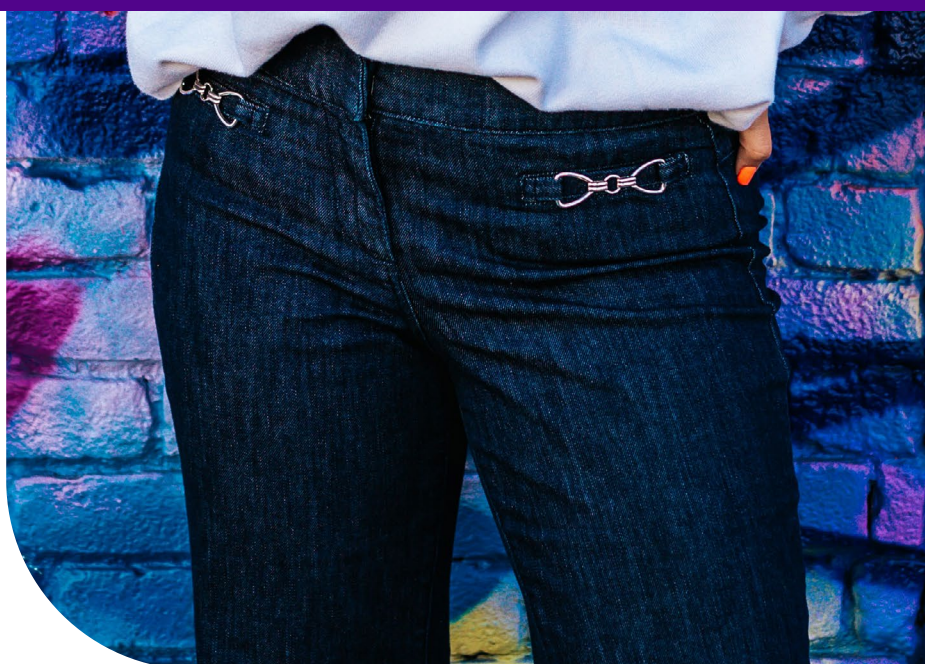




# Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board **Annual Report 2022/23**







## Foreword from the Independent Chair

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write the foreword for the 2022/23 annual report. My tenure as Independent Chair began part way through this period and so this has been a time of consolidation and continuity.

One of the major themes that I inherited as I came into this role was about ensuring there was more evidence of impact of the working of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adult Board. This reflected the need to stretch the energy that goes into the work of the partnership from the three statutory partners and the broader partnership into discernible difference for vulnerable children and adults. In support of this, I have introduced the need for the outputs from the partnership work to be considered at least across the following domains:

- **Data** – is there evidence from the analysis of data that there is changed or improved practice?
- **Qualitative assessment** – has audit activity or similar collaborative learning led to improved outcomes for vulnerable children and adults?
- **Voice of staff** – is there evidence that those practitioners, whatever their role, influence how practice is developing and strengthens outcomes for vulnerable people?
- **Voice of lived experience** – how are the experiences of those individuals across the community systematically taken into account, and does this influence practice?

We are at an early stage of using these domains across the partnership, but I can report on some good early progress.

Data, as you would expect, has been an invaluable resource for the partnership for many years. Therefore, this year we have taken the analysis of data further to focus attention on areas for improvement. In the Safeguarding Children Partnership this has led to an increasing look at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and the application of threshold criteria. This is work in progress and is likely to become one of the key priorities for this year's revision of the Business Plan. Meanwhile in the Safeguarding Adult Board, an analysis of the pattern of in-bound safeguarding referrals has led to important partnership-wide work to improve the accuracy of this area.

Qualitative assessment, which has audit activity and case review processes at its heart, is a little more prosaic from my point of view. Whilst I can see that individual safeguarding organisations use audit activity, the systematic completion of the continuous improvement cycle is not always visible. Similarly, although the timely and robust completion of case reviews is strong, the follow through to put in place agreed actions to improve safeguarding outcomes is not always evident. Further work to consolidate these important areas across the partnership is underway and I am encouraged by the engagement across the statutory partners and beyond to strengthening this area.

The voice of staff is well embedded in some aspects of both the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adult Board. This is most obviously illustrated through the completion of case reviews where staff views can clearly be seen and are influential about outcomes.

Finally, the voice of those with lived experience is an area where we have agreed we want to see brought to the forefront of our work. I'm able to report that there have been some excellent examples on which to build. The most striking of these has been the personal testimonies individuals with lived experience have made at staff training events hosted by the board. I was struck not only of the bravery and trust shown by these individuals but also by the unanimous way that staff attending engaged with this.

In the report you will read of the hard work undertaken by colleagues in subgroups and progressing our common commitment to safeguarding vulnerable people. I can report this hard work is thoughtful, professional and represents the expertise and commitment of all concerned. The next stage of development of the work will be to achieve the goal of being able to clearly demonstrate what difference all of this work has made and to see the partnership become more systematic in its approach. We are enthusiastically engaged with that development now.

