


**Thurrock
Safeguarding
Adults Board
(TSAB)
Strategic Plan
2023-26**



A large green circle is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the dark green background. The text 'The work of Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board' is written in white, stacked vertically, and is centered within the right side of the circle.

The work of Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board

Our Aim

The aim of the TSAB is to ensure the effective coordination and delivery of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of at risk adults in accordance with the Care Act 2014 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance

Our vision

By working together, we can continuously improve the safeguarding procedures in Thurrock and ensure that all organisations meet the expectations set out in the Care Act 2014. This strategy sets out how the TSAB members will work to reduce and prevent abuse and neglect and improve our response when it does.

The role of Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board

- **The Board has three core duties:**
 - To publish a Strategic Plan that sets out what the board has achieved and what it aims to achieve for the next year
 - To publish an Annual Report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and include learning from any Safeguarding Adult Reviews
 - Carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews

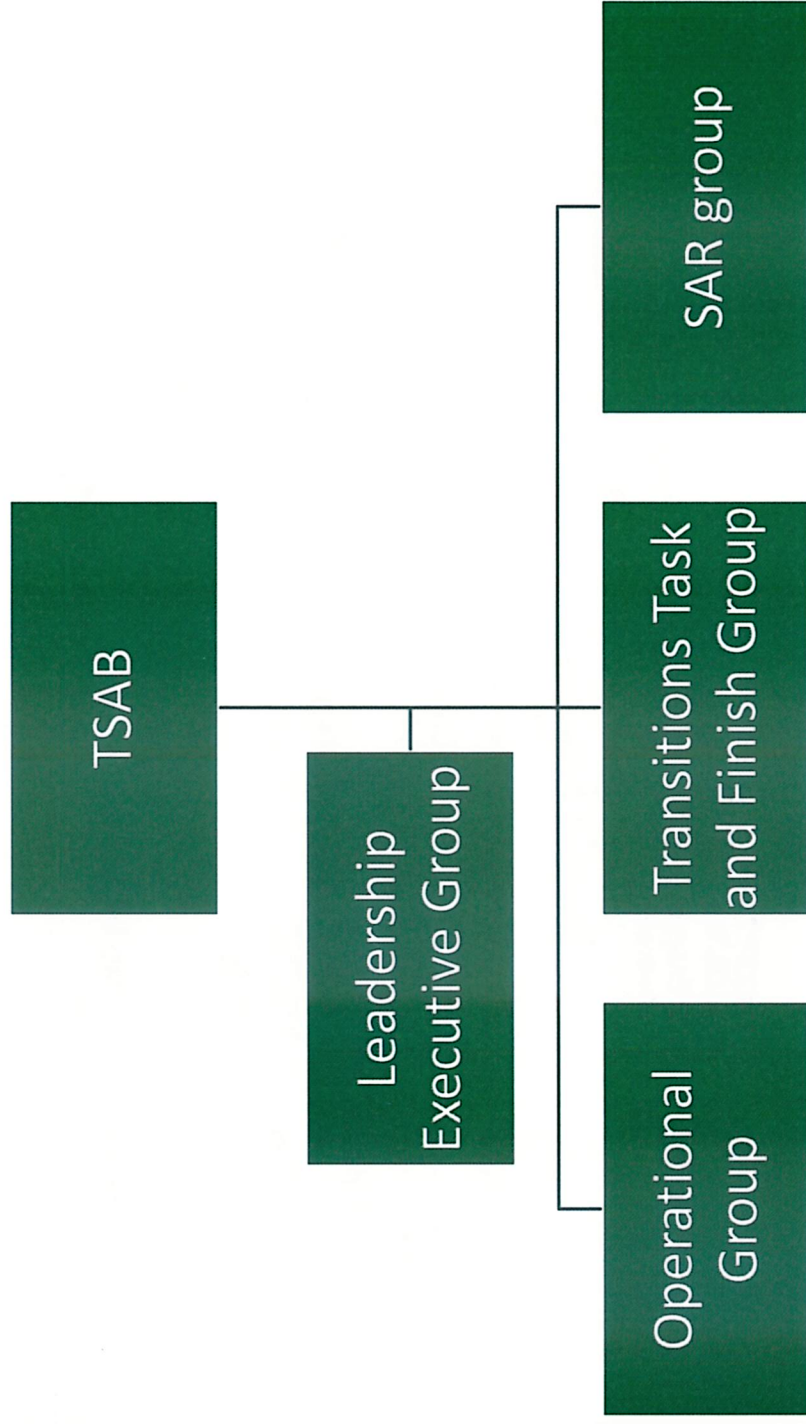
Care Act Statutory Guidance – Each SAB should:

