



# **Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2021-2024**



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# 1 Introducing our Strategic Plan

Welcome to our Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) **Strategic Plan** for **2021-2024**.

Our Strategic Plan sets out how the Board will work towards achieving its ambitions for safeguarding adults in Birmingham. Our plan is based around four key priorities, and we will ensure that, wherever possible, safeguarding responsibilities across the city are delivered in a way that empowers individuals and communities, that supports defensible decision making and that continues to have **‘Making Safeguarding Personal’** (MSP) at its heart.

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory body with a strategic responsibility to work with its members and partners to protect and support adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect and self-neglect.

We are all committed to working with communities and partners to ensure people understand safeguarding, know how to seek help and have the confidence to do so.

The last two years, working within a pandemic, has been very challenging, but we are grateful to all of our partners for their relentless dedication to safeguarding. The Board will continue to support them, to seek assurance and continue to work hard to make certain that **safeguarding is ‘everyone’s business’**.

**“Working as a Partnership to make Birmingham a place where vulnerable citizens live without the fear of harm and neglect”** is our ultimate aim.

I am very pleased to introduce this strategic plan that has been developed through listening to and consulting with citizens and organisations within the city. I look forward to working with you all.

**Cherry Dale**

***Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board  
Independent Chair***



## **2 What is Safeguarding Adults**

The Care Act Statutory Guidance published in October 2014 under Section 14.7 describes adult safeguarding as:

“protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time, making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances”

The Care Act identifies the aims of adult safeguarding as:

- stop abuse or neglect wherever possible;
- promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned;
- prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs;
- raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect;
- safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live;
- provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult;
- address what has caused the abuse or neglect.

## **3 Safeguarding Duties apply to an Adult who:**

- has need for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those);
- is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or experience of, abuse or neglect.

## 4 What is Care and Support

**An Adult** meets the **Eligibility criteria for care and support** if:

- Needs arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness
- as a result of the need the adult is **unable to achieve 2 or more** of the **specified outcomes (as listed below)** and
- as a consequence, there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the adult's well being

**Unable to  
Achieve  
mean the  
following**

- Unable to achieve it without assistance
- able to achieve it without assistance but -
  - doing so causes the adults significant pain, distress or anxiety
  - doing so endangers or is likely to endanger the health or safety of the adult/others
  - it takes significantly longer than would normally be expected

**Specified  
Outcomes  
(2 or more)**

- managing and maintaining nutrition;
- maintaining personal hygiene;
- managing toilet needs;
- being appropriately clothed;
- being able to make use of the adult's home safely;
- maintaining a habitable home environment;
- developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships;
- accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering;
- making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including public transport and recreational facilities or services; and
- carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child

Care and Support is also described as a looked after need.

***“the natural and ordinary meaning of the words 'care and attention' in this context is 'looking after'. Looking after means doing something for the person being cared for which he cannot or should not be expected to do for himself: it might be household tasks which an old person can no longer perform or can only perform with great difficulty; it might be protection from risks which a mentally disabled person cannot perceive; it might be personal care, such as feeding, washing or toileting. This is not an exhaustive list. ”***

