

Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan 2022-2023



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Purpose of this report

The Care Act (2014) says that we must develop and publish a strategic plan to say what our main goals are and how we plan to achieve them. This report sets out who we are, what we plan to do between April 2022 and March 2023, and how we will know we are making a difference.

About the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board

The Care Act 2014 makes a Safeguarding Adults Board a legal requirement. The job of Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is to make sure that there are arrangements in Solihull that work well to help protect adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board needs to ensure that safeguarding practice continues to improve the quality of life of adults in Solihull.

The Board is led by an Independent Chair appointed by the Local Authority. By law, the Board must have three members which are: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands Police and Birmingham and Solihull CCG.

Solihull SAB also has the following partners represented on its board:

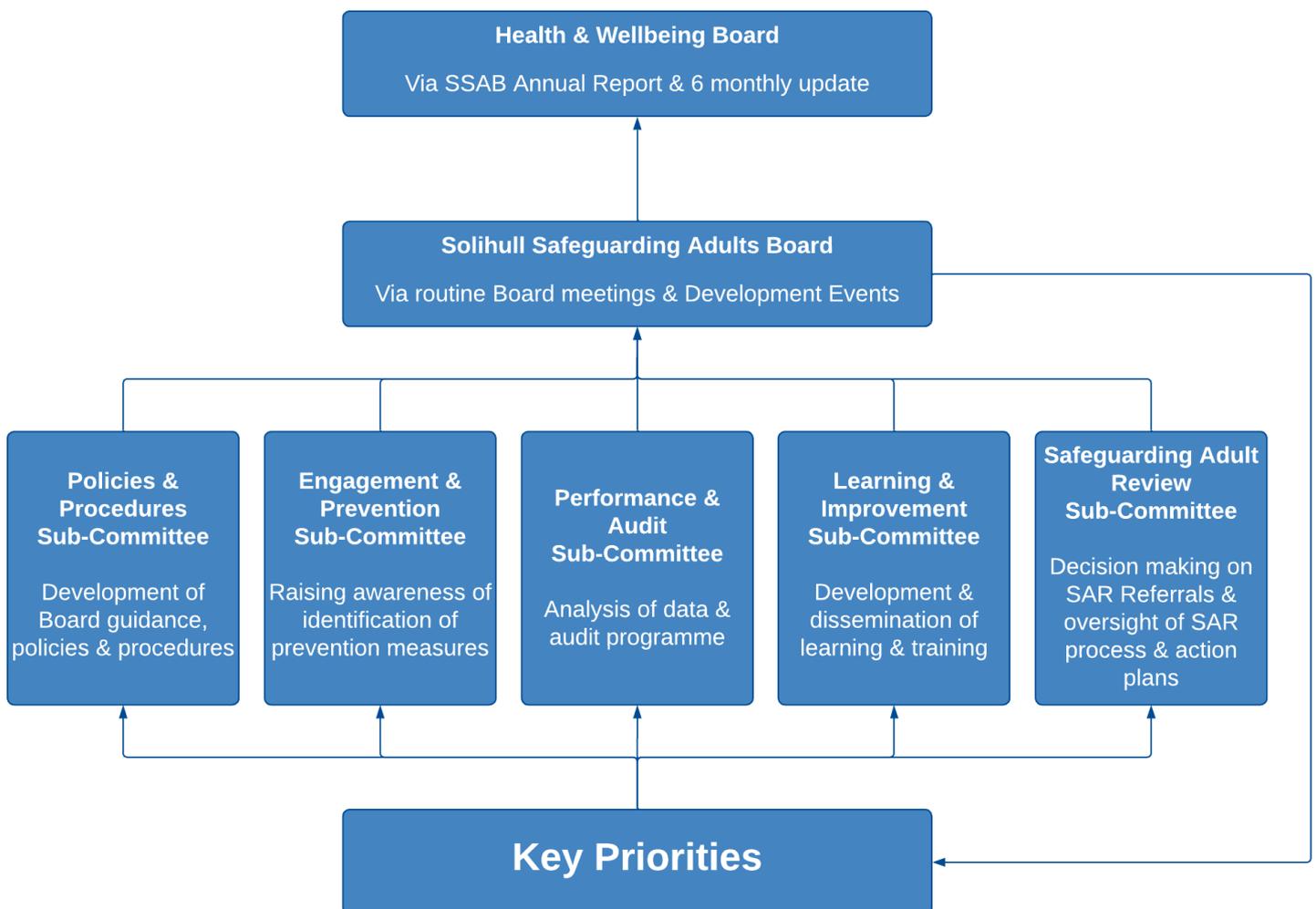
Age UK Solihull
Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust
Care Quality Commission
Healthwatch Solihull
National Probation Service
Private Care Sector
Solihull Action through Advocacy
Solihull Carers Trust
Solihull Community Housing
University Hospitals Birmingham
West Midlands Fire Service

