CHESHIRE EAST SAFEGUADING ADULTS BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 2026

Independent Chair's Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report from Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB)

I am pleased to present the Annual Adult Safeguarding Report for 2025/2026. The report provides some insight to the ongoing work being undertaken to safeguard our adult community, sets out our achievements and highlights future challenges.

The Board continues to strengthen its approach to safeguarding and I would like to acknowledge and express my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Board in protecting adults within our community.

The membership of the Board is formed from statutory and non-statutory partners which includes frontline practitioners, managers, senior leaders, community representation and volunteers. It is a privilege to work with so many professional and dedicated people who in collaboration are committed to safeguarding adults.

Whilst Adult Safeguarding is becoming more and more complex and broader in its definition, the core principle of the Board under the Care Act 2014 is to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

Key to the success of the Board is how we make safeguarding personal. The Board continues to work alongside our Service User Group in ensuring our practice and policies are clear, relevant and inclusive.

The Board has reflected during a development session, taking learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Local Intelligence, Performance Data, Prevention, Management and Learning (PML) sessions and feedback from Internal and External Inspection and has developed a new strategic plan.

Development themes throughout the year have featured Homelessness, Exploitation and Unpaid Carers.

The Bella Safeguarding Adult Review identified learning and reflection involving the Importance of being trauma Informed, working collaboratively, professional curiosity, exploitation, decision making and governance.

Learning and development is a primary focus for the Board and I am grateful for the continued support and resource in the provision of a dedicated training officer to deliver safeguarding training to our staff and community.

Looking ahead, our challenges will be to remain pro-active and responsive in a reducing economic climate when dealing with the unexpected and newly emerging safeguarding concerns, whilst safeguarding referrals remain stable in numbers, the complexity and risk surrounding those referrals are ever increasing.



Kevin Bennett

Independent Chair

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board

The Partnership

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, representing health, care and support providers and the people who use those services across the borough. Membership comprises of the senior leaders across these organisations, who under the leadership of the independent Chair, work collaboratively to improve adult safeguarding across the borough.

The partnership includes:

Statutory Partners -

Cheshire East Council (Adult Social Care)

Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB)

Cheshire Police

Non-Statutory Partners -

Disability Positive (Service User voice representation)

Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust (Leighton Hospital)

Eastern Cheshire NHS Trust (Macclesfield Hospital)

Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership (Mental Health)

North West Ambulance Service

Health Watch Cheshire East

Cheshire Probation Service

Cheshire Fire and Rescue

Faith Sector Representation

Housing

Domestic Abuse Services

Local Councillor

Resources and Funding

The work of the Board, subgroups, training programme and that of the Independent Chair are funded through SAB contributions from the three statutory partners. A well-resourced Board is essential to enable it to deliver its statutory duties. Funding contributions from our partners supports the board to fund Safeguarding Adult Reviews, learning events and other Board activities. Funding from Lifelong Learning supports the SAB's training offer.

Our principles

Our safeguarding principles mirror those listed in the Care Act 2014 and underpin all adult safeguarding work:

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and this directly informs what happens."

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as needed."

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support if I need to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent I want."

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.

"I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me."

Accountability: Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they".

**Quotes taken from the Department of Health's Government Guidance 'Revisiting Safeguarding' March 2022*

What is Adult Safeguarding?

Safeguarding adults means protecting adults at risk from abuse or neglect by taking steps to prevent or stop it from happening. The Care Act 2014 and other statutory guidance sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other organisations that form the SAB, should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Safeguarding is about protecting an adult's right to live a life free from abuse and neglect and has put systems in place in accordance to the legislative framework and guidance to keep adults with care and support needs safe.

Who do we help keep safe?

All adults aged 18 and over who:

- Need care and support, even if they are not getting care or support now.
- They are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of their care and support needs, is not able to protect themselves from risk of abuse, experience of abuse or neglect.

What is abuse?

Abuse is any action, deliberate or unintentional, or a failure to take action or provide care that results in harm to the adult (this is called neglect).

Abuse can be a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, which causes harm or distress and sometimes death.

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time, such as at home, a day care centre or in a hospital.

