

Merton Safeguarding Adults Board Three Year Strategic Plan 2021 to 2024

Statutory objective

The Care Act 2014 sets out that the overarching objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:

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

Statutory requirements

As well as its main objective the Care Act 2014 sets out the Board's specific functions. One of these is that it must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objectives and what the members will do to achieve these objectives. In order to give clear direction, Merton Safeguarding Adults Board has produced an overarching plan for the three years from 2021 to 2024. At the start of each financial year, a targeted action plan will be drawn up which sets out in more detail how it will meet the objectives of the three-year plan over the next twelve months

The strategic plan will ensure everyone - Board Members, all professionals and the public are clear about what we want to do and how we can work together to make it happen. While the strategy gives a broad sweep, it will be delivered through a more targeted one-year work plan.

The impact of Covid-19: Reviewing our priorities

The overarching themes included in our strategy for 2021-2024 were born out of discussions and feedback at our Challenge Event in May 2021. On the day we discussed the feedback from the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Tool, which was completed by partners prior to the event.

Since 2020 Covid-19 has had a huge impact on us all. Though the Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect the duties to safeguard adults at risk as laid out in the Care Act 2014, we have all had to change the way in which we work and this has created new challenges in safeguarding adults at risk. In reviewing our priorities and objectives, we have considered the challenges as well as our recovery plan from the pandemic. In reviewing previously identified objectives, we also thought about specific issues which may now need to be a focus. We felt that it was important to explicitly state our intention to seek to learn from the experiences of Covid-19 in order to improve future responses. The Board will also have an important role to play in seeking assurance about local arrangements and risk assessments.

How the strategy will be delivered

A new work-plan will be developed each year, where Board Members will agree on exactly what they need to do to achieve each of the agreed strategic priorities. Our targeted aims for 2021-22 will be complemented by a more detailed action plan which will be monitored regularly by the Board and its subgroups. This will also consider our responses to specific and thematic issues, such as modern slavery, domestic abuse, self-neglect, transitional safeguarding and adult safeguarding in the context of Covid-19. The subgroups of the Board are pivotal in supporting the MSAB to achieve its objectives and continue to deliver on campaigns and develop tools to support professionals and residents in understanding and responding to adult safeguarding concerns. Each subgroup has their own set of priorities and specific targets which complement the overarching priorities of the Board. At the end of each year, the MSAB will publish an annual report highlighting the Board's achievements and outline how the work plan has been delivered.

Merton Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Our annual plan for the MSAB 2021-2022 is set out below and we realise there is much to do. To ensure our strategy is realistic and achievable our work in 2022-2023 will be to continue to strengthen and build our initiatives. In 2023-2024 we will pull together what we have achieved, review and evaluate our position.

The MSAB led by our Chair Aileen Buxton will be continually monitoring progress of the plan, as well as the work of the subgroups in order for the MSAB to be assured of progress and any risks that may be identified.

1. Prevention and early detection

Aim- Adults from all communities will feel supported to keep safe. Partners, service users and residents will recognise risk and be confident in their response.

What we will do

- Learn from our experiences throughout the pandemic, consider the impacts and take action where appropriate.
- Ensure we have systems in place to disseminate learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, LeDeR Reviews and Section 42 Enquiries.
- We will seek to improve the understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act across the partnership.
- Work together in developing a plan for the introduction of the Liberty Safeguard Scheme in readiness for implementation.
- Ensure that partners, volunteers and staff have access to appropriate safeguarding training.

Our plan for 2021/22

- Continue to learn from the impact of COVID and identify associated risks to adult safeguarding.
- Establish mechanisms to share key learning and develop methodologies to measure impact on practice.
- Develop and establish multi-agency complex needs pathways and protocols
- Develop and establish a partnership implementation plan for LPS
- Work with partners to develop a training multiagency learning and development strategy and training framework.

2. Building and strengthening connections

Aim- Partners, service users and residents from all communities are engaged and working together to ensure an inclusive safeguarding framework.

What we will do

- We will make steps to improve links with strategic partnerships, including Merton Children's Partnership, Safer and Stronger Executive Board and Violence against Woman and Girls (VAWG).
- Develop our relationships with external partners and organisations and consider how we might better share information and resources.
- Review board governance and structure, demonstrating the relationships and interactions between the board and subgroups of the board.
- We will continue to develop links with the Voluntary Sector, Faith communities, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities as well as seldom heard groups in Merton.
- We will continue our efforts to engage with service users and carers to ensure their voices are central to safeguarding in Merton.

Our plan for 2021/22

- Identify key areas of collaboration and joint working with our strategic partners.
- Establish links with neighbouring safeguarding adults boards and consider how we might work closer together and possibly share recourses.
- Develop a governance and structure plan, setting out how the board interact with subgroups and other strategic groups. Establish a joint (Adults & Children's) Executive Leadership Group and review current board membership.

3. Making Safeguarding Personal

Aim- People will feel listened too and have real choice and control in shaping their safeguarding journey.

What we will do

- We will seek to ensure all partners understand and are confident about Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP).
- Seek to ensure that all partners have systems in place to capture safeguarding concerns of service users/carers and incorporate them into their service improvement and development.
- All Merton residents have access to clear and consistent information and advice.
- We will seek ways of ensuring the lived experience of BAME communities are heard and representation is established at board and subgroup level.

Our plan for 2021/22

- To develop a Making Safeguarding Personal audit for partners to undertake in order to establish how MSP is applied across the partnership.
- Use feedback from service users to identify improvements and promote best practice.
- To better understand the lived experience of adult safeguarding for BAME people in Merton.

Current on-going actions from the MSAB Subgroups

Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup

- New SAR Protocol agreed September 2020 and now being used
- Police will ensure safeguarding processes on Merlin's are clear about whether an appropriate SAR referral should be made. To be monitored by P&Q subgroup via data collection.
- Quarterly multi agency training to be used to update staff on the SAR process-SAR awareness training for staff - L&D subgroup to take forward.
- SAR Analysis Project and Quality Markers –ongoing action plan to ensure processes for learning from SAR's is embed in Merton- L&D Subgroup to take forward.

Communication & Engagement Subgroup

- Plans to develop Discovery Interviews & possibly Mystery Shopping to ensure improvements as well learning from good practice.
- To sign off completed Communication Strategy
- C&E subgroup – To look at safeguarding awareness documents and videos. To involve community groups which would also encourage service user engagement.
- To produce a list for the dissemination of safeguarding materials, including the annual report, SAR learning information and other appropriate materials.

Performance & Quality Subgroup

- A working action plan is being developed to capture the LeDeR programme
- Ethnicity Data - collating ONS data to look at next steps and agree actions regarding potential gaps, awareness raising, etc. to support improvements for people from BAME groups.
- Partner survey in progress to understand what data is collected by partners.
- Data information from CCG agreed.

L&D Subgroup

- Training Strategy/ Training Framework-amended for sign off in September Board
- A Training Planner is being developed.
- Dissemination and provision of SAR learning in all forms. For example SAR 7 minute Learning, Webinar, Multi-agency Training
- Work in progress to develop a training programme that the Voluntary Sector, Faith Groups, Volunteers and other appropriate agencies can access.