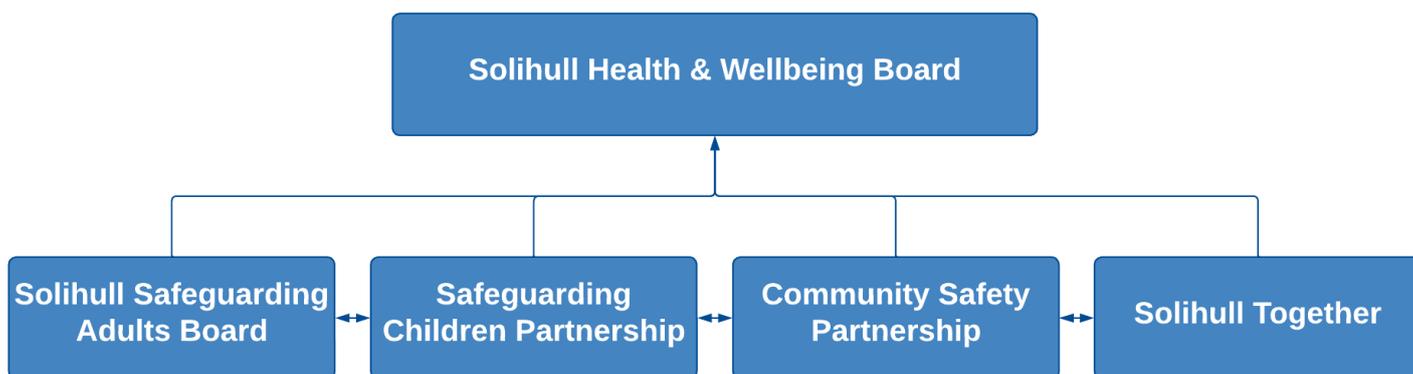
Governance Structure

We have five groups called subcommittees who focus on different areas that are important to safeguarding adults. They talk with each other and the public and provide the Board with information to help us to decide what we should focus on each year to improve safeguarding practice.

We make sure we share information with the Health and Wellbeing Board to let them know what we are doing and the progress we are making.

It's important that we understand what the other Boards and Partnerships in Solihull are doing to keep people safe, to make sure there is no duplication, but also that there are no gaps in our work to safeguard the community. We have links with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and Community Safety Partnership, as well as Health and Wellbeing Board, via quarterly meetings between the four Business Managers. We also plan to extend this meeting to include the four Independent Chairs/Scrutineers in 2022/23. These meetings allow the Business Managers to discuss the plans of the various Boards and look for opportunities to work together where it would be helpful to do so.





The **Health and Wellbeing Board** is accountable for identifying priority areas and ensuring that services work together. It has a system assurance role in relation to safeguarding of vulnerable people.

Solihull Together is mandated by Health and Wellbeing Board to co-ordinate and ensure delivery against the priority areas in the Health and Wellbeing and Inequalities Strategies. It will also oversee Integrated Care System (ICS) Strategy, where it makes sense to deliver at 'Solihull' level.

The **Safeguarding Adults Board** and the **Local Safeguarding Children Partnership** are responsible for challenging partner agencies on their success in ensuring children, young people and adults are kept safe. Their annual reports are taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board which has a system oversight role.

Safer Solihull (Community Safety Partnership) is made up of representatives from the Police, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Health and Probation Services (the 'responsible authorities'). The responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

Developing Our Priority for 2022-23

In developing our priority for 2022/23 we have taken lots of things into account:

Data

We have been living with the impact of Covid-19 for two years now, and our communities, services and staff have experienced significant challenges and changes to their day to day lives. One thing we noticed at the beginning of the pandemic was that nationally and locally, the number of safeguarding adult concerns referred to local authorities reduced, as people at risk of harm became less visible. Whilst referral numbers have returned to expected levels during the past 12 months, we know that some communities will still be taking extra precautions to protect themselves from the virus and this could mean they are still less visible to their families and to professionals. Therefore, we will make sure we are reaching out to communities to hear their views and experiences and we will continue to remind professionals of their role in identifying and raising safeguarding concerns.

