



Annual Report

2023-24



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1. Foreword



It has been, and continues to be, a busy and challenging time for all those involved within the safeguarding adults arena; particularly following the pandemic, with increasing pressure on all of our systems and the ongoing impact of financial austerity and cost of living crisis. We see the disproportionate effect of this context on people who are already vulnerable. I am extremely grateful to all board partners who have supported and undertaken work for Somerset's board resulting in a much richer picture of our safeguarding

concerns and achievements in keeping people safe, whilst also producing great ideas for solutions and innovative ways of raising awareness, preventing abuse and neglect, and protecting people.

A key part of the safeguarding board's role is to seek assurance from partners that safeguarding arrangements are effective. In the last year we have developed an assurance framework, which clearly identifies how we will do this and provided a yearly plan of the activity we will undertake.

The report describes the hard work undertaken by colleagues in subgroups to progress our common commitment to safeguarding people at risk of abuse or neglect. This hard work is thoughtful and professional, demonstrating both expertise and commitment to practice development and service improvement. We continue to work hard to demonstrate the difference all of this work has made.

We held an extremely valuable development day where we considered the learning available from safeguarding adult reviews and performance analysis. We've used this learning to refresh our 3-year strategic plan for 2024-2027, setting out clear priorities for the immediate future.

We have a refreshed website, which continues to be enhanced further, and very active social media engagement to support adult safeguarding awareness and practice. We have launched monthly Safeguarding Adults Practice Updates to enhance people's understanding and practice. We remain committed to hearing the voice of those with lived experience; this will be at the forefront of our work in the coming year.

In the meantime, my sincere thanks to everyone involved in safeguarding adults in Somerset.

**Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, Independent Chair
*Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board***

Safeguarding is everybody's business

2. Introduction

The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB or “the Board”) is required under the Care Act 2014 to produce an annual report each year.

The report must set out what we have done during the last year to help and protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Somerset.

Our annual report tells you:

- The profile of adult safeguarding in 2023/24
- How we have done in delivering our objectives during the year.
- The findings and impact of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews we carried out.
- The contributions of our member organisations to adult safeguarding.
- Our priorities looking forward.

This report will be published along with a one-page summary on the SSAB website, www.ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk, for all partners, interested stakeholders and members of the public to access.

As required by the Care Act, it will also be shared with the Chief Executive and Lead Member of the Local Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, the local Healthwatch organisation, and the Chair of the Council’s Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee. A copy will also be shared with the Chief Officer of the Integrated Care Board.

It is expected that those organisations will consider the contents of the report alongside how they can improve their contributions to both safeguarding in their own organisations, networks and in partnership with the Board.

‘Working in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse’

What is adult safeguarding?

Safeguarding means 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, whilst at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted.

The aims of adult safeguarding are 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.

Who is an adult at risk?

An adult at risk is someone who is over 18 years of age who, as a result of their care and support needs, may not be able to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Their care and support needs may be due to a mental, sensory or physical disability; age, frailty or illness; a learning disability; substance misuse; or an unpaid role as a formal/informal carer for a family member or friend.

The 6 Safeguarding Principles

The work of the SSAB is underpinned by six safeguarding principles, which apply to all sectors and settings including care and support services. The principles inform the ways we work with adults, and are: Empowerment, Prevention Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability. [Read further information about the six safeguarding principles.](#)

What is abuse?

Abuse is when someone treats an adult in a way that harms, hurts or exploits them. It can happen just once or many times; it can be done on purpose or by someone who may not realise they are doing it.

Abuse and neglect can include: Physical abuse, Domestic violence, Sexual abuse, Psychological abuse, Financial or material abuse, Discriminatory abuse, Organisational abuse, Neglect and acts of omission, Self-neglect, Modern slavery and Sexual exploitation. [Read further information on the signs, symptoms and indicators of each type of abuse](#)



3.The Board

The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is a multi-agency partnership which became statutory under the Care Act 2014 from 1st April 2015.

The role of the Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partner organisations act to help and protect adults in its area.

This is about how we prevent abuse and respond when abuse does occur in line with the needs and wishes of the person experiencing harm.

The Board’s main objective is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partner organisations act to help and protect people aged 18 and over in the area who:

- have needs for care and support; *and*
- are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; *and*
- (as a result of their care and support needs) are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or experience of, abuse or neglect.

The Board has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational safeguarding duties of its core partners.

It oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the county and is interested in a range of matters contributing to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

The Board does not work in isolation, nor is it solely responsible for all safeguarding arrangements.



Membership of the Board

Board members as of 31 March 2024:

Name	Organisation	Job Title
Michael Preston-Shoot		SSAB Independent Chair
Natalie Green		SSAB Business Manager
Lead Statutory Partners		
Lisa Simpson	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Superintendent
Shelagh Meldrum	NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board	Director of Quality and Nursing
Sarah Ashe		Associate Director of Quality and Nursing
Mel Lock	Somerset Council	Director, Adult Social Services
Emily Fulbrook		Service Director, Adult Social Care Operations

Partner Members		
Jane Spencer	Abri Housing	Tenancy Support Services Manager
Bethany Brier-Jones		Tenancy Sustainment Officer
Phil Boyce	Care Quality Commission	Inspection Manager
Sue Lancaster	Department for Work and Pensions	Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire
Louise McLellan	Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service	Safeguarding Officer
Janet Quinn	Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service	Trading Standards Project Officer
Helen Orford	Discovery	Managing Director
Becky Arrowsmith	Golden Lane Housing	Head of Housing
Gillian Keniston-Goble	Healthwatch Somerset	Healthwatch Somerset Manager
Melanie Thompson	LiveWest	Executive Director Housing Support
Claire Evans	Probation Service	Senior Probation Officer

Julia Mason Louise Smailes	NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults
Hilary Robinson	Registered Care Providers Association	Chief Executive
Richard Pitman	Rep. people who use services and the Voluntary Sector	Chief Executive – Compass Disability
Trudy Craig	Somerset Care Ltd	Head of Governance
Cllr Sarah Wakefield	Somerset Council	Lead Member – Adult Social Care
Lucy Macready	Somerset Council (Public Health - Community Safety)	Public Health Specialist – Community Safety
Simon Lewis	Somerset Council (Housing)	Head of Housing
Rachel Handley	Somerset Council (Public Health)	Consultant in Public Health
Wendy Dootson	Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	Director of Safeguarding
Debbie Bilton	South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	Safeguarding Officer
Katy Buckle	Swan Advocacy	Head of Services

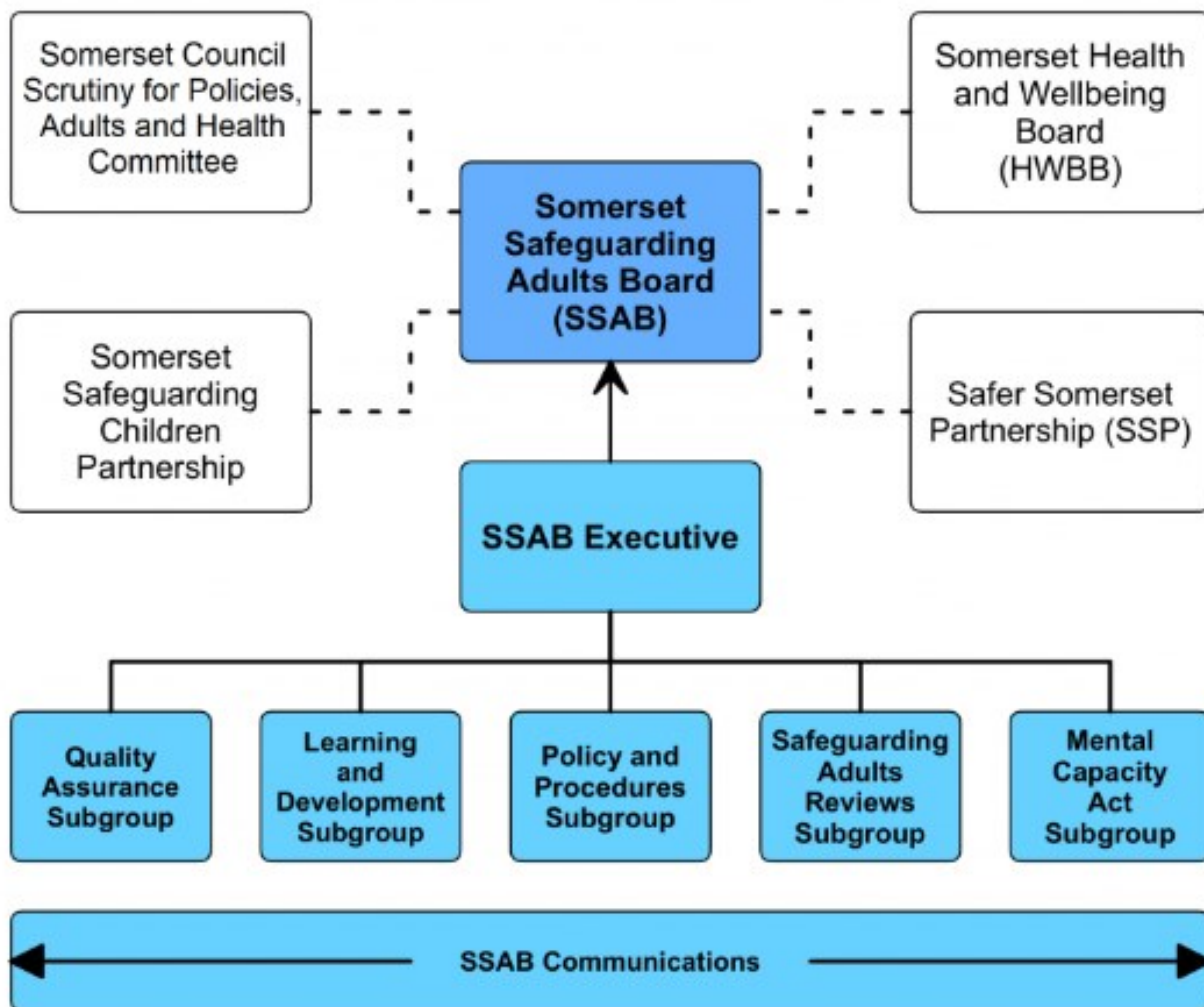
Board attendance

The Safeguarding Adults Board met on 4 occasions during 2023-24 (June, October, December and February).