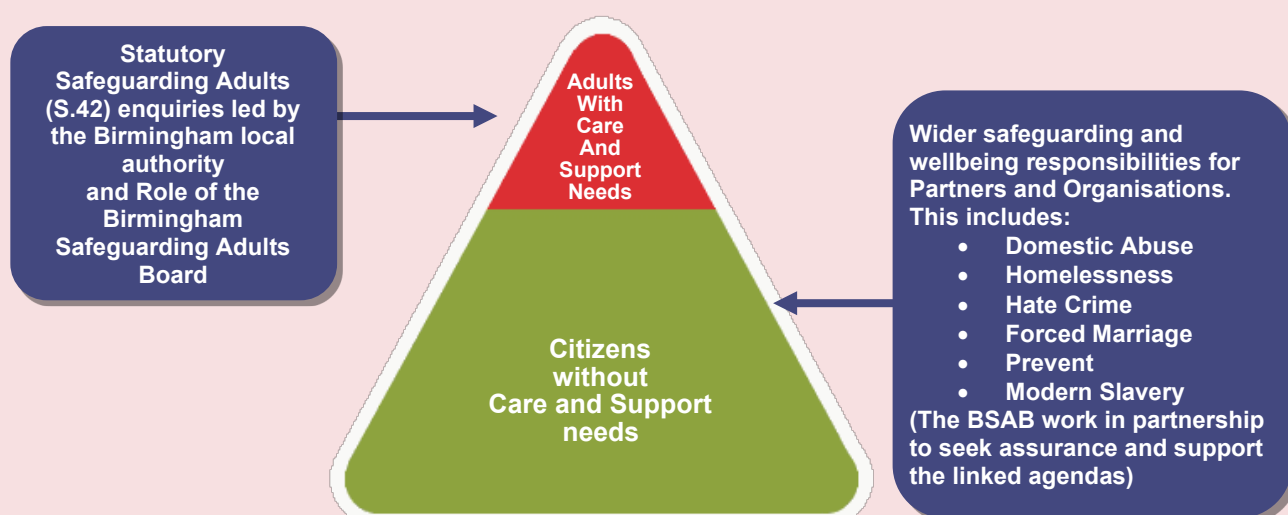
Lady Hale (R (M) v Slough Borough Council [\[2008\] UKHL 52](#) at section 33)

## 5 Adults at Risk

An adult at risk **may** therefore be a person who, for example:

- is an older person who is frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment.
- has a learning disability
- has a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment
- has mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- has a long-term illness/condition
- misuses substances or alcohol
- is an unpaid carer such as a family member/friend who provides personal assistance and care to adults and is subject to abuse
- lacks the mental capacity to make particular decisions and is in need of care and support.

The diagram below demonstrates the responsibility of safeguarding for adults with care and support needs and those of wider citizens of Birmingham:



## 6 The Six Principles of Safeguarding

**Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB)** fully embraces the six adult safeguarding principles that should guide and inform the approach to delivery of safeguarding responsibilities by all partner agencies across the City.

**These principles are:**

<b>EMPOWERMENT</b> People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent	"I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."
<b>PREVENTION</b> It is better to take action before harm	"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs, and what I can do to seek help."
<b>PROPORTIONALITY</b> The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented	"I am sure that the professional will work in my best interests, as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as needed."
<b>PROTECTION</b> Support and representation for those in greatest need	"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I can able to take part in the safeguarding to the text to which I want."
<b>PARTNERSHIP</b> Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse	"I know that staff will treat any personal 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 result for me."
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b> Along with transparency in delivering safeguarding	"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."





## 7 Making Safeguarding Personal

Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board supports and promotes Making Safeguarding Personal principles and agree that:

**“A shift in focus from process to people involves fundamental cultural and organisational change. It is not simply a question of changing individual practice, but the context in which that practice takes place and can flourish.”**

Making Safeguarding Personal is about having the conversation with the individual first.

Making Safeguarding Personal continues to be a shift in culture and practice in response to what we now know makes safeguarding more-or-less effective from the perspective of the person being safeguarded.

It is having conversations with people about how we might respond in safeguarding situations in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. It also involves taking into account their wishes feelings and spiritual needs.

It is about seeing people as experts in their own lives and working alongside them. It is about collecting information about the extent to which this shift has a positive impact on people's lives. It is a shift from a process supported by conversations to a series of conversations supported by a process

Useful information can be found <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal>

The Board encourages partners to have conversations with the people that you support to ensure that they have as much choice and control over their lives as possible whilst maintaining their safeguarding.

Citizens are the experts in their own lives, and we must always work alongside them to make sure that their quality of life, wellbeing, and safety is optimal, but on their terms with their input and influence.

We do not believe in safeguarding people to the point that we just make them unhappy; we will always consider the six principles of safeguarding, adopt them in our practices and seek them in our assurances. The standards are 'We' statements under the following themes:

- Hearing the person
- Respecting the person's choices
- Understanding the person
- Being honest with the person





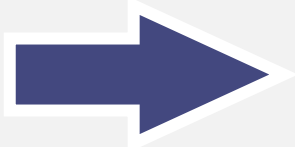
## 8 Risk Enablement

Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) believes that at the heart of adult safeguarding lies a tension between the duty to protect an adult from the risk of harm with the duty to support them to maintain as much control and choice over their life as possible.