I therefore offer my thanks and recognition to staff from across the partnership involved in this critical work, and for the work of the Safeguarding Business Office especially for their organisational skills and great tenacity. I look forward now to a year of further progress.

**Walter McCulloch**

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*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 a business unit which is funded by partner contributions. 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. In addition the Board seeks to share best practice and innovation to make the most of the collective resources available.

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 five 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 2020/2023 set out our vision and priority areas. In this reporting period we continued to work to this plan while beginning the work to revise and update this:**

**Key priority one** - 'Talk to me, hear my voice'. Engage with our communities to understand their needs and listen to what they say so that it informs our decision making and planning.

**Key priority two** - Understand the nature of neglect (including self-neglect) and abuse and put structures in place to reduce cases.

**Key priority three** - Ensure that professionals working with adults with care and support needs have the required knowledge and training for their roles.

**Key priority four** - Make safeguarding personal and ensure that the work of the Board is informed by service users and carers.

**Key priority five** - Work as a multi-agency partnership.

The Business Plan also contains defined outcomes which enable us to have a collective agreement about 'what good looks like'. The outcomes listed within each priority was intended to ensure that we achieve our aims, and thereby our vision to provide a voice to those individuals in need of support, and demonstrate the difference we will make to our local communities.

The Safeguarding Adults Board has continued to build relationships with our partners across the multi-agency arena to help shape our activity, to ensure that we have met or worked towards the key priorities. In addition, we have worked collaboratively together to understand where the system challenges lie in a very difficult post-pandemic landscape.

The joint Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership, including the shared business unit, started to implement the scope joint strategic work identified at the end of the last reporting cycle. This included bringing together learning and development and modern slavery exploitation as 'all-age' workstreams.

The unprecedented demand for services across the partnership has a tangible and enduring impact. The work of the subgroups of the Board to enact the business plan has flexed to incorporate this, whilst remaining mindful of the impact on both service recipients and staff alike.

Therefore, we have and will continue to work to an aligned business plan and this will be updated to reflect the significant changes to the environment for partners and residents. The role of the Board as critical friend remains important especially when there are so many challenges faced by the wider safeguarding system. This year we have seen challenges relating to staff 'churn', changes in agency structure and roles as well as staff resilience and wellbeing. We continue to seek to improve our 'product' from each of the subgroups, and to be clear about what the intended changes to practice are so that we can move to measuring the impact. We would like to thank all our contributing partners for their commitment and their contribution. We have continued to receive information, data, feedback from reflective events and subject expertise. In addition, partners have dedicated time and resource to reviews which will provide some rich information in the coming period.

# 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 'talk to me, hear my voice' and is central to everything we do.



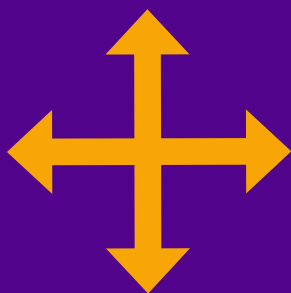
## **SAFEGUARDING**

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

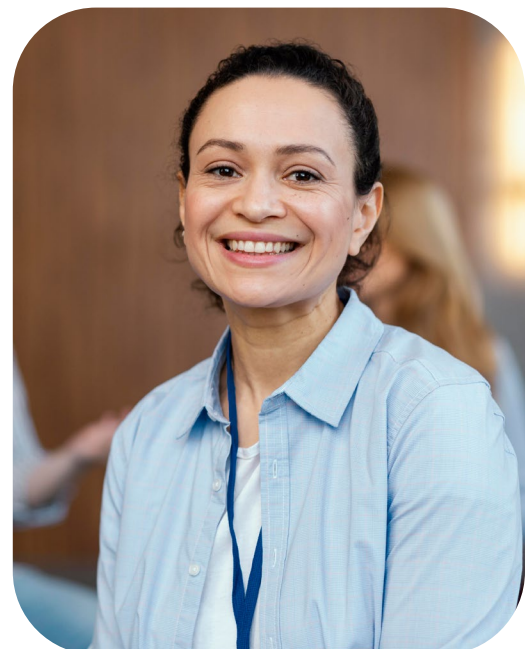
The Care Act 2014 is statutory guidance that provides adult safeguarding with a legal framework, setting out the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners.

From a statutory perspective the three legally required bodies are:

