



Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Priorities and Delivery Plan 2023-2026

Context:

The Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) is made up of over 30 partners working to safeguard adults across Bexley and have the following statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014:

1. Ensure Statutory Partners are appropriately represented on the SAB.
2. Develop and produce a 3-year Strategy and an annual Business Plan in order to direct the work of the Board that reflects priorities.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Following a strategic priority session in May 2023, the BSAB has renewed its commitment and recognised the need to continue to actively promote a culture with its members, partners and the local community that recognises the values and principles through the following priorities and delivery plan for 2023-2026 listed within this document.

Our new 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.

The BSAB will use the six-principles of safeguarding by -

1. **Empowerment** – Develop a culture across the partnership where professionals and residents can raise their concerns and seek the support that is needed.
2. **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.
3. **Proportionality** – Work towards reducing disproportionality in relation to adult abuse and neglect within protected-characteristic communities.
4. **Protection** – Ensure there is a consistent and visible approach to how professionals work with individuals and their families to keep safe and well.
5. **Partnership** – Support the Making Safeguarding Personal Approach by using the Joint Think Family Protocol to protect those most at risk of abuse.
6. **Accountability** – Ensure there is consistent and visible senior leadership across the partnership.

Delivery plan 2023-2026			
Priority One		Ensure that staff understand Making Safeguarding Personal especially with adults who self-abuse and self-neglect.	
Agreed Metrics		Potential Outcome Measures	Subgroup Work related to Priority
1.1	BSAB will seek assurances from case audit, learning from SAR, and other KPI evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners will be compliant with Care Act 2014 with embedding the learning from SARs. • Partners should see less SARs with similar themes over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create, monitor and oversee the SAR Protocol – including all SAR Notifications, Decision-Making Recommendations and Action Plans. • Will submit information for the BSAB Annual Report. • Will highlight SAR data and give feedback from learning events to the partnership.
1.2	BSAB will seek feedback from individuals with ‘lived experience’.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners will see greater insight into the person’s life experience to shape services. • Partners will hear how their services are affecting Bexley residents. • Partners will make better safeguarding decisions by Thinking Family and Making Safeguarding Personal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recruit and oversee Lay Members. • To engage and support family members linked to SARs. • To share experiences in order to learn.

1.3	BSAB will seek feedback from Quality Checkers on services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners will hear directly from Quality Checkers on their findings for ALD, Individual Service Fund, and Shared Lives work in Bexley in order to make all services safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and Quality Checkers will share their experiences, audits will take place and reporting for board will be an output of the subgroup.
1.4	BSAB will seek a difference in the recording, information shared and see no use of NFA on safeguarding concerns raised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners will see better safeguarding defensible decision-making with the lack of 'no further action' being used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAR Subgroup will oversee this as part of the SAR learning and themes to be actioned by partners.
1.5	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners will see better safeguarding decision-making, support, and outcomes for adults who self-neglect. Adult who self-neglect will see better engagement options and resources to support them in a way that makes safeguarding personal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAR Subgroup will oversee this as part of the SAR learning and themes to be actioned by partners.

Priority Two	Improve access to safeguarding information so people know where to go and who to speak to in a timely and effective way.		
Agreed Metrics		Potential Outcome Measures	Subgroup Work related to Priority
2.1	BSAB will update their website to have a more accessible format.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater use of the website. Feedback from ALD that the site is accessible. Feedback from Partners that the sit is accessible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and Quality Subgroup will oversee this work as part of the BSAB Communication and Engagement Plan action.
2.2	BSAB will use their Communication and Engagement Plan for all shared information to the public and service user groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from Partners that the information is timely and useful for the public and the services they offer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and Quality Subgroup will oversee this work as part of the BSAB Communication and Engagement Plan action.
2.3	BSAB will attend forums in the community to seek feedback on services and matters affecting residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback to Partners will increase regarding the wider-network and how services are impacting on the residents of Bexley. Feedback to Partners will increase a greater networking and sharing of information across the partnership on services offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and Quality Subgroup will oversee this work as part of the BSAB Communication and Engagement Plan action.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater links will be made so that both residents and partners can have assurance where to signpost or escalate concerns or matters arising. 	
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Priority Three	Improve professional curiosity for staff's safeguarding practice including all areas regarding Mental Capacity.		
Agreed Metrics		Potential Outcome Measures	Subgroup Work related to Priority
3.1	BSAB will hold learning and development sessions for professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of repeated SAR themes. Increase in awareness, actions take to prevent abuse/neglect from happening and/or continuing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAR Subgroup will oversee this as part of the SAR learning and themes to be actioned by partners.
3.2	BSAB will seek assurances that Mental Capacity is understood across the partnership and the understanding of how trauma and abuse affect decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the belief that trauma is a 'life-style choice' and how services are needed to work long-term with adults. Increase in safeguarding concerns regarding dual-diagnosis and concerns linked to mental capacity. Increase in completed Mental Capacity Assessments across the partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAR Subgroup will oversee this as part of the SAR learning and themes to be actioned by partners.