In brackets below is the number of times each organisation was represented during the year at these events – core statutory members attended all meetings:

Organisation	Attendance
Abri Housing	100% (4/4)
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	100% (4/4)
Care Quality Commission	25% (1/4)
Department for Work and Pensions	50% (2/4)
Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service	75% (3/4)
Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service	0% (0/4)
Discovery	75% (3/4)
Golden Lane Housing	50% (2/4)
Healthwatch Somerset	100% (4/4)
Livewest	50% (2/4)
NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board	100% (4/4)
Probation Service	75% (3/4)
Public Health	50% (2/4)
Public Health (Community Safety)	75% (3/4)
Registered Care Providers Association	50% (2/4)
Representative of people who use services	0% (0/4)
Shared Lives South West (Somerset)	0% (0/4)
Somerset Care Ltd	100% (4/4)
Somerset Council	100% (4/4)
Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	100% (4/4)
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	0% (0/4)
Swan Advocacy	75% (3/4)
Voluntary sector representative	0% (0/4)

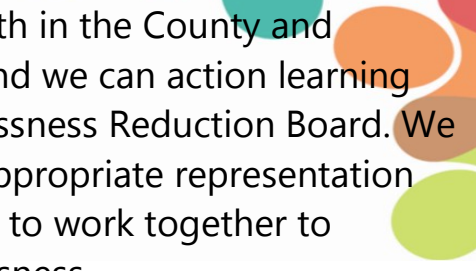
Board structure as at 31/03/2024



There are strong synergies between the work of the SSAB and other key partnerships in the locality, including the statutory Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Wellbeing Board ('Somerset Board') and local Community Safety Partnership.

It is important the Board has effective links with these groups in order to maximise impact, minimise duplication and seek opportunities for efficiencies in taking forward work, and this is something we are keen to strengthen further.

To further strengthen collaboration and engagement opportunities across the local system, we have formed a Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Forum. This brings together the Chairs and Directors of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safer Somerset Partnership, Corporate Parenting and the Somerset Drugs and Alcohol Service. The forum enables us to address areas that affect more than one board or partnership, working cohesively with one aim, to achieve better outcomes for local people.



We have seen the challenge of homelessness grow both in the County and Nationally. To ensure that the Board's voice is heard and we can action learning from this group, we are now a member of the Homelessness Reduction Board. We have also reached out to our housing colleagues for appropriate representation on the SSAB and have linked into homelessness teams to work together to address safeguarding and provide a focus on homelessness.

4. Safeguarding in numbers

How much abuse and neglect was reported during 2023/2024?

Number of individuals involved in Safeguarding concerns



2022/23

1,775

Concerns



2023/24

1,684

Concerns

The total number of Safeguarding Concerns received by Somerset in 2023/24 was 1,684 – a decrease of 5% from 2022/23. Individuals can have more than 1 concern raised about them – we saw 1,438 individuals involved in safeguarding concerns during 2023/24.

Safeguarding concerns received that required a statutory response in 2023/2024



2022/23

740

Enquiries



2023/24

655

Enquiries

Fewer safeguarding enquiries were carried out in Somerset during 2023/24 – 655 of which 636 were Section 42 enquiries and 19 other safeguarding enquiries.

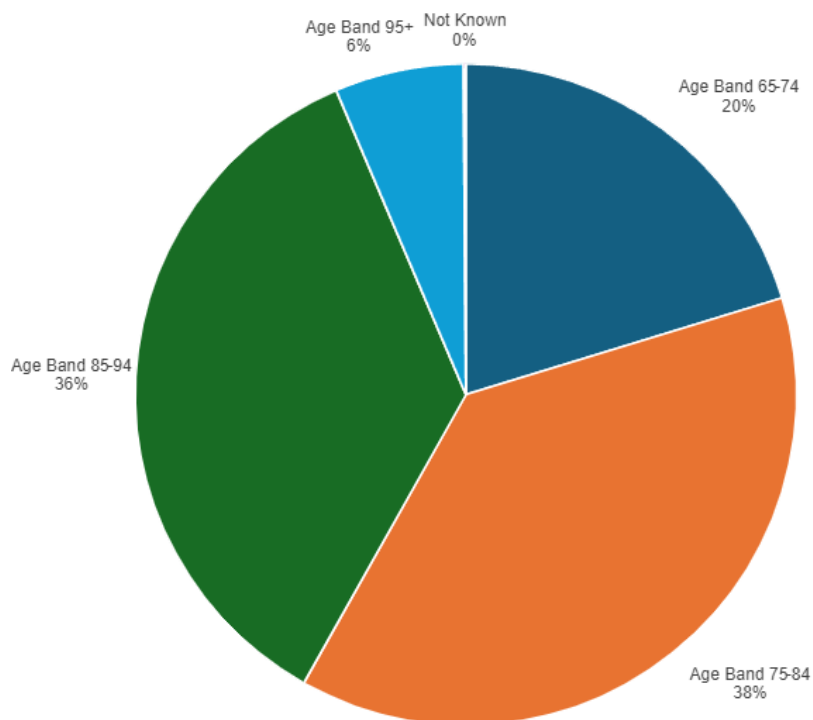
However, Somerset continues to see a higher proportion of concerns going on to be accepted as an enquiry - the conversion rate in for 2023/24 is 39% in 2023/24 compared to 42% in 2022/23. *This compares to the 33% conversion rate for England and 28% conversion rate across our peer group in 2022/23.*

Who was at risk of abuse and neglect in 2023/2024?

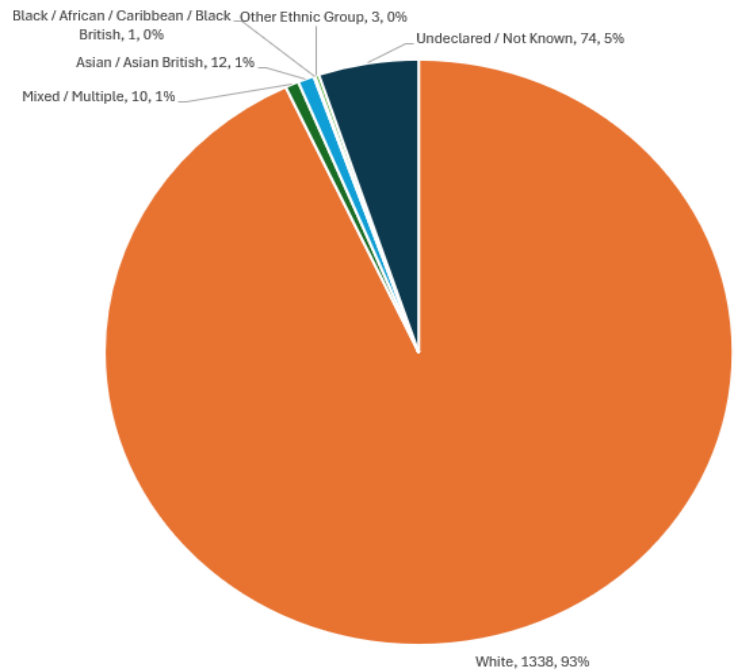
The majority of individuals that required a statutory response were female:



The majority of individuals where the concern resulted in a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry were aged 65 and over:

