



**Bexley
Safeguarding
Adults Board**

Strategic Priorities & Memorandum of Understanding



Contents

Introduction:

- Foreword
- What area do we safeguard?: Bexley Safeguarding Boundaries Background
- Key health statistics for Bexley adults
- Wider determinants of health
- Statement of Purpose

Section 1: Our structure - what we look like and why:

- Independent Chairing Responsibilities
- Our Statutory Partners
- BSAB Business Team
- Statutory Responsibilities
- Background – Legislation
- Safeguarding Adult Principles
- Relevant agencies
- How do we link to other boards?

Section 2: The new strategic priorities and How will we meet them

- The new Strategic Priorities 2023-2026
- Long-term Strategic aims
- How will we know we are making a difference?
- Executive meeting
- Engagement & Quality Subgroup
- Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) & Learning Subgroup
- Task & Finish Groups
- Learning, Training & Development
- Safeguarding Champions
- Resolving Professional Differences :Multi-agency Escalation
- Funding
- Additional Information
- Closing statement



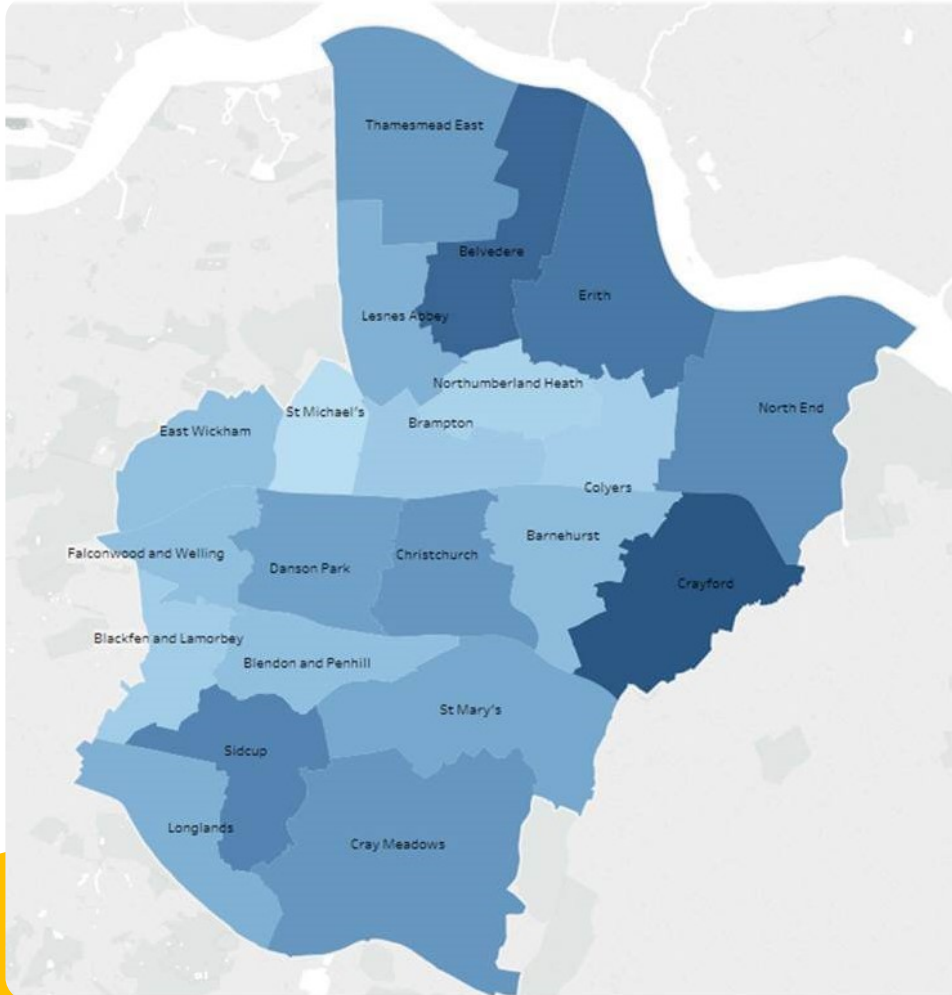
Foreword

I am pleased as the Independent Chair of the Bexley Safeguarding Adult Board to introduce to you **the Bexley SAB 2023-2026 Strategic Plan**. The plan is **a combination** of the views and priorities of our partner agencies, voluntary groups and individuals **affected by safeguarding**. The plan will outline how the Bexley Safeguarding Adult Board will seek to prevent abuse and neglect, and how it will help and protect people with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse and neglect. We have sought the views of our community in preparing this plan, and I am grateful to all those who have contributed to it.

The priorities within this plan will be reviewed annually and presented in our annual report. The strategic plan will be available through our website and can be used as a reference for anyone wishing to understand the priorities of the Safeguarding Adult Board in Bexley. All strategic partners have agreed this plan and the priorities within. I am grateful for the commitment of those partnerships towards realising our ambition to **create Making Safeguarding Personal for all** people living in Bexley.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Labeyrie'.

What area do we safeguard?: Bexley Safeguarding Boundaries



These partnership arrangements cover one local authority, Bexley. We realise that some of our partners are cross-borough and will work hard to minimise duplication of work.

Effective support – levels of need and support

By working together, we will develop flexible services which are responsive to adults, carers and their families.

As a Greater London Borough, we work with our London Safeguarding Adult Board partners to assist in underpinning practice and process across all of London. This includes London-wide Information Sharing Agreement contract across all agencies.

Locally, there is a desire to be more creative and innovative with our safeguarding partnership and it is the work of the BSAB that will provide the mandatory oversight needed to ensure all adults are free from a life of abuse and neglect.

Key health statistics for Bexley adults



12.0% of Bexley adults smoke (2021)

At time of delivery, **4.3%** of mothers smoke. (2021/22)

Mortality from lung cancer is **HIGH** (2017-19)

25.5% of adults are physically inactive (2020/21)

Over **6** in **10** adults are overweight or obese (2020/21)

1,722 people aged 65+ diagnosed with dementia (2022)

31,252 people in Bexley aged 16+ are estimated to have common mental health disorders (2017)

928 admission episodes for alcohol related conditions (2020/21)

1,110 emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over (2020/21)

18.0% of discharges from hospital led to emergency readmission within 30 days (2020/21)

255 emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (all ages) (2020/21)

1,290 deaths from causes considered preventable (2016-20)