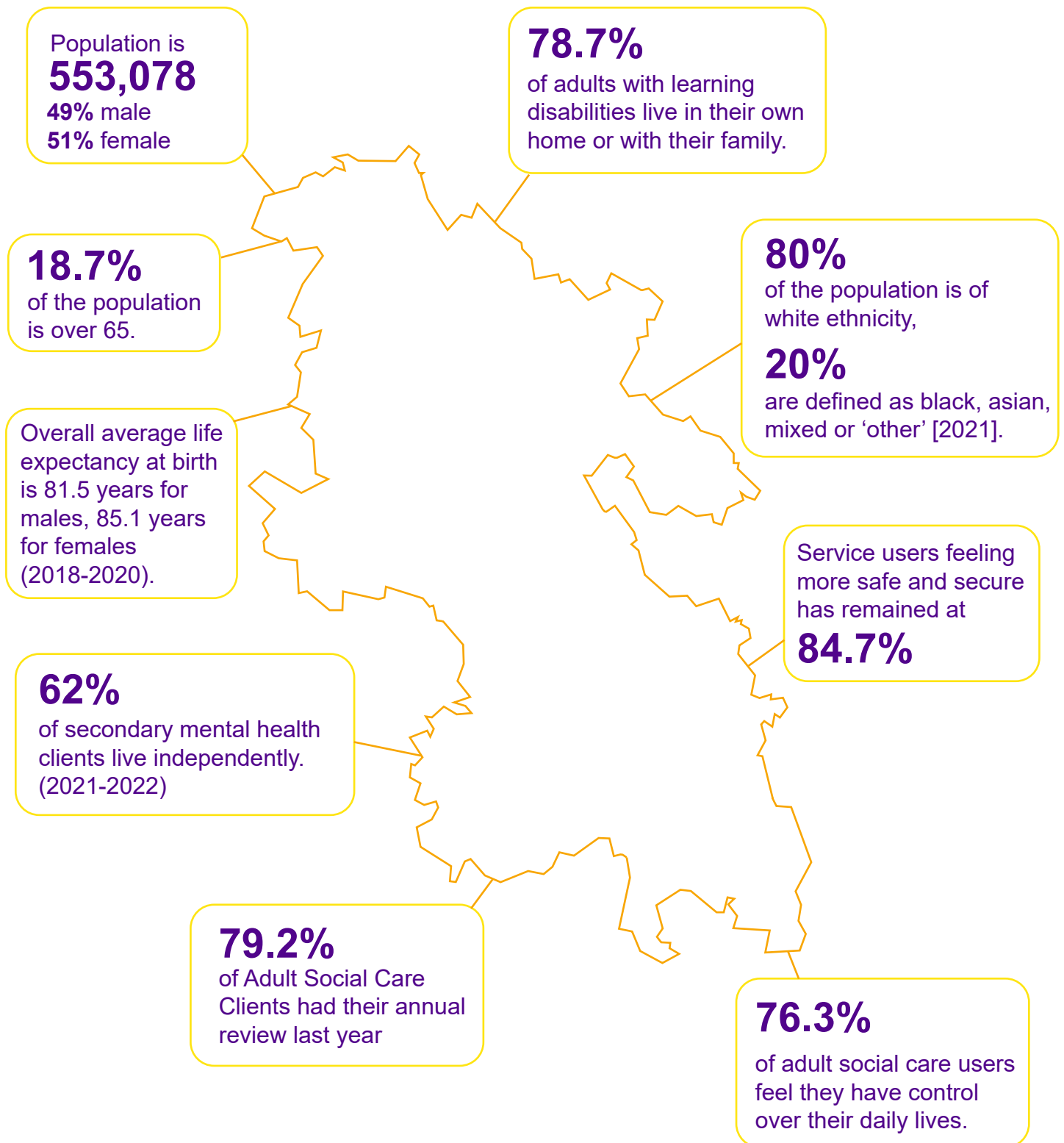


However, we work closely with a range of other partners:

- NHS England
- Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board
- 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

**1,713**

Total number of Section 42 enquiries

**73**

Total number of non-statutory enquiries

**12,124**

Total number of safeguarding concerns

61% of concluding S42 enquires in 2022/23 where individuals were asked their desired outcome. Of these:

**57%** of outcomes were fully achieved

**39%** of outcomes were partially achieved

Three most common forms of abuse enquiry in Buckinghamshire are:

**39%** neglect

**15%** physical abuse

**14%** psychological abuse

Section 42 age:

**640** 18-74 years

**818** 75-95+ years

Section 42 ethnicity:

**71%** white

**3%** asian/British asian

**2%** Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

**1%** Mixed Ethnic Group

**0%** Other Ethnic Group

**23%** not stated/refused

Section 42 gender:

**39%** male

**61%** female

# What we achieved 2022/2023

During this reporting period, the work of the BSAB returned to a new normal. As demand and complexity presenting to services has increased, so too has the need for scrutiny and collaborative working. Despite this there has been positive progress in all of the priority areas and a parallel review of the structure and business plan started.

With regard to the actions agreed in the business plan :

## Priority 1. Talk to me, hear my voice

The BSAB has hosted twice yearly conferences highlighting important contemporary topics. At their heart these popular events ensure the voice of those with lived experience is a central contribution. Feedback from staff who have attended demonstrates the impact these powerful and brave sessions have had on practice. We have increased the voice of families of people who have been harmed or have died and whose experiences are subject to a statutory review. The feedback from families has been very positive.

We have embedded a robust Safeguarding Adult Review process, including the use of a rapid review process and the use of a tracker, to ensure a focus on timescale, quality of recommendations and responses from partners. We want to move in the next planning period from monitoring actions to understanding impact and seeking better ways to share the learning.

The Independent Chair and partners agree about the importance of hearing the voice of people who use services and local residents to triangulate any assurance we have received. At the time of writing this was being planned as part of the next years priorities.