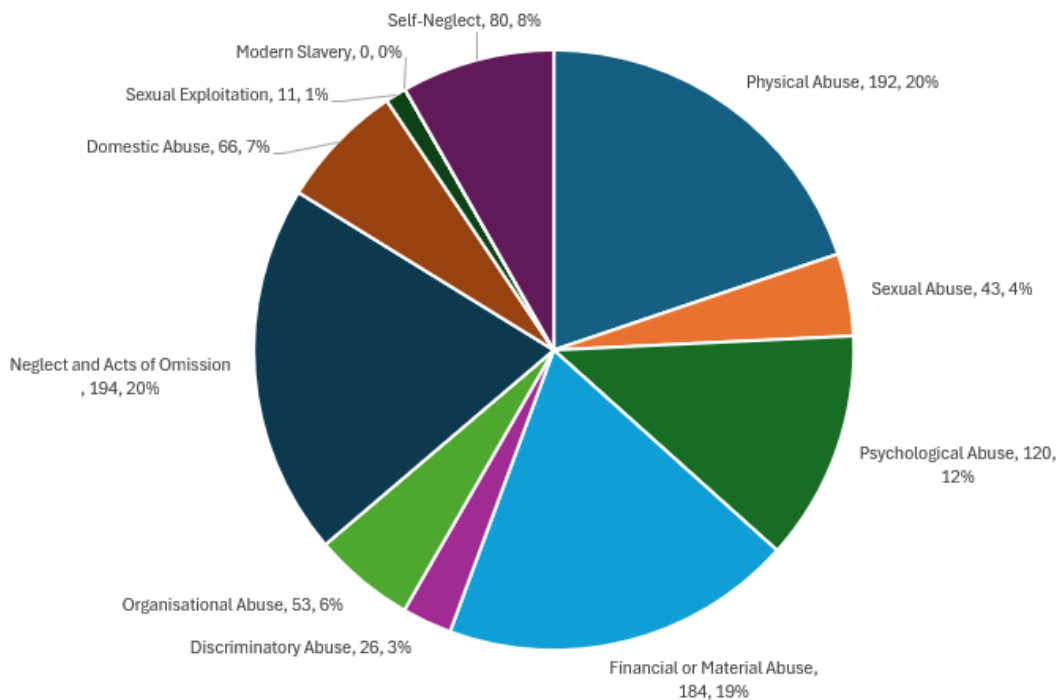


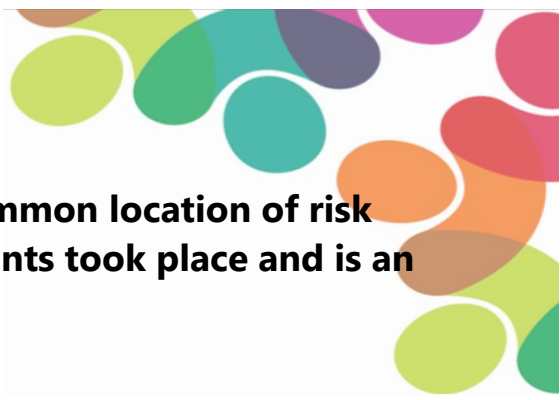
The majority of individuals where the concern resulted in an enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act (2014) were from white ethnic backgrounds:



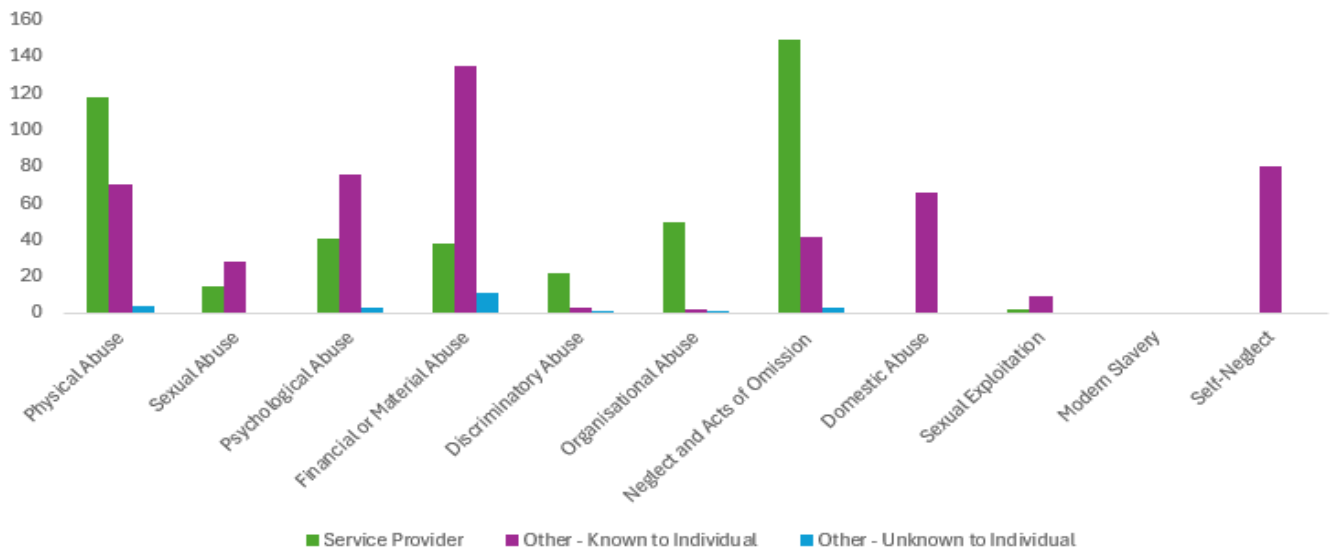
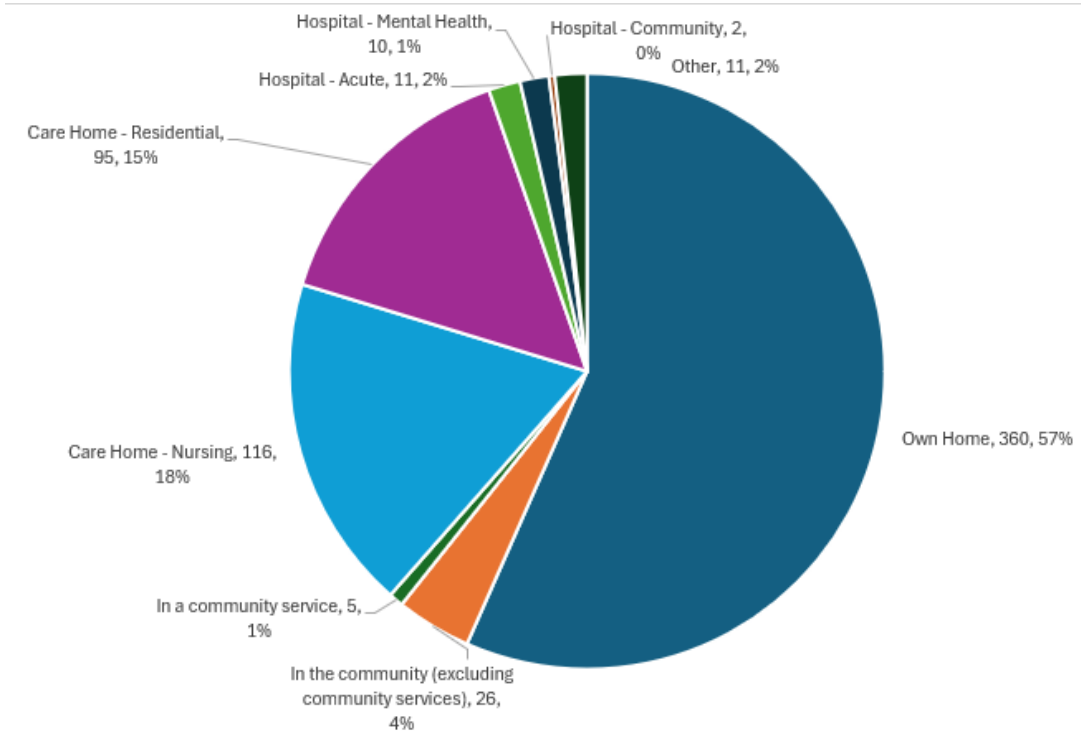
Type of abuse and source of risk

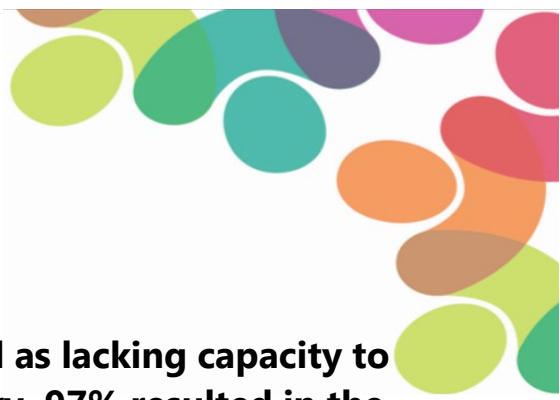
The most common risk type was Neglect and Acts of Omission, which accounted for 20% of risks, followed by Physical Abuse at 19.8% and Financial or Material Abuse at 19%.





As has long been the case nationally, the most common location of risk remains the person's own home where 57% incidents took place and is an increase from last year (55%).





Mental Capacity

In all 89 cases where the adult at risk was assessed as lacking capacity to make decisions related to the safeguarding enquiry, 97% resulted in the individuals being supported by an advocate, family member or friend.

