Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board

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Strategic Plan 2026-2029



Working Together to Keep People Safe

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The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014 section 43. The main focus of the SAB is to ensure that safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that adults are able to live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding adults' duties apply to an adult who has care and support needs, is experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect, and is unable to protect themselves as a result of their needs.

In order to safeguard adults, we work together as a partnership to prevent adults becoming at risk of harm through abuse or neglect. We understand that the risk of abuse can increase with age, disability, ill health or a person's vulnerabilities, life events or circumstance, and it is our aim to reduce the risk of harm whilst supporting people to maintain control over their lives in a way that suits them.

Our statutory partners:

North Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board, Northamptonshire Police, and West Northamptonshire Council.

Other key partners:

East Midlands Ambulance Service

Department for Work and Pensions

Healthwatch

HMP Five Wells, Onley and Rye Hill

Northamptonshire Children's Trust

Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service

Northamptonshire NHS Healthcare Foundation Trust

Northamptonshire Probation Service

Public Health North & West Northamptonshire

University Hospitals Northamptonshire

Other key agencies include those providing support for drug and alcohol dependency, advocacy and domestic abuse including from the voluntary and community sector

Our Vision

In Northamptonshire, our vision for Safeguarding Adults at risk of abuse or neglect is that we are:

'Working together to keep people safe'

- We believe that people should be able to live a life that is free from harm, communities have a culture that does not tolerate abuse, that Northamptonshire is a place where we work together to prevent abuse, and where people know what to do when abuse happens.
- To make this vision a reality, everyone needs to work together as a partnership involving the person at risk, their families and all the agencies across the partnership. Our strategic priorities drive partnership working.

Our Core Functions

The Board has the following core functions:

- To publish a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report in each financial year in accordance with the duties outlined within the Care Act 2014.
- Publish Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), in accordance with section 44 of the Care Act 2014 and ensure that any learning is disseminated and implemented across the partnership.

In order to fulfil its duties, the Board will:

- Assure itself of the delivery of the strategic plan through the oversight of robust governance.
- To act as the accountable body for the statutory partners responsible for key safeguarding decision making.
- Lead on adult safeguarding arrangements across the locality that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Establish an effective structure to deliver against its strategic priorities.
- Contribute to the overall aims by carrying out the following key tasks:

- Develop a safeguarding culture that focuses on people's personalised outcomes, and the Making Safeguarding Personal principles.
- Disseminate learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and seek assurance that agencies implement the recommendations and actions to prevent similar incidents from occurring again.
- Develop an effective Quality Assurance Framework to evidence the impact of the strategic plan and safeguarding arrangements, to include partner self-assessment, single and multi-agency case audit activities.
- Support organisations to carry out their safeguarding responsibilities by developing multi-agency policies and procedures.
- Understand the impact of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender reassignment, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect.
- Raise awareness of safeguarding and emerging themes.
- Analyse data and intelligence to increase understanding of the prevalence of abuse and neglect locally to support the effectiveness of the Quality Assurance Framework.
- Ensure local agencies provide learning opportunities to increase confidence, skills and knowledge to safeguard adults.
- Develop a robust mechanism to understand the wishes and feelings of adults to help improve local safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure sufficient funding is available to enable NSAB to carry out activities appropriately.
- Share information in line with Data Protection and GDPR and balance the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that, to protect adults, it may be necessary to share information on a 'need-to-know basis'.
- Consider implications of national and local policy.
- Develop and maintain links with relevant strategic/scrutiny networks e.g., Health and Wellbeing Board, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships, Integrated Care Partnership.

Our Strategic Plan 2026-2029

We will work together with partner agencies and people in our communities to support adults to live their best lives free from abuse or neglect. To do this, we will follow the six safeguarding principles:

	Key Principles	Description	What this means to local people
1.	**Empowerment**	People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions, and informed consent.	"I am asked what I outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."
2.	**Prevention**	It is better to take action before harm occurs.	"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."
3.	**Proportionality**	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.	"I am sure that professionals will work in my best interests as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as is needed."
4.	**Protection**	Support and representation for those in greatest need.	"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent I want."
5.	**Partnership**	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.	"I know that staff treat my personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together, and with me, to get the best outcomes for me."
6.	**Accountability**	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.	"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."