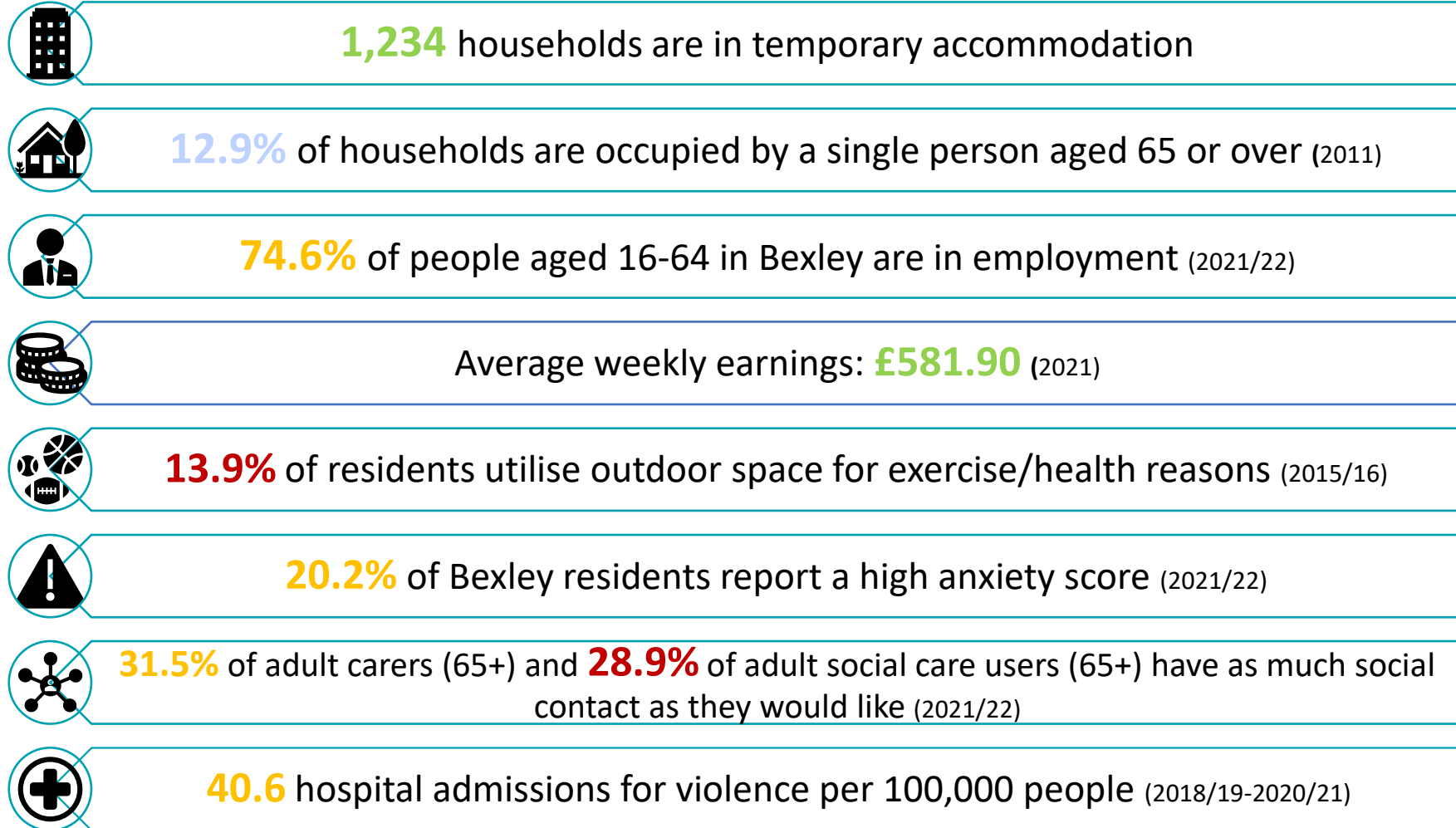
47 deaths from suicide or injury of undetermined intent (2019-21)

Compared with benchmark: Better Similar Worse Lower Similar Higher

Benchmark: London. Data provided for 2017/18 unless otherwise stated

Sources: PHE, [Local Authority Health Profiles](#), [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#), [Mortality Profile](#), [Mental Health, Dementia and Neurology Profile](#)

Wider determinants of health



Benchmark: London. Data provided for 2017/18 unless otherwise stated

Sources: PHE, [Local Authority Health Profiles](#), [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) & [Wider Determinants of Health Profile](#)

Compared with benchmark: Better Similar Worse Lower Similar Higher

Statement of Purpose:

The Board is to empower the partnership to work with adults at risk in order to prevent abuse and offer proportionate responses to individuals with care and support needs, so that they are protected, and agencies are held accountable for their actions.

We will do this by:

1. We will not tolerate any form of abuse or neglect on any person.
2. We will not tolerate inequalities on any person and uphold all protected characteristics.
3. We will promote and protect the well being of our adult residents in Bexley.
4. We will safeguard all adults regardless of their financial status.
5. We will enable those affected by the safeguarding process
6. We will work with those in crisis and seek assurances on safeguarding contingency planning.
7. We will ensure referral pathways are clear and understood across the partnership.

Section 1:

Our structure - what we look like and why:



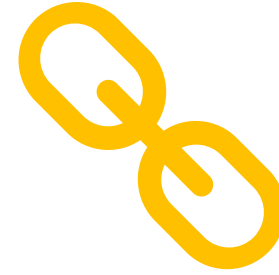
What do we look like and where do we sit in Bexley?



Who are the BSAB Business Team?



What are our Statutory Responsibilities?

