



**SUNDERLAND  
SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS BOARD**

## **SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD**

**Strategic Delivery Plan 2019 - 2024**

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## Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Delivery Plan 2019 – 2024

The Strategic Delivery Plan details the key focus areas and vision of Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) for the period 2019-2024. It identifies how SSAB will ensure its statutory responsibilities are met in accordance with the [Care Act \(2014\)](#) and embedded in practice across the partnership.

The Plan details the key actions that SSAB will take forward over five years via the work of the Partnership Group and Sub Committees. It will be reviewed annually as part of the SSAB governance and quality assurance processes, to ensure it continues to take account of local & national safeguarding adults developments and that the actions continue to be relevant to safeguarding adults in Sunderland. The Plan will be supported by information gathered from the Safeguarding Adults Performance dataset, collated using a 'Performance Scorecard' approach.

Progress on actions is monitored by the relevant Sub Committees of the SSAB, and updates will be provided to the Partnership Group and SSAB on a regular basis. The Sub Committees play a key role in assuring the SSAB that organisations are achieving a robust and consistent approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Sunderland.

The Plan is underpinned by the SSAB Multi-Agency Agreement & Memorandum of Understanding, which describes the Board's remit and governance arrangements, including Terms of Reference and the reporting structure of the multi-agency Partnership Group and Sub Committees that sit under the SSAB. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of Board members.

### The Care Act & Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board

The [Care Act \(2014\)](#) required local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board in their area, including Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group & Police as the 3 core member agencies, and to develop a shared plan for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse & neglect; reporting annually on what has been achieved to progress the actions within the plan.

SSAB fully embraces the [six key principles of adult safeguarding](#) (Care Act, 2014, Safeguarding Chapter 14, section 14.13) which should guide and inform the approach to the delivery of safeguarding responsibilities by all partner agencies across Sunderland.

SSAB leads and holds partners to account for safeguarding adults in the city. SSAB also ensures that it has a shared strategic vision that is embedded in the strategies and plans of all partners. Whilst the Board's partners hold ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within their individual organisations, it is SSAB that brings the independent challenge, influence and assurance that maximises the effectiveness of their activity. SSAB works to ensure its operational and strategic direction is complementary to that of other key Boards – see **Appendix 1** showing SSAB's Structure and lines of Accountability.

## SSAB Vision for Safeguarding Adults in Sunderland

In order to improve the effectiveness of SSAB in accordance with its statutory responsibilities, the Board has the following vision:

***People in Sunderland are able to live safely,  
free from neglect and abuse***

The SSAB's Vision for Safeguarding Adults in Sunderland can only be delivered effectively through the support and engagement of a wide range of partner agencies and organisations across the city. This Plan demonstrates the part that all relevant stakeholders will play in achieving this vision.

## SSAB Ambition

To have a Board that is effective at the following:

- Identifying areas of good practice and where this is providing positive outcomes for individuals
- Collecting and analysing system intelligence to inform and influence service design, delivery and development
- Identifying areas of poor practice and providing scrutiny and challenge to effect positive change
- Using national and local benchmarking and research evidence to inform and influence improvements in safeguarding adults
- Providing a clear and influential leadership role in relation to safeguarding adults
- Challenging key partners and other Boards where appropriate
- Driving forward an outcomes-focused safeguarding adults model, embracing the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal

## Making Safeguarding Personal

SSAB is committed to embedding the principles of [Making Safeguarding Personal](#) across its partner agencies, ensuring that it delivers person-led safeguarding, enhancing the involvement, choice and control of the individual with care and support needs, as well as improving their quality of life, wellbeing and safety. This approach underpins and informs SSAB's Strategic Delivery Plan, and corresponding governance documents.

SSAB partners are required to be active and able to influence and direct their agency or organisation in ensuring adults are and feel safe, and are supported to challenge and change abusive situations. There is an expectation that partners will also lead and support the development and implementation of safeguarding practices and procedures within their own agency or organisation, take forward agreed action plans which prevent and minimise abuse and neglect, and deliver a person-centred, outcomes-focused approach.