## Priority 2. Understanding the local picture with regard to neglect, self-neglect and abuse in Buckinghamshire.

A safeguarding training needs analysis has been recently completed. This exercise has ensured the following: to use the emerging opportunity of some single agency training to be widened to a multi-agency offer, and to assess the high demand for ongoing training for self neglect and complex needs. BSAB have provided rolling sessions from subject experts on self neglect and hoarding. The BSAB also undertook to lead and facilitate the complex case panel, which has been well attended; on reviewing cases there have been some very positive outcomes for individuals who were referred. Self-neglect, problematic substance use and mental ill health continue to be the main reason for referral. In the next reporting period BSAB will undertake an analysis of the referrals and outcomes to inform any learning.

The Policy, Procedure and Practice Subgroup has maintained the self-neglect toolkit and work will continue to ensure all toolkits and guidance reflect best practice locally and nationally. Meanwhile, the Board assisted partners in a session to develop a self neglect pathway which was intended to assist colleagues working in the wider safeguarding workforce to identify, assess and respond to self neglect prior to the need for social care intervention. At the time of writing this was waiting for sign off, if approved BSAB will raise awareness about this tool and the intended benefit for affected residents. The current policy offer can be found on the [BSAB website](#).

### **Priority 3. Access to the right training for frontline multi-agency partners informed by learning from the Board and subgroups**

The training plan has updated as a result of the training needs analysis and work is underway to create a safeguarding training offer for the wider safeguarding workforce. This is intended to draw a distinction between welfare concerns that can be supported in the community, and when an individual has care and support needs. The Independent Chair led a well-attended multi-agency workshop to support the launch of guidance for professionals which also explored this issue. The BSAB will ensure that the training offer is flexible and responsive to the clearly defined themes that have arisen from reviews, as well as evidence from the 'front door' of many services.

### **Priority 4. Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)**

This year we were privileged to have brought the voice of families, whose loved ones were the subject of a Safeguarding Adult Review, into the process, which has been invaluable. We are committed to broadening the range of voices and experiences coming into the BSAB more proactively in order to help shape our priorities and to enable us to test the assurance we are given. Issues with staffing, capacity and demand have meant that our progress has been slower than we wanted, but this remains at the heart of what we are seeking to achieve.

### **Priority 5. Work as a multi-agency partnership**

By undertaking the work under priorities 1 to 4 we ensure that we are actively leading and promoting multi-agency collaborative work.





# 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 (SAR)

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.

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

### SAR activity 2022/23

During the period 2022 to 2023 the subgroup:

- Agreed that five referrals for SAR's met the threshold and began the commissioning/review process.
- Completed one SAR, which at the time of writing was going through the steps to publication.
- Ensured that the learning from two of the SARs was shared with Children's Services as there were themes, including the need to 'think family', and in both cases there had been services offered from both children's and adults' agencies.
- Kept the previously agreed actions under review and sought assurance that they had been acted on.

Key learning themes taken from SARs during this period:

- The need for a person-centred, contextual approach to individual needs that take into account their history, relationships and environment.
- The need to be assured that the relevant people in the workforce are sufficiently confident and competent with regard to the law around mental capacity, fluctuating capacity and best interests decisions.
- The particular risks that young people (aged 16-25 years old) can face when transitioning from Children's Services to adult.
- The need to work collaboratively and flexibly where individuals have both fluctuating substance misuse and mental ill health, and how that impacts on their lived experience, such as where they live and how they are assessed by agencies.
- The need to be assured that we have a workforce who can identify and offer appropriate support to people living with coercive control, particularly when they are vulnerable, e.g. physically ill.
- The need for a shared, relationship-based approach to supporting people who neglect themselves

### Work of the subgroup in addition to reviews

The SAR Subgroup found that those invited to be SAR panel members, or those attending the practitioner events, did not always feel confident about what was expected of them or what the purpose of the meetings were for. As a result of this, the subgroup developed guidance documents

detailing the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the process that will now be sent to those participating in SARs.

The SAR Subgroup has identified that the way learning is disseminated to wider partners and frontline practitioners is an area for improvement. As part of the work plan for the subgroup there will be the development of learning tools, e.g. '7 Minute Briefing' documents, short animated videos on subjects such as professional curiosity and self-neglect, and anonymized case studies used in the BSAB Learning and Development Plan. The development of the BSAB Learning and Development Subgroup will also support more prompt and creative sharing of learning from SARs.

By April 2022, the SAR Subgroup were in the process of commissioning a thematic review of SARs commissioned by the BSAB to:

- Better understand the reoccurring themes.
  - Analyse the quality of our commissioned reviews.
  - Enable the Board and the multi-agency partners to have a more joined-up approach to tackling core issues in the way vulnerable adults' care and support needs are met.
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## Learning and Development Subgroup

As the Chair of the Learning and Development subgroup of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP), I am pleased to present the annual report for the past year. This report aims to assess our group's activities and outcomes across four domains as requested: use of data, qualitative assessment and evidence of improvement, voice of staff, and voice of lived experience. We will reflect on the activities and outcomes achieved by the subgroup within these domains, with a focus on the priorities set for this year, ending with matters for strategic consideration.