All practitioners involved in safeguarding an adult at risk have a duty to understand this tension and to work with the adult (and others involved with them) to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between managing risk and protection from harm with promoting their autonomy and wellbeing in any action they take. We call this “Risk Enablement”.

**The Practice Guidance** developed with partners over 2017-2018, aims to support practitioners to achieve the balance between protection and autonomy that is right for the adult in each case. This can be found on our [website](#)

BSAB has an expectation that all its partner organisations support their front-line staff in adopting the principles of its Risk Enablement Guidance as part of meeting their adult safeguarding duties. Partners must ensure the values and culture of their organisations explicitly supports front-line staff in working in this way.



## 9 The Safeguarding Adults Board

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014.

## 10 What is the Purpose of the Board

Our overall purpose is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. The Board ensures that, locally in Birmingham, abuse is prevented and that, when it does occur, partners respond in line with the needs and wishes of the person experiencing harm.

The Care Act 2014 and its statutory guidance provides for the BSAB to be the local strategic lead for safeguarding Birmingham's citizens and promoting the wellbeing of both adults at risk and carers within the City. Through its work, BSAB provides oversight of the impact and effectiveness of safeguarding of its members and partner agencies

A key role of the Board is to ensure that there is a partnership approach to delivering safeguarding services by promoting collaboration between all the partners for effective communication, information sharing and awareness raising.

Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) actively seek assurance at a strategic and operational level across all types of service types within the city; including where the services provided are commissioned and offer care and support for vulnerable citizens of Birmingham.

*The diagram below demonstrates how citizens and communities are supported both in prevention of abuse and neglect but also in response to abuse and neglect*



## 11 Safeguarding Adults Board Statutory Role

The Care Act 2014 states that the Statutory Duties for all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) are:

1. To develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the local Healthwatch organisation
2. To publish an Annual Report detailing what the Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) has done during the year, including work associated with Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and the contribution that each board members has made for the people of Birmingham.
3. To conduct any safeguarding adults review in accordance with Section 44 of the Act.

## 12 How we work to meet out Strategic Priorities

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board is made up of the three Statutory Agencies (Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police), together with other key partners and groups who support vulnerable adults and promote safety and well-being.

BSAB Board members are responsible for maintaining oversight of safeguarding arrangements in the city, ensuring these arrangements meet the needs of the people of Birmingham and are fully reflective of the voice of the community.

The Board is led by an Independent Chair appointed to by the local authority. She reports to the director of Adult Social Care and their Cabinet Members for Health and Social Care in Birmingham City Council.

The Board is supported by a number of subgroups, who meet on a quarterly basis. Each group has its own work plan based on the strategic priorities of the Board and provides regular updates in respect of progress.

