

# Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2026-2029



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# 1. How we developed this plan

**We spoke to people who use our services**, including our service user group and during consultation events held as part of Cheshire East’s Adult Safeguarding Week 2025.

**We looked at learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)** and from our Prevention, Management and Learning (PML) events to spot patterns and key themes.

**We reviewed CQC findings and recommendations** from Cheshire East Council’s recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) Local authority Assurance Visit.

**We studied safeguarding data from the last three years**, such as types of abuse, who was affected, where it happened, and who reported it.

**We kept up to date with laws, guidance, and best practice**, including new research and ideas from regional and national networks.

**We listened to our partners**, including professionals and partners from Community Safety and Children’s Services, to understand their priorities and where our work can be aligned.

# 2. What the CQC Found and What We’re Doing About It

In January 2025, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited to see how Cheshire East Council and the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) are working.

They said **safeguarding is ‘good’**, but they also found some things we need to improve.

## 1. Talking Better with Everyone

The CQC said we need to get better at talking with people who have **communication barriers**, like:

- People who are **profoundly deaf**

Concerns raised in the Bella Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) and the Anton Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR), highlight how we also need to communicate better with:

- People who are **neurodiverse** (this means people who think, learn, or communicate in different ways)
- People who **do not have English as their first language**.

**This Strategic Plan promises to:**

- **Remove barriers** that make it hard for people to speak up about abuse or neglect
- Help people **take part fully** in the safeguarding process.

## 2. Working Better Together

The CQC also said we need to:

### Share learning from SARs better

We must do more to share what we've learned with other frontline partners outside the Board.

### Work better as a multi-agency team

Organisations need to work more closely together in the safeguarding process.

This plan will help make sure:

- **Everyone learns** from our SARs
- **All partners work together** to keep people safe

## 3. Our Vision:

**“Our vision is that people with care and support needs in Cheshire East are able to live their lives free from harm”**



# 4. Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board

## Who we are:

The **Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB)** is a group of organisations that work together to help keep adults at risk safe in Cheshire East.

CESAB is directed by legislation (the Care Act 2014) and includes three statutory members:

- **Cheshire East Council**
- **Cheshire Police**
- **Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Integrated Care Board**

Other organisations also take part and help with the Board’s work.

You can find a full list of members and the Board’s structure on our website:

👉 [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk)

## What we do:

The Board’s main job is to make sure local safeguarding work is effective and that it listens to the views of the community. The Board checks that safeguarding practice is focused on the person and aims to achieve the best outcomes for them.

The Board works to protect adults who have care and support needs and may be at risk of abuse or neglect. Its main goal is to improve how organisations work together to keep people safe.

## Our statutory duties:

The SAB has three core duties, in accordance with the Care Act (2014):

1. **Create and share a strategic plan** that explains our goals and how each organisation in the partnership will help achieve them.
2. **Publish a yearly report** to show how well our safeguarding work is going.
3. **Carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)** when serious cases meet the criteria, so we can learn and improve.



## 5. Our Plan 2026-2029

### The PML Model

The Board started using the PML Model in 2024. This three-year strategic plan follows the three pillars of this approach. This will guide how we work together as a Board over the next three years to strengthen adult safeguarding across Cheshire East.

The PML Model has **three parts**:

**Prevention, awareness and engagement** – This means stopping abuse and neglect before it happens.






**Management: Strengthening multi-agency practice** – This means working well together when there are concerns about someone’s safety.

**Learning, reflection and practice improvement** – This means learning from what has happened to make things better in the future.

### Five areas of Focus

We looked at our SAR data, Safeguarding Performance Reports and feedback analysis and found some important areas to focus on in this Three-Year strategic plan.