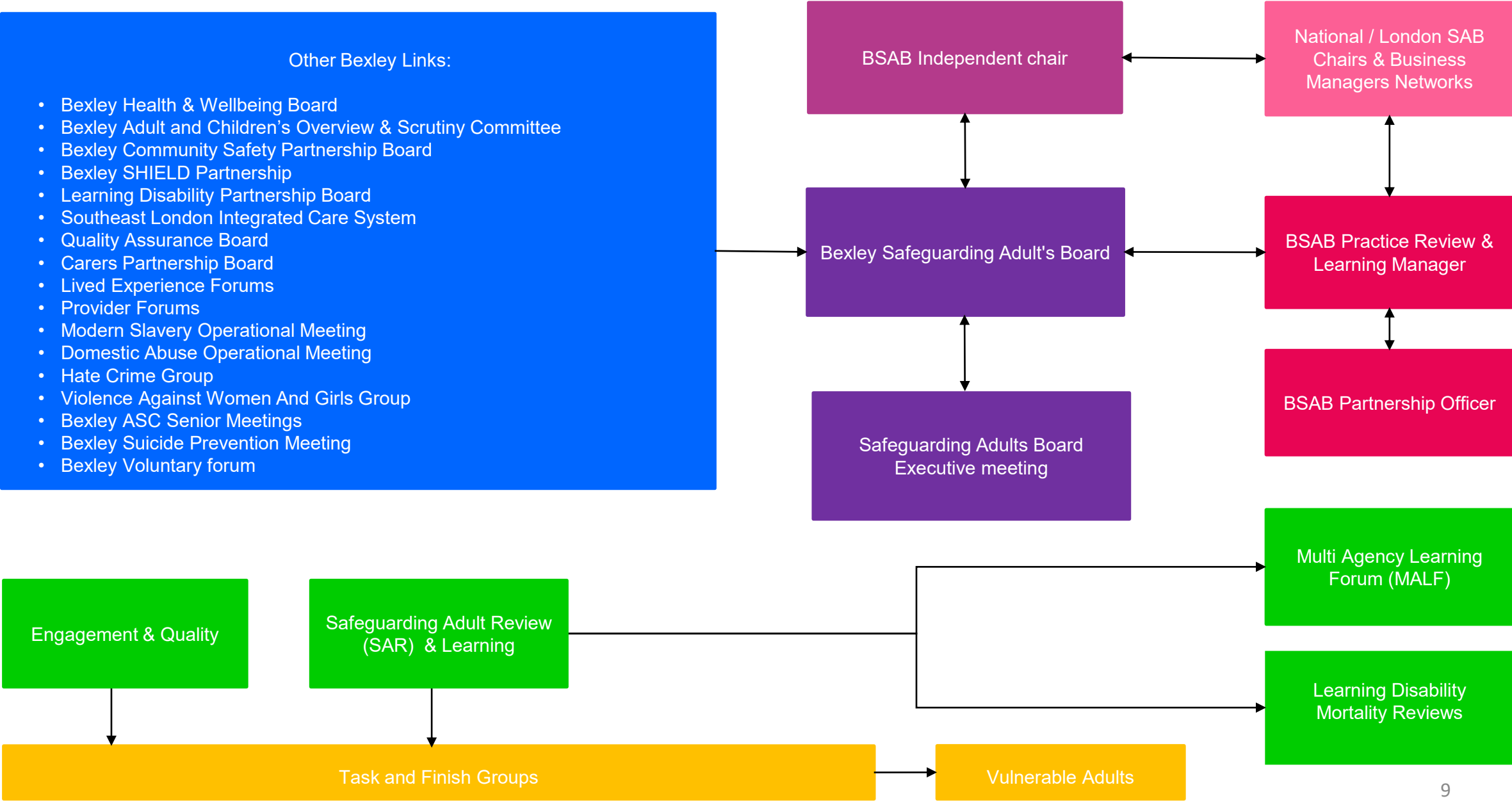


How do we link to other boards?

2023-2026 BSAB Structure

Other Bexley Links:

- Bexley Health & Wellbeing Board
- Bexley Adult and Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Bexley Community Safety Partnership Board
- Bexley SHIELD Partnership
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Southeast London Integrated Care System
- Quality Assurance Board
- Carers Partnership Board
- Lived Experience Forums
- Provider Forums
- Modern Slavery Operational Meeting
- Domestic Abuse Operational Meeting
- Hate Crime Group
- Violence Against Women And Girls Group
- Bexley ASC Senior Meetings
- Bexley Suicide Prevention Meeting
- Bexley Voluntary forum



Independent Chairing Responsibilities

- To Chair programmed meetings of the Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board x 4 per year and any extraordinary meetings as required in an effective and professional manner including setting of agendas, approval of minutes and management of associated business.
- Liaise with the Head of Safeguarding Adults to ensure timely management of the partnership business.
- Meet with the Director of Adult Social Care Services or representatives as required
- To liaise with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny committee as required
- Ensure that the Board works effectively, with good collaboration between its members, encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between partner agencies, including all meetings led by the BSAB.
- Provide assurance that the Board operates independently of its member agencies and that any conflicts of interest are appropriately managed.
- Ensure the Board monitors and develops a safeguarding adult's strategy and implement this in line with an agreed business plan which maintains a clear focus on outcomes for adults at risk and their carers.
- Promote an awareness of Safeguarding Adults throughout Bexley.
- Develop the Board members' ability to monitor, scrutinize, and constructively challenge the effectiveness of the partnership's safeguarding adult's work.
- Seek assurances on the quality and performance of the delivery of the Board, so that it evidences improved outcomes for adults at risk and their carers.



Note: The vice chair has been agreed by the BSAB to be any member of the statutory executive (LA, MPS or SELICB) membership to act in the absence of the Chairperson; and work in partnership with the Chairperson to achieve the key objectives of the Board.

Additional Chairing duties

- Hold all partner organisations to account regarding the deployment of resources required for safeguarding work to support the implementation of local multi-agency policy and protocols.
- Lead in communication / consultation to respond to public relations issues or inter-agency problems, at short notice if required, including making additional public or professional presentations as required.
- Link into regional and /or national networks as required to ensure the Safeguarding Adult Partnership's activity is aligned with national policy developments and best practice.
- Provide leadership, advice and guidance to Board members, including the induction of new members of the BSAB.
- Ensure that the BSAB addresses and incorporates best practice regarding relevant legislation and guidance, including equality and diversity
- Develop links and work co-operatively where appropriate with other Safeguarding Adults Boards in neighboring authorities to further develop good practice and learn from common issues.
- Ensure that links are developed, and work undertaken co-operatively where appropriate with the Bexley Safeguarding Children's Board, Bexley Community Safety Partnership and other strategic partnerships as appropriate.
- Adhere to confidentiality in respect of Board or individual member agency business
- Respond to escalations, complaints or concerns made to BSAB regarding the conduct of safeguarding adults work in Bexley.
- Undertake any other duties as may be needed from time to time as necessary and appropriate to the role.

BSAB Independent chair

Our Statutory Partners

Bexley's Safeguarding Adults Board has an executive of safeguarding partnership for adults is led by the 3 named statutory partners, they are:

London Borough of Bexley (LBB)

In Bexley, we know that learning and improvements comes from openness, data and analysis, a willingness to work to better understand together what happens and why. The work of Bexley's Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB) has driven that culture of learning and challenge across our systems and partnerships and this drive and passion for improvement is led so ably and collaboratively by our independent chairperson, Andy Rabey, commitment of the statutory partners, ICS and the London Metropolitan Police Service; and all the vital work being done by partners across the system that work hard together to set, monitor and deliver new priorities, which we believe will continue to strengthen our services for adults in Bexley.

This could only be done by the ongoing commitment and dedication of the BSAB Business Team who have provided excellent leadership and guidance to the board and the wider Bexley community, they ensure that safeguarding is truly everyone's business in Bexley. We know how important it is to work alongside families and to support them to find solutions that work for them. We are committed to helping adults in Bexley live a life free from abuse or neglect and to achieve their aspirations. It is our hope the ambition and plans set out in this document will help explain to others what we hope to achieve.