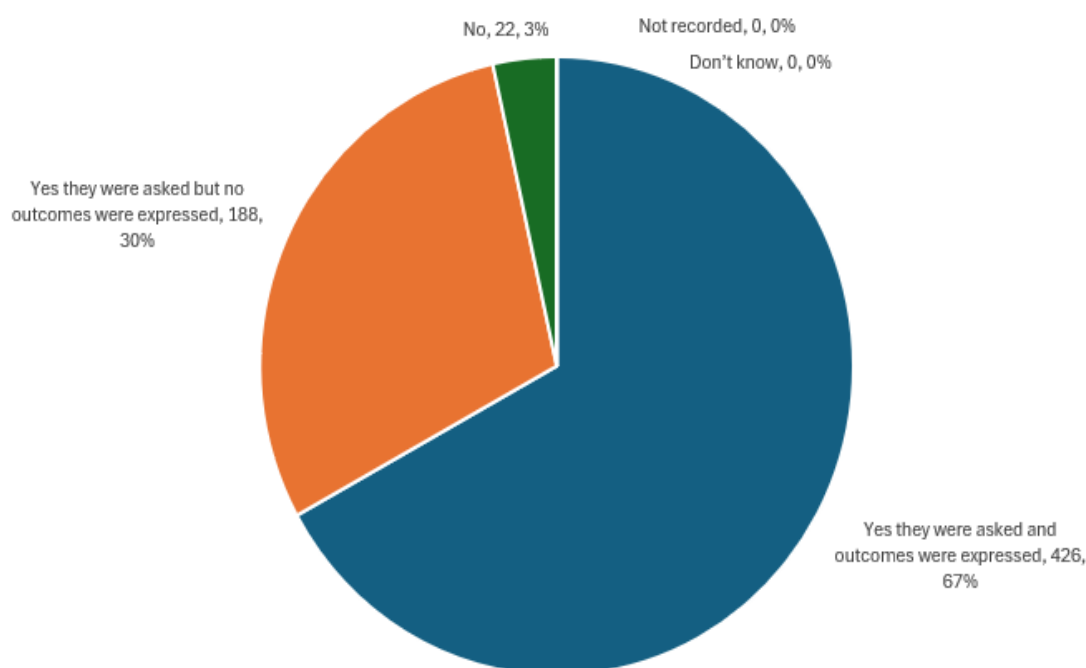
Making Safeguarding Personal

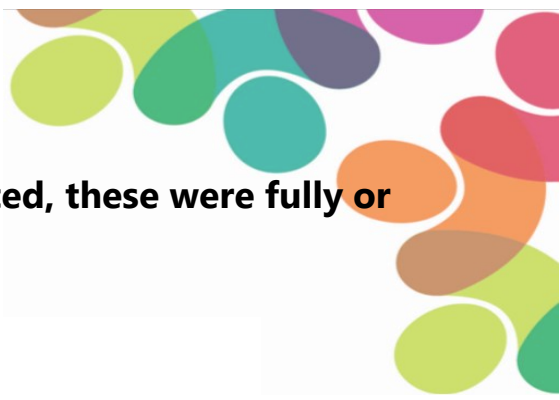
What does Making Safeguarding Personal mean?

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is about having conversations with people about how we all might respond in safeguarding situations in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

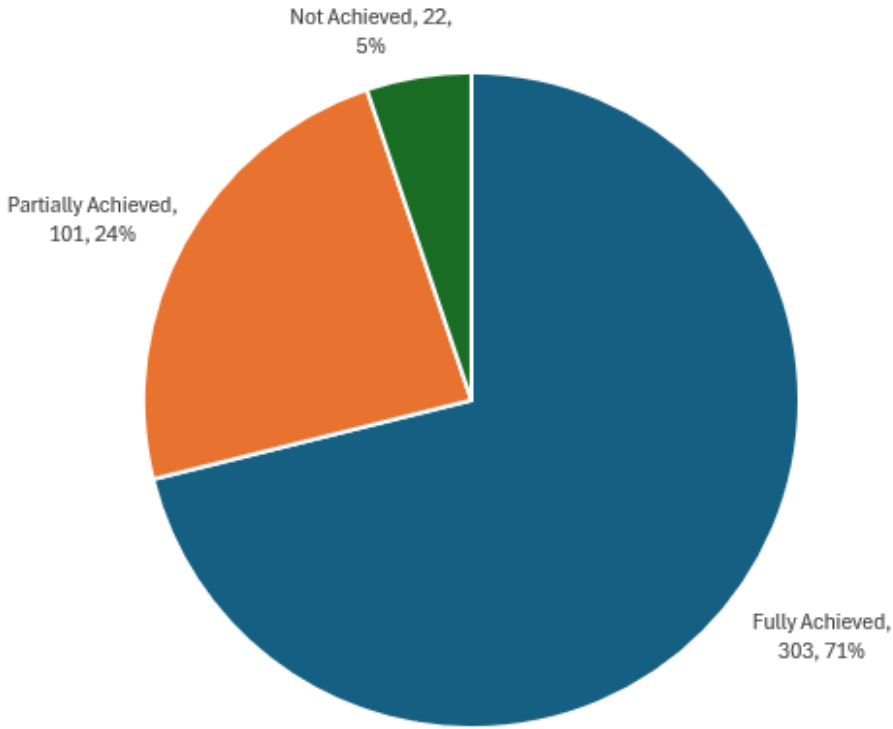
It is about seeing people as experts in their own lives and working alongside them. It is about collecting information about the extent to which this shift has a positive impact on people's lives. It is a shift from a process supported by conversations to a series of conversations supported by a process. The extent to which local services continue to promote an MSP approach has been monitored by the SSAB via its annual organisational self-audits, designed to give assurance to the Board of local practice.

The majority of people, or their representative, were asked what their desired outcomes were.

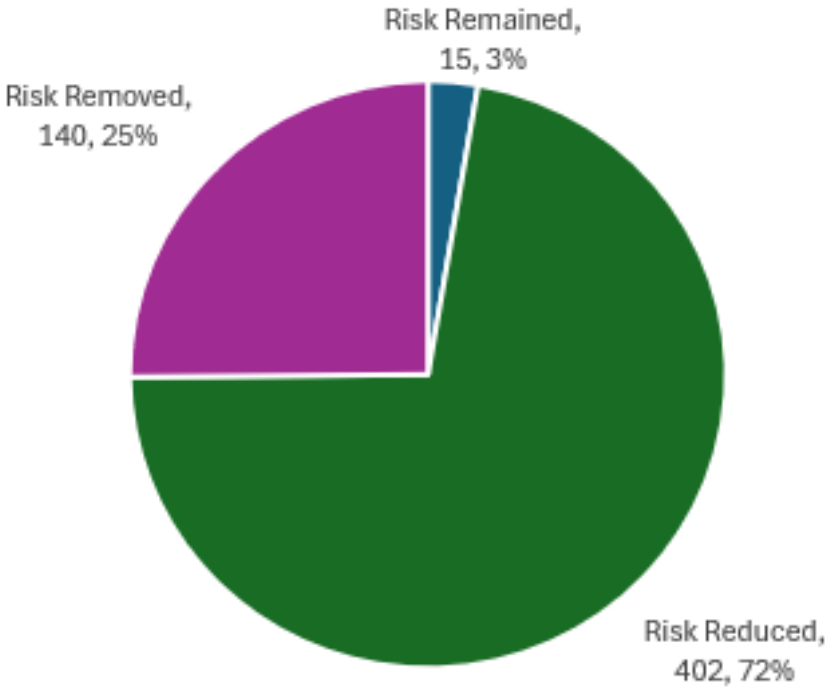




In 95% of cases where desired outcomes were stated, these were fully or partially achieved



Outcomes of enquiries made under Section 42 of the Care Act (2014)



5. SSAB Effectiveness Survey

The Board repeated its annual Effectiveness Survey to seek the views and experience of our multi-agency members on how the partnership is operating and delivering its core responsibilities.

We were reassured to see improved confidence levels across all bar 1 of the 12 effectiveness statements when compared to the results of early 2023 when we had just appointed a new Independent Chair; the improvements reflect the targeted work and focus of our new Chair, business unit, subgroups and members to tackle areas identified as requiring improvement.

The latest results show consensus from our members on those areas requiring further focus which helped inform our updated Strategic Plan. This work is especially beneficial given the Board appointed a new Independent Chair (January 2023) and this feedback allowed the Board to measure progress under their tenure against a baseline at the start as well as inform Board development plans.

The 12 statements contained within the Effectiveness Survey reflect those outlined within the national Adult Safeguarding Improvement Tool, developed in 2015. The tool outlines the characteristics of well-performing and ambitious partnerships and has continued to be utilised and recommended as a means of self-assessment as well as in peer reviews and challenge.

The results of this survey can also inform and contribute to local assurance activity band sector-led improvement work associated with the new CQC Assessment of LA Statutory Duties from April 2023 onwards, which will include a focus on how the Council works to ensure safety within the system.