- identify the role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults
 - establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications that increase the SAB's understanding of prevalence of abuse and neglect locally that builds up a picture over time
 - establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements
 - determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit
 - establish mechanisms for developing policies and strategies for protecting adults which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and consultation with all relevant agencies but also take account of the views of adults who have needs for care and support, their families, advocates and carer representatives
 - develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect in its area
 - identify types of circumstances giving grounds for concern and when they should be considered as a referral to the local authority as an enquiry
 - formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances and professional
- and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults
- develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect
 - 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'
 - identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training
 - carry out safeguarding adult reviews and determine any publication arrangements;
 - produce a strategic plan and an annual report
 - evidence how SAB members have challenged one another and held other boards to account
 - promote multi-agency training and consider any specialist training that may be required. Consider any scope to jointly commission some training with other partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership

Membership



Structure of the Board



What is adult safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety free from abuse and neglect.

It is about people and organisations working together.

Safeguarding applies to adults who:

- Are over the age of 18
- Have care and support needs
- Are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect

Underpinning this is Making Safeguarding Personal' (MSP) which aims to ensure that the adult and/or their advocate are asked what they would like to happen at the earliest opportunity.



Safeguarding data 2021-22

Safeguarding data

The data below is taken from the annual SAC return. The SAC (Safeguarding Adults Collection) return is completed by all local authorities in England and records information on safeguarding data for adults 18 and over. The TSAB audit and operational groups monitor the data for issues and trends.

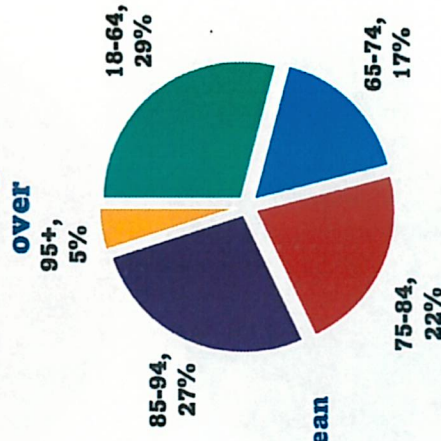
1097
Safeguarding concerns
(1071 in 2020/21)

369
Section 42 enquiries
(346 in 2020/21)

38% Male
62% Female



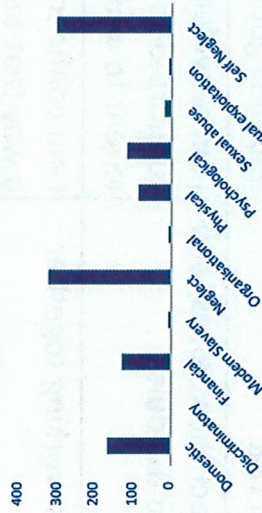
The majority of safeguarding enquiries are for those aged 65 and over



79% White
2% Asian
4% Black/African/Caribbean
1% Other
15% Not known

Safeguarding data 2021-22

Safeguarding data



Most safeguarding concerns raised were in relation to neglect, self neglect and domestic abuse

Location of abuse



17% of safeguarding enquiries involved a Service provider

54% of safeguarding enquiries involved someone known to individual

29% of safeguarding enquiries involved someone unknown to individual

84%

Of those that lacked capacity were supported by an advocate, family or friend

31%

Of safeguarding enquiries adults lacked capacity

68%

Of safeguarding enquiries adults did not lack capacity

Safeguarding principles

The strategy is based on the **Six Principles of Safeguarding** that underpin all adult safeguarding work.

Empowerment	Adults are encouraged to make their own decisions and are provided with support and information.	I am consulted about the outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.
Prevention	Strategies are developed to prevent abuse and neglect that promotes resilience and self-determination.	I am provided with easily understood information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.
Proportionate	A proportionate and least intrusive response is made balanced with the level of risk.	I am confident that the professionals will work in my interest and only get involved as much as needed.
Protection	Adults are offered ways to protect themselves, and there is a co-ordinated response to adult.	I am provided with help and support to report abuse. I am supported to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want and to which I am able.
Partnerships	Local solutions through services working together within their communities.	I am confident that information will be appropriately shared in a way that takes into account its personal and sensitive nature. I am confident that organisations will work together to find the most effective responses for my own situation.
Accountable	Accountability and transparency in delivering a safeguarding response.	I am clear about the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the solution to the problem.