**Appendix 2** shows the focus areas where the SSAB is working to make a difference to safeguard adults in Sunderland.

## Statutory Actions

The statutory actions for the SSAB are those as set out in the [Care Act \(2014\) Guidance](#) (Safeguarding chapter 14, point 14.139) for all Safeguarding Adults Boards.

## SSAB Strategic Priorities

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board established strategic priorities for 2019 – 2024; these were refreshed in 2021:

- PREVENTION
- LOCAL AREAS OF RISK:
  - Self-Neglect
  - Mental Capacity
  - Homelessness
  - People at Risk/Vulnerable/Complex Cases (including Substance Misuse) who don't meet statutory thresholds: development of Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM)
  - Domestic Abuse (supporting the work of the lead body, Sunderland Domestic Abuse Board)
  - Suicide Prevention – particularly in light of the effects of COVID-19 (supporting the work of the lead bodies, Sunderland City Council's Public Health Team and the Suicide Prevention Action Group)

These inform the Board's local actions to safeguard adults in Sunderland and are underpinned by the Care Act's [six key principles of adult safeguarding](#).

The strategic priorities are taken forward via the SSAB Work Programme, through the work of SSAB's Quality Assurance and Learning and Improvement in Practice Sub Committees and the Partnership Group.

## Prevention

The prevention of abuse and neglect or adults at risk is a multi-agency and society responsibility; it is also one of the six key principles of adult safeguarding. SSAB has identified prevention as a priority and has identified key actions to enable it to maximise opportunities to carry forward the prevention agenda.

Key Challenges & Areas for Development include:

- Utilising social media opportunities to raise awareness of safeguarding and promote prevention activities

- Become more efficient and effective at sharing good practice, building on current activity
- Raising prevention and safeguarding awareness with the public
- Broaden the delivery of the safeguarding message to a wider workforce
- Delivering the safeguarding message to the public using the most effective methods

SSAB has developed a Prevention Strategy to set out the SSAB's approach to prevention, as this is a key priority that can have a positive impact on wider public 'keeping safe' issues as well as other safeguarding priorities. The SSAB Prevention Strategy includes the actions listed above, and also others identified through recent SSAB work on this area.

### **Local Areas of Risk**

SSAB prioritises emerging areas of concern identified by its Sub-Committees and partner organisations, and informed by the performance framework and learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Actions to address these will be identified and taken forward by the Sub Committees and Partnership Group.

Local Areas of Risk are:

- Self-Neglect
- Mental Capacity
- Homelessness
- People at Risk/Vulnerable/Complex Cases (including Substance Misuse) who don't meet statutory thresholds: development of Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM)
- Domestic Abuse (supporting the work of the lead body, Sunderland Domestic Abuse Board)
- Suicide Prevention – particularly in light of the effects of COVID-19 (supporting the work of the lead bodies, Sunderland City Council's Public Health Team and the Suicide Prevention Action Group)

### **Additional SSAB Work (enablers/policy drivers)**

SSAB also has some additional work (enablers/policy drivers) that cut across all the work SSAB engages with:

### **Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) / User Engagement**

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a person-led, outcome-focused approach that engages the person and enhances their involvement, choice and control seeking

to improve their quality of life, wellbeing and safety. SSAB is committed to embedding MSP across the work of the partnership.

