



Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board **Annual Report 2019/20**



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Introduction



I was delighted to be appointed as the Independent Chair of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults' Board in August 2019 and to continue the work of my predecessors. There can be no greater priority for organisations, communities and individuals than ensuring that people, particularly the most vulnerable, are protected from abuse. Buckinghamshire

made the decision to appoint a single Independent Chair for both the adults' and children's partnerships to ensure opportunities of working together and managing the transition between childhood and adulthood are realised.

In early 2019 BSAB commissioned a review of the Board and its subgroups. This was completed by the interim business manager and presented to the Board in September 2019, all of the recommendations were accepted. Since then the subgroups across the children's and adults' partnership have been aligned, new chairs have been appointed and more focused terms of reference agreed. I have also worked with the Board to ensure that it has clear priorities, an effective performance framework and adds value.

The 2019-20 year ended with the emergence of the Covid-19 virus sweeping across the world. Protecting the vulnerable was a key priority during the crisis and organisations have responded to this with new working practices and with greater sharing of information. Whilst this period has inevitably highlighted major challenges it has also brought some benefits that must be embedded.

The annual report is an opportunity to highlight the progress that has been made through the year in delivering against the business plan. This year we have decided to produce a shorter report that highlights the key performance data and the activity of the board. We have already published our plan for 2020-23 and this sets out the priorities for the future and has picked up on those issues that remain priorities from this period. One of the key activities for the future is the launch of a new website where further updates about the activity of the BSAB will be posted.

Sir Francis J S Habgood, QPM

*Independent Chair for Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Adults' Board*





About Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) is a statutory, multi-organisation partnership coordinated by the local authority, which oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the Buckinghamshire Council area. The main objective of the BSAB is to gain assurance that local safeguarding arrangements, and partner organisations, work effectively, individually and together to support and safeguard adults in Buckinghamshire who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

The Board has an Independent Chair who provides leadership, vision and support and who is responsible for ensuring that all organisations contribute effectively to the work of the Board. The Chair provides accountability for the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Adult Board by way of reports to relevant strategic committees and boards.

The Board is supported by four subgroups which carry out the day to day work in order to help deliver the Board's objectives and Strategic Plan.

Safeguarding Adult Boards have three core duties:

- 1.** Develop and publish a Strategic Plan setting out their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.
- 2.** Publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been.
- 3.** Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2018/2020 sets out five key priorities:



Key priority one

To ensure that there is effective communication with residents in Buckinghamshire, and between professional agencies, different Boards and Partnerships.



Key priority two

To ensure that the workforce who work with adults with care and support needs are competent to carry out their roles.



Key priority three

To understand the nature of abuse within Buckinghamshire and to put structures in place to reduce the likelihood of abuse occurring. This includes looking at different formats of abuse, including crimes using modern technology, financial scams, romance scams, cyber bullying, stalking and domestic abuse crimes.



Key priority four

To ensure that the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews is embedded in practice across agencies working in Buckinghamshire.



Key priority five

To ensure that all safeguarding work undertaken in Buckinghamshire is person-centred and in line with the philosophy and guiding principles from *Making Safeguarding Personnel*.

The Safeguarding Adults Board has worked over the last year with our partners across the multi-agency arena to drive activity to ensure that we have met or worked towards the key priorities. As a result of the business functions of the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership becoming a single business unit we will be seeking to undertake some joint strategic work over the next two years. The focus of this work will be to streamline and align the new three year business plans for both the Board and Partnership to demonstrate closer working together and a whole-family approach to our work. We are seeking to provide a joint learning and development plan to again provide closer training and learning opportunities across all our multi agencies, voluntary and charity sectors. Through the work in our subgroups we are seeking to produce quality assurance frameworks that will support the subgroup activities and challenge those working in the safeguarding arena to ensure that our policies and procedures are imbedded in the work we carry out, and that we can demonstrate the impact of learning that has taken place.

Our Vision

To work together to enable vulnerable adults in Buckinghamshire to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse. To ensure our approach is focused around placing the individual at the centre of the work we undertake.



SAFEGUARDING

Making safeguarding personal and the responsibility of everyone.



COMMUNICATING

Ensuring there is effective communication with adult services in Buckinghamshire.



ENABLING

Enabling vulnerable adults to have choices and control over how they want to live.



LEARNING

Learning from our experiences and improving how we work.

Our Partners

The Care Act 2014 is statutory guidance that provides adult safeguarding with a legal framework, setting out the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners.