The primary function of the Learning and Development Subgroup is to facilitate a more integrated approach to safeguarding learning and development to ensure all roles in partner workforces have the appropriate knowledge, skills and behaviours to keep the people of Buckinghamshire safe. The Learning and Development Subgroup is still at the beginning of development. This is due to two key reasons:

- Multiple changes of Chair.
- Lack of commitment/consistent engagement from partners and agencies.

The priority over 2022/23 has been to actively seek quantitative and qualitative data through the undertaking a training needs analysis (TNAs) across partners to define goals, structure and content to plan the priority and ongoing areas for delivery. A year on from when I took over as Chair and we still do not have all TNA documents returned. Members were asked to complete and submit no later than 18 August 2022. Reminders have been sent out regularly and the issue raised at board and executive meetings.

### Use of data

In the interim, the quantitative data so far received has helped the subgroup to engage in discussions to start to target our attention and efforts effectively. It has provided valuable insights into specific areas, such as:

- What single agency safeguarding training is planned.
- 100% stated Induction/General/level 1, 2, and 3 Safeguarding – Adult and Children, MCA and DoLS/LPS, self-neglect and domestic abuse.
- 16.6% stated personal self-care and empowerment, suicide prevention, sexual harassment.
- 16.6% stated SEND, neurodiversity, parenting, parental conflict.
- Whether member organisations are able to be part of the Safeguarding Partnership training offer.
- 50% stated no.
- 33.3% stated yes following further consultation.
- 16.6% stated it would have to be a corporate decision.
- And other figures such as numbers/types of staff and volunteers that need safeguarding training.

To enhance our work further, we recognise the need for new or additional data sources. Exploring external data, such as national or regional benchmarks, may provide us with comparative insights and help us identify best practices that can be adopted locally. We will actively seek opportunities to gather such data and integrate it into our decision-making processes appropriately as we progress through this work.

## **Qualitative assessment and evidence of improvement**

The work of the subgroup has encompassed qualitative assessments through the use of the TNA tool. These have also provided valuable insights, such as:

- What safeguarding training new staff and volunteers need, but also to meet knowledge and skills gaps for existing individuals and groups. The most common provision identified across agencies were topics covering MCA/DoLS/LPS, including self-neglect and domestic abuse.
- What multi-agency and/or external training has been identified to be facilitated to meet the need of the workforce which is not accessible via internal or other shared agency training provision. The key external agencies have been Reducing the Risk, Safe Lives, NSPCC and Lime Culture. The training has been primarily focused on domestic abuse, contextual safeguarding, sexual harassment, violence and misconduct. Also, specific training for named roles in health including Level 4 and supervisor training.
- Examination of current/proposed workplace learning for safeguarding leading to the identification of tangible enhancement in work practices, such as services offering workspaces where services could co-locate and work together, which would support interprofessional learning and development.

This has also recognised areas where content and/or focus of learning and development requires updating to reflect emerging safeguarding challenges. Consequently, this will ensure an enhanced integrated approach, and alignment with current best practices, learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), fatal fires, learning from lives and deaths – people with a learning disability and autistic people (Learning Disabilities Mortality Reviews) (LeDeR) and legislative/policy/guidance changes.

The subgroup has identified that an increased understanding of monitoring and evaluation processes amongst partners is needed to establish effective quality assurance principles. This will ensure that safeguarding training provided by all agencies meets agreed standards and positively impacts front-line practice to improve outcomes.



## **Voice of staff**

The voice of staff has played a crucial role in informing the work of the subgroup through the submission of the TNA and discussions with members sharing their and their colleagues' experiences, challenges and suggestions for improvement, allowing us to gain a comprehensive understanding of their learning and development needs and concerns. The following barriers and mitigations have been identified:

- Staffing and work demand - manager support, approval and compliance monitoring, several dates offered.
- Travel and time constraints - shorter courses, virtual training, integrated with other meetings.
- Access/ability to use virtual platforms - staff supported to access, provision of hardware.

Furthermore, discussion in relation to staff work, including incident reports, case studies and feedback, SARs, CSPRs, etc. have provided valuable insights into ongoing safeguarding scenarios and complexities. These inputs will guide the development of targeted training programmes and the identification of areas requiring further support and development. This collaborative approach has started to foster a culture of continuous improvement, that we hope will empower staff to actively participate in and contribute to positive change.

## **Voice of lived experience**

The subgroup recognises the invaluable contributions of individuals with lived experience to our work. Through the direct engagement with service users and their advocates, we hope to gain valuable insights into the challenges they face and their perspectives on safeguarding processes.

The subgroup aspires to have service user and carer representatives as part of the core membership. We understand this is a key objective across all subgroups and the BSAB/BSCP is developing its arrangements with the involvement of service users. The Terms of Reference for this subgroup will be amended once a mechanism is in place to involve service users and carers more effectively.