Priority 1 – Empowerment

What we will do	How will we do it?
<p>Thurrock SAB will seek assurance that safeguarding services are delivered in line with Making Safeguarding Personal Principles and Mental Capacity Act 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will continue to embed the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal with Partners ensuring adults are supported to make their own decisions• We will develop processes to enable meaningful feedback to the SAB from service users and carers who have experienced safeguarding interventions• We will work in partnership with adults to coproduce work• We will work with Partners to increase knowledge and understanding of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 within the workforce

Priority 2 – Prevention

What we will do	How will we do it?
<p>Thurrock SAB will continue to develop approaches to raising awareness of safeguarding adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will provide partners with tools (such as newsletters, social media messaging) to help them raise awareness of the Board and safeguarding adults• We will ensure communications are accessible for a variety of communication needs• We will work with Partners to ensure practitioner are equipped with knowledge to make appropriate referrals or signpost to adult safeguarding so adults can receive the support they need• We will ensure there are mechanisms to review the impact and effectiveness of training

Priority 3 – Proportionality

What we will do	How will we do it?
<p>Thurrock SAB will seek assurance that services are learning and improving in their safeguarding practice and risks are managed collaboratively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will gain assurance of the quality of care provision in Thurrock• We will ensure the SAB has robust multi-agency safeguarding data and audit activity to shape learning, awareness and practice• We will ensure learning from SARs, other reviews and multi-agency audits are effectively embedded into practice and facilitate organisational change

Priority 4 – Protection

What we will do	How will we do it?
<p>Thurrock SAB will protect people who need help and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will strengthen the focus on transitional safeguarding• We will ensure support is available for carers (both paid and unpaid)• We will ensure TSAB and Partner agencies have a framework of policies and procedures that keep people safe from abuse and neglect• We will undertake horizon scanning and respond to any changes that may impact on safeguarding adults in Thurrock• We will promote a Think Family response

Priority 5 – Partnership

What we will do	How will we do it?
<p>Thurrock SAB will improve multi-agency partnership and aligning its work with other partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will support the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with reducing risk of exploitation in all its forms to safeguard vulnerable adults• We will collaborate across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) on cross cutting policy and practice• We will develop arrangements with the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership to be responsive to shared safeguarding themes• We will engage with voluntary, community and faith organisations including advocacy• We will link with existing Boards and Partnerships

Priority 6 – Accountability

What we will do	How we will do it
<p>Thurrock SAB will provide strategic leadership to enable effective safeguarding arrangements to be in place across the partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will hold TSAB partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of their safeguarding adult arrangements, function and performance• We will ensure there is effective governance in place• We will ensure that there is appropriate representation from TSAB partners on the Board/subgroups

Reflection on previous strategy

1. To increase our understanding of abuse and neglect.

- We developed a new and improved performance dashboard. This provides a more visual picture about abuse and neglect in Thurrock. Currently reviewing the possibility of using Power BI.
- We commenced our audit programme, auditing cases based upon themes such as safeguarding and domestic abuse ensuring they were person centred and Making Safeguarding Personal was embedded. This is now business as usual.
- We developed a Quality Assurance Framework to clearly explain the systems, processes and principles that underpin our approach to managing data and information.
- We added comparator data to review and analyse how Thurrock compares with the national picture. This will be added annually once the national SAC return data is released.
- We improved the recording of safeguards of domestic abuse through existing training and guidance for the local authority.

Reflection on previous strategy –
Priority 2. To contribute implementing the recommendations of
the Sexual Abuse/Violence JSNA.

- We finalised and published the exploratory study of the scale and nature of sexual exploitation of adults and transition aged young people in Thurrock.
- We reviewed the recommendations from the report which highlighted issues for practitioners and agencies in Thurrock in relation to the response to Adult Sexual Exploitation.
- We funded a sexual abuse and violence online training package for staff across the partnership
- We worked with the Community Safety Partnership and ICENA to develop the content for the sexual abuse training package.
- This is now being taken forward under the VAWG agenda.

Reflection on previous strategy –
Priority 3. To focus on perpetrator disruption.

- We collected data to analyse prevalence and identify trends, themes and ‘hot spots’ locally.
- We put a modern slavery strategy in place underpinned by an action plan which will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership.
- We promoted training on modern day slavery, domestic abuse, and sexual abuse.
- Developed a contextual safeguarding report showing mapping of local area including hotspots, types of crimes and locations. This will continue to be written and shared at the operational group.
- Identified initiatives to help people keep themselves safe and contributed funding to new cold calling signs.

Reflection on previous strategy –
Priority 4. To strengthen transitional safeguarding arrangements

- We started our baseline mapping in order to ensure that young adults are able to safeguard themselves from harm when they are moving from children services to adult services.
- We reviewed the recommendations from national reviews involving transition age young people.
- We reviewed the recommendations from ‘Bridging the Gap’ and followed this up with a presentation and discussion from the author Dez Holmes to discuss implementing the recommendations locally.
- We improved information sharing between children and adult social care to identify young people who are at risk of exploitation and approaching critical transition points.
- We asked young people, their families and carers where they thought gaps were.