

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting	07 October 2025
Title	West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAB) Annual Report 23/24
Purpose of the report	To note the report for information
Report author	Lynne Mason
Job title	Business Manager SAB
Organisation	SAB
Recommendations	1. That the SAB Annual Report 23/24 be noted

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) must lead adult safeguarding arrangements across its authority and oversee and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies.
- 1.2 The overarching purpose of a SAB is to safeguard adults with health and social care needs. It does this by: Assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place, as defined by the Care Act 2014, and statutory guidance; requiring that Local Authorities demonstrate that:
 - Safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused;
 - They are working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible;
 - Agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred;
 - Safeguarding practice is continuously improving;
 - The quality of life of adults in its area is enhanced.
- 1.3 The Annual Report 2023-24 presents what the SAB aimed to achieve on behalf of the residents of Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham during 2023-24. This is both as a partnership, and through the work of its participating partners. It provides a picture of who is safeguarded across the area, in what circumstance and why. It outlines the role and values of the SAB, its ongoing work and future priorities.
- 1.4 The report has been published on the SAB Website ([Priorities, Plans and Reports | West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](https://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk)) and shared with all Health and Wellbeing Boards across the West of Berkshire.
- 1.5 One of the areas identified in the report for improvement is for the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership to strengthen its links with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, and Children's Safeguarding Boards. In response to this, the Safeguarding Adults Board, in collaboration with the Children's Safeguarding Board, is developing a proposal for all strategic partnerships across the West of Berkshire to adopt a shared protocol. This protocol would require each partnership board to provide biannual update reports to the collective strategic partnerships in the area. The protocol aims to enhance strategic collaboration by promoting:

- Shared situational awareness of safeguarding activities
- Alignment on shared priorities
- Identification of opportunities for collaboration
- Avoidance of duplication
- Stronger collective impact

At the time of writing this report an invitation letter to request Reading HWB to sign up to this protocol was being drafted.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The SAB has a duty to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how it will meet its objectives and how the partnership will contribute. The annual report (attached) details how effectively these have been met.
- 2.2. The priorities for 2023/24 were that the SAB will focus on priorities that have been identified through its reflective learning practice:
 - 2.2.1. Priority 1: To seek assurance that quality of health and social care services delivered in the West of Berkshire or those commissioned out of area for West Berkshire residents is monitored effectively and there is a proportionate response to concerns.
 - 2.2.2. Priority 2: Embedding a good understanding of Mental Capacity Act within the practice of our statutory partners.
 - 2.2.3. Priority 3: Serious Violence and Exploitation, understanding the gaps from an adult safeguarding perspective.
 - 2.2.4. Priority 4: Review and relaunch of the SAB Quality Assurance Framework.
- 2.3. The priorities for 2024/25 were:
 - 2.3.1. Priority 1: Embedding a good understanding of Mental Capacity Act within the practice of our statutory partners.
 - 2.3.2. Priority 2: Serious Violence and Exploitation, understanding the gaps from an adult safeguarding perspective.
 - 2.3.3. Priority 3: Fire Safety – to address the learning from the Fire Safety SAR in January 2024 and to improve awareness across the West of Berkshire around the increased fire risks for vulnerable people.
- 2.4. The priorities for 2025/26 are:
 - 2.4.1. Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Exploitation and Violence - understanding and addressing the gaps from an adult safeguarding perspective.
 - 2.4.2. Preventing financial exploitation of adults with care and support needs
 - 2.4.3. 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.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. To acknowledge the strategic contributions of the SAB and identify areas of alignment that may present opportunities for collaborative working.

4. Contribution to Reading's Health and Wellbeing Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The SAB is a statutory function and has set priorities for 24/25 as detailed in section 2.3 of this report.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. There is no impact noted as a result of this report.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. The SAB have a dedicated subgroup with representation from the voluntary care sector and HealthWatch across Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.
- 6.2. The SAB have created a new role, which will be filled by mid-March 2025, increasing capacity within the business unit to support with community engagement.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. Not applicable

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. Not applicable

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. The SAB is set up under the [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted)

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. Not applicable

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. Not applicable

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. There are none.

Appendices

- 1. [Annual Report 2023/24](#)