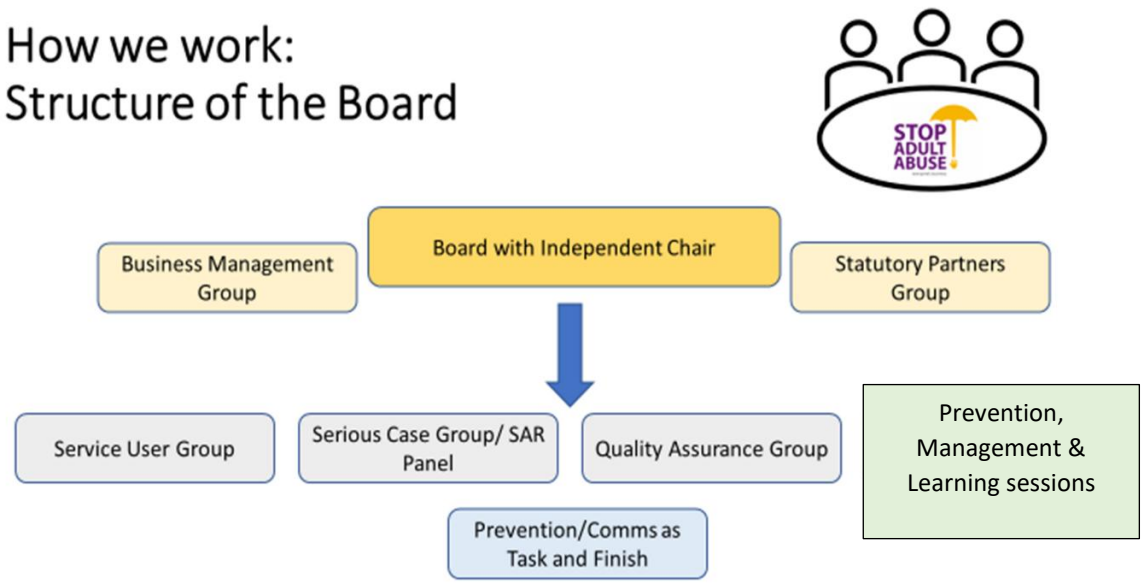
There are many different types of abuse such as physical, emotional and neglect; more details about abuse can be found on the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults webpages www.stopadultabuse.org.uk

Governance Arrangements

The Board appoints an Independent Chair whose role it is to lead and direct its work and provide the support to meet the Board's objectives. The SAB has maintained its commitment to strong partnership working with the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Safer Cheshire East Partnership with all three partnerships working together on joint priorities and safeguarding issues which impact on young people, adults and community safety. The Board reports regularly to the Health and Wellbeing Board on its progress and on any Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

Safeguarding Adults Board Structure

The Board leads adult safeguarding arrangements across Cheshire East and oversees and coordinates the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. A SAB Business Manager and Business Officer support the board, its Business Management Group and subgroups. The Board also employs a Training Officer to facilitate and deliver adult safeguarding training across the Cheshire East Borough. Subgroups and Prevention, Management & Learning sessions (PML) help to deliver the objectives of the Board in four distinct areas: Service User Reference and Voice, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Quality and Assurance and Learning and Development. In addition, there are also task-and-finish groups to deliver specific Board strategic priorities -



THREE-YEAR STRATEGY 2022 – 2025

Under the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adults Board must produce a three-year strategy.

2025 saw the completion of the 2022-2025 strategy, with work throughout the year on establishing the 2026-2029 vision.

What is a 3-year Strategy?

Our strategy sets out:

- Our Board's vision
- Our aims and objectives for this three-year period
- How we will work towards these objectives

Our full plan for 2026 - 2029 can be found on our website www.stopadultabuse.org.uk but a summary of the 2022-25 strategy and how we measured its success is below –

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Our Vision: People in Cheshire East have the right to live a life free from abuse and neglect

Our purpose: To stop Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Our Ambitions</td><td colspan="2">Goals by 2025</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Proportionate Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need, with the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
Enabling staff to respond to complex safeguarding by working in partnership with Key Partners</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East</td><td colspan="2">All professionals will follow Mental Capacity and Best Interest decision making processes and making safeguarding personal principles

People at risk of abuse and neglect get help and support to report abuse.