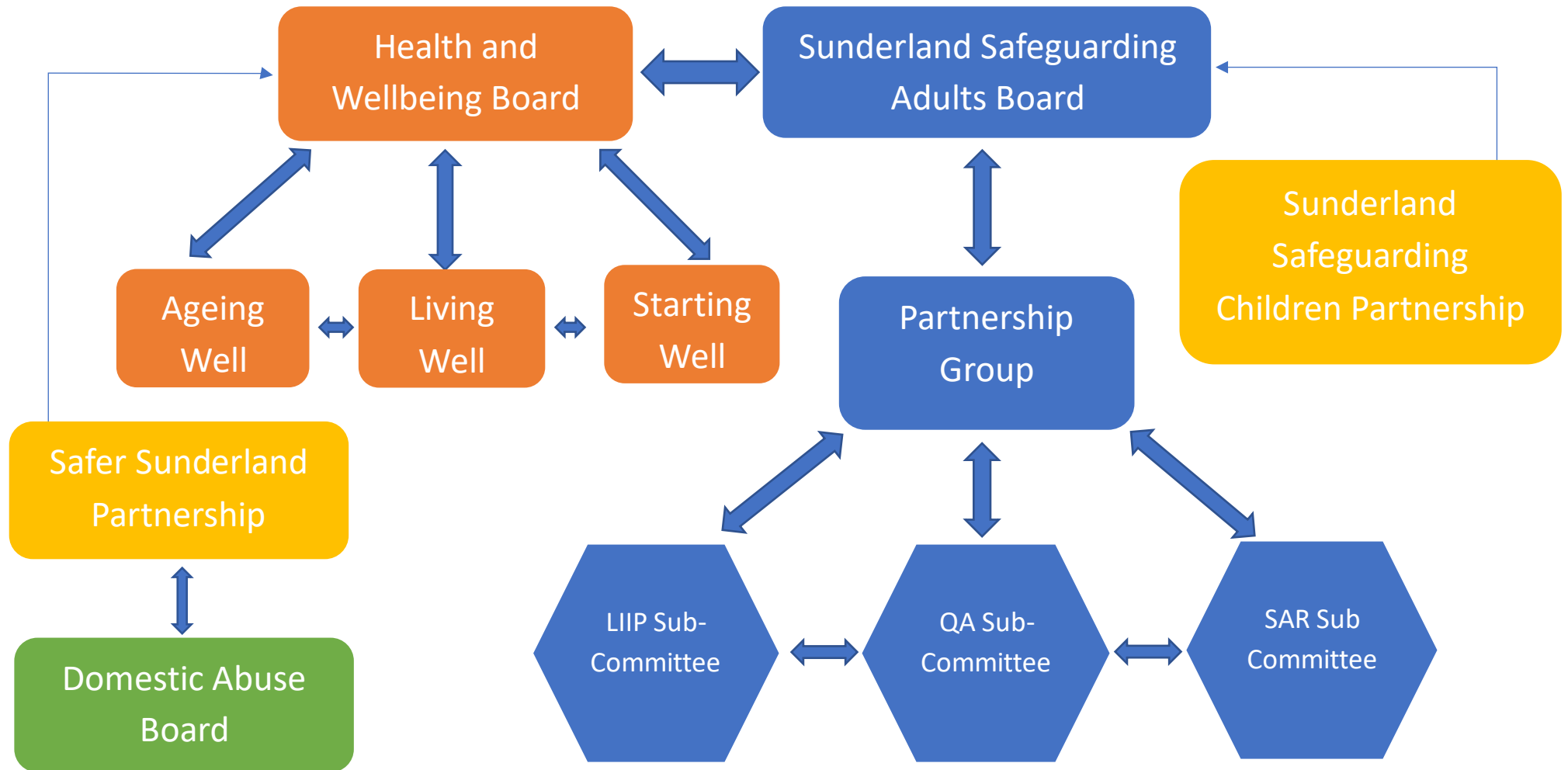
### **Performance / Assurance / Governance**

Quality performance data from statutory partners, well-planned and robust assurance mechanisms (such as case file and themed audits and information-gathering assurance exercises with partner agencies of SSAB) and strong governance arrangements are the bedrock of a successful Safeguarding Adults Board which achieves consistent positive progress.

### **Partnership Working**

Strong partnerships are those with common goals and a good understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities. SSAB recognises that a wide range of organisations are involved in providing services to adults, and the need for collaborative working to achieve the common goal of promoting safety and wellbeing.

Appendix 1: Board Structure and Lines of Accountability





## Appendix 2: Making a Difference

