



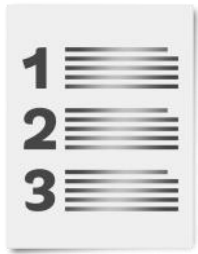
**SOMERSET
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD**

Keeping Adults safe

2023 – 2024



Easy read report



Contents

page



Introduction

3



Safeguarding concerns reported this year

5



What we have done this year

7



What we plan to do next

8



What to do if you are worried about someone

10



Introduction

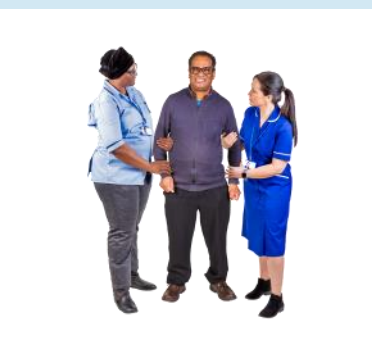


Somerset Safeguarding Adults board (SSAB) is a group of people from different organisations
Michael Preston - Shoot is the independent chairperson



The board work together to keep adults in Somerset safe from harm and abuse

Adults are people over 18 years old



Adults who have care and support needs can be more **at risk** from abuse and neglect

They may not be able to keep themselves safe



Abuse is when a person is hurt or badly treated

Neglect is when a person is not supported well

Self-neglect is when a person stops taking care of themselves.



The Somerset adult safeguarding board **support adults** who have been badly treated or abused



Introduction



When a person dies or is seriously hurt the board must do a **review**.

A **review** means to look at what was done and how things can be better in the future



Some new things we did this year include -

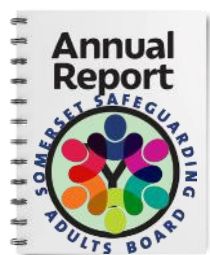
• ‘Safeguarding is everyone’s business’ - Our **campaign to tell more people** about spotting signs of abuse or self-neglect and how to report it



• Self- audits—Organisations report to us on a list of things they do. The information tells us where we can help to **make things better**



• We updated our **website**



There is a **full report** on our **website** about the work we have done in the past year and what we will do next



This is a **short version** of our full report



Safeguarding concerns this year

Concern - worried that people are being abused or neglected



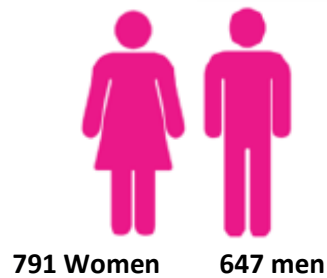
Concerns reported

There were **91** less concerns reported to the local authority than last year



Enquiries- finding out what happened when harm or abuse is reported about an adult at risk

There were **85** less enquiries than last year
In Somerset more concerns lead to enquiries compared to other areas in England



People at risk of abuse and neglect this year

Most people at risk were **women**



Type of abuse most reported

194 reports of **Neglect** - not being looked after

192 reports of **Physical** abuse - a person's body is hurt

184 reports of **Financial** abuse - a person's money or things are taken



Safeguarding concerns this year



Places people are most at risk of abuse

- Own **home** - 360 concerns
- **Nursing** care home - 116 concerns
- **Residential** care home – 95 concerns



Mental capacity

89 adults at risk needed someone to support them understand and make decisions about their safeguarding enquiry



Most of the adults at risk were supported to make decisions by an advocate, family member or friend



Making safeguarding personal

614 people with their supporter were asked what they wanted to be done to keep them safe



Stopping the risk of abuse

Most things people asked for to keep them safe were achieved

22 things people asked for were not achieved



What we have done this year

2023/2024



1. Community Engagement

- A survey for people with care and support needs and people who work with them
- We linked with organisations for their views when updating documents.
- Improvements to the way agencies work together to manage and review risks.
- More work to reach and hear different voices.
- Easy read versions of our annual report and strategic plan make it more accessible.



2. Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and how it can be used

- Checks in place that more training is being completed.
- More training is available.
- Guidance on self-neglect is on SSAB website.
- Ongoing work to include views of people with lived experience.



3. Promote the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

- We know most interest from people was after our reports, campaigns or newsletters.
- We have more people following our social media posts on X (was twitter).



4. Transitional safeguarding and exploitation

- More support is available for young people aged 14+ when they move to adult services
- A new partnership group is making a big plan to stop or reduce risk of exploitation at any age



What we will do next



Community Engagement

- We want to work with people who use our services to help us make decisions.
- We want to work together to co-produce policies and plans.
- Have better links with local communities.

We will see success when



- People with lived experience want to share their views about their experience.
- Community input into ways the Board works
- Good feedback where organisations work together to manage risks
- Organisations know who to contact about safeguarding concerns in their network
- Documents are in easy read and other languages used in the community



Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and how it can be used

Mental Capacity is being able to understand and make your own decisions.



- We want practitioners to know how to use MCA for people who might not be able make their own decisions.
- We want people to know what to do if they think someone needs an assessment.
- We want people to be confident in using the Mental Capacity Act.

We will see success when



- We know MCA assessments are taking place.
- We can show the quality of the assessments.
- Practitioners are confident to do assessments.
- We see our partners improvements and plans.



What we will do next



Role of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

- We want organisations to understand the role of the board and how it keeps adults safe.
- We want all our information to be accessible.
- We want to work with more organisations about keeping people safe in local communities.

We will see success when

- People know what abuse is and how to respond.
- Adults feel confident with the support to feel safe.
- Organisations take on learning and the themes in safeguarding reviews are not repeated.
- Results of our checks included in annual report.
- The quality subgroup reports to the board.



Safeguarding for young people becoming adults

- We want to recognise young people's needs do not change or stop when they become adults. Some people are forced to work or do things for other people - this is called **exploitation**.

- We want to support all young adults at risk of exploitation.
- We want children's and adult services to work together to better respond to changing needs.
- We want a partnership to support safeguarding where young people are more at risk.

We will see success when

- There are no barriers to a person centred service.
- All services have the same plan to lower the risk





For more information and the full report

Go to our website



 www.somerset safeguarding adults.org.uk



If you are worried about yourself or someone else and want our help -



Phone: **0300 123 2224**



Email: adults@somerset.gov.uk



In an emergency phone the police **999**
If it is not an emergency, dial **101**



We will make sure anyone you tell us about is safe



We will always deal with any calls in confidence