



**Barking and Dagenham**  
**Safeguarding Adults Board**  
**Strategic Plan and Priorities**  
**2023 - 2026**

***“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, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.*”**

***Organisations should always promote the adult’s wellbeing in their safeguarding arrangements. People have complex lives and being safe is only one of the things they want for themselves. Professionals should work with the adult to establish what being safe means to them and how that can be best achieved. Professionals and other staff should not be advocating ‘safety’ measures that do not take account of individual well-being, as defined in Section 1 of the Care Act.”***

Care & Support Statutory Guidance, para 14.7 – 14.8

## 1. What is Safeguarding?

The Care Act 2014 set down for the first time a statutory basis for safeguarding vulnerable adults and the strategic framework that governs local partners' collaboration around adult safeguarding. The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Care and support needs may not be apparent, and the vulnerability of the adult at risk can be difficult to assess in the first instance. This applies equally to the strategic work of the Safeguarding Adults Board. There are many inter-related areas that cross into the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board, through the work of the children's safeguarding arrangements, the Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

In terms of what 'abuse' may encompass, the Care Act Guidance is very clear on not limiting the definition to any particular set of presenting issues. A non-exhaustive, but illustrative list, may include:

- Physical abuse (assault, hitting, misuse of medication, restraint)
- Domestic abuse (including coercive behaviours, physical or sexual assault)
- Sexual abuse (rape, indecent exposure, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts)
- Psychological abuse (emotional abuse, threats of harm, controlling, intimidation, isolation)
- Financial or material abuse (theft, fraud, coercion about financial affairs, misuse of property)
- Modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour
- Discriminatory abuse (harassment, slurs relating to 'protected characteristics')
- Organisational abuse (neglect, poor care practice or abuse in an institution such as a care home)
- Neglect and acts of omission such as ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, or withholding the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating
- Self-neglect (neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings, or hoarding).

Incidences of abuse may be one-off or represent patterns of behaviour. They may affect a single individual, or multiple people, whether at a single location such as a care home or across a wider community. It is essential, therefore, that there are the mechanisms in place to track incidences, understand the patterns, and 'join up the dots' where a series of incidents suggests a wider and more concerning trend.

## 2. The Role of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) brings together the main partners whose work is crucial to supporting people who are vulnerable to increased risk because of their care and support needs. The SAB is led by an Independent Chair. The statutory partners of the Safeguarding Adults Board are:

- The Local Authority
- The Integrated Care Board
- The local Police service.

The Safeguarding Adults Board membership also includes:

- The two major NHS providers of healthcare services to the community of Barking and Dagenham - North East London NHS Foundation Trust and Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
- The London Fire Brigade
- The Probation Service
- Barking and Dagenham Healthwatch
- Care Provider Voice.

There are three major requirements of a Safeguarding Adults Board, set out in the statutory framework:

- to have a Strategic Plan
- to publish a SAB Annual Report
- to undertake a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) where an adult has died due to suspected abuse or neglect or an adult has suffered abuse and or neglect of someone from suspected, and it is felt that agencies could have worked better together to protect that person.

Every bit as important, however, is the role of the SAB in facilitating the cross-organisational flow of information and learning about safeguarding adults risks and trends, as well as ensuring that the practice of individual organisations is held up to some independent

scrutiny from which learning and improvement can result. In Barking and Dagenham, the SAB has established two sub-committees to facilitate this sort of inter-agency collaboration:

- The Safeguarding Adult Review Committee oversees the decisions about commissioning of SARs, as well as bringing together learning from other reviews and monitoring delivery against recommendations in reports
- The Performance and Assurance Committee reviews the performance data about safeguarding adults, and co-ordinates quality assurance insight from agencies.
- The Safeguarding Adults Complex Case Group is a multi agency forum to discuss high risk cases to manage the safeguarding risks that people may be facing.

### 3. Safeguarding Adult Principles

Six key principles were set out that underpin all adult safeguarding work, and they inform the work of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board.