People at risk of abuse and neglect are supported to take part in the safeguarding process.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">ACHIEVEMENTS: Case audit evidence showed that Mental Capacity and Best Interest processes were followed appropriately, with completed and recorded Mental Capacity Assessments and Best Interest decisions evident within case records. Making Safeguarding Personal principles were demonstrated through documented discussions with the adult, recording their views, wishes and desired outcomes.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Empowerment - Personalisation and the presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent.
Embed person centred approaches to adult safeguarding</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Ensure the voice of people at risk of abuse and neglect, influence safeguarding practices across Cheshire East</td><td colspan="2">People at risk of abuse and neglect are asked for their outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">ACHIEVEMENTS: A key measure of success was that 96% of adults reported that their desired outcomes had been achieved through the safeguarding process. Over the three-year period of the strategy, there was a marked improvement in the quality and consistency of outcome-focused recording, supported by resources and guidance co-produced with the service user group. This enabled practitioners to more effectively capture adults' views, wishes and desired outcomes, providing stronger evidence that safeguarding interventions were person-centred and aligned with Making Safeguarding Personal principles.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Prevention - It is better to take action before harm occurs.
Improve awareness of adult safeguarding across all communities and partner organisations & learn from experience and Safeguarding Adult Reviews to improve how we work</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Provide information and support in accessible ways to help residents and communities of Cheshire East understand adult abuse and neglect.</td><td colspan="2">Produce clear and simple guidance about what abuse and neglect is, how to recognise the signs and how to seek help.

Identify local solutions through services working within diverse communities across Cheshire East.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">ACHIEVEMENTS: The objectives have been achieved through the development of co-produced literature and videos with the Service User Group, providing clear and accessible information on recognising abuse and neglect, understanding when to seek help, and accessing local support. These resources have strengthened awareness within communities and helped promote locally relevant safeguarding solutions across Cheshire East.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Governance:
Ensure our governance is of the highest possible standard & open to challenge, to support the achievement of our strategy and ensure accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.</td><td>Partnership:
Work as a multi-agency board to ensure there is effective partnership working and leadership across all agencies for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.</td><td>Impact:
Continually measure and test the effect of our work, improve quality and monitor the implementation of changes, that prevent similar abuse or neglect happening to other people.</td><td>Person Centred Engagement:
Ensure that people are supported in the way that they want, are empowered to make decisions, and can achieve the best outcomes.</td></tr>
</table>

ACHIEVEMENTS: The Board has delivered strongly against its governance, partnership, impact and person-centred engagement objectives. Robust governance arrangements, supported by regular Board and Sub-Group scrutiny, performance reporting, audits and Safeguarding Adults Reviews monitoring, have strengthened accountability, transparency and continuous improvement across the partnership. Multi-agency collaboration has enabled coordinated safeguarding responses and the implementation of learning from reviews and quality assurance activity. Quarterly outcomes audits demonstrate the success of the Board's commitment to Making Safeguarding Personal and ensuring that adults are empowered, involved in decision-making and supported to achieve outcomes that matter to them

2025/26 activity -

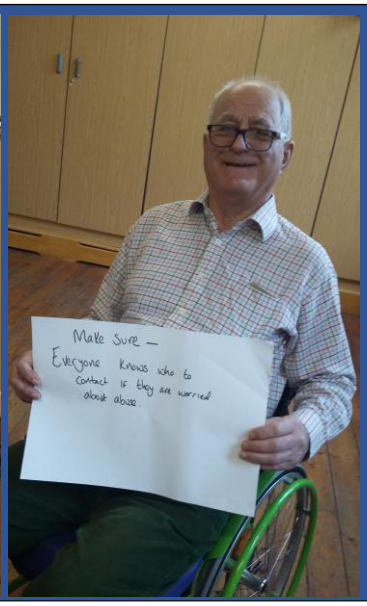
During 2025/26, the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) via its audit and review processes has received assurance that safeguarding arrangements for adults across Cheshire East are working well and delivering positive outcomes for adults at risk. The Board met quarterly, supported by an annual Board Development Day, regular sub-group meetings and Prevention, Management and Learning (PML) sessions. These provide a robust oversight of strategic priorities and of safeguarding performance across Cheshire East. A programme of multi-agency audits has been completed, and work has commenced on the development of a new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Intelligence and Data Dashboard to strengthen performance monitoring and partnership accountability.