Jackie Belton, Chief Executive, London Borough of Bexley



Southeast London (SEL) Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Our aim is to ensure that all vulnerable adults living in Bexley are supported to live free from abuse or neglect. As a Board, a major priority is to seek assurances that adults, whether they are a hospital patient, a care home resident or are living in their own home are at the centre of any safeguarding action. I am satisfied with the commitment of our partners, which enables us to work together to prevent abuse and work swiftly to address challenges when they arise.

There is an immense amount of hard work taking place across the partnership to make safeguarding more personal; and I look forward to continuing the work of the Board through our new safeguarding priorities as we continue to engage with frontline staff, lay members and individuals living in Bexley.

Stuart Rowbotham,
Director of Adult Social Care & Health, Public Health
Place Executive Lead, SEL ICB Bexley



South East London

London Metropolitan Police

I am new to Bexley as the Detective Superintendent and strategic lead for Public Protection within SE BCU police and am very much looking forward to working with all partners, and the public ,within Bexley. I am committed to safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable people in society , and this can only be done working collaboratively with not just statutory partners, but the community and other partners, bringing a diversity of thought.

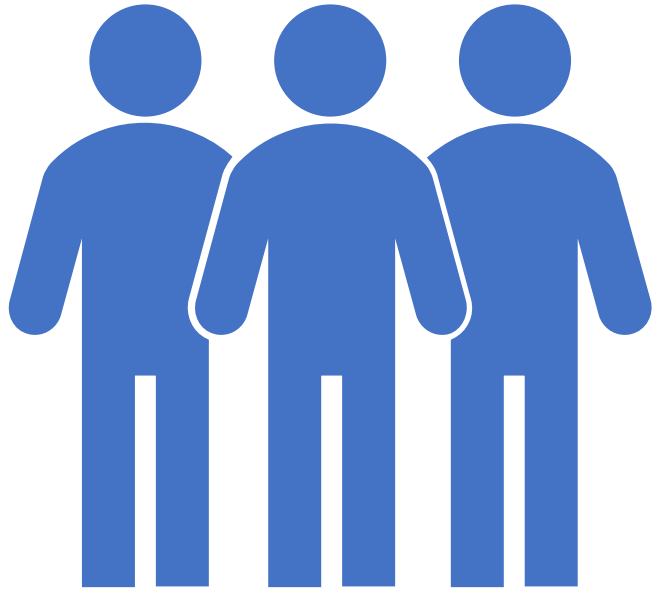
The BSAB plays a key role in developing best practice and providing a framework for agencies to work together, which is vital for us to achieve success. It is also right that the BSAB holds agencies to account so that we can all strive to be better, challenge each other ,and learn so that the service we provide collectively to the public we serve improves.

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in due course.

Simon Dilkes, Detective Superintendent and strategic lead for Public Protection within SE BCU Metropolitan Police Service



BSAB Business Team



The 3 safeguarding partners are supported by the BSAB Business Team who sit within the Safeguarding Adults Team at Bexley Council. Our email is bsab@bexley.gov.uk and the Board's website is www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com.

Although they are employed by Bexley, they still hold an independent role and function for the board. This is critical to the governance of the BSAB duties and responsibilities being evidenced. From 1st April 2023, CQC will now ask the BSAB and its team about the Bexley SAB and its evidences to safeguard adults in Bexley.

BSAB Practice Review &
Learning Manager

They are responsible for the management of the Board activity including the budget and are managed for day-to-day activities by the Head of Safeguarding Adults; and strategic oversight by the Independent Chair.

The current Practice Review & Learning Manager is Anita Eader, contactable at the following - Anita.eader@bexley.gov.uk and 0203 045 5315

BSAB Partnership Officer

They are managed by the Practice Review & Learning Manager and can act up in their absence to ensure continuity of Board matters. The current Partnership Officer is Alexandra Bennett, contactable at the following - Alexandra.bennett@bexley.gov.uk and 0203 045 5209

Statutory Responsibilities



The full BSAB is made up of over 30 partners working to safeguard adults across Bexley. We have the following statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014:

- Ensure Statutory Partners are appropriately represented on the SAB.
- Develop and produce a 3-year Strategy and an annual Business Plan in order to direct the work of the Board that reflects priorities.
- Publish a SAB annual report/accountability statement highlighting the Board's progress and achievements in meeting stated objectives in the Strategic Safeguarding Plan and ensuring this is widely reported across partner agencies and organisations. All BSAB Annual Reports can be found here: <https://www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com/who-are-we/#>
- Learn from the experiences of individuals, through undertaking Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) in accordance with the national guidance of best practice and the Board's SAR protocol. The BSAB SAR Protocol can be found here: <https://www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com/protecting-adults/serious-adult-review-learning/>

Background - Legislation

The Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) is a statutory body established by the Care Act 2014. It is made up of senior people from organisations that have a role in preventing the neglect and abuse from adults. Its main objective is to protect all adults in its area who have needs for care and support and who are experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect against which they are unable to protect themselves because of their needs.



Care Act 2014

Legislation Requires:

- That local councils have a duty to promote the well-being of carers; previously their duty of care was only made to the users of the care services;
- That anyone receiving care and support from a regulated provider which has been arranged by the council will be covered by the Human Rights Act 1998;
- That councils must enable users or potential users of care services to access independent financial advice on their care funding;
- The introduction of a new appeals system for care users to appeal against council decisions on eligibility to care and care funding

Safeguarding Adult Principles



Empowerment – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decision and informed consent.

Prevention – It is better to act before harm occurs.

Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need.

Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Relevant agencies



The following relevant agencies and organisations are members of Bexley's Safeguarding Adults Board:

Bexley Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)

Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust

Healthwatch Bexley

Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust

London Fire Brigade

National Probation Services

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Lay Members

Provider Agencies

These partner organisations have been selected as relevant agencies given the key strategic and operational insight they provide to the work of this partnership.

However, in line with statutory guidance, the option to request representatives from other agencies/organisations as the partnership develops or the need arises from particular areas of partnership work.

Our new strategy will include re-launching our Safeguarding Adult Champions across Bexley who will form a key part of the network for the BSAB, as well, as seeking engagement from Lay Members with Lived-Experience.

How do we link to other boards?

The BSAB links with other statutory and relevant boards in Bexley. Where appropriate the Independent Chair will agree to, attend or meet with other board chairs to ensure continuity, joint working and shared resources.

The next page shows how all the boards link together and have some shared priorities. It is the expectation of all partners to involve, engage and share with other relevant boards the work of the BSAB with others and share the work with other boards back to the BSAB.

The Independent Chair, Practice Review & Learning Manager, and Partnership Officer are all involved in, engaged with and lead on other safeguarding adult board groups both on a National and Regional scale. They feedback to the full members at each quarterly Board meeting and in-between as and when matters arise.

