i></p>	<p>Conduct campaigns to raise awareness of referral routes into safeguarding and how people can protect themselves and prevent abuse or neglect</p>	<p>Business Support and all groups</p>	<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Partners and communities will be able to recognise what abuse is and know how to respond appropriately. Adults will feel more confident by being better informed, engaged and supported to feel safe.</p>

B	<p>Seek information and assurance from the partnership about how learning is shared within their organisations and how this is improving practice.</p> <p><i>Accountability</i></p>	Audit of outcomes of SAR recommendations	Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup	Dec 2024	The Board has assurance that learning has been embedded within organisations, so themes do not continue to be replicated in SAR learning.
C	<p>Biennial self-audits are used to check and evidence awareness of the Board and how it is supporting organisations.</p> <p><i>Accountability</i></p>	Self-assessment by SSAB of its contribution to adult safeguarding.	Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup	2024-2027	<p>Audits are completed and summary results are included in its annual report.</p> <p>The Board is able to evidence that a progress check has taken place on areas that partners have identified for development at the mid-point between audits.</p>
D	<p>Safeguarding assurance schedule in place to cover Somerset</p>	Provide the SSAB Board with a schedule of assurance to cover all areas to support safeguarding.	Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup	Sept 2024	Robust schedule of assurance that is managed by the Perf and Quality Assurance Subgroup and reported to the SSAB Board quarterly.

4: Transitional Safeguarding and Exploitation

Desired outcomes:

- Recognise that the needs of young people do not change or stop when they reach 18.
- Provide support for young adults who may experience exploitation post 18 who may not otherwise be eligible for a safeguarding response unless they have a formal mental health diagnosis or diagnosed learning disability.
- Align services for child and adults and encourage partnership cultures to respond better to the changing needs of adolescents and young adults.
- Have an overarching partnership which aligns our approach to transitional safeguarding, including exploitation, county line and substance misuse.

No	Task		Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	Adopt an approach to safeguarding that moves through developmental stages, rather than just focusing on chronological age, building on best practice and learning from both adult and children's services. <i>Prevention and Protection</i>	Disseminate the evidence-base for transitional safeguarding and take action to implement locally.	Executive Group	June 2024	Have an agreed transition protocol, joint training and close liaisons at a senior level which break down barriers, ensuring that we provide a person-centred seamless service.

B	<p>Young adults at risk may not be covered by Care Act duties; Commit to working in partnership to develop approaches to reducing risk of exploitation for all adults.</p> <p><i>Accountability</i></p>	<p>Disseminate learning from reviews and audit provision against the evidence-base and agree a through life exploitation strategy.</p>	<p>Somerset Safer Partnership</p>	<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>A strategy will be agreed which addresses exploitation at any age and is adopted by all services and organisations.</p>
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