The involvement of those with lived experience will make a significant difference in our work. Their insights and perspectives will challenge existing practices, lead to the development of more person-centred approaches, and result in the identification of new areas for improvement. By integrating their voices into our work, we will be able to take important steps toward ensuring the safeguarding processes align with the needs and experiences of those we serve.

## **Matters for strategic consideration**

All agencies understand that partnership and collaborative working is the cornerstone of effective safeguarding practice and there is a duty on the three partners to make arrangements to work together, and with any relevant agencies, for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of people. Yet, with some organisations there remains difficulty with prioritising attendance and engagement with our subgroup work. I don't believe this subgroup is alone in experiencing this - we understand current workforce complexities and issues around workforce resilience. I would advocate for some strategic oversight in how we can tackle this through a combined partnership approach for the benefit of staff morale and agency efficacy for improved service user experience and outcomes.

In conclusion, the Learning and Development Subgroup has made some progress in the year 2022/23, aligning our efforts with the priorities set by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Through the effective use of

the data and qualitative assessments that we have received and engaged in so far, seeking and attending to the voice of staff, and recognising the importance of the voice of lived experience, we have identified areas where improvements in safeguarding learning and development across partner workforces can be made.

Our commitment to making safeguarding personal, effective communication, empowering choices, and continuous improvement has guided our actions throughout the year. Our aim remains, to enhance the effectiveness of safeguarding practice through education and training of practitioners, and contributing to the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable and at-risk adults and children in Buckinghamshire.

We look forward to enhanced collaboration with our partners and stakeholders in the upcoming year, striving to add value and better evidence of the impact of our work on operational staff and the individuals who use our services.

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## Policy, Procedure and Practice Subgroup (PP&P)

The PP&P Subgroup has experienced the same challenges as have been reflected in the workforce as a whole, including changes in chairing. However, despite the handover and the changes associated with Covid this group has remained functional and free from disruption. The group has adapted well to a non-office based delivery.

The purpose of the PP&P Subgroup is to ensure that multi-agency safeguarding policies, practices and procedures are up to date, easily accessible and well embedded across partner organisations. The group maintains a schedule for policies to be renewed that is adaptable to need, e.g. if learning from a Safeguarding Adult Review reveals a need, or if there are changes in legislation.

The adult Policy, Procedure and Practice (PP&P) Subgroup has seven members representing: Buckinghamshire Council, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), Integrated Care System, Thames Valley Police, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and The Epilepsy Society. The long-standing member from the Epilepsy Society gives a balance to the statutory organisations.

The updating of multi-agency documents continues and we now have thirteen BSAB policies, frameworks or guidance, including the new Risk Enablement. We also have two single agency documents: the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Medication Errors Guidance, which help support Adult Safeguarding. In addition to this, we have added a new Resources for Professionals webpage alongside the documents page and this has links to many national documents, including those belonging to LGA and Central Government.

The PP&P Subgroup Chair meet regularly with the new Independent Chair to ensure the link between the subgroups and the day-to-day business of the Board was connected. The PP&P Subgroup have ensured that actions from SARs that had implications for policy change were carried out.

In 2023 -2024 the subgroup will aim to ensure that the Multi-Agency Policy and Procedure will be updated and implemented across the partnership, along with the self-neglect policy and pathway. The focus of the group will be on the new objectives of the BSAB business plan.

## Quality and Performance Subgroup (Q&P)

The core function of the Quality and Performance Subgroup is to provide multi-agency scrutiny and assurance about the impact of partnership work intended to keep vulnerable adults safe.

During this period the subgroup Chair identified some clear workstreams that would enable greater clarity and focus as well as more diversity.

### Agreed workstreams

- **Performance/telling the story.** Telling the story, system trends and patterns, areas for concern and deep-dive opportunities, linking performance to research, evolving the performance story to develop a system-wide dashboard and the mechanics to make that happen.
- **Quality assuring practice - an operational and system perspective.** Developing an audit programme/audit tools, measuring improvement or not, looking at ways to improve, planning system-wide thematic reviews, coordinating and undertaking reviews, planning and undertaking a programme of thematic reviews, providing check and challenge.
- **Policy/practice and research guidance and evidence.** Suggest this is part of the subgroup as it is linked to all aspects of the various workstreams. Leading the effectiveness of policies and have a clearer and more visible link to research to inform system practice and expand to cover practice guidance.
- **Learning from.** Developing a lesson learnt approach across the system as a collective from SARs, audits, complaints, user experience. Develop effective mechanisms and test out whether learning has occurred or not.
- **Making safeguarding personal.** Involving a range of organisation (voluntary and others) to begin how we make safeguarding personal and eliciting user experience. This really should shape our approach. So what questions, what difference will it make.

The subgroup was affected by agency availability and capacity and progress has not been made against these workstreams in this reporting period.

However, key pieces of work completed included a joint county-wide safeguarding campaign. The purpose of this is to educate the public on how and when to report a concern, and to raise awareness of Adult Social Care, drawing on key messages from previous work, such as audits. The quality assurance work plan was also kept under review and will be updated in the next business year.