SSAB Effectiveness – Board Member Survey Results

Statement No.	Board Effectiveness Statement	% Agreed / Strongly Agreed (2024)	% Agreed / Strongly Agreed (2023)
1	The SSAB demonstrates effective leadership and coordinates the delivery of adult safeguarding policy and practice across all agencies with representatives who are sufficiently senior to get things done	100% ↑	71%
2	Partners contribute human and financial resources to the SSAB to enable it to function effectively	79% ↑	53%
3	The SSAB provides challenge and support on the outcomes for and experiences of people needing services and the impact and effectiveness of service delivery to its member organisation	74% ↑	65%
4	The SSAB has a clear understanding of how well it is performing and what difference it makes through regular self-assessment and benchmarking, and has a positive attitude to learning and improvement across partners	95% ↑	59%
5	The SSAB safeguards adults both proactively, through awareness raising and prevention of abuse and neglect, and responsively, by creating frameworks to effectively respond once concerns are raised	89% ↑	53%
6	The SSAB uses data, information and intelligence to identify risks and trends, and formulates action in response to these	84% ↑	65%
7	The Board has good quality legal, medical, nursing, social work and other advice available to it as necessary	89% ↑	65%
8	There are strong links between the SSAB and other local partnerships (eg the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership and Children's Partnership)	74% ↑	29%
9	There are clear policies and protocols in place that integrate agency procedures in relation to adult safeguarding	74% ↓	76%
10	There are mechanisms in place to ensure that the views of people who are in situations that place them at risk of abuse and carers inform the work of the Board	47% ↑	41%
11	Reporting mechanisms (to the SSAB and from the SSAB to the Council and Boards of partner organisations) are clear and effective	63% ↑	47%
12	Board partners/members work in an atmosphere and culture of cooperation, mutual assurance, accountability and ownership of responsibility	95% ↑	94%
NEW	The SSAB is compliant with its statutory duties under The Care Act 2014	100% NEW	

SSAB Effectiveness Survey – Feedback examples from Board members

Identified SSAB Strengths	Identified opportunities for improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel the board has moved on significantly with new independent chair who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge. Also a strength is the positive working relationships and willingness/ enthusiasm to work together to improve Safeguarding related work within somerset by key agencies. • Collaboration between sub-group members, which enables productive outcomes regarding policy and practice guidance. The interface between the sub-groups and SSAB now appears to work well with a culture of working together as opposed to seemingly operating as separate entities. • A very good Chair with extensive knowledge brings a lot to the table. An effective Business Manager and good support at the Board. • Increasing commitment to the Board and its work; a clearer and mutually agreed strategic plan informed by the lived experience of practitioners and managers. • Our Independent Chair who comes with significant energy, knowledge and experience and has helped direct the Board forward and achieve positive results after his 1st year in office; SSAB communications - well established; regular newsletter/X (twitter) that is well received and regarded; webinars and training opportunities being progressed; conferences; cross-regional engagement; a relaunched SSAB website; Effective and efficient business manager who balances the many demands of the Board/subgroups despite no wider business unit support; Networks / commitment from members; Policy and Procedures: Detailed, clear, extensive across a range of key areas and linked with region as appropriate; a strong NHS sub-group chair in this space; Strong evidence of scrutiny in relation to quality and performance reporting each quarter (standing board agenda item) informing clear recommendations for action; good focus on MSP within LA Safeguarding Service performance/approach. • Board Independent chair and Business Manager and support. Publishing awareness of Safeguarding Adults and all wanting to progress and be better for our communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the voice of lived experience evidenced in all we do and everything we develop as a board moving forwards. • When learning reviews take place extremely rich learning come from them and is shared well. However there has been a substantial delay in the undertaking of the reviews making some the of learning out of date, or not coming out in a timely way. • Continued public awareness raising. Possibly more clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and reporting mechanisms (or if these are already in place, clarity on where to find the information). • More evidence of how we listen to the lived experience voice to help shape the future. • Increasing commitment to the Board and its work; a clearer and mutually agreed strategic plan informed by the lived experience of practitioners and managers. • Co production and meaningful engagement with the public and those with direct experience of safeguarding, and ensuring our info is accessible and engaging; Continuing to ensure robust embedding of learning from SARs across our system; Maintaining readiness for CQC assessment contributions; more focus/support for younger adults (those with LD/MH) and the safety of transitions • Links to other boards and partnerships, to be able collaborate and do things once together instead of several ways several times, often involving the same professionals. Have more all age work to support transitional safeguarding.

6.Regional Organisational Safeguarding Self-Audits

A new sub-regional organisational safeguarding self-audit tool was issued in October 2023 with submissions required by 31/12/2023.

The same audit approach was undertaken across all 5 Safeguarding Boards/partnerships operating across the sub-regional footprint of Avon and Somerset Constabulary to support collective learning and action.

A total of 12 organisations operating in Somerset responded, including all 3 of the Board’s statutory partners. Detailed analysis of all submissions was undertaken by the SSAB’s Performance and Quality subgroup and subsequently presented to the Board for review.

Whilst we await comparative analysis from the sub-region and progress wider learning across our system, we have explored key findings locally – which align to recognised trends and areas of risk already picked up as part of our strategic plans - and will be progressing follow-up review and activity with organisations during 2024/25.



Highest areas of organisational confidence:

- Safeguarding prioritisation within contracts
- Whistleblowing and escalation procedures
- Safe recruitment

Lowest areas of organisational confidence:

- Training compliance
- Application of the Mental Capacity Act
- Improving responses to self-neglect

7. Communications



www.somersetsafeguardingadults.org.uk
0300 123 2224
adults@somerset.gov.uk

In the Autumn of 2023, we launched a new campaign encouraging Somerset residents to look out for members of their community who might be experiencing abuse.

The **campaign - 'Safeguarding is everyone's business'** - asks that people do their part in supporting their communities by recognising the signs of self-neglect when they see them because self-neglect can be an indicator that someone is being abused: 'Safeguarding is everyone's business' – new campaign launched for Stop Adult Abuse Week (somerset.gov.uk)

Safeguarding adults was also the focus of the November 2023 **'Carnival of Practice'** sessions delivered across the Council's adult social care service, with a central theme focused on 'Storytelling'.

The Independent chair of Somerset's Safeguarding Adults Board, Michael Preston- Shoot, presented on how the backstories of people who self-neglect can inform our understanding of their situation and our approach to supporting them.

SSAB members contributed to **a week of Stop Adult Abuse webinars** in November 2023 alongside neighbouring Boards to support safeguarding awareness raising locally, regionally and nationally. Somerset's session ('What's My Role in Safeguarding Adults') attracted the highest number of delegates during the week with 149 attendees virtually joining the webinar.



In February 2024, the SSAB launched new monthly **Safeguarding Adults Practice Updates** aimed at interested professionals across the local system. These continue to attract large number of attendees and provide updates on themes and learning arising from SARs nationally and locally.



Sessions from our Safeguarding Adult Partners from across the Somerset Network

SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

Join us for..

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PRACTICE UPDATES

Learning from safeguarding enquiries, local and National safeguarding Adult reviews and new policy updates.

These sessions will provide you with essential practice updates and emerging learning from safeguarding enquiries, great CPD opportunities for any health and social care professional in Somerset.

September 5th

Drop in – ask us any safeguarding adult related questions and the panel will try and help

Lunch and learn 12 – 12:45

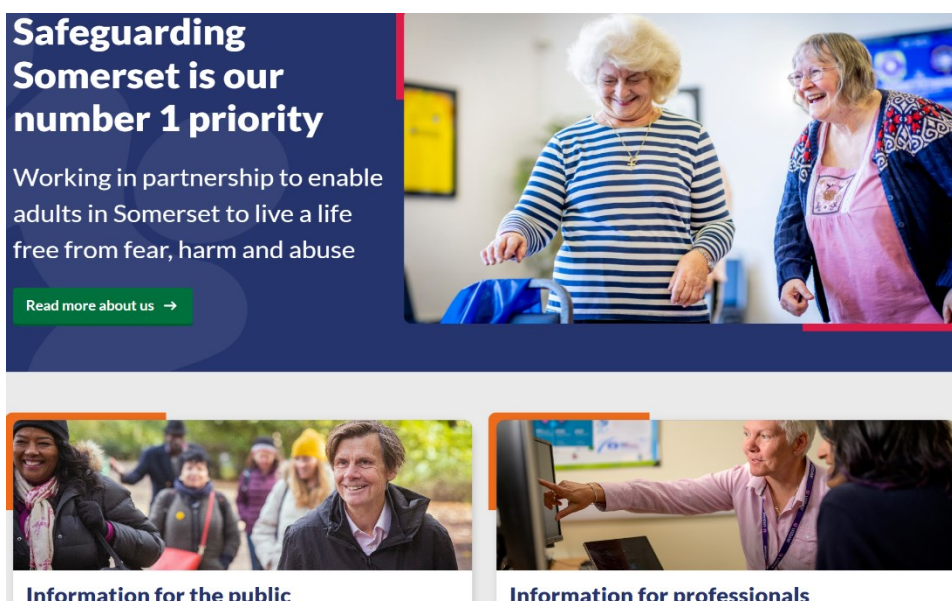
[Click here to join the meeting](#) where we will be sharing new and emerging learning, tools, new policies, practice guidance, review outcomes and matters of interest within adult safeguarding.

Created by Becky Franklin - Somerset Council Safeguarding Adults Team

The SSAB currently has **over 1,160 followers on X / Twitter** with numbers continuing to rise; engagement is monitored via our Performance and Quality subgroup.

We continue to publish a **SSAB Newsletter, which attracts close to 800 subscribers**, with current and previous editions also available on our SSAB Website. Our newsletters offer up-to-date information on current themes and support that can help both the public and practitioners across our area.