<b>Empowerment</b>	People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. <i>"I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."</i>
<b>Prevention</b>	It is better to take action before harm occurs. <i>"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."</i>
<b>Proportionality</b>	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. <i>"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."</i>
<b>Protection</b>	Support and representation for those in greatest need. <i>"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."</i>
<b>Partnership</b>	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. <i>"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."</i>
<b>Accountability</b>	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. <i>"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."</i>

## 4. Making Safeguarding Personal

Following substantial work undertaken by the Local Government Association and the Association of the Directors of Adult Social Services, a Making Safeguarding Personal Framework was drawn up to push improved practice around the personalisation of safeguarding. People using safeguarding services, stakeholders and practitioners reported that too much of the focus of safeguarding work was on process and procedure. People using safeguarding services wanted a focus on a resolution of their circumstances, with more engagement and control. In return, the Safeguarding Adult Board can find it difficult to assess the impact of safeguarding activity from this data alone. A broad community-level approach is also needed in order to establish safeguarding arrangements that respond to the context in which people live in Barking and Dagenham, and the risks that are prevalent in their lives. It is vital that all organisations recognise that adult safeguarding arrangements are there to protect individuals, with all of their differing preferences, histories, circumstances and lifestyles, and our processes must also be able to support our professionals to take the personalised approach needed.



## 5. Our Priorities for 2023 – 2026

The SAB's priorities cover the years 2023 to 2026 with a planned annual review of the objectives and actions to check on progress and update the work plan.

Priorities	Objectives	What will we do to implement this?
<b>1. The Voice of the Community</b>	Hear the experiences of people with lived experience and use the feedback to develop the work of the SAB and its priorities.	Develop information, advice and guidance around safeguarding prevention with and for the wider community. Include people with lived experience in the SAB conference. Gain feedback from people with lived experience via the Social Care Network. Co-produce the 'living well in your own home' information and advice with the community.
<b>2. The Cost of Living Crisis</b>	Have a clearer understanding of impact of cost of living on safeguarding within the community.	Use data from SAB Performance Framework. Feedback from service users and community through community Hubs, BD Collective and health services.
	Support the wellbeing of staff and professionals across the partnership.	Assurance from partner agencies that support is available to professionals. Ensure new SAB policies aimed at professionals include information about support for professionals' wellbeing.
	Communicate across the partnership the support and resources available to our communities and service users.	Develop information and advice around safeguarding, living well in your own home and how to access services and support.

<b>3. Address Inequalities within the Community</b>	Identify the inequalities within our communities and address these.	Use data from SAB Performance Framework to inform work and decision making. Feedback from service users and community through community Hubs, BD Collective, health services. Ensure information and services are accessible to all our communities and people with different needs. Identify any under-represented groups within safeguarding concerns and enquiries and carry out research & engagement to understand reasons behind this, including work in 2023-24 to understand the reasons behind an under-representation of Asian British, Black British communities and people with learning disabilities in safeguarding performance reports.
	Ensure information and advice is accessible to all communities using different forms, social media etc.	Produce an accessible safeguarding leaflet and video to raise awareness of what safeguarding is and what to do in the event of a concern.
<b>4. Effective Partnership Working</b>	Use the current training and learning resources across the partnership to enhance learning from SARs and other reviews.	Sharing of the learning from reviews and serious incident investigations across the partnership and with other partnerships. Sharing of training resources and information e.g. 7 minute briefing etc. Development, within a shared localities-based front door/adults MASH, of an aligned or joint safeguarding team with the NHS to have oversight, support safeguarding and share information and learning across the partnership. Assess the impact of the Right Care, Right Person model on safeguarding within the community.
	Make links across the Adults, Children, Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Partnership	Independent Chair to attend other partnership meetings where relevant. Work together to tackle domestic abuse including the sharing of learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and SARs.

		<p>Safeguarding Adult Reviews to be shared for learning with Children’s Safeguarding Partnership, Home Care and Care Home Forum etc.</p> <p>Continue the focus on tackling self neglect across the partnership including building on the launch of the Self Neglect and Hoarding Policy and prevention and awareness raising.</p>
	Grow the SAB membership to include voluntary and faith sector.	Invite the voluntary and faith sector to the SAB workshops and conference.