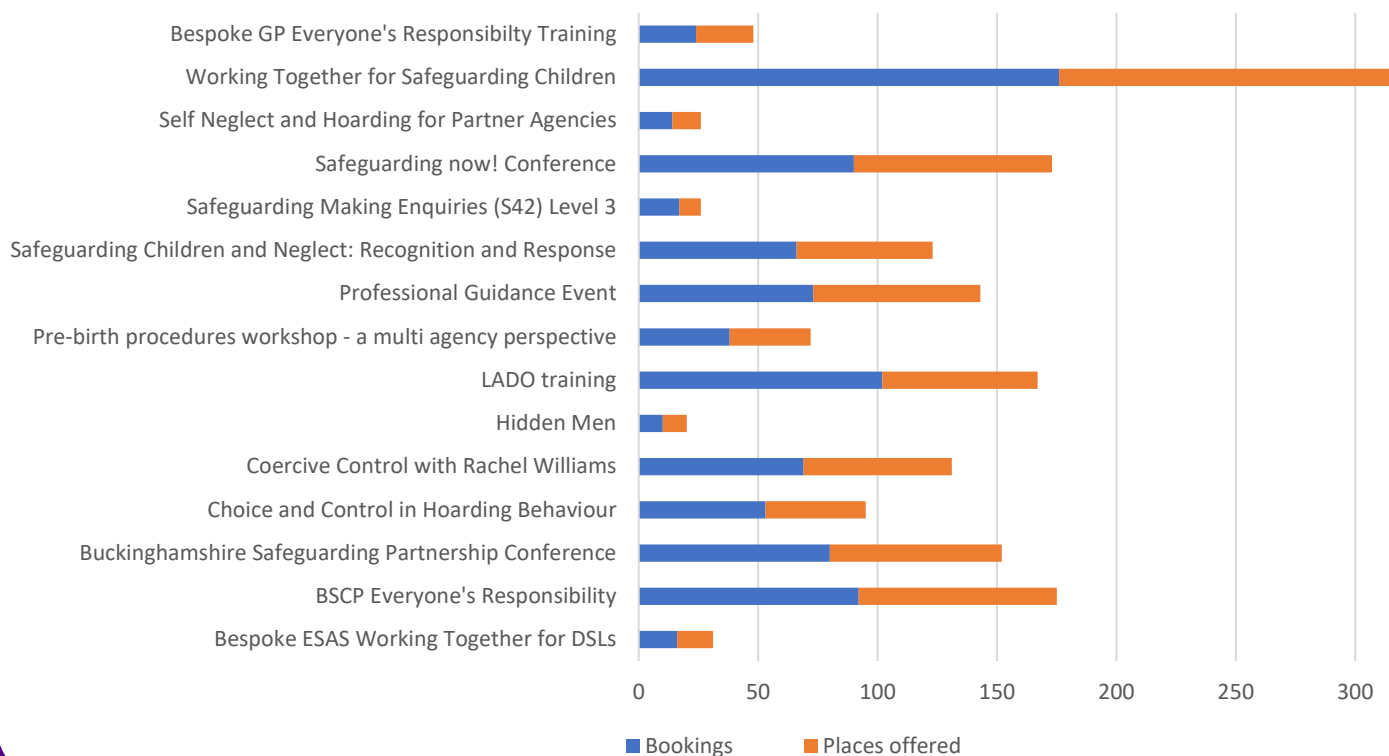
# Training / events / conferences

During the reporting period, the Safeguarding Partnership training team offered specialist courses/ events/conferences, these are in addition to Working Together to Safeguard Children & Everyone's Responsibility, these included:

- **Coercive Control Workshop** – Guest speaker: Rachel Williams (SUTDA)
- **Choice and Control in Hoarding Behaviour** – Guest speaker: Megan Karnes (Hoarding UK)
- **Hidden Men** - Guest speaker: Ruth Pearson
- City & Guilds assured **Young People Gambling Awareness and Harm Prevention**
- **Meet the LADO**
- **Pre-Birth Procedures** workshops
- Professional guidance event – summary in appendix
- **Safeguarding Children and Neglect: Recognition and Response**
- **Safeguarding Making Enquiries (S42) Level 3**
- Bespoke 'Everyone's Responsibility' for GP practice
- **Safeguarding Now!** Summer conference – attached in appendix
- BSAB/BSCP Winter conference – DoLs and MCA - attached in appendix

Over 900 multi-agency staff booked on to our training and events, with approximately 800 attending. A full breakdown of figures included in the appendix.

Training 2022-23 takeup



# BSAB/BSCP Safeguarding Conference

## Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership hosted their annual winter conference. The theme of this conference was the Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. This was a joint conference between the Children Partnership and the Adults Board. The speakers and activities reflected this and were relevant to both service areas.

The conference was well attended by approx. 80 multi-agency staff from across the partnership, including colleagues from:

- Cranstoun (drug services)
- Oxford Health
- BHT
- Victims First Specialist Service
- Virtual School
- Schools
- Adult Social Care
- Childrens Social Care/CWD
- Commissioning (Adults Health)
- Housing – Buckinghamshire Council
- Housing – Independent
- Localities – Street Wardens
- Youth Concern
- Environmental Health

The day consisted of guest speakers, networking opportunities and team building activities.