As part of our strategic plans, we undertook an **in-depth review of our website** which re-launched in November 2023: [Somerset Safeguarding Adults](#)




Safeguarding Somerset is our number 1 priority

Working in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse

[Read more about us →](#)

Information for the public

Information for professionals



We have continued to improve and update this site to better support local people and professionals alike and will progress this activity further in the new year ahead as part of our development plans and ambitions.

Additionally, our SSAB Independent Chair has contributed to a number of **Social Work Sessions podcast episodes** (including self-neglect, legal literacy, and Making Safeguarding Personal), hosted by the Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care in Somerset Council. The podcast provides information through discussions with people in social work, from the frontline, academic and elsewhere: [Social Work Sessions | Podcast on Spotify](#)



8. Safeguarding Adults Reviews

All safeguarding is complex, challenging work but this is never more so than when an individual dies or is seriously harmed through abuse or neglect. The impact on families, carers and the professionals involved should not be under-estimated and is never taken lightly by any organisation or professional.

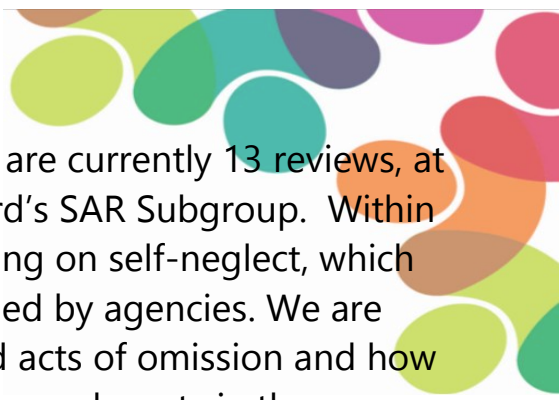
A vital role of the Board is to seek assurance on the effectiveness of local safeguarding activity and to ensure practice continually improves. It is required to commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to identify whether lessons can be learnt about the effectiveness of multi-agency working to safeguard adults at risk.

The Care Act 2014 states that a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) must be arranged by the Safeguarding Adults Board when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and when there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult. A SAR must also be arranged if an adult has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

SARs are demanding pieces of work and are dependent on the openness and reflection of agencies involved to identify what worked well and what could have been better.

The SSAB has a multi-agency SAR subgroup whose role it is to ensure statutory requirements are met in relation to reviews, and the quality assurance of review reports. The subgroup has been chaired by the Chair of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board to address the increase in the number of SAR referrals, those progressing to SARs and the reoccurring themes.

Where a case meets the criteria, and it is not possible to demonstrate the necessary degree of independence from within the partnership, the Subgroup will oversee the appointment of an independent, external Chair and/or Review Author. Where independence can be demonstrated from within the partnership, for example where the review can be chaired by a senior representative from a partnership agency with no involvement in the case, the Board has developed a local review process which is similar to that used by some other Boards.



Whilst no SARs were concluded during 2023/24, there are currently 13 reviews, at different stages, being actively progressed by the Board’s SAR Subgroup. Within the ongoing reviews, we have a thematic review focusing on self-neglect, which also considers mental capacity and how this is addressed by agencies. We are reviewing cases involving coercive control, neglect and acts of omission and how organisations can support people, their families and even advocates in these situations. We are also working more collaboratively with our partners and have a review which incorporates elements which a domestic homicide review would include; we will work with the Domestic Abuse Board when our learning is available.

We continue to receive regular referrals for the SAR Subgroup’s attention, who consider the themes that are being presented and how we can address these proactively. The continued presentation of self-neglect and mental capacity themes has led the Board to focus on these areas.

Updates on reviews published in previous years:

The SSAB Learning and Development Subgroup monitors the progress of work to address the recommendations made by all SARs each time it meets, and requests evidence that any action has been completed before agreeing that it has been completed. Progress updates regarding those recommendations that were outstanding as at 01/04/2023 are included below:

Damien Safeguarding Adults Review (published 31/03/2021)

The review made 10 recommendations. As at 31/03/2024 the status of each was as follows:

Recommendations where assurance has been received that the recommendation has been completed or implemented:

	Summary of Recommendation
10	That the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board seeks assurance that organisations are able to demonstrate that assessments are holistic.

Matthew Safeguarding Adults Review (published 14/12/2021)

The review made 7 recommendations. As at 31/03/2024 the status of each was as follows:

Recommendations where assurance has been received that the recommendation has been completed or implemented:

	Summary of Recommendation
6	That all Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board member organisations actively promote "What to do if it's not Safeguarding?" within their organisations and remind staff of the importance of clear minutes being taken of any multi-disciplinary meetings that take place (which include clear actions allocated to named professionals/organisations and shared with all involved in the meeting); and of any capacity assessments undertaken.

Robert Safeguarding Adults Review (published 18/01/2023)

The review made 9 recommendations. As at 31/03/2024 the status of each was as follows:

Recommendations where assurance has been received that the recommendation has been completed or implemented:

	Summary of Recommendation
2	Somerset County Council Adult Social Care, the District Council Housing Department and the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (for GPs) should agree a multi-agency action plan to increase understanding and recognition of self-neglect (including ways of working with people who self-neglect as outlined in this SAR, for example that refusal of treatment can be self-neglect, that self-neglect can be reported as a safeguarding concern, that it should not be regarded as a lifestyle choice, that people who self-neglect can disguise or feign compliance) and that there is a need to involve people's families.
3	Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board should update its self-neglect practice guidance to ensure it covers the most up to date practice research including understanding childhood and other life experiences and involving families. An audit tool should be used across the partnership to demonstrate that improvements have been made. In updating the



	<p>guidance, the Board should agree methods to raise multi-agency awareness of, and processes for, using legislation (Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Human Rights Act, Mental Health Act, environmental health acts etc) to intervene to support people who self-neglect and the circumstances and risks which exceed the capability of a single agency, team or individual to manage them on their own and when there is a need to involve other agencies or teams.</p>
4	<p>The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board should lead an analysis of the extent to which the policy, procedural and organisational environment in Somerset fosters effective ways of working with people who self-neglect and ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Do agencies share definitions and understandings of self-neglect?- Is inter-agency coordination and shared risk-management facilitated by clear referral routes, communication and decision-making systems?- Is longer-term supportive, relationship-based involvement accepted as a pattern of work.- Does training and supervision challenge and support practitioners to engage with the ethical challenges, legal options, skills and emotions involved in self-neglect practice?- When services withdraw is there sufficient risk management planning to identify and act upon any self-neglect relapse?
5	<p>Somerset County Council Adult Social Care should invite Housing and other relevant partner agencies to Neighbourhood Multi-disciplinary team meetings so that difficult cases can be shared and ideas for intervention generated and explored with the benefit of a broader skill-set and experience base.</p>
6	<p>Somerset County Council and District Councils should ensure that now, and in the future, with the creation of a unitary authority in Somerset from 1/4/23, that there are open channels of communication between partner agencies, clear pathways and referral points for raising concerns including safeguarding concerns, and a shared understanding of statutory powers and duties and the self-neglect policy and procedure.</p>
7	<p>The Somerset County Council Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team should ensure that safeguarding enquiries are made in a timely manner and are</p>

	not delayed by the lack of “availability” of a staff member and have a process for allocation on the basis of risk.
8	When supporting an individual’s rehousing or move to temporary accommodation, the District Council Housing Department and Somerset County Council Adult Social Care should ensure there is communication with the individual’s family to avoid misunderstandings about the whereabouts of possessions.
9	GP practices should give more consideration to follow-up when patients disengage with the assessment and treatment of their medical health conditions (including disengagement with prescribed medication).

Recommendations where further assurance is being sought, the recommendation has been completed or implemented, or where audits have been requested to test compliance:

	Summary of Recommendation
1	Somerset County Council Adult Social Care and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (for GPs) should agree a multi-agency action plan aimed at improving the understanding of the practical application of the Mental Capacity Act (to include but not limited to: that self-neglect should trigger a mental capacity assessment, that mental capacity requires assessment rather than assertion, that physical and mental health conditions may mean there is an impairment or disturbance in the functioning of the mind or brain, that mental capacity is decision and time-specific, yet should be seen as a video rather than a snapshot, that the Mental Capacity Act does not give the right to make unwise decisions). An audit tool should be used across the partnership to demonstrate that improvements have been made.

9. Development Event

During January 2024, Board members participated in a development day to identify reoccurring themes across Somerset and areas that the SSAB wanted to prioritise for the forthcoming year.

The day proved extremely productive; multi-agency working provided a full spectrum of views, and resulted in an agreed understanding of the priorities for the year ahead; these identified requirements have now been recorded on our action tracker for the SSAB Board and subgroups, individual organisations, whilst those identified as Board priorities, have informed our updated Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, which you may find below.

10. Our priorities for 2024/25

The Board recognises more can be achieved by working together in partnership and has identified four strategic objectives for its strategic plan for 2024-2027 based on learning, intelligence and feedback. The plan will be updated annually:

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.

What will demonstrate success:

- People with lived experience are empowered to give the thoughts and how they feel about their experience
- There is a citizen-led safeguarding input in place to provide input into the Board's ways of working and effective safeguarding practice
- Positive feedback from user groups on 'MARM' and how this works effectively within their environment.