Our Strategic Themes for 2026-2029

	Area of Concern	Priority / Assurance Objectives	How Impact is Measured
1a	**REBALANCING THE SYSTEM** This work covers all areas of health and social care To reflect complexity, the workstream is divided into three tiers	**ASSURANCE** **Tier 1** Maximise early intervention and prevention. People with needs for care and support are assisted by information and/or informal services before accessing more formal interventions.	People's satisfaction with services increases and the number of people requiring formal services is reduced.
1b		**ASSURANCE** **Tier 2** Strengthening inter-agency processes to enable better multi-agency responses to need at an earlier stage to reduce volume of safeguarding referrals, ensuring alternative pathways to safeguarding are utilised.	System pressure reduced; increased discussions
1c		**PRIORITY** **Tier 3** For people where services struggle to support the most. Review the self-neglect and Adult Risk Management (ARM) pathways, the use of care reviews and S117 aftercare.	Complex multi-agency care pathway aimed to support those we find the hardest to support. Using predictive software to identify cases. Integrated multi-disciplinary interventions to support this cohort.
2	**IMPACT FROM SARS**	**PRIORITY** In line with national analysis and experience, our SARs evidence several consistent themes that tend to be repeated despite being identified as issues in previous reports. An example of this is self-neglect which continues to feature in referrals. The work will focus on two areas: 1. The Board will work with the SAR Subgroup to review how the impact of learning from SARs is monitored. 2. The Board will establish a Self- neglect and Hoarding Subgroup to implement robust systems for this area of practice.	The incidence of issues highlighted in SARs being repeated in future reviews is reduced.
3	**DATA LED PRIORITY SETTING AND ASSURANCE**	**PRIORITY** The Board's priorities for new and improvement actions are informed by benchmarked shared data which identify where issues are arising and gives assurance where existing measures are in place. Utilise the Police Observatory and relevant Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs).	The assurance process roll-out will include a suite of agreed measures to monitor current performance, which alert new areas of risk. This will take the form of an assurance road map developed by the Quality Assurance Subgroup.
4	**CO-PRODUCTION AND INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WHO USE SERVICES**	**ASSURANCE** NSAB will seek assurance from partner agencies that there are mechanisms in place to ensure strategies and policies and procedures consider the voice of adults with care and support needs.	Understand what provision is in place across all agencies to ensure the voice of adults with care and support needs is heard. Annual assurance audit undertaken.

5	**TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING**	**ASSURANCE** To ensure that young people with care and support needs who are moving into adulthood receive appropriate support and that safeguarding action is taken where necessary.	Process is personalised and audited. Issues identified in SARs are addressed through process.
6	**PRISON RELEASE PROCESS**	**ASSURANCE** To ensure that services to support vulnerable prisoners are optimal.	Measures are in place to monitor outcomes for this group and attention is given to SAR actions that are pertinent. Local pre-release discharge meetings with multi-agency attendance are in place across the county.
7	**EXPLOITATION AND MODERN SLAVERY**	**ASSURANCE** To ensure that all partner agencies are briefed on the threat and risk to vulnerable people from organised criminal exploitation.	Number of partners provided with intelligence briefings/ updates can be monitored and increased year on year. Level of intelligence passed to police and safeguarding referrals can be tracked with the aim of improving numbers year on year.
8	**MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)**	**SOLUTION** A Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to process safeguarding enquiries is recognised national best practice. This arrangement is known to improve information sharing, partnership working and outcomes for adults with care and support needs. A decision is required as to whether we continue, as a system, without an integrated MASH knowing that this is a barrier to improving safeguarding outcomes.	Level of safeguarding referrals and activities are reduced and more effective. Less people fall through the gaps as inter-agency info flow is assured. Agencies will be able to obtain relevant safeguarding information prior to engaging with adults with care and support needs ensuring the best service is provided.