Walter McCulloch, Independent Chair for the Safeguarding Partnership, opened the conference welcoming the delegates and guest speakers, he gave an overview of the Safeguarding Partnership.

The first guest speaker was Claire Webster, Practice Development Consultant, Social Care Institute for Excellence. Claire gave a very in-depth and informative presentation into the Mental Capacity Act, what it is, when and how to use it, best interest and advocacy. Claire then covered the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, what it means, the process in care homes and hospitals, liberty protection safeguards and the changes that are coming.

Before lunch delegates took part in a quiz, pitting each table of ten against each other. This resulted in a healthy amount of rivalry, competition and multi-agency working. Encouraging delegates to talk to each other and work together. The winning table were happy with their chocolate prizes and bragging rights!

The afternoon session started with a pre-recorded video from Jenab Yousef, Adult Social Care, explaining the Mental Capacity Act from a local perspective.

The final speaker of the day was Juliet Casbolt, an expert from experience. Juliet gave a powerful presentation on her life and experiences of being sectioned under the Mental health Act. Feedback showed that delegates found Juliet's speech most impactful, with many reflecting on their own attitudes and actions.

Example of delegates feedback included:

- *Very informative and educational.*
- *It is outside my expertise so good intro.*
- *Very knowledgeable speakers.*
- *Really interesting talk from SCIE and great networking.*
- *Very beneficial to my role.*
- *The first speaker and the last speaker were both excellent.*
- *Always well run, friendly and supportive.*
- *Loved the presentation on the mental capacity act and learning about deprivation of liberty.*

Delegates listed the following learning from the day (taken from feedback)

- MCA and DOLs best practise.
  - Greater confidence in the MCA process.
  - Principles of Mental Capacity Act.
  - Rights-based practice and showing compassion/understanding to families facing these issues.
  - I was really informed by the expert by experience, our attitudes impact others and more about the care act.
  - Knowledge on DOLs/MCA. Lived experience session was excellent.
  - Quite a lot of knowledge gained on how to apply MCADOLs/LPS in my role.
  - Greater awareness of liberty protection safeguards.
  - The law is there to protect peoples' liberty not to deprive peoples' liberty.
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## BSAB Professional Guidance Event

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership hosted a Professional Guidance event alongside representatives from Adult Social Care.

The event at Weston Turville Golf Club, was well attended by approximately 73 multi-agency staff from across the partnership, including colleagues from housing, health, adult social care.

The purpose of the event was to reinforce the process for making a safeguarding referral and for staff to be able to recognise the difference between a welfare concern and a safeguarding referral.

Walter McCulloch, Independent Chair for the Safeguarding Partnership, welcomed delegates to the event and outlined the purpose of the day. He then handed over to Principal Social worker and Quality, Performance and Standards Director, Jennifer McAteer, who alongside Early Resolution team managers, Ricarda Aguinha and Colin Griffith, delivered a very informative session and supporting activities.

During the afternoon delegates engaged in table top activities lead by colleagues from housing, health, and adult social care. Lots of healthy discussion took place around the case studies that were shared.

For the remainder of the afternoon, Joanne Stephenson and Jennifer McAteer led an interactive discussion with the delegates focusing on complex cases, autism, and referral pathways and mental health needs.





# Partner contributions to the BSAB for 2022-23

Buckinghamshire Council ASC/CSC	-£78,290.00
Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group	-£37,407.00
Thames Valley Police	-£20,800.00
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	-£18,000.00
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	-£4,500.00
Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service	-£1,500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-£160,497.00</b>

## What we spent

What came in	What went out	Over spend
-£476,257.00	£507,920.00	£31,663.00

Please note that while this is an overspend for the BSAB, this comes from a combined budget which ahs reserves. The overspend this year can be attributed to the increase in demand and complexity of review work, a return to face to face events where costs had increased, coupled with reduced income from training as that phased back in. In addition, there was a delay from one of our contributors which came in after the budget was finalised for the year. All these matters have been addressed in our 2023/24 plan.

## Next steps for 2023/24

Despite the considerable environmental challenges, the Board, driven by the business unit, remains committed to its role as critical friend and champion of best practice. Our vision remains the same but we are fully reviewing our business plan and structure so that we:

- Are able to demonstrate the impact of the work undertaken by discharging the various functions, e.g. have policy changes and reviews led to required changes to practice?
- Have a data set (performance paper) that sets out a clear analysis, which in turn enables us to be clear about what the Board is taking forward.
- Review and roll out the quality assurance framework that demonstrates how we will effectively scrutinise key safeguarding areas, what methods we will use to do this (making greater use of research) and how this work contributes to overall improvement.
- Have an updated training plan that reflects the findings from the training needs and analysis, reviews and quality assurance work.
- Seek more accessible, innovative ways to share the learning from reviews and be clear about expectations arising from this.
- Make greater use of more active ways of working, such as challenge events and workshops rather than meetings to increase ownership of planned activity.

