Regional Multi Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy

Position Statement

Safeguarding is defined as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Adult safeguarding is about people and organisations working together to prevent, and stop, both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time ensuring the adult's wellbeing is promoted including having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

This document replaces all previous policy documents for the participating Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) and Partnerships and was formally ratified by the relevant multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Boards in July 2026. This document will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if there is a change in legislation.

This document applies to all organisations and agencies working with adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and to adults living within the boundaries of the participating SABs and Partnerships regardless of funding source.

This document needs to be read in conjunction with the relevant local safeguarding multi-agency procedures and statutory guidance The Care Act 2014

Local Authority	Link to Local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures
Bath and North East Somerset	BANES Multi-agency Safeguarding procedures
North Somerset	North Somerset multi-agency safeguarding guidance
Bristol	Bristol Policy & Procedures
South Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire multi-agency procedures
Somerset	Somerset Practice guidance and resources
Swindon	Swindon Adult Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

If you are worried about an adult

Contact the local authority where the abuse has taken place:

Local Authority	Phone	email	Out of Hours
Bath and North East Somerset	01225 394200		01454 615165
North Somerset	01275 888801	careconnect@n-somerset.gov.uk	01454 615165
Bristol	0117 9222700	adult.care@bristol.gov.uk	01454 615165
South Gloucestershire	01454 868007	Csodesk@southglos.gov.uk	01454 615165
Somerset	0300 123 2224	adults@somerset.gov.uk	01823 368 244
Swindon	01793 463555	adultsafeguarding@swindon.gov.uk	01793 436699

If you are concerned that an adult is in immediate danger or if there is a crime in progress involving an adult, then contact the police on 999.

If you believe that a criminal offence has occurred, but it is not in progress and no one is in immediate danger, then contact police using 101 or report online.

Information Sharing

Section 45 of the Care Act (2014) says that everyone must share information with the Safeguarding Adults Board and other organisations when it is needed for safeguarding work.

Safeguarding practice and information sharing is guided by several laws, including:

- the **common-law duty of confidentiality** Duty of confidentiality — UKCGC,
- the **Data Protection Act 2018** Data Protection Act 2018
- the **Human Rights Act 1998** Human Rights Act 1998
- the **Crime and Disorder Act 1998** Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The **Mental Capacity Act (2005)** Mental Capacity Act 2005 is important to support organisations/practitioners working with adults who have care and support needs to guide judgements whether the person has mental capacity to make decisions about their own safety, risk, or whether their information should be shared.

Working Together

The Safeguarding Adults Boards across Avon & Somerset are committed to working together and it is vital that all organisations working with adults across these boundaries also commit to effective and open multi-agency working to ensure the best outcomes for the people we support.

What is available to support practitioners?

Each Safeguarding Adults Board has a website with resources, safeguarding training and local information. Access the websites below

Safeguarding Adults Board	Link to website
Bath and North East Somerset	BANES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership Website
North Somerset	Adult Safeguarding Board | Adult Safeguarding Board
Bristol	Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website.
South Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire Safeguarding
Somerset	Somerset Safeguarding Adults
Swindon	Swindon Safeguarding Partnership