Other Bexley Links:

- Bexley Health & Wellbeing Board
- Bexley Adult and Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Bexley Community Safety Partnership Board
- Bexley SHIELD Partnership
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Southeast London Integrated Care System
- Quality Assurance Board
- Carers Partnership Board
- Lived Experience Forums
- Provider Forums
- Modern Slavery Operational Meeting
- Domestic Abuse Operational Meeting
- Hate Crime Group
- Violence Against Women And Girls Group
- Bexley ASC Senior Meetings
- Bexley Suicide Prevention Meeting
- Bexley Voluntary Forum



Bexley Strategic Priorities – Priorities for the four Strategic Partnership Boards. Supporting agencies to work together to improve outcomes in safety, safeguarding and wellbeing for residents in Bexley.

Shared Members:

Care Quality Commission,
Bexley Community Safety Partners,

Healthwatch Bexley

Lay Members,

London Ambulance Service,

London Fire Brigade,



London Metropolitan Police Service,

National Probation Service,

Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations,

London Borough of Bexley – Adults, Housing, Children’s, Communities

SEL Integrated Care Board, Bexley



South East London

Health & Wellbeing Board wants people in Bexley to be healthy, happy and resilient, and we believe that everyone has the right to access good health and care opportunities. There are 4 priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (these priorities are mirrored by the South East London Integrated Care System). In addition, tackling health inequalities remains a priority across the health and care system.


- Ageing Well (Frailty, Dementia and End of Life)
- Tackling childhood and adult obesity
- Children and Young People
- Mental Health
- Tackling Health Inequalities

SHIELD wants healthy, safe, resilient family networks in communities that are also safe.



Developing a strategic multi-agency approach to Early Help in Bexley


Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board is to empower the partnership to work with adults at risk in order to prevent abuse and offer proportionate responses to individuals with care and support needs, so that they are protected, and agencies are held accountable for their actions.



Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board

Ensure that staff understand Making Safeguarding Personal especially with adults who self-abuse and self-neglect.

Improve access to safeguarding information so people know where to go and who to speak to in a timely and effective way.



Bexley Community Safety Partnership Board aims to keep people who live, work, study or visit the London Borough of Bexley safe - “keep crime low, feel safe.”

Tackle identified antisocial behaviour in our communities.

Continue to reduce residential burglary and its impact on the community.

Reduce substance misuse related to crime and antisocial behaviour

Cross Cutting

Supporting people with addictions – including smoking, alcohol and drugs

Dementia

Better understanding the multi-agency approach in Bexley to (a) children and young people going missing and (b) safeguarding in and by the wider community



Getting basic child protection right

Improve professional curiosity for staff's safeguarding practice against all areas regarding Mental Capacity.

Safeguard and support victims and families of domestic abuse and hate crime.

Early intervention to safeguard people against violent crimes.

Enablers - Engagement approach ensuring residents’ voice influences the work of the boards and embedding learning and evidencing improvement in practice



Section 2: Our new strategic priorities and how we will meet them

This section will cover our new strategic priorities and how we will be working on them over the next three years.

It is a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to ensure there is a 3-year Strategic Priority and Business Plan to achieve the outcomes needed in our area, Bexley, to safeguard adults.

The new Strategic Priorities 2023-2026



1

Ensure that staff understand Making Safeguarding Personal especially with adults who self-abuse and self-neglect.

2

Improve access to safeguarding information so people know where to go and who to speak to in a timely and effective way.

3

Improve professional curiosity for staff's safeguarding practice including all areas regarding Mental Capacity.

Long-term Strategic aims



Empowerment – Develop a culture across the partnership where professionals and residents can raise their concerns and seek the support that is needed.

Prevention – Develop preventative strategies by working with those most at risk of abuse and neglect by not using ‘NFA’ as a decision to a safeguarding concern.

Proportionality – Work towards reducing disproportionality in relation to adult abuse and neglect within protected-characteristic communities.

Protection – Ensure there is a consistent and visible approach to how professionals work with individuals and their families to keep safe and well.

Partnership – Support the Making Safeguarding Personal Approach by using the Joint Think Family Protocol to protect those most at risk of abuse.

Accountability – Ensure there is consistent and visible senior leadership across the partnership.

How will we know we are making a difference?

Improving overall safeguarding experiences is a long-term objective and for each priority area we have identified metrics that will tell us what impact we have had over the next 3 years. Local indicators will be developed alongside the SAR learning and recommendations that may arise both locally and nationally.

Priority	Metrics 23-26
Ensure that staff understand Making Safeguarding Personal especially with adults who self-abuse and self-neglect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BSAB will seek assurances from case audit, learning from SAR, and other KPI evidence.• BSAB will seek feedback from individuals with 'lived-experience'.• BSAB will seek feedback from Quality Checkers on services.• BSAB will see a difference in the recording, information shared and see no use of NFA on safeguarding concerns raised.• BSAB will not tolerate self-neglect being recorded as 'unwise decision-making' and will seek assurances from the partnership how they are embedding trauma-informed practice/approaches.
Improve access to safeguarding information so people know where to go and who to speak to in a timely and effective way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BSAB will update their website to have a more accessible format.• BSAB will use their Engagement & Communication Strategy for all shared information to the public and service user groups.• BSAB will attend forums in the community to seek feedback on services and matters affecting residents.
Improve professional curiosity for staff's safeguarding practice against all areas regarding Mental Capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BSAB will hold learning and development sessions for professionals.• BSAB will seek assurances that Mental Capacity is understood across the partnership and the understanding of how trauma and abuse affects decision-making.

Executive meeting

This is an executive meeting of the 3 statutory partners, which is Chaired by the Independent Chair to monitor the work of the board and address matters arising across the partnership. At times they will invite others as relevant matters arise.

Key Objectives:

- To implement the strategic decisions made.
- To discuss and make aware any problems identified in local practices or in the implementation of the strategy.
- To monitor the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Delivery Plan and agree ways forward where improvements are needed.
- To monitor and seek assurances against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and address findings.
- To contribute evidence and information to the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report.
- To consider the impact of guidance, legislation, case law, multi-agency procedures and protocols on operational practice.
- To take responsibility for dissemination of research to inform practice.
- To give feedback on issues and concerns from Lay Members and the public.

Management and Co-ordination:

All management and co-ordination will be provided by the BSAB Practice Review & Learning Manager and BSAB Partnership Officer.



Engagement & Quality Subgroup

This subgroup is to agree and implement effective engagement strategies for hearing from those with 'lived-experience'. Members will include professionals, service users, patients and public where appropriate.

