



West of Berkshire Safeguarding
Adults Partnership Board
Update to the West Berkshire Health
and Wellbeing Board

Prof Keith Brown MBE, Independent
Chair

July 2025

Introduction

- Overview of the SAB's statutory function
- SAB Priorities for 25/26
- Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews
- Strategic Alignment with other partnerships

Please note our SAB covers Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

SABs Statutory Function

Under the Care Act 2014, each local authority must establish a SAB.

Statutory Duties:

- 1. Publish a Strategic Plan
- 2. Publish an Annual Report
- 3. Conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

Core Members:

- Local Authority
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Local Police Force

Our SAB has representation from: Community Health Care, Local Hospitals, Healthwatch, Voluntary and Community Sector, Advocacy Services, Independent Health Providers, Fire Service, Probation, Department for Work and Pensions.

SAB Priorities 2025-26

Priority 1 –Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Exploitation and Violence - understanding and addressing the gaps from an adult safeguarding perspective.

- Cuckooing – defining the problem and identifying solutions
- Sexual & Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic Abuse & Stalking:

T&F Groups for each area which will

- Agree what information is required to understand the issues in the West of Berkshire. Present update report to the SAB, who will agree ongoing plan for implementation of recommendations from the work of the T&F group.

Priority 2 –Preventing financial exploitation of adults with care and support needs

Collaborate with stakeholders to identify risks and develop a comprehensive plan to mitigate them, to improve the protection of adults with care and support needs.

Will be delivered via a T&F Group meeting, first one scheduled in July 2025, representation from H&WBB's is welcome.

SAB Priorities 2025-26



Continued

Priority 3 - Addressing the Impact of Diversity on Abuse and Neglect

To understand and mitigate the impact of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage, and disability on abuse and neglect, and to develop effective strategies to address these issues.

- Conduct comprehensive research to understand how various factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage, and disability influence the prevalence and nature of abuse and neglect.
- Collect and analyse data disaggregated by these factors to identify patterns and specific need.

Other areas of focus:

- Lived Experience Strategy,
- Implementation of the SAB's Communication Strategy,
- Application of QAF,
- Safeguarding Adults Week,
- Carers Audit,
- Review and Relaunch of Escalation Policy,
- Review and Relaunch of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Multi-agency Policies and Procedures,
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews and implementation of their recommendations.

Learning from Louis SAR



Published March 2025

Theme	Key Actions
Unconscious Bias (UB)	Develop and disseminate UB guidance through learning events and briefings.
Cuckooing & Safeguarding	Consider establishing an Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in West Berkshire. Collaborate with the CSP to raise awareness and provide training on cuckooing. Explore formal links between the Anti Social Behaviour and Adult Safeguarding Teams.
Strategic Alignment	Engage with other strategic boards to act on SAR learning. Seek assurance from CSP that Closure Orders are reviewed and cross-referenced.
Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	Review closure order process for vulnerable adults. Lead a cuckooing task group. Audit 2023/24 Closure Orders for cuckooing victims.
BHFT	Provide assurance of reviews of linked cases.
TVP	Train staff on cuckooing and safeguarding. Multi-agency table-top exercise to review TVP safeguarding adults' processes.
Trauma-Informed Practice	Prioritise trauma-informed training via the SAB Learning and Development Group.

Learning from Vihad SAR

Published March 2025

Theme	Key Actions
Adult Social Care Staffing	Review team structure and staffing levels to ensure adequate resourcing and reduce task-focused care.
Risk Assessment Practice	Emphasise the importance of risk assessments; promote use of toolkits and escalation policies; ensure accessibility and relevance of resources.
Multi-Agency Collaboration	Encourage regular multi-agency meetings; share referral pathways and contact details; review and relaunch safeguarding escalation policies.
Police Information Sharing	Conduct a multi-agency review of Thames Valley Police processes; improve information sharing and strategy discussions.
Support for Carers	Recognise carers' needs in Severe Multiple Disadvantage; use a multidisciplinary approach; improve data recording and risk evaluation.

Learning from Ursula SAR

Published April 2025

Theme	Key Actions
Communication & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Raise public awareness and destigmatise hoarding.- Provide clear information on legal duties and available support.- Share learning with stakeholders to identify early signs (e.g., missed refuse collection).- Develop bereavement support resources for families.
Practice Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review and update hoarding protocols to include guidance on escalating risk and legal advice.- Establish clear hoarding pathways with health and social care.- Commission specialist providers for hoarding support.- Review and enhance training plans based on identified needs.

Strengthening the alignment across Strategic Partnerships

- Why It Matters:
 - Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and impacts on all strategic partnerships.
 - There are opportunities to work together to support better outcomes for people in the West of Berkshire.
- Key Strategic Partnerships:
 - West of Berkshire SAB
 - Berkshire West Safeguarding Children's Partnership
 - Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham Community Safety Partnerships
 - Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Boards
- How can we achieve this?
 - Joint protocols
 - Shared Learning
 - Shared Intelligence
 - Aligned Priorities
- What should our next steps be?

Next steps

- Any feedback on the points raised?
- Ideas on how to improve strategic alignment of the partnerships?
- Agree action points.