From a statutory perspective the three legally required bodies are:

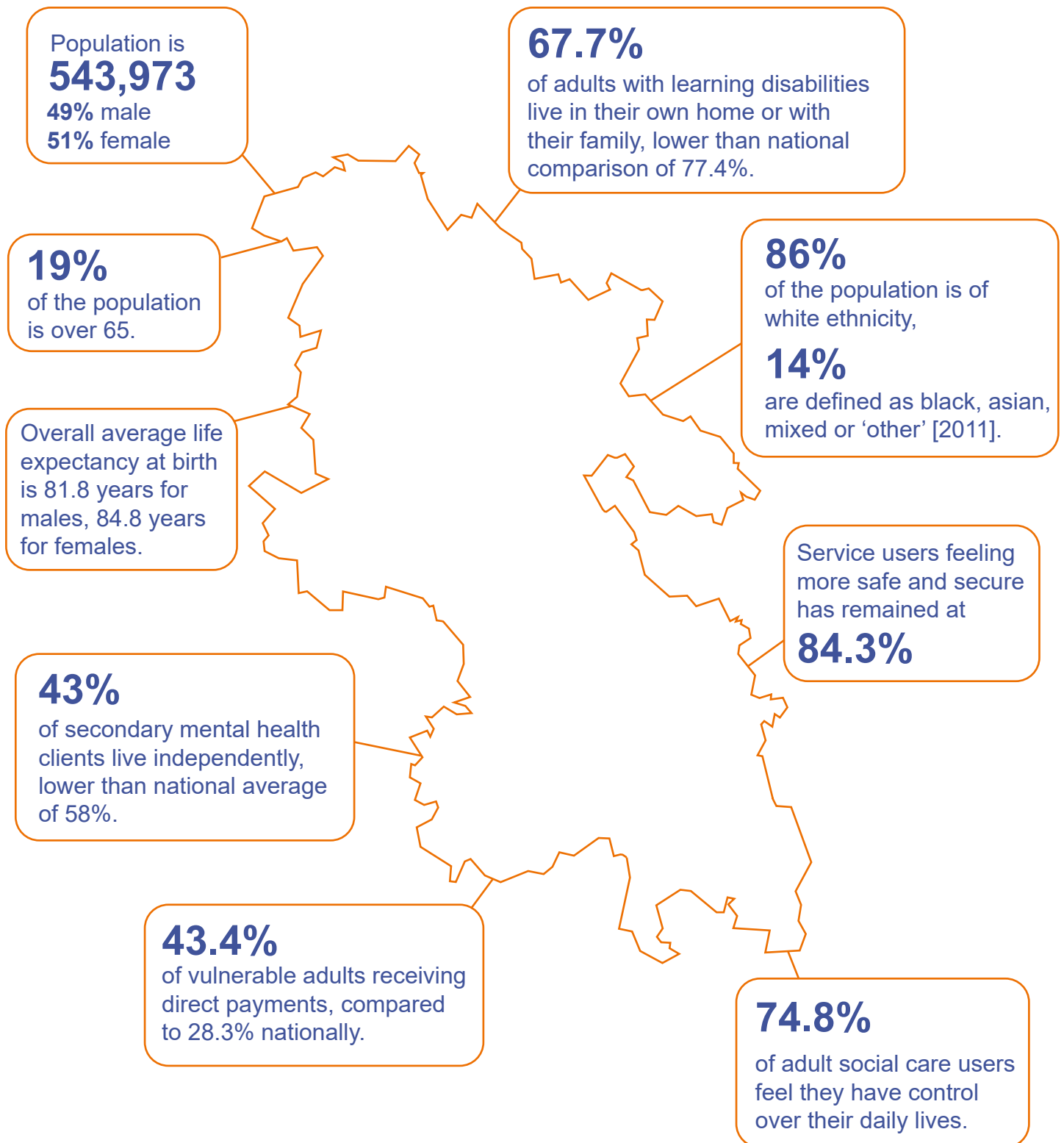


However, we work closely with a range of other partners:

- NHS England
- Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- National Probation Service
- Epilepsy Society
- Healthwatch Bucks
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Care Quality Commission
- Talkback
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Buckinghamshire Mind
- Bucks New University



About Buckinghamshire



About our work

9,094

Total number of safeguarding concerns

982

Concerns progressed to an incident

549

Total number of Section 42 enquiries

67

Total number of non-statutory enquiries

Section 42 gender:

196 male

333 female

Section 42 age:

237 18-74 years

292 75-95+ years

Three most common forms of abuse enquiry in Buckinghamshire are:

40% neglect

22% physical abuse

18% financial abuse

Section 42 ethnicity:

79.6% white

3.4% asian/British asian

3.2% black African/
Caribbean/British

Making Safeguarding Personal 74% of individuals were asked what their desired outcomes were. Of these:

62% of outcomes were fully achieved

33% of outcomes were partially achieved

What we achieved 2019/2020

A number of objectives set out in the previous Annual Report have been achieved this year. Of note, in August 2019 the business functions of the Safeguarding Adults Board merged with the Safeguarding Children Partnership to form one business unit. The business unit now has one Safeguarding Partnership Manager to oversee the daily operation of the Safeguarding Adults Board and one Joint Independent Chair. This has streamlined the business processes but not impacted on the valuable work the Safeguarding Adults Board carry out to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our communities in Buckinghamshire. A review was undertaken with regards to the membership of both the Board and subgroups. This led to a more refined membership of the Board and work was completed to ensure that membership of the subgroups was sufficiently supported from our multi-agencies and third sector volunteer and charity sectors.