Key Objectives:

- To review the KPI submissions by partners and feedback to the Board any themes or actions needed.
- To be part of the Bexley SAB Network so that all communication distributions are shared across the partnership.
- To ensure that any revised/developed information or awareness are clearly presented to service users, carers and professionals in appropriate and accessible formats.
- To identify existing methods of sharing information to public, service users and patients across the partnership; including any forums or groups.
- To review any audit submissions to the BSAB and feedback to the Board any themes or actions needed.
- To review all Quality Checkers reports with service users, patients and public regarding feedback on services in relation to the safeguarding continuum and how they impact and shape services.
- To work with other boards, forums and groups in Bexley for joined up work and clear messages to the public, service users and patients across the partnership.

Reporting Requirements and Frequency of Meetings:

This Subgroup has agreed to meet on a quarterly basis between Board meetings, with additional meetings arranged as necessary to meet reporting and delivery requirements.

Management & Co-ordination:

The Subgroup will be managed and coordinated by the BSAB Practice Review & Learning Manager and BSAB Partnership Officer.



Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) & Learning Subgroup

This Subgroup will ensure the statutory responsibilities of the Board are carried out in respect of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Serious Incidents (SI) and Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeR); where appropriate participate in Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR); and any other safeguarding learning where applicable will be monitored in this subgroup.

Key Objectives:

- To ensure the statutory responsibilities of the Care Act 2014 are upheld, monitored and followed by having a robust SAR Protocol, which includes:- Notifications, Scoping and Rapid Reviews, Decision-Making and Evidence of Learning.
- To ensure there is a vigorous process for commissioning and conducting SARs and other BSAB led review.
- To develop a Local Reviewer Programme to support Professional Development and embed learning across Bexley.
- To share learning points from cases and take to the Executive Meeting and/or Board any learning across the partners; including identification of learning from broader Reviews (e.g. National, Regional, Conferences).
- To consider other learning reviews; including DHR, SCR, SI, LeDeR, where cross-sector learning on safeguarding adults can be shared and attend those forums to share learning and challenge where appropriate the lack of evidence given.
- To review the submitted KPIs for SAR learning against the BSAB Learning Review Delivery Plan and actions.



Meeting arrangements:

The Chair of the SAR Subgroup has been appointed to the BSAB Practice Review & Learning Manager. The SAR Subgroup will meet 6-weekly and will convene extra meetings to consider specific referrals as necessary. When possible, extraordinary meetings will be carried out on a virtual basis.

Membership:

The SAR Subgroup will be comprised of statutory and associate members of the BSAB with representation from Safeguarding Leads within each agency; including the LDMR Leads for the London Borough of Bexley.

Reporting arrangements:

BSAB members will be responsible for sharing the agreed SAR Report within their own agencies. They will also be responsible for ensuring that appropriate activities to share and facilitate learning have been put in place within their organisation.

Governance:

The BSAB will ultimately be responsible for signing off a safeguarding adult review process. Prior to sign off, the Executive members will receive a copy of the report. Then once signed off the BSAB full board will receive a copy to share with their services and respond to the actions recommended. Refer to the SAR protocol.

Annual Reporting :

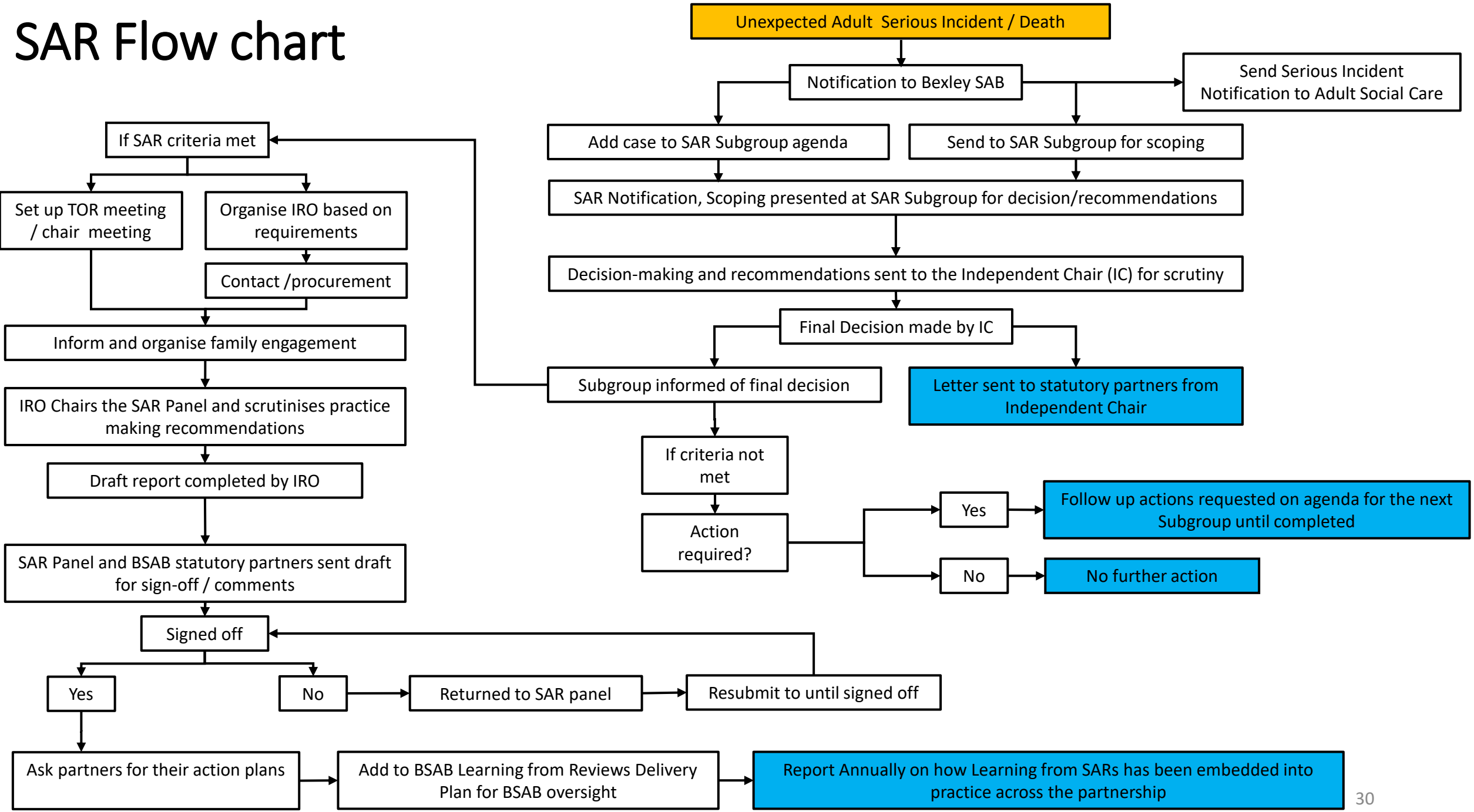
The statutory BSAB Annual Report will identify and publish any Reviews commissioned/concluded over the year period; including all learning lessons identified across the sector and where the BSAB has actions from Reviews and update on those actions.