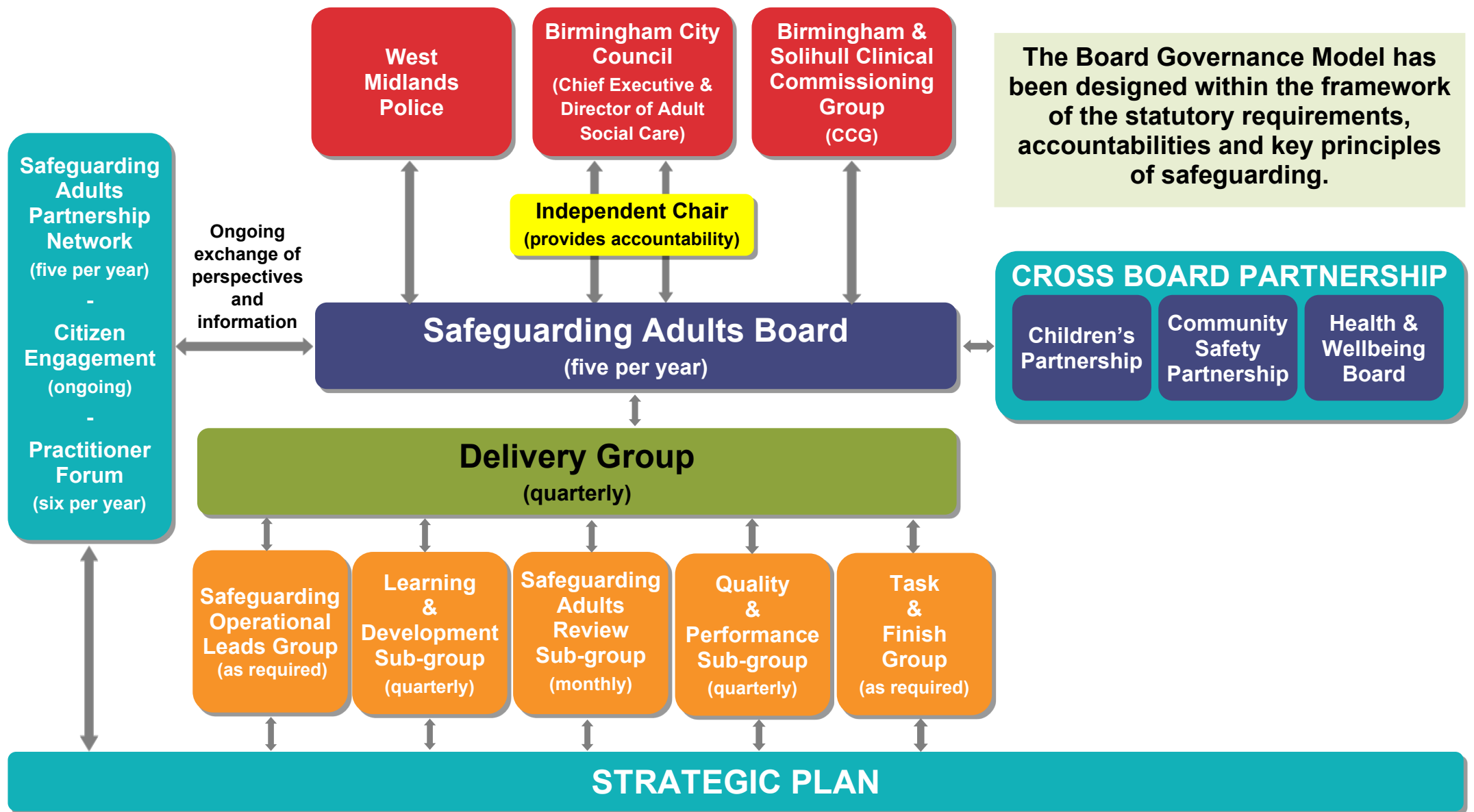


### **The Board Members are from the following organisations:**

- **Birmingham City Council - Adult Social Care**
- **Birmingham City Council – City Housing**
- **West Midlands Police**
- **Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group**
- **Chief Nurses Forum - Representing Health Partners**
- **Healthwatch Birmingham**
- **West Midlands Fire Service**
- **Voluntary Sector Representation**
- **Independent Chair**

### 13 Our Governance Structure and Oversight of our Strategic Plan

The Diagram below demonstrates our governance model for the work of the Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board and how we connect with other Partnerships who have wider safeguarding and wellbeing responsibilities for citizens of Birmingham:



## 14 Our Vision for Birmingham

The citizens of Birmingham have a right to live their lives free from harm and abuse. Where abuse occurs, it must be reported and responded to promptly in a way that is proportionate to the issue(s) raised. Through Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), the people of Birmingham who experience harm or abuse have a right to have their voice heard throughout any process we operate in response. This is a key provision of the Care Act 2014 through the delivery of more personalised care and wellbeing support. Hearing the voice of the citizens of Birmingham with regard to adult safeguarding is also a cornerstone of the strategy of BSAB. Our Vision is:

**“Working as a Partnership to make Birmingham a place where vulnerable citizens live without the fear of harm and neglect”**



## 15 Our Priorities and Ambitions for 2021

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

#### Communication & Involvement



#### **Ambition:**

Making safeguarding everybody's business.

Improve awareness of safeguarding across all citizens, communities and partner organisations

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

#### Prevention & Early Intervention



#### **Ambition:**

Developing strategies that reduce the risk of abuse, as well as seeking assurance from partners.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

#### Making Safeguarding Personal



#### **Ambition:**

Ensuring that adults with care and support needs are being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions to stop harm and abuse in order to feel safe.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

#### Learning Through Development & Assurance



#### **Ambition:**

Making sure safeguarding arrangements for adults with care and support needs work effectively and sharing learning to prevent harm and abuse.