As part of our work to strengthen how organisations work together, we will focus on:

1.  **Unpaid Carer Stress**  
*Support for unpaid carers who feel overwhelmed or under pressure.*
2.  **Rough Sleeping & Homelessness**  
*Support adults at risk who don't have a safe place to live.*
3.  **Professional Curiosity**  
*Encourage staff to ask questions and look deeper when something doesn't feel right.*
4.  **Language & Communication Barriers**  
*Make sure everyone can understand and be understood.*
5.  **Complex Safeguarding including self-neglect and Hoarding**  
*Partners know what to do when there are concerns about:*

*Self-Neglect* – when someone is not looking after themselves or their home

*Hoarding* – when someone accumulates too many things and it affects their safety or wellbeing

*Other Complex Safeguarding issues* – such as transition, mental health and coercion and control, i.e. when situations are complicated and need careful multi-agency high risk planning.

## 1. Prevention, awareness, and engagement

### What we will do:

**Work with community groups and other organisations** to raise awareness of adult safeguarding and create prevention strategies that meet local needs.

**Share clear public messages and run safeguarding campaigns** using different media, including webpages, social media, leaflets, and events including National Safeguarding Adults Week and the biennial Cheshire East Safeguarding & Community Safety Awards Ceremony.

**Support the public to report safeguarding concerns** by offering clear advice and guidance.

**Plan and run targeted activities with specific groups**, including awareness sessions and training, to help individuals understand the adult safeguarding issues in Cheshire East.

**Keep raising awareness among individuals, communities, charities, and volunteers** about how to spot signs of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.

**Continue to develop the CESAB website** to improve access to safeguarding information and resources.

**Continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership and the Children's Safeguarding Partnership in Cheshire East** on any overlapping issues such as Family First etc.

**Keep up to date with regional and national developments:** including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)/ Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), and the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill.

### Why we are doing this:

**To stop adult abuse** by educating people how to recognise abuse and neglect, take steps to protect themselves and their community, and feel confident supporting others to reduce or prevent harm.

**To Share knowledge and expertise** to prevent adult abuse and raise awareness about adult safeguarding in Cheshire East

### How we will assess the impact we are making:

**Seek assurance on staff training across the CESAB partnership** is robust, to ensure all staff across Cheshire East are confident in spotting signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation—and knows how to report concerns properly.

**Work with our Service User Group and other feedback sources** to understand what residents are saying about adult safeguarding in Cheshire East.

**Review partnership data regularly** to track the number and types of safeguarding concerns and enquiries, spot key themes, and check for consistency.

## 2. Learning, reflection, and practice improvement

### What we will do:

**Further develop the ‘Learning’ strand of the PML (Prevention, Management and Learning) events** to help improve safeguarding learning and development opportunities across the partnership.

**Strengthen joint training opportunities** so that training is planned and delivered by different organisations working together.

**Encourage teamwork and sharing** by building strong networks across multi-agency safeguarding partnerships such as the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, The Children’s Safeguarding Partnership and across the North West region.

**Keep policies and guidance up to date** on the CESAB website and CEC Tri-x, so they reflect best practice.

**Share good practice and learning** from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), including short briefings, and check how this learning is used in by the frontline staff.

**Listen to people’s experiences of safeguarding**, including families and front-line staff, to help improve how we work. For example, via the Service User Group and through SAR learning events.

**Promote professional curiosity**—encouraging staff to ask questions and explore concerns more deeply.

**Check how well the Mental Capacity Act is being used** across the partnership to make sure it’s being applied correctly.

### Why we are doing this:

**To help everyone keep learning and improving** how we work together to keep people safe.

**To make continuous improvements in Safeguarding practice** by using what we learn to improve how we support people and the results of our actions.

### How we will assess what impact we are making:

**Look at training results and safeguarding data** to see what’s working well and where improvements have been made.

**Ask partner organisations and Service Users** how new guidance has helped improve safeguarding.

**Ask partners for assurance on how learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) is being used**, such as through audits, and feedback events.