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Protocol



Written and created by:
Anita Eader and Alexandra Gregory, Bexley SAB Business Team
Signed-off by Bexley SAB: on 7th September 2022

SAR Flow chart



Task & Finish Groups



Task and finish groups may be called as and when relevant matters arise and need. For example, event planning tasks.



These are short term pieces of work that can be called as and when needed and each one will have their own objectives based on what priority they are working on at the time.



If a task & finish group does not achieve it's activity within a short period of time (2 quarters) then the BSAB should reconsider this action so that partners are not given too much extra work to do outside the regular board business.

Learning, Training & Development

To ensure all the partners understand the expectations of the learning, the BSAB partners have created a safeguarding adult safeguarding competency framework , which can be found [here](#).

The safeguarding partners should continue to consider what training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission and help drive the learning across the partnership. The operational team organises and prepares all the boards learning and development and is funded by the partners.

Each year the board asks provider organisations and partners, incorporating learning from SARs, to contribute towards the plan to ensure they are involved and engaged with the offer.

Our focus over the next 3 year's will be to continue with basic awareness to partners, but to embed SAR Learning into Professional Workshops, Events and Conferences. The new BSAB learning & development programme can be found [here](#). (ADDLINK)



Additional Learning & Development Events

Additional learning events planned by the BSAB do happen within the year to ensure that learning is cascaded, particularly following a SAR being published. Some events are as follows:

- SAR Learning Events and Workshops following the publications of SAR – usually within 1 month of publication.
- Attend Peer Learning Group to share cases and learning identified
- Arrange when appropriate Conferences on learning that is complex and specialist speakers are needed.
- Have more focus during National Safeguarding Adult Week (November) and other National focus days – i.e. Modern Slavery (October).
- Sharing and linking Board partners to cross-borough events – i.e. Greenwich, Bromley, Lewisham, Kent/Medway all have shared partners.
- Identify bespoke opportunities and review the needs of the practitioner and the providers in Bexley.
- Safeguarding Champions Event and links to cascading information more widely in Bexley.
- Attending Team Meetings, including Senior Meetings, to share new information and requirements as and when needed.

Safeguarding Champions

The safeguarding champion role will be central to the involvement, engagement and assurances for the partnership. A breakdown of the safeguarding champion's role and responsibilities is as follows:

- To be a focal point for the safeguarding partnership in passing on learning from learning reviews, audits and local/national priorities to staff within their setting
- To attend occasional workshops, where they will be given information in a multi-agency setting and have the opportunity of talking it through with colleagues from other agencies
- To cascade information to their colleagues within their work setting through team meetings/training events/
- supervision (for example, to publicise the partnership's briefing sessions on statutory basics to new staff working in their agency)
- To meet with their line manager to discuss their role as a safeguarding champion
- To be on the partnership mailing list to receive bulletins/updates on relevant information to pass on to their colleagues
- To give their views on whether learning has made a difference to practice
- To tell the safeguarding partners what is working well in their work setting and what are the challenges in respect of working together to safeguard adults in Bexley.
- Learning events for safeguarding champions will be throughout the year.



Resolving Professional Differences : Multi-agency Escalation



We are committed to the continuous improvement of multi-agency safeguarding and adult protection practice. Generally there is a good working relationship between partner agencies in Bexley. Differences and debates are all part of multi-agency working. If there are serious differences of views on how best to manage risk and safeguarding, and protect adults at risk, then escalation policies can provide a useful framework for exploring and resolving professional disagreements. The Safeguarding Adult Board encourages agencies to speak up and arbitrate different views on practice issues.

Any statutory agency can require a multiagency meeting where there is a need to resolve professional differences. As a last resort the three partners can act as an arbitrator/mediator in the case of protracted or intractable disagreements. All partners are expected to make use of escalation procedures to avoid exacerbating or prolonging conflict, and avoid any possible impact on an adult, their carers, and family members.

Agencies will have their own escalation policies and should use these first. There is an expectation that agencies will have systems for recording when escalation policies are used and how disagreements are resolved. There is an expectation that the terms of reference for all multi-agency panels and meetings includes reference to what to do if there is a disagreement.

If it has not been possible to resolve professional differences between agencies, relating to safeguarding adults, then this can be brought to the attention of the statutory three partners (also known as executive). An email should be sent to the Practice Review and Learning Manager anita.eader@bexley.gov.uk, marked for the attention of the 'Executive' setting out reasons for the differences and what has happened so far. The Practice Review and Learning Manager will then support partners to resolve their differences. Each quarter the Chairs Group will ask for information from all partner agencies on any issues escalated, including from, panels, meetings and any cases escalated to the three partners. This will be examined for any practice improvement lessons to be learned.

Funding

The BSAB is a partnership funded through financial contributions from the three statutory partners:

- Local Authority
- London Metropolitan Police
- South East London Integrated care board

We are fortunate to have other contributors from the following partners:

- Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
- London Fire Brigade Bexley

Other member agencies support the Board by other means, such as financially contribution to review processes or engaging in the work of the Sub-Groups. Members of the Board are expected to consider what assistance they can provide in supporting the Board in its work. It is in all core partner's interest to have an effective Board that is adequately resourced to carry out its functions.