The experiences and voices of survivors of abuse and neglect

Where we have been able to speak to survivors of abuse and neglect about their experiences of safeguarding, the feedback has been very positive. We know that people have really valued professionals who take the time to listen to them and to explain what is happening and why. We also know that where professionals have tailored their support to suit the individual circumstances this has had a very positive impact. This is exactly what we would expect professionals working in Solihull to be doing and it is reassuring to hear these examples of positive feedback. We would like to be hearing from many more people about their experiences, and one of our goals this year is for the Engagement and Prevention Subcommittee to explore how we can increase opportunities to hear feedback from those who have experienced abuse and neglect.

The voices of our communities

We know from speaking to professionals from a number of partner organisations that those they support have found the last 2 years incredibly difficult. Some have suffered the devastating loss of loved ones, others have struggled with the symptoms of Covid, and the effects of prolonged isolation has had a significant impact on people's feelings of loneliness, with inevitable increases in requests for support with mental health. It's important that we further develop our understanding of the key safety concerns for our various communities in Solihull and that we work with voluntary sector partners to capture information on how community members are feeling about Covid-19 and safety.

The findings of case reviews, audits and Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The tragic death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes became a local and national focus towards the end of 2021, with a national review of Arthur's case due to report findings in May 2022. Situations like Arthur's remind us that we must ensure that we are meeting our core functions as a Safeguarding Adults Board; coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding across the partnership to protect adults from abuse and neglect.

The Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership identified areas for improvement around hearing the voices of the children and families being supported and the Partnership's oversight and understanding of safeguarding in Solihull, in terms of what is working well and what needs to improve. The Safeguarding Adults Board needs to carefully consider these findings and how they apply to its own effectiveness as a group of partners.

Whilst we have not completed any Safeguarding Adult Reviews during 2021-22, we do know that the key themes arising repeatedly in local, regional and national safeguarding adult reviews are effective partnership working including information sharing, assessment of risk and hearing the voice of the person and understanding their experiences. These are areas the Subcommittees continue to have a focus on as part of their role in ensuring consistent and effective safeguarding practice across the partnership.

Service pressures

We know from speaking to our partners that there have been significant pressures on services over the past year, largely because of responding to the ongoing impact of Covid-19. Colleagues have kept us updated on the hospital pressures they have experienced, and we know there have been real challenges for the ambulance service in terms of their response times. The timely availability of placements for those requiring significant support with their mental health has also been a priority for colleagues working in that sector. We know that where there are significant pressures in the system, like those we are currently seeing, this can lead to safeguarding risks. The impact of Covid-19 on service capacity and how this may affect the ability to safeguard adults at risk of abuse and neglect is an area we want to focus on for the next 12 months.

Considering current local and national context, and the voices of our communities, a focus on how the Board is maintaining its oversight of quality and risk, including how we continue to safeguard adults whilst learning to live with Covid-19, is the appropriate approach to take for the coming year.

What we want to achieve for citizens in Solihull:

Empowerment - "I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."

Prevention - "I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."

Proportionality - "I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed."

Protection - "I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."

Partnership - "I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me."

Accountability - "I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."

Board Priority for 2022-23: Oversight of quality and risk, with due consideration given to the long-term impact of Covid-19, considering the learning to date.

