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Background

Under the Care Act (2014), Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) are a statutory requirement. The work of SABs are underpinned by the following principles of adult safeguarding, identified in the Care Act:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

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Role and Function

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is a multi-agency partnership providing strategic leadership for adult safeguarding across the City of Sunderland to promote the welfare of adults at risk of abuse and neglect, and is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of what partner agencies do to support this by:

- Assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused

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Role and Function continued

- Working collaboratively
- Ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving

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Partnership and Collaboration

The effectiveness of SSAB is dependent on collaborative working between board members, partner agencies and other boards and partnerships, e.g. SSCP (Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership). SSAB and SSCP have identified areas of joint working, and seek to promote a “think family” approach across safeguarding services for both adults and children in Sunderland. In addition, the Care Act places agencies under a duty to cooperate with their local safeguarding adults board.

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SSAB Priorities 2022

Overarching priority: Prevention

Local areas of risk:

- Self-Neglect
- Mental Capacity
- Homelessness
- Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM)

Priority Areas in Support of other Partnerships:

- Domestic Abuse (supporting work of Sunderland Domestic Abuse Board)
- Suicide Prevention (supporting work of Public Health)

Find out more: [SSAB website](#)

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Sub Committees

SSAB has 3 groups that sit beneath it, and which take forward SSAB’s day-to-day work programme. These are:

- Safeguarding Adults Partnership Group
- Quality Assurance Sub-Committee
- Learning and Improvement in Practice Sub-Committee

Work areas covered include: communications & engagement, training, performance data, quality assurance, audits, and conducting Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs).

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SSAB Structure

There are 3 statutory partners: Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Police. An Independent Chair provides scrutiny and challenge.

In order for SSAB to fulfil its responsibilities and duties effectively, other agencies across health, housing, independent sector emergency services, voluntary, charity and community sector are included in the membership.