Additional information

Section 42, Care Act 2014

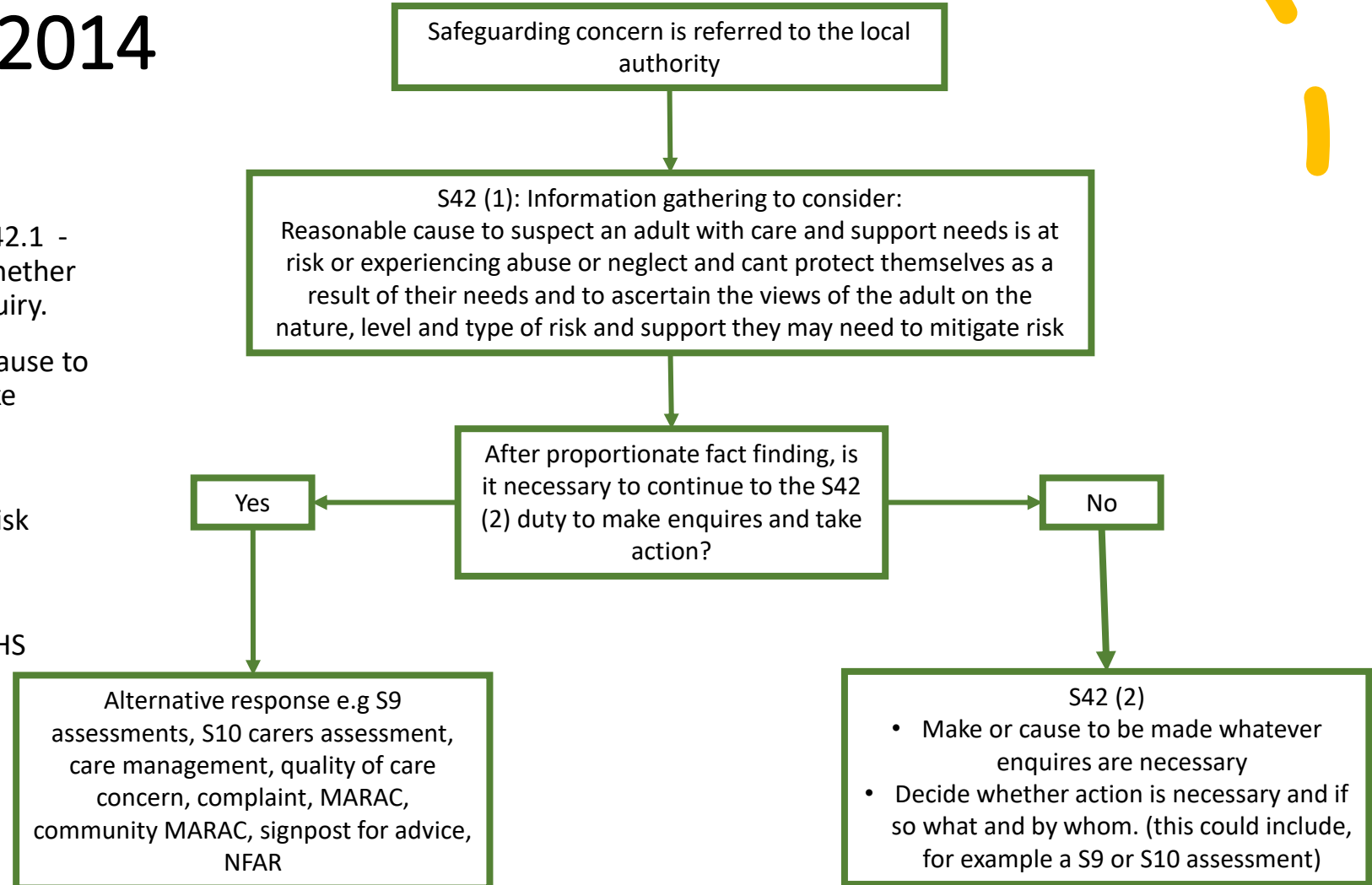
Safeguarding criteria:

There is a duty from the outset which starts with S.42.1 - Information Gathering; to inform a decision as to whether that duty will continue into a statutory S.42.2 – Enquiry.

Only if the 3 Criterion for a S.42.1 and 'reasonable cause to suspect' are fulfilled is the duty under S.42.2 to make enquiries triggered.

If at anytime during the alternative response action planning, there is more evidence presented or the risk does not diminish, then, the Local Authority must reconsider S.42.2 being triggered.

It is the activity under S.42.2 which is reported to NHS digital in the SAC.



Other Relevant Legislation

Human Rights Act 1998 - The Human Rights Act (HRA) came into force in October 2000. It enables individuals to enforce 16 of the fundamental rights and freedoms. The fundamental rights include rights that impact directly on service provision in the health and social care sector. Rights particularly relevant to dignity in care include: the right to life, the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to a family life. A balance has to be reached between rights and responsibilities. Not all rights are absolute and frequently practitioners are required to balance competing rights.

Mental Capacity Act 2005 - The Act applies to everyone involved in the care, treatment and support of people aged 16 and over living in England and Wales who are unable to make all or some decisions for themselves. The MCA is designed to protect and restore power to those vulnerable people who lack capacity. Click here for the **BSAB MCA Toolkit** - <https://www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com/wp-content/uploads/Mental-Capacity-Act-Toolkit-2.pdf>

Equality Act 2010 - The Act protects people against discrimination, harassment or victimisation in employment, and as users of private and public services based on nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 –To make provision for and in connection with the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner; to prohibit cross-examination in person in family proceedings in certain circumstances; to make provision about certain violent or sexual offences, and offences involving other abusive behaviour, committed outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

Health & Social Care Act 2012 - The legislation had two key objectives: To improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients and to reposition the mode of provision so that health service provision becomes more patient-centred and facilitates choice.

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 - It is the biggest change to homelessness legislation in 40 years and brings in new duties to prevent and relieve homelessness. This is a new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - This Act makes provision about slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and about human trafficking, including provision for the protection of victims; and for connected purposes.

Children & Families Act 2014 – The aim is to give good support to children and young people with special educational needs or a disability, and their families. The Act helps children with disabilities too, even if they don't have special educational needs.

Children & Social Work Act 2017 - is intended to improve support for looked after children and care leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children, and make provisions about the regulation of social workers. ... It also establishes a new regulatory regime for the social work profession.

Policing & Crime Act 2017 - Enables important changes to the governance of fire and rescue services. The changes will build capability, improve efficiency, increase public confidence and further enhance local accountability.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 - every employer is required to carry out a risk assessment for **the workplace** which should identify any hazards present in **the workplace**, assess the risks arising from such hazards and identify the steps to be taken to deal with any risks.

Closing statement

This new strategy highlights how Bexley Safeguarding Adult Board will meet their statutory responsibilities and duties in Bexley. I am pleased to be part of this partnership to help navigate and refine the already dedicated work evidenced by the partnership for the last 6+ years since the Care Act 2014 was established.

The work of the BSAB has notably increased due to the greater demands we've seen nationally to ensure all adults; their carers and families are safeguarded. The BSAB has set out clear priorities to achieve this and I am happy to sign off on this work.

As Lead Cabinet Member for Adult's Services and Health, I will be actively engaged in the work of the board and its partners helping develop greater relationships with adults with lived experience, so that we may shape our services with their insight and contribution. I support the Board's Business Team and Independent Chair to have a National and Regional presence; this helps to identify and share best practice, but in most cases lead on new projects to share the innovative work captured in Bexley.

The active commitment from BSAB members assures me that the partnership is fulfilling our safeguarding principles in Bexley. In closing, I look forward to embedding safeguarding as 'everyone's responsibility' and to present best practice opportunities across the partnership and communities for our adults most at risk in Bexley.'

Councillor Melvin Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health





For more information about the Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board please visit :

www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com or email us at bsab@bexley.gov.uk

Follow us on:

<https://www.facebook.com/bsab.bexley>
[https://twitter.com/Bexley SAB](https://twitter.com/Bexley_SAB)