- 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.
- Documents and guidance will be available in Easyread and a range of languages representative of our community

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.

What will demonstrate success:

- 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.
- Capture good practice in relation to mental capacity assessments, particularly with a focus on executive functioning,
- 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.

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.
-

What will demonstrate success:

- 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.
- The Board has assurance that learning has been embedded within organisations, so themes do not continue to be replicated in SAR learning.
- Audits are completed and summary results are included in its annual report.
- 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.
- 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.

What will demonstrate success:

- 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.
- A strategy will be agreed which addresses exploitation at any age and is adopted by all services and organisations.

11. Board Budget

An agreement remains in place to split the costs of any Safeguarding Adult Review equally between Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Somerset NHS Integrated Care Board and Somerset Council separately to the Board's core funding.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	CONTRIBUTIONS	
	£	%
Somerset Council - SAB Manager & Chair - Safeguarding Adults Reviews	48,448 2,400	
Avon & Somerset Police - SAB Manager & Chair - Safeguarding Adults Reviews	15,900 2,400	
Somerset NHS ICB - SAB Manager & Chair - Safeguarding Adults Reviews	10,000 2,400	
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	81,548	
APPLICATION OF FUNDS	EXPENDITURE	
	£	%
Pay Safeguarding Board Manager Independent Chair	65,836 15,814	
Non-Pay Safeguarding Adults Reviews Insurance	7,200 66	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	88,916	
ANNUAL OVERSPEND / (UNDERSPEND)	7,368	

12. Our work during 2023/24

The SSAB identified the following four objectives within its Strategic Plan for 2023-2026:

1. Community Engagement
2. Understand and manage Self-Neglect
3. Promotion of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board
4. Transitional Safeguarding and Exploitation

During 2023/24 the Board's work continued to carry out its statutory duties, whilst moving forward at a pace, proactively raising awareness of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board, promoting learning and gaining assurance across its organisations in Somerset.

Priority Area 1: Community Engagement

What SSAB said it would do

Hear the voices of people with lived experience

What the SSAB did

- Organisations have continued to reach out to those with lived experience and their families to understand the learning to embed.
- During our Safeguarding Adults Week of November 2023, a family member spoke about their experience and how they thought safeguarding was managed, both the positive and areas for action.
- The Local Authority has established a Working Together Board to support greater co-production opportunities to whom the SSAB has reached out, linking with other services who hear the voices of those with lived experience.



What SSAB said it would do

What the SSAB did

Increase and explore different ways to work with citizens of Somerset to improve our policies, systems and processes by understanding what matters to them.

- The Performance and Quality and Assurance Subgroup published a survey to engage with those who have either care and support needs or work with those with care and support needs.
- Our Policy and Procedures Subgroup has linked to organisations who have care and support needs to contribute to the revised documents.

Continue to develop consistent and effective processes and communication channels to inform our work. Embedding MARM (Multi Agency Risk Management) in agencies across Somerset.

- MARM guidance has been updated and there are now monthly Safeguarding Adults Practice Updates, which have promoted the use of MARM and how anyone can call a multi-agency meeting.
- MARM is reviewed regularly and updated, this is published on the [SSAB website](#) and advertised through our [Newsletters](#) and [X 'Twitter'](#).

Develop a Safeguarding network to improve engagement across Somerset.

- There is ongoing work to reach out to all of our communities to promote safeguarding and hear their voices.
- The SSAB is currently preparing events for VCSFE and creating a network for operational safeguarding leads.

Provide accessible publications and guidance

- We are pleased to be able to now publish our annual report and strategic plan in Easyread to support inclusivity and accessibility with thanks to the support of one of our Board member organisations.

Priority Area 2: Promotion of MCA and how it can be used

What SSAB said it would do

Promote the application of MCA assessments to ascertain mental capacity and how self-neglect may be addressed.

Focus on executive functioning and how this is addressed within MCA.

What the SSAB did

- Work has been undertaken across Somerset to increase training compliance; This is routinely monitored although workforce capacity/demand and financial impacts have been noted.
 - MCA and how to assess capacity has been presented as part of Care Provider Learning Engagement Meetings.
 - The SSAB is preparing a webinar on mental capacity and safeguarding as part of their Safeguarding Adults Practice Updates.
 - The MCA Subgroup is preparing webinars to cover self-neglect and mental capacity for care providers.
 - All training webinars will be available on the SSAB website for anyone to access.
-
- Guidance on self-neglect has been updated and published on the SSAB website.
 - Executive functioning has been addressed and continues to be highlighted in a variety of ways. Our webinar in February discussed self-neglect and the how mental capacity and executive functioning.
 - The MCA and Safeguarding webinar has highlighted how someone may be thought to have capacity but there is no executive functioning.
-

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.

- We continue to seek the views of those with lived experience and those who have supported them. Their experience and thoughts will be used to give a lived experience perspective when creating policies and guidance.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

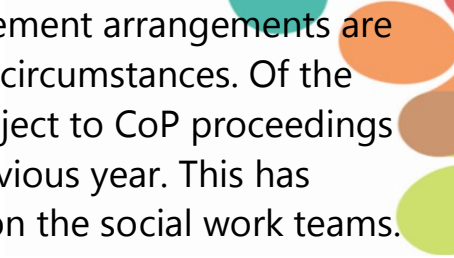
The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) have been in operation since April 2009. Since April 2013 the functioning of the safeguards has been the sole responsibility of local authorities. Each year all local authorities make a statutory return about DoLS activity to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). At a national level the statistics continue to confirm that the system is not working as it should because large numbers of requests for assessment cannot be addressed as shown in the following table showing Somerset's figures. Somerset's position in its administration of the DoLS scheme is broadly in line with comparable local authorities in the region and nationally.

DoLS activity in Somerset

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% Change
Total applications	2881	3280	3393	+3%
from Care Homes	1782	2111	2012	-5%
from Hospitals	1099	1169	1381	+18%
Assessments completed	672	734	754	+2.7%

Authorisations granted	634	685	704	+2.8%
Authorisations not granted/ of which not assessed	1984/1939	2824/2778	2597/2546	-8%
Waiting list at year end	2484	2240	2327	+3.9%

- A high proportion of the 'Authorisations not granted/ not assessed' were the result of death or discharge from hospital or care home prior to assessments taking place. The majority of the cases actually assessed resulted in an authorisation being granted.
- The notable increase in authorisations not granted during 2022/23 is due to a thorough data cleansing exercise which identified people who had moved or died but about whom the DoLS service had not been notified previously.
- The 9% increase in the number of assessments completed represents an improvement in efficiency across the DoLS system. There was no corresponding increase in staffing resources.
- The majority of assessments by Best Interests Assessors are completed in person. Approximately 50% of assessments by doctors are completed remotely.
- Representatives appointed when a DoLS authorisation is granted. There has been a trend in recent years towards independent advocates being appointed in an increasing proportion of cases. In Somerset we appointed advocate representatives in 479 of the 704 authorisations, which equals 68%. This is a small reduction from the 74% in 2022/23.

- 
- Court of Protection – people subject to DoLS authorisations who are objecting to their placement arrangements are actively supported by the Council and their representatives to seek a judicial review of their circumstances. Of the people subject to Somerset DoLS authorisations during 2023/24 approximately 60 were subject to CoP proceedings at some point. This is a marked increase compared to the approximately 45 cases in the previous year. This has created significant pressure on the staffing resources of the Council’s legal team as well as on the social work teams. A social worker needs to be allocated in each case, even if the person’s care is not funded by Somerset Council, and in most cases there is also a request for access to social care records which represents an additional demand upon Business Support teams.

Community Deprivations of Liberty

These are situations where a person who lacks capacity to make decisions about their care arrangements needs to be cared for in a restrictive manner but is not in hospital or a care home. An example would be a supported living service. For these people any deprivation of liberty requires authorisation from the Court of Protection.

As part of the preparation for the Liberty Protection Safeguards a detailed exercise was undertaken to identify all of those people who will require a Community DoL application to the Court and to identify those with the highest priority.

The majority of these cases are of people with learning disabilities or autism and are the responsibility of the newly established specialist social work teams. This exercise is partly complete and the Council continues to look for ways to increase the staffing resources available to undertake these detailed pieces of work.

Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)

On April 5th 2023, the government announced that the LPS scheme would not be implemented during the life of the current parliament. This means that although the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 which would have created the scheme remains on the statute book, no decision about implementation will be made until after the General Election. The implementation of LPS is not likely to be a main priority for the new government and the team of civil servants at

the Department of Health and Social Care working on the Mental Capacity Act has been largely disbanded. It is not anticipated that the LPS will come in during the next two years and may be abandoned completely.

However, much of the preparation work for the LPS scheme can be used constructively to improve how the Mental Capacity Act and the DoLS scheme are applied. In partnership with other local authorities in the South West region and across the country, Somerset Council is actively engaged in reviewing its current deprivation of liberty system and resources to look for ways of increasing the number of people who can benefit from the safeguards.

