

## 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	2025-2027	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	Sept 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	Provide accessible publications and guidance  <i>Empowerment</i>	Provide documents that are accessible to all areas of the community	Learning and Development Subgroup	2025-2026	Documents and guidance will be available in Easyread and a range of languages representative of our community.
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## 2: Homelessness

### Desired outcomes:

- Address the unique safeguarding needs of individuals experiencing through street homelessness, rough sleeping, temporary accommodation, sofa surfing.
- Raise awareness of the dangers of rough sleeping and increase agencies understanding of their responsibility to refer safeguarding concerns.
- Create an environment and culture in which practitioners are confident in escalating cases through an agreed pathway.

No	Aim	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	Detailed objectives and timelines will be formulated after the thematic review and once the new structure of the local authority's housing department is clearer.  <i>Prevention and Protection</i>				

## 3: Domestic Abuse and Exploitation

### Desired outcomes:

- All organisations understand what constitutes domestic abuse and exploitation, particularly focusing on older adults and all-age exploitation.
- Training professionals, particularly in hospitals and GP surgeries, to recognize signs of domestic abuse in older adults and ask the right questions to identify potential abuse
- Have an overarching partnership which aligns our approach to transitional safeguarding, including exploitation, county lines and substance misuse within an all-age exploitation strategy.

No	Aim	Task	Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	Collate data across organisations to understand the extent of domestic abuse for those who may need safeguarding, with a focus on domestic abuse of older people  <i>Empowerment</i>	Liaise with organisations and Safer Somerset Partnership to collate domestic abuse and exploitation data.	Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup	2025-2026	Will be able to identify areas where there are levels of domestic abuse and exploitation being recorded across Somerset organisations.
B	Ensure there is a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of people with learning disabilities and autism.  <i>Accountability</i>	Liaise with organisations or have a summit to understand the offer for people with learning disabilities and autism.	SSAB Board	2025-2026	Provide the Board an understanding of the support available to people with learning disabilities and autism.

C	<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 style="text-align: right;"><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 Strategic Safeguarding Forum</p>	<p>Sept 2025</p>	<p>A strategy will be agreed which addresses exploitation at any age and is adopted by all services and organisations.</p>
D	<p>Working with Safer Somerset Partnership, develop effective interventions for practitioners to use to address domestic abuse or exploitation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Accountability</i></p>	<p>Collate and promote the domestic abuse and exploitation training package.</p>	<p>Learning and Development Subgroup</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>	<p>The Board has assurance that practitioners have an understanding of the domestic abuse and exploitation toolset.</p>

## 4: Transitional Safeguarding

### Desired outcomes:

- Recognise that the needs of young people do not change or stop when they reach 18.
- Consider all types of transitional safeguarding throughout life and the pathways to support them

No	Task		Lead/s	Timescales	What Will Demonstrate Success
A	Adopt an approach to safeguarding that considers all types of transitions, building on best practice and learning from organisations across Somerset.  <i>Prevention and Protection</i>	Gain an understanding of all types of transition pathways, including hospital discharge, prison release and life-changing events	Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup	2025-2026	Have a suite of documented pathways for transitions for those who may require safeguarding.
B	Promote the transitions' pathways across Somerset.  <i>Empowerment</i>	Ensure that practitioners are aware of transitional safeguarding throughout life.	Learning and Development Subgroup	2025-2027	Practitioners understand the importance of transitional safeguarding and how to support this.

## 5: Promotion of MCA and its use

### Desired outcomes:

- Practitioners understand and are supported in how to apply the MCA.
- Practitioners understand their duties and responsibilities in regard to initiating an assessment of capacity.
- Practitioners understand their duties and responsibilities in regard to Best Interests.
- 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	Update
A	<p>Ensure practitioners understand how capacity, best interests, and the Court of Protection apply in the context of self-neglect.</p> <p><i>Prevention and Protection</i></p>	Disseminate the evidence-base for working with people who self-neglect	MCA Subgroup	March 2024	<p>The Board is able to evidence the quality of MCA considerations (capacity &amp; best interests)</p> <p>Practitioners will be confident to conduct MCA a considerations (capacity &amp; best interests)</p> <p>Practitioners will be aware of thresholds for approaching the Court of Protection</p>	<p>Online training about mental capacity and self-neglect was delivered for care provider organisations in April 2024.</p> <p>Recording available on SSAB website.</p>

B	<p>Ensuring that executive functioning is considered within the parameters of the MCA.</p> <p><i>Prevention and Protection</i></p>	<p>Ensure that training incorporates executive functioning and attendees are signposted to relevant resources.</p> <p>Use MCA Audit data to analyse good practice including executive functioning assessment</p>	MCA Subgroup	March 2025	<p>Capture good practice in relation to mental capacity assessments, particularly with a focus on executive functioning,</p>	<p>MCA Audit completed with an action plan in place.</p> <p>Clear set of practice recommendations made for improvements individually and generally. Incorporated into formal and informal training.</p>
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