The Board's quarterly meetings throughout 2025/26 focused on a series of priority themes identified through local intelligence, safeguarding activity and partnership learning. These included Suicide Prevention, Preparing for Adulthood/ Transition, Rough Sleeping and Homelessness, and the Prevention of Radicalisation. By adopting a themed approach, the Board was able to strengthen multi-agency understanding of emerging risks, provide strategic oversight of safeguarding arrangements, identify opportunities for improvement, and promote collaborative action to improve outcomes for adults at risk across Cheshire East.

Partners across Cheshire East continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding adults, evidenced through effective multi-agency working, shared ownership of safeguarding priorities and a culture of continuous learning and improvement. Significant progress has been made in strengthening the Board's approach to learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, embedding Making Safeguarding Personal within safeguarding activity, and enhancing partnership working both locally and across wider systems. This has included closer collaboration with the Cheshire East Children's Safeguarding Partnership, the local Community Safety Partnership, and pan-Cheshire safeguarding arrangements where a coordinated approach adds value.

A lot of the Board's work during 2025/2026 focused on the development of a new three-year strategic Plan for 2026-29, the Board recognises that further work is required to ensure that safeguarding arrangements for adults across Cheshire East remain effective, in particular, there remains a need to strengthen how the impact of multi-agency safeguarding activity is measured, improve the quality, consistency and use of data, and ensure that learning from reviews, audits and quality assurance activity is translated into demonstrable improvements in practice and outcomes for adults. Addressing these areas will be a key priority within the Board's 2026-2029 Strategy and associated annual delivery plans, ensuring that safeguarding activity continues to be evidence-based, outcome-focused and responsive to local emerging risks and challenges in Cheshire East.





ADULT SAFEGUARDING TRAINING PROGRAMME 2025/26

Care Providers and others	DA and Sexual Violence		Licensed Drivers	Care Concerns	DoLS
1338	104		16	252	39
	Total number of individuals trained in 2025-2026				**1766**

Training remains a well-established and valued service provided by the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). Part-funded through the Lifelong Learning Fund, the programme offers Basic Awareness Training for voluntary and community sector organisations, alongside targeted safeguarding training funded by the SAB for statutory partners.

The programme continues to evolve in response to local need, supporting organisations to prevent and respond to abuse and neglect in line with the Care Act 2014. Face-to-face training remains highly valued by participants, while online sessions continue to improve accessibility.

Key developments during 2025/26 include ongoing safeguarding awareness training for licensed drivers in partnership with the Cheshire East Licensing Team, ensuring both existing and new drivers understand how to recognise vulnerabilities and report concerns. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) training has also been delivered in collaboration with the DoLS Team Manager.

Multi-agency training on Safeguarding Adults at Risk: Enhancing Responses to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence continues to attract participants from health, social care, policing, prisons, general practice, faith groups, and voluntary organisations. Delivered jointly with an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) from Macclesfield Hospital, the workshop promotes shared learning across statutory and non-statutory sectors.

Monthly online Care Concern training also continues, helping providers understand when issues of poor-quality care can be managed through the Care Concern process and when safeguarding procedures should be initiated.

The full 2025/26 SAB Training Report is available here. - *Learning and Development*

ADULT SAFEGUARDING Awards and WEEK 2025

National Safeguarding Adults Week 2025 provided an opportunity for organisations across Cheshire East to come together to raise awareness of adult safeguarding, promote good practice, and encourage conversations about preventing abuse and neglect. Throughout the week, a range of events, including webinars, conferences and community activities, highlighted key safeguarding issues and helped professionals, volunteers and residents to increase their understanding of recognising, recording and reporting concerns. The Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and Safer Cheshire East Partnership used the week to showcase the collaborative work taking place across the borough to protect adults at risk and support those who may experience abuse, harm or exploitation.

A key highlight of the week was the biennial **Safeguarding & Dignity Awards Ceremony**, which celebrated the commitment and achievements of individuals, teams, organisations and volunteers who go above and beyond to promote dignity and safeguard children and adults at risk. The awards recognised outstanding practice across Cheshire East and provided an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of carers, health and social care professionals, volunteers and partner agencies who make a positive difference, often in challenging circumstances. Successful nominees were invited to attend a celebratory event during Safeguarding Adults Week, where winners from across Cheshire East were recognised for their contribution to protecting vulnerable people and promoting dignity, respect and wellbeing within their communities.





Key Adult Safeguarding Data for 2025-26

425,400
adults live in Cheshire East



89,200
are aged 65 or over.



