



Safeguarding Adults in Stockport

Quick guide to the Board

This short introductory guide will help you to understand the work and structure of the Stockport Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB).

It gives a brief overview of:

- the national policy context
- the local context
- how the SSAB works
- how the SSAB is structured and
- our aims, strategies, plans, annual reports
- safeguarding adult reviews

Why have a Safeguarding Adults Board?

Safeguarding is everyone's business and it is important that organisations work together to protect people who need help and support. One of the biggest challenges is how to bring together the huge number of teams and organisations in keeping people safe.

That's why the [Care Act 2014](#) requires local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in their area.

The national policy context

For many years, children's safeguarding had a much higher profile than adult safeguarding. Adult safeguarding did not have the same legal standing as children safeguarding, although there was government guidance called 'No Secrets' in place and local authorities were responsible for safeguarding.

All this changed with the recent introduction of the [Care Act 2014](#). For the first time, there are now clear legal obligations to safeguard adults who have care and support needs. The local authority must work together with other organisations to prevent and stop adult abuse.

A wider range of abuse is now recognised in the form of domestic abuse, self-neglect and modern slavery.

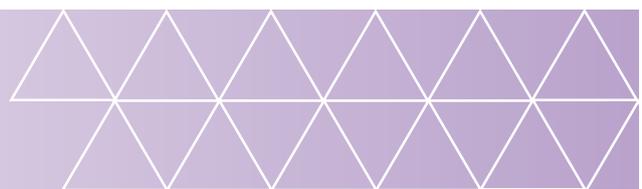
Serious abuse at Winterbourne View and neglect at Mid-Staffordshire NHS trust have propelled adult safeguarding into the spotlight in recent years too.

Understanding the local context

Stockport is the third largest borough in greater manchester and has a population of approximately 290,000 residents in Stockport.

Stockport has seen a trend of population growth and continues to become more ethnically diverse, especially in younger populations to the west of the borough. Immigration rates in Stockport are lower than national averages.

The borough has one of the highest proportions of social tenants in the country. Stockport has fewer older people compared with some other boroughs. However, almost 18% of the local population



identify themselves as having a long term illness or disability that affects their day to day activities, which is higher than the average for other London boroughs.

Source: Stockport Fairness 2011 Commission.

Adult abuse is often under-reported. However, in Stockport there has been an increase of safeguarding alerts year on year since the introduction of No Secrets 2009.

In 2016/17 the number of safeguarding alerts increased by 464. This would suggest there is an increased awareness of reporting of safeguarding adults within the borough, and staff do understand their duties when responding to allegations of abuse.

Neglect and physical abuse are the two most common types of concern in Stockport. As is the case across the country, the alleged abuse most frequently took place in the home of the adult at risk. For a fuller picture of the local context, read our recent [annual report](#).

What are the Board's aims?

The Board is a strategic partnership. It aims to:

- Improve local safeguarding arrangements
- Ensure partners act to help and protect adults at risk of neglect or abuse
- Co-ordinate strategic development of safeguarding across Stockport
- Ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by partner organisations

You can read more about the Boards aims in its [Statement of Commitment](#)

How does the Board achieve its aims?

Partners on the Board work together and co-operate on a shared strategy and vision for safeguarding adults in Stockport. Partners are expected to commit to working together to achieve shared aims.

The Board is not accountable for the operational work of partners. It also does not have the power to direct other organisations. Every year, Board partner organisations undertake self-assessments and commit to taking action to develop and improve any weaker areas. These commitments form part of our annual plan of action for the next year.

What are the legal requirements of the Board?

The [Care Act 2014](#) requires the Board to:

- Publish a strategy – [strategic plan](#)
- Publish an annual report
- Carry out a safeguarding adults review into the death of an adult at risk in certain circumstances

Who is on the Board?

Every Safeguarding Adults Board must have the local authority, the police and the NHS represented on the Board. In Stockport, we have a range of partners, such as the fire service, ambulance service, probation, and non-statutory local partners such as housing providers, charities and Healthwatch. Our Board is chaired by an Independent Chair.

What is the structure of the Board?