## 16 What we will do

The following table shows what we intend to work on. These form part of a wider workplan which will be overseen by our Delivery Group and progress reports will be made to the BSAB Executive Board as shown on our governance model on page 12. We will report on the progress of these in our Annual Report.

Our Strategic Plan 2021-2024: What we will do			
We will work on our website to make it more refined and accessible	Carry out temperature check on information sharing and develop a new information sharing guidance.	Carry out an assurance activity to establish how safeguarding is working for adults with care and support needs.	Seek assurance around the Health and Social Care - Integrated Care systems
Continue to review our leaflets and publications and involve citizens.	Develop and implement a new Self-neglect Protocol.	Seek assurance of the process and procedure on missing adults with care and support needs.	Continue to seek assurance on LeDeR action plans and learning disability related safeguarding issue
Raise awareness of Carers Stress and the pathways to refer to Adults Social Care for a Carer's Assessment	Continue to seek assurance from Housing partners, particularly around Exempt Accommodation and rough sleepers with care and support needs.	Seek assurance on the progress of the Poor Relations report.	Develop a Board Assurance Framework.
Continue to engage with and involve citizens and partners.	Continue to share information that prevents abuse and neglect due to loneliness and isolation and seek assurance around what is happening to prevent loneliness and isolation.	Continue to develop a safeguarding dashboard that will provide the Board with further themes, trends and analysis that can help with the Strategic Plan	Sharing learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and gain assurance of their related Action Plans.
Continue to seek assurances that vulnerable young adults are transitioning safely into adult services, including preparing for adulthood workstreams in Birmingham	We will continue to seek assurance that Direct Payment users are supported to remain safe	Seek assurance through audit activity that Making Safeguarding Personal is embedded into practice through safeguarding concerns and enquiries.	Develop a yearly Learning and Development Plan and seek assurance on workforce competency



## 17 Achieving Our Strategic Plan Through Partnership

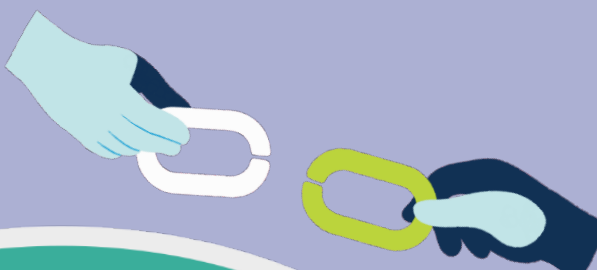
The BSAB is committed to ensuring there is a broad partnership of agencies engaged in championing safeguarding principles and ways of working across the City. We will work towards full engagement with third sector, carer and user groups in the City.

We are committed to being inclusive whilst recognising the vital contribution non-statutory bodies have to offer in delivering effective safeguarding in Birmingham.


It is our continued ambition in 2021-2024 to make safeguarding everybody's business. Improve awareness of safeguarding across all citizens, communities and partner organisations.

We encourage organisations of all sizes and shapes to work with us to roll out our vision. We feel we are stronger together and have a much greater opportunity to create real change within the city if we work in partnership.

We will continue to rise to the challenge of leading the safeguarding culture change in Birmingham and to make sure that our collective vision, values and culture translate into front-line practice that benefits the citizens of Birmingham.



WAITS are proud to be a member of the Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board. As a charity supporting Women suffering Domestic Abuse, adult safeguarding is at the heart of what we do, being a part of BSAB, WAITS are able to support the assurance process regarding issues and concerns affecting Birmingham citizens. Our partnership working supports our knowledge that the BSAB will actively seek ways to keep citizens and vulnerable safe in Birmingham. Marcia Lewinson - Women Action In Today's Society (WAITS)



The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) have ensured that safeguarding remains at the heart of all we do. The focus on making safeguarding everyone's business focussing on Making Safeguarding Personal and Risk Enablement have been key factors which BSAB have driven forward. Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have welcomed the leadership, drive, enthusiasm from BSAB for making things better with a structure which enables multiagency partners to keep the individual citizen at the heart of all we do. Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability runs through BSAB core. We remain focussed on making life better for the citizens of Birmingham – Michael Loftus – Birmingham Community Health Care Trust



**Twitter:** [@BrumSAB](https://twitter.com/BrumSAB)

**YouTube:** <http://bit.ly/3ao1pfB>

**Website:** [www.bsab.org](http://www.bsab.org)