6,314



safeguarding concerns raised during the year.



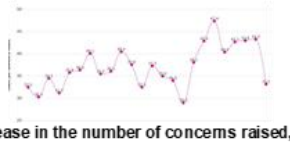
1,234
concerns became s.42* enquiries.
*Under Section 42, Care Act 2014

2%



decrease in the number of enquiries started, down from 1,261 last year.

1%



Increase in the number of concerns raised, up from 6,242 last year.

The age groups of people who were involved in safeguarding concerns or enquiries

Age range	Number of adults
18-64	2,191
65-74	648
75-84	1,190
86-94	1,136
95+	219

96%
of people felt their safeguarding enquiry had achieved what they wanted.



497 enquiries involved allegations of neglect.
315 enquiries involved alleged self-neglect.
294 enquiries involved alleged domestic abuse
Abuse or neglect occurred in the person at risk's home 725 times.



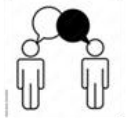
Total number of concerns or enquiries – 6,314
16% more women than men were alleged victims of abuse in 23/24.
(58% of women, 42% of men)



817 (66%) concluded s.42 safeguarding enquiries listed the source of risk as someone known to the person at risk

259 (21%) concluded s.42 safeguarding enquiries involved service providers

156 (13%) listed the source of risk as someone not known to the person at risk



Ethnicity of people with Safeguarding concerns

White: 4,537
Asian/Asian British: 41
Black/African Caribbean/Black British: 38

(Please note that ethnicity is self-reported, and individuals might choose for their ethnicity not to be recorded. There were 684 cases where the individual refused for their ethnicity to be recorded or where ethnicity was not known.)



SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS (SARs):

Under the Care Act 2014, the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) is responsible for commissioning Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) where an adult with care and support needs has experienced serious harm or died, and there are concerns about how agencies worked together. The purpose of a SAR is to identify learning and improve safeguarding practice across partner organisations.

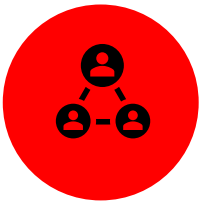
During 2025/26, CESAB completed one statutory Safeguarding Adults Review, named Bella. As legal proceedings relating to the case remain ongoing, the full report cannot yet be published. However, CESAB is able to share a summary of the key findings and learning identified through the review, which are outlined below

Bella SAR

Highlights of the recommendations made:



Promotion of Autism and Trauma-Informed Care Frameworks



Importance of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Discharge Planning



Embedding Professional Curiosity and Assumption-Checking into Practice



The value of Real-Time Learning and Assurance during and after Reviews



Strengthen Safeguarding Responses to Exploitation and Complex Risk



Strengthen Legal Framework Use and Oversight (MCA, DOLs,



Importance of timely documented Decision-Making and Governance oversight

Case Studies:

Safeguarding Adults Case Study: Val

Person-centred, multi-agency action to address coercion and financial abuse

Key outcome: Val remained safely in her own home, regained control of her finances, and felt more confident asking for help.

Background

Val, a woman in her late seventies living alone with several long-term health conditions, appeared anxious after a hospital admission, had missed appointments and was not consistently taking medication. She disclosed that an adult family member had moved into her home, controlled her finances, and frightened her when angry. Val feared that seeking help might lead to losing her home or entering residential care. With her knowledge, a health practitioner made an adult safeguarding referral.

Multi-agency response

Adult social care coordinated the enquiry and met Val privately. Her priorities were to feel safe at home, retain trusted family contact and regain control of her money. A practical safety plan covered safe contacts, access to essential funds and discreet professional communication. Health partners shared information, reviewed her health and care needs, supported medication management, and continued private conversations. Police assessed risks linked to threats, coercive behaviour and financial abuse, explained protective and criminal justice options, and coordinated action with the wider safety plan. A multi-agency meeting agreed responsibilities, timescales, and contingency arrangements.

Outcomes and follow-up

Val secured her bank accounts and regained financial control. The family member left safely, proportionate police protections were put in place, and health services supported attendance and medication. Short-term care, advocacy, and specialist domestic and financial abuse support helped her rebuild confidence. Follow-up visits, health monitoring, police risk review and involvement of trusted relatives tested whether the plan was working. A final multi-agency review confirmed no further reported abuse, reduced risk, and achievement of Val's