The Board currently has six [subgroups](#), three of which are joint groups with Stockport's Safeguarding Children's Board. These subgroups support the Business of the Board:



The joint subgroups are, Training and Workforce, Communication and Engagement and Early Help and Prevention, they are each represented from members of both children's and adult's safeguarding boards.

Quality, Audit and Assurance has a wide subgroup remit for monitoring quality of care, quality of safeguarding and trends in safeguarding data. It oversees the implementation of the Board's annual plan.

Joint Communication and Engagement Sub Group is responsible for the on-going development and implementation of the agreed communication strategy. The subgroup raises public awareness of abuse and neglect and what to do about it.

Joint Training and Workforce Sub Groups main purpose is to identify the multi-agency learning and development needs of both adult and children's commissioned services in Stockport. The sub group will lead the development and implementation of the Training and Workforce Strategy for both Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards.

Joint Early Help and Prevention Subgroup is to agree, implement and review an annual work programme across all partner agencies that meet the objectives of both Board's Business Plan.

Complex Safeguarding subgroup is to provide the strategic overview, steer the safeguarding response and raise awareness of complex abuse and exploitation within Stockport. The group will be responsible for the development and implementation of the complex safeguarding strategy and will ensure the delivery of the work plan.

Policy and practice subgroup has been formed to enable the sub group to keep a watch on national and local policy developments, and makes policy recommendations to partners of the Board and across the region.

The Board has two additional groups which are, the Implementation Sub Group and the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) consideration panel.

The Implementation groups primary purpose is to coordinate the work of the subgroups and to oversee the delivery of the SSAB [Strategic plan](#).

Safeguarding Adult Review Consideration Panel looks into serious learning subgroup cases, including cases where an adult has died as a result of neglect or abuse. The purpose of a safeguarding adults review is not to apportion blame, but to consider whether lessons can be learnt to prevent similar cases in the future.

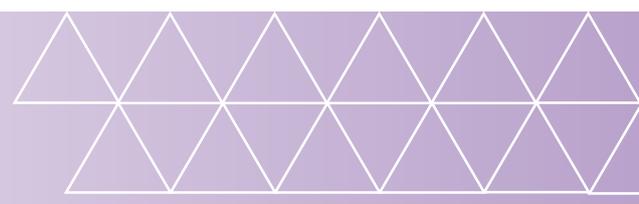
For more information, read the [Combined Serious Case Review/Safeguarding Adults Review Protocol](#)

Information Sharing

In order to carry out its functions, the SSAB needs access to information held by a range of people and partner organisations. To facilitate this, all partner organisations have signed up to the SSAB [information sharing protocol](#).

By law, in certain circumstances if the SSAB asks any person or organisation for information relevant to the work it needs to do, then that person or organisation must supply it.

Read more about this in the [Care Act \(Section 14.156\)](#) guidance



Confidentiality

The SSAB [information sharing protocol](#) sets out confidentiality and data protection requirements for partner organisation and Board members.

Sometimes the Board works with highly sensitive and confidential information. For example, when we are conducting a safeguarding adults review into the death of an adult at risk in Stockport.

Openness and accountability

The Board strives to be open and accountable with the public about its work.

The Board publishes its strategy and annual plans. Every year, the Board publishes an annual report setting out for what it has done towards achieving its strategies and plans.

Opinions of service users, patients, carers, staff and residents are important to the Board. The Board consults with the public and service users to ensure its strategy and work reflects what matters most to local people. The Board is keen to develop this further and improve its engagement with service users and carer to ensure their voice is heard and that they can influence the work of the Board.

Wherever possible, the Board publishes information about Safeguarding Adults Reviews so that lessons can be shared and learned widely.

Policies and procedures

The SSAB has adopted the [Northwest Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures](#). These were updated to reflect the changes brought about by the Care Act 2014.

For further information, see our [Policies and Procedures webpage](#).

Training

For information about the training offered in Stockport, please see our [training webpage](#).

Resources

The [Care Act 2014](#) sets the legal framework for safeguarding adults and Safeguarding Adults Boards.

[Department of Health](#) on the summary Care Act changes for safeguarding.

[Care and Support Statutory guidance](#) gives more in-depth guidance in Chapter 14.

For any help or information, please contact:

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