The joint protocol that exists between the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Stronger Bucks Board has been under review leading to a new but slimmed down Joint Protocol that will be published in 2020. This document will set out defined structures for joint working between these four groups, leading to more cohesive strategies to support our local communities.

Service users' feeling safe and secure has remained consistent at 84%, which demonstrates that the work being under taken in the multi-agency arena is providing support to those in need. Moving forward, the Safeguarding Adults Board will seek to improve on that figure through the implementation of better learning structures for our staff to develop greater professional knowledge and skills. This will be supported through the new joint training provision envisaged for 2020, linking the Adults Board and Children Partnership.

A lead theme cutting across all strategies, which seeks to provide support to our communities, is to ensure that we make 'safeguarding personal and everyone's responsibility'. Of those asked about how their expectations or desired outcomes were met, 95% of people stated that their needs were fully or partially met.

Safeguarding adult subgroups

The Safeguarding Adults Board has four subgroups that lead on various areas of business and help the Safeguarding Adults Board deliver on a range of priorities identified in the strategic and business plan. Each subgroup has a nominated chair and representatives from across the multi-agencies.

Safeguarding Adult Review Subgroup

The Care Act 2014 states that Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) must arrange a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) when an adult in its area dies or is seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult. This is a statutory responsibility.

The overall purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to promote learning and improve practice, not to re-investigate or to apportion blame.

Safeguarding Adult Review Reports are published on our Safeguarding Adults Board [webpage](#).

During the period 2019 to 2020, the subgroup completed four safeguarding reviews that had been commissioned in 2018. These reviews related to Adult L, Adult V, Adult Z and Adult B. In June 2019 a review for Adult CC was commissioned, which is in the final stages of being completed, and a further review for Adult FF as commissioned in March 2020 is currently still in the review process.

As well as oversight and management of these reviews, the subgroup reviewed a further four safeguarding referrals that did not meet the criteria for a full safeguarding review and these remained as single or multi-agency local reviews.

Learning from all reviews undertaken is shared within the multi-agency arena to develop and inform working practices and improve the services received by adults needing support.

Training Subgroup

The purpose of this subgroup was to design and implement a multi-agency training strategy for all agencies working with adults within Buckinghamshire. This subgroup was established in 2008 and commissioned multi-agency training, which was part of the core business of the subgroup. In 2019, the Safeguarding Adults Board felt that the provision of training should be reviewed and new opportunities looked at to deliver training in a more constructive way, utilising a joint platform with the Safeguarding Children's Board. A review took place in early 2019 to move the Safeguarding Children Board into a Partnership with a joint business unit to support ongoing and developing activity. At this point any training provision ceased within the Safeguarding Adults Board and a new training and development strategy was to be developed to support training requirements and needs moving forward.

On the basis of this decision this subgroup ceased to exist in its role in May 2019.

Policy, Procedure and Practice Subgroup

The Policy, Procedure and Practice (PP&P) subgroup ensures multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures for Buckinghamshire are up to date, easily accessible and well embedded across partner organisations. They have a range of functions to support the processes that enable learning together, sharing expertise and resources, in order to improve the effectiveness of safeguarding adult policies and procedures to support staff and the public.

The subgroup have reviewed the Risk Assessment Multi Agency Panel (RAMP) process to establish if it was meeting the requirements of current needs from service users and professionals. As a result of this review, RAMP has been replaced by a new High Risk and Complex Case Panel which will undergo a trial period in 2020.

The subgroup continues to work to establish good working practices across the multi-agency arena ensuring that information sharing and learning, particularly from serious safeguarding reviews, is embedded and has an impact on service provision supporting our communities.

Quality and Performance Subgroup

The core function of the Quality and Performance Subgroup is to assess the quality of the work undertaken to safeguard vulnerable adults, in addition to understanding the impact of this work in terms of its effectiveness in helping to keep vulnerable adults safe. The Quality Assurance Subgroup also ensures all agencies monitor their own performance on safeguarding.

The Quality and Performance Subgroup have developed a Quality Assurance Framework to give assurance that the Adults Safeguarding Board and its constituent partner agencies have effective systems, structures, processes and practices in place to improve outcomes and experience in the context of safeguarding adults at risk across Buckinghamshire. The framework is in its final stages of planning and will be published in 2020.



Budget for BSAB for 2019-2020

£162,747.00 was received from partner's contribution; £54,457 was carried over from previous year leaving a credit balance of £71,097.00.

Board costs	Actual Year End 2019-20
Partners contribution	-£162,747.00
Carried forward	-£54,457.00
Income total	-£217,204.00
Expenditure	£146,107.00
Accounts total 2019-2020	-£71,097.00

What's next for 2020/21?



Review plans for a joint training provision with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.



Provide a new website for the Adults Safeguarding Board.



Develop a new three year business plan.



Deliver two themed conferences.