Mental Capacity Act audits

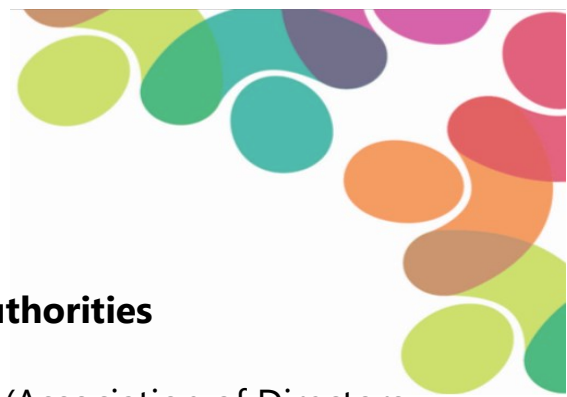
During the early part of 2024 Somerset Council's Adult Social Care Service carried out a detailed audit of its workers' assessments of mental capacity. This audit forms part of a wider programme of auditing case records against social care standards which is guided by the Council's recently established Practice Quality Board which meets monthly.

The learning from the audits showed that there is plenty of good quality assessment work being undertaken by Council staff but that there are a number of common weaknesses which an action plan will seek to address.

The plan involves the eight workers in specific practice development roles focussing upon:

1. Detailed feedback to all workers whose assessment were audited
2. A revision of the current recording format and associated guidance
3. The development of exemplar assessments to be used in formal in informal training activities.
4. A refreshed version of the formal training attended by all ASC staff
5. Further auditing later in 2024 to include looking at best interests decision-making.

The outcomes from the audit and the follow up plan were presented to the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board in May 2024. The methodology of and learning from the audits is being offered to any other partner agencies who wish to follow this up.




Mental Capacity thematic review of Safeguarding Adults Reviews by South West local authorities

This review was carried out by Barry Graves having been commissioned by South West ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services), and produced a set of recommendations about strengthening the use of the MCA across health and social care systems and other public agencies and care provider services.

The learning from this review and the recommendations will form the subject of a Somerset Council assurance report to the SSAB later in 2024.

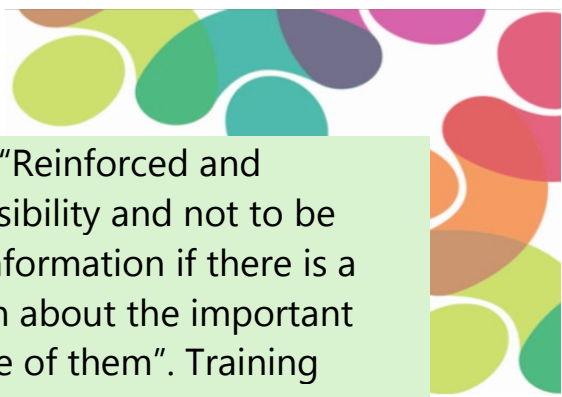
Priority Area 3: Role of the Somerset SAB

What SSAB said it would do	What the SSAB did
Improve community awareness of adult safeguarding using all available opportunities to increase public involvement and engage media interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SSAB maintains a number of communication channels to support understanding of adult safeguarding matters, enable people to keep themselves safe, and promote the work of the Board. Engagement is monitored closely, with engagement peaks found to coincide with the launch of reports and awareness raising campaigns/ activity/ newsletter issue.• Coinciding with the national Safeguarding Adults Week (20-24 November 2023), the SSAB launched its new public awareness and poster campaign encouraging residents to look out for members of their community who might be experiencing abuse. The campaign, 'Safeguarding is everyone's



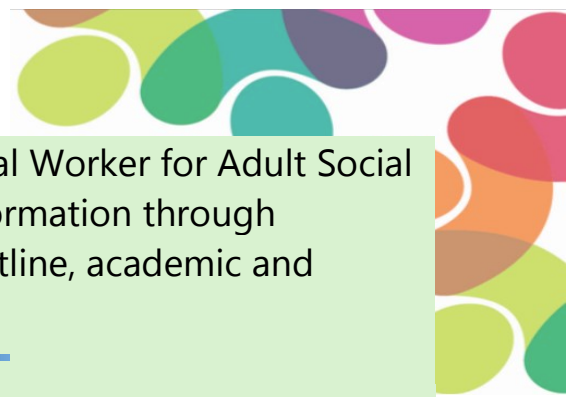
business', asks that people do their part in supporting their communities by recognising the signs of self-neglect, in response to the rise of instances of self-neglect experienced in Somerset since the pandemic, and was widely promoted across local media. 'Safeguarding is everyone's business' – new campaign launched for Stop Adult Abuse Week (somerset.gov.uk)

- As part of our strategic plans, an in-depth refresh and review of our website was undertaken launching in November 2023: Somerset Safeguarding Adults.
- Safeguarding adults was also the focus of the November 2023 'Carnival of Practice' sessions delivered across the Council's adult social care service, focused on 'Storytelling'. Independent chair of Somerset's Safeguarding Adult's Board, Michael Preston Shoot, presented on how the backstories of people who self-neglect can inform our understanding of their situation and our approach to supporting them. A Somerset Social Worker, Sam, also presented a powerful story of supporting a gentleman who was self-neglecting and hoarding – video available here: Willie's Story.
- SSAB members contributed to a week of Stop Adult Abuse webinars alongside neighbouring Boards to support safeguarding awareness raising during Safeguarding Adults Week in November. Somerset's session ('What's My Role in Safeguarding Adults') attracted the highest number of delegates during the week with 149 attendees virtually joining the webinar. Across the whole week, the average delegate rating (where 1 star is poor and 5 stars is excellent) was 4.5 stars. Feedback for Somerset's webinar included:
"Particularly loved the session around curiosity and practical tips and tools



shared for gathering the detail of the situation”, and “Reinforced and reminded me that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and not to be worried about legal implications regarding sharing information if there is a safeguarding concern. It was also interesting to learn about the important role of the safeguarding advocates as I was not aware of them”. Training (somersetsafeguardingadults.org.uk). Additionally in April 2024 the SSAB hosted 2 webinars on self-neglect and MCA for care providers which were well attended with lots of participation.

- The most recent SSAB Newsletter was issued in March 2024 to 758 subscribers: SSAB Newsletters – Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (safeguardingsomerset.org.uk) New subscribers are attracted each month, with 197 sign ups during the 2023/24 financial year.
- The SSAB currently has 1,167 followers on X / Twitter – a slight rise since the last quarterly performance report in February 2024. (@SomersetSAB) / X (twitter.com)
- The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board has been hosting monthly Safeguarding Adults Practice Updates on the first Thursday of each month exploring different topics including self-neglect, multi-agency risk management and information sharing. These are open to all interested professionals across Somerset and are widely promoted.
- SSAB Independent Chair has contributed to a number of Social Work Sessions podcast episodes (including self-neglect, legal literacy, and Making



Safeguarding Personal), hosted by the Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care in Somerset Council. The podcast provides information through discussions with people in social work, from the frontline, academic and elsewhere. Social Work Sessions | Podcast on Spotify

Seek information and assurance from the partnership about how learning is shared within their organisations and how this is improving practice.

- Our new monthly Safeguarding Adults Practice Updates promotes the sharing of learning across all organisations in Somerset.
 - The Learning and Development Subgroup is reaching out to all organisations through networking and events, creating pathways for information dissemination and learning.
 - Feedback is being sought to how organisations use our guidance.
-

Biennial self-audits are used to check and evidence awareness of the Board and how it is supporting organisations.

- A new sub-regional organisational self-audit tool was issued October 2023 with organisations submitting their responses by the end of the year.
 - There is now a detailed analysis, reviewing the organisational self-audits submitted for Somerset. The same audit approach was undertaken across all 5 Safeguarding Boards/partnerships operating across the sub-regional footprint of Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
-

Safeguarding assurance schedule in place to cover Somerset

- SSAB Effectiveness Survey conducted in January 2024.
- The Board has seen confidence levels improve across all bar 1 of the 12 Effectiveness statements when comparing survey results to those taken a year ago in early 2023. There is consensus from Board members in the areas that require our ongoing further focus and attention.

- Results from our survey have helped inform and influence our Strategic Plan and is valuable evidence to support assurance activity.

Priority Area 4: Transitional Safeguarding and Exploitation

What SSAB said it would do

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.

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.

What the SSAB did

- Adult Social Care has recognised the need to provide further support for the transition from children to adults. The Preparing for Adulthood Team now have referrals for young people from 14yrs+ who have been identified as likely to require support from Adult Social Care at 18yrs. Some young people may not be eligible for services under the Care Act, in these situations, advice, information and signposting is provided.
- The Preparing for Adulthood Service works with young people who have a Learning Disability, Physical Disabilities and Health Conditions.
- If a young person has a significant Mental Health Need the referral would come through the Preparing for Adulthood Team, however this would then be allocated to the MHSC Team to complete the Care Act Assessment.

- Somerset has a newly formed Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Forum, which addresses areas pertinent to many of our partnerships and boards. An All-Age Exploitation Strategy is a priority for the Forum and has already been scoped, with members contributing their data and knowledge, which will be used to create the All-Age Exploitation Strategy.

Safeguarding is everyone's business

Lack of self-care is a sign of self-neglect

Look out for your community and
#MakeSomersetSafe



 www.somersetsafeguardingadults.org.uk
 0300 123 2224
 adults@somerset.gov.uk