



Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028



**SAFEGUARDING
BARNSLEY
TOGETHER**



**BARNSLEY
SAFEGUARDING**
ADULTS BOARD

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The Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) is the statutory body that brings together organisations like health, including GPs, housing, Adult Social Care, education, Barnsley Council and the Police to promote wellbeing and reduce the risk of harm for people with care and support needs.

The Board is responsible for leading safeguarding arrangements across the borough and for overseeing, coordinating and challenging the effectiveness of the work of our members and partner agencies.

We also have a responsibility to develop and actively promote a culture among our members, partners and communities that keeps the adult at the centre of everything we do in line with the [Making Safeguarding Personal principles](#).

Together, we have a duty of care to make sure that procedures are in place to encourage the reporting of suspected abuse, and to act to stop it.

The Board's role is to make sure that those who work to safeguard adults use a joined-up and consistent approach to referral, assessment, planning, intervention and case review of services to people who have been, or who are at risk of, being abused.

Under the Care Act 2014, we must:

- Develop and publish a [Strategic Plan](#), setting out how we will meet our objectives and how our members and partner agencies will contribute.
- Publish an [Annual Report](#), showing our progress against our ambitions and what difference our work has made to the safety of people in Barnsley.
- Commission [Safeguarding Adults Reviews \(SARs\)](#) for cases where an adult dies or is seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, and partners did not work together.

Our vision

That all adults in Barnsley can live safely and get the help they need to stop harm and abuse if needed. To achieve this, we will work together to:

- Prevent harm and abuse by promoting dignity and respect and delivering high-quality services.
- Empower adults and the community to prevent abuse and be part of the solution if abuse or harm does occur.
- Protect adults by working with them to reduce the risks, establishing a culture in all services that does not tolerate abuse.
- Deliver proportionate responses to abuse and harm, working in a person-centered way with the adult or their advocate.
- Deliver high-quality partnership working to prevent and respond to abuse and harm.
- Hold each other to account for the quality of our safeguarding work, and report this to the citizens of Barnsley.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to identify the main priorities in order that the Board and its members can focus on those issues that will have the biggest impact on improving the safety of adults at risk in Barnsley.

Our priorities

Priority one: Hold each other to account for the quality of safeguarding and the services provided by all organisations working with adults in Barnsley.

We believe that prevention of harm and abuse should be our priority, and we can do this by making sure that our health and social care services deliver high-quality, safe care.

Providing high-quality policies, resources and training, and testing their impact on practice will support us in delivering this ambition.

What will we do?

- Review our progress against agreed priorities every quarter, including partner assurance data.
- Require organisations that commission care services to provide assurance about the safety and quality of these services.
- Develop and share resources and best practices through our webpages and in training to support workers, volunteers and organisations to deliver the best possible safeguarding support to adults in Barnsley.
- Deliver high-quality training and development opportunities and test the impact this has on practice.
- Ensure that learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) becomes embedded in practice by auditing practice.
- Evaluate our activity in comparison with regional and national data.

Priority two: Ensure that adults who are homeless, rough sleeping or insecurely housed are effectively safeguarded.

Research on national Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) reveals that 40% of adults who died or experienced harm or abuse lacked secure housing. In 2024, the Department of Housing, Levelling Up and Communities (DHLUC) placed a duty on safeguarding boards to address the risks faced by adults who are rough sleeping.

We need to be confident that insecurely housed or homeless adults have access to safeguarding support and that practitioners are compliant with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and can complete high-quality capacity assessments.

What will we do?

- Develop our knowledge of the number of adults who are homeless and the risks they face, evaluating the effectiveness of our safeguarding response.

- Seek assurances from all partners that their response to homeless adults is person-centered and recognises the increased risks of abuse and self-neglect they experience.
- Hear the voice of adults with lived experience to improve our services and embed trauma-informed practice.
- Evaluate how effectively we use Mental Capacity Act assessments to support homeless adults and deliver effective training and resources to support workers and volunteers to complete these assessments.
- In partnership with the Safer Barnsley Partnership, evaluate the accommodation and support available to adults who are insecurely housed or homeless.

Priority three: We will work in partnership with the Barnsley Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Barnsley Partnership to reduce the risk of harm and abuse to all residents in Barnsley.

We recognise the need to address risks faced by adults and young people, such as domestic violence, addiction and sexual violence, and will evaluate if safeguarding support would reduce these risks. We will work in partnership with the relevant groups and boards to make sure that people who would benefit from safeguarding support have access to this.

What will we do?

- Evaluate the support that's available to young people to stay safe as they move into adulthood and work with the relevant partnerships and boards to improve the support on offer to them.
- Collect data on adults referred for or receiving safeguarding support due to domestic abuse and assess its impact on their safety.
- Evaluate the provision of safeguarding support to adults who have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation by collecting relevant data on these cases.

Priority four: We will work with adults in Barnsley to improve our safeguarding response.

We will work with adults who have lived experience of harm and abuse to improve knowledge of and confidence in adult safeguarding and how easily they can contact adult safeguarding for themselves or their family and friends.

What will we do?

- Create and support a network of Safeguarding Community Champions, who will be our 'eyes and ears' across Barnsley. They will help people obtain the support they need to stop harm and abuse.
- Engage with the public to help us produce our public-facing messages, starting from 2026.
- We will monitor the impact of our work and aim to increase the percentage of referrals received from members of the public.