Board Strategic Objectives	Desired Outcomes
A refresh of the Board’s cultural approach to safeguarding highlighting leadership, accountability, assurance seeking, continuous improvement, the needs of Solihull residents, and openness and honesty as key.	Shared responsibility in ensuring a culture of safety across partner organisations and at Board.
Receiving a quarterly report to Board with safeguarding risks and mitigations and any recommendations from the subcommittees.	Risk areas will drive the work of the Board and Subcommittees, including a focus on mitigating identified risks.
Identification of new safeguarding risks that have emerged as a result of the direct and indirect impacts of Covid-19.	A comprehensive approach to risk management which includes new and emerging challenges resulting from the impact of Covid-19.
Making time for sharing safeguarding issues and concerns at Board meetings.	Increased opportunities to shine a light on an issue and reach a resolution.
Gaining agreement to the message(s) we want to put out as a Board, how we communicate and how we receive messages back.	Messages from the Board are clear and consistent, and there are increased opportunities to hear from communities and those with lived experience of safeguarding.
Board Development Day discussions will focus on risks to the Board’s ability to achieve its overall objective; ensuring arrangements in Solihull work well to help protect adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect.	Discussions and actions relating to risk are dynamic and not static, the Board is working to continuously improve local safeguarding arrangements.
Sharing learning and good practice regarding safeguarding from the sub-committee work into the Board.	Learning is identified from good practice and can be replicated, celebrating good practice helps to create a positive can-do culture.
Horizon scanning for emerging risks to form basis of routine Board discussion.	The Board will be clear on how prepared it and individual partners are to meet new safeguarding asks in terms of resources, infrastructure etc.

Expectations of our Subcommittees

Each of the five sub-committees will identify risks/quality issues for their area of scope, which could prevent the Board from achieving its priority and objectives. This will be a standing item on each subcommittee agenda. Each quarter a collated report with risks, mitigations and any recommendations from the five subcommittees will be brought to the Board meeting for assurance and oversight.

Each subcommittee will have its own objectives that will contribute to the Board's priority. As the year progresses and we receive evidence of the successes and areas for improvement, the work of the subcommittees may change and develop. The areas of focus for the subcommittees as we start 2022-23 are set out below.

Subcommittee Objectives

Performance and Audit subcommittee:

- Review the Performance Dashboard considering whether any additional data would support a focus on quality and risk oversight as well as tracking Covid impact, and whether any current data is no longer serving this purpose
- Understanding on capacity and resource – not just monitoring changes in demand but are we resourced to do something about it
- Consider demographic changes in Solihull – what are the experiences for different communities
- Undertake dip sample auditing of safeguarding referrals and concerns focusing on quality in terms of information provided and decision making
- Undertake an annual multi agency case file audit focusing on assessment of risk, understanding of risk and response to identified risks, in relation to safeguarding considerations.
- Taking care to capture good practice – why did things work well and what can we learn from this
- By seeking information from all partner organisations, produce a summary review of the changes in individual organisational risk and quality considerations associated with safeguarding, resulting from the direct and indirect impact of Covid-19, which includes planned mitigations where necessary.

Safeguarding Adult Review subcommittee:

- Refine and agree the local SAR process
- Strengthen connections across boards to keep learning for 'overlap' areas connected
- Consider Safeguarding Adult Review referrals
- Undertake assurance seeking exercises on completed Safeguarding Adult Reviews; Rachel, Stephen and Paul, in order to ensure the recommendations from these reviews positively impact on systems and practice
- Identify learning for Solihull from SARs completed by other local authorities both regionally and nationally
- Consider how we share the learning with those not involved in the SAR and make it relevant

Engagement and Prevention subcommittee:

- Engagement work to understand what the key safety concerns are for our various communities in Solihull
- Working with voluntary sector partners to bring forward intelligence on how community members are feeling about Covid-19 and Safety
- Engagement work to understand the impact Covid-19 continues to have on individuals and communities and what the Board needs to consider in terms of safeguarding and risk
- A review of the engagement approach taking into consideration what has worked well during the pandemic which we might want to keep
- Need to use all the connections and touch points to gain the views of people who use services and carers and bring them into the Board's line of sight
- Pro-actively undertake cross-checks with the work of other boards/groups, to make sure there is alignment of plans and learning – particularly Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Community Safety Partnership

Learning and Improvement Subcommittee:

- A focus on self-neglect, which presents in a high proportion of Safeguarding Adult Reviews nationally, indicating risks for the individuals involved are high, and outcomes are poor, with the aim of learning from best practice.
- A focus on risk assessment and management of risk in relation to safeguarding considerations, with the aim of better understanding individual risks and best practice in the management of risk, taking account of the impact, of and learning from, Covid-19
- Ensure learning from SARs is included in agency training

Policies and Procedures subcommittee:

- Development of guidance on the local approach to risk assessment and risk management, informed by findings from the Learning and Improvement subcommittee
- Development of best practice/guidance for practice issues identified by the work of the other subcommittees during the year
- Review the Dispute Resolution Process



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**Solihull
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Protecting Adults Together