



Role and duties of the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

Overarching purpose

The overarching purpose of the SAB is to help and safeguard vulnerable adults with care and support needs. It does this by:

- **assuring itself** that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
- **assuring itself** that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- **working collaboratively** to prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- **ensuring** agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- **assuring itself** that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

The SAB is not an executive Board responsible for the delivery of services (like a hospital Trust Board) but an independent body assuring itself as far as possible that safeguarding services in the City of York for adults at risk are robust and collectively meeting statutory guidance. It has very senior representation from three statutory partners (City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police and the NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board) plus other organisations, including Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Healthwatch York, York CVS and a number of independent providers. It is chaired by an experienced independent person who is not an employee of City of York Council.

The SAB oversees adult safeguarding arrangements across its locality and oversees and coordinates the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies, though it does not deliver any services itself. This requires the SAB to develop and actively

promote a culture with its members, partners and the local community that recognises the values and principles contained in **'Making Safeguarding Personal'**. It will also concern itself with a range of issues which can contribute to the wellbeing of its community and the prevention of abuse and neglect, such as:

- the safety of people who use services in local health settings, including mental health
- the safety of adults with care and support needs living in social housing
- effective interventions with adults who self-neglect, for whatever reason
- the quality of local care and support services
- the effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders
- making connections between adult safeguarding and domestic abuse

Core duties

SABs have three core duties. They must:

1. develop and publish a **Strategic Plan** setting out how they will meet 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 a **Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)** for any cases which meet the threshold for these as set out in the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

A Safeguarding Adults Review is a process for all partner agencies to identify the lessons that can be learned from particularly complex or difficult Safeguarding Adults cases and implement changes to improve services in the light of these lessons.

Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 placed a duty on local Safeguarding Adults Boards to arrange SAR:

- When an adult, with needs for care and support, (whether or not the local authority was meeting any of those needs) in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult
or
- If an adult in its area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult

The aim of the process is to learn lessons and make improvements rather than to blame individual people or organisations. SARs can also be used to explore examples of good practice where it is likely that lessons can be applied to future cases.

Potential SARs are considered by a multi-agency sub-group of the SAB, and on the basis of all the evidence available, make a recommendation to the Chair of the SAB in writing, about whether a SAR should be undertaken.

Any agency or a relative can make a SAR referral.

There have been 3 SAR's in York since the SAB was created in 2008, these are published on the Safeguarding Adults Board website at <https://www.safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk/safeguarding-adult-reviews>