## Management: Strengthening multi-agency safeguarding

**What we will do:** We will create a clear annual work plan to make partnership working stronger. This will help make sure that all organisations work well together to respond to **five key areas:**

- 1. Support adults at risk with communication difficulties to get help.** This includes people who do not speak English as their first language, and people with disabilities or neurodiverse conditions.
- 2. Encourage professional curiosity.** This means supporting staff to ask questions, explore concerns, and understand the full picture when working with adults at risk of abuse and neglect.
- 3. Ensure all partners are working together to minimise barriers faced by adults with care and support needs who are experiencing rough sleeping and homelessness.**
- 4. Improve support for unpaid carers** who look after adults with care and support needs, especially when they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed.
- 5. Ensuring that partners partner agencies respond together when concerns of Complex Safeguarding including self-neglect and Hoarding have been identified.**

### We will do this by:

Use **local data** to understand current safeguarding issues and where help is most needed.

**Build on good practice** that already exists, and improve where needed, making sure organisations are working well together and that adult safeguarding is person centred.

**Find out what guidance and process improvements are needed** to improve our five focus areas

### Why we are doing this:

**To help organisations provide better and safer services** that prevent abuse and protect those at risk.

**To create a culture of openness**, where people feel safe to speak up about concerns.

**To support adults who may be experiencing abuse or neglect**, especially those who aren't known to services or don't feel able to engage with them.

### How will assess what impact we are making:

**Carry out regular audits** with partner organisations, including yearly self-assessments and PML events to make sure safeguarding is working well.

**Create a shared multi-agency data dashboard** to help the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) spot patterns and trends in adult safeguarding across all partners.

## 6. Delivering our plan: Our Commitment

This strategy shows our commitment to **Stop Adult Abuse** in Cheshire East.

**During 2026 - 2029**

**We will:**

- Focus on each person's individual needs.
- Make sure Safeguarding is Personal in Cheshire East
- Work together with our partners.
- Take action early to prevent harm.
- Respect and protect people's dignity and well-being.

**We will work with our partners on five key areas to:**

- Listen to the voices of service users.
- Check that adult safeguarding is working well in Cheshire East.
- Support and train our workforce and community.
- Learn from experience to improve how we keep people safe.



**We will measure our progress using an annual business plan that sets out:**

- Our main objectives for the year
- The key goals and timescales for each

**Progress will be:**

- Reviewed every three months by the Business Management Group of CESAB
- The Board will be updated on this progress.
- This will be shared in our annual report.
- The annual report will be published on our website-  
 [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk)

# Summary: Plan on a page

Cheshire East Safeguarding Board – Our Plan (2026–2029)	
<p><b>Our Vision</b></p> <p>People with care and support needs in Cheshire East are able to live their lives free from harm.</p>	<p><b>Our Purpose</b></p> <p>We work together to develop and maintain a strong system to keep adults safe from abuse and neglect.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Priorities: PML</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 80%;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Prevention &amp; Early Intervention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Raise awareness among public and professionals</li> <li>○ Provide accessible information on rights and help</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2. Management: Strengthening multi-agency safeguarding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collaborate across statutory, voluntary, community sectors</li> <li>○ Involve adults with lived experience</li> <li>○ Embed <i>Making Safeguarding Personal</i></li> <li>○ Ensure consistent, high-quality responses</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>3. Learning, reflection, and practice improvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use data to identify trends and risks</li> <li>○ Monitor safeguarding outcomes</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>	
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>What Helps Us Do This</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strong leadership.</li> <li>○ Skilled and confident staff.</li> <li>○ Good communication and the sharing of information.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Five Focus Areas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Unpaid Carers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Support carers who feel stressed or overwhelmed.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2. Homelessness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Help adults who have no safe home.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>3. Professional Curiosity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Staff should ask questions if something feels wrong.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>4. Language and Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Make sure everyone can understand and be understood.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>5. Complex Safeguarding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Self-neglect: when someone does not look after themselves or their home.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Hoarding: when someone keeps too many things and it is unsafe.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Other complex cases: need careful planning with many agencies.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How We Know It Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More people know about safeguarding and report concerns.</li> <li>• Adults and carers give positive feedback.</li> <li>• Organisations work better together and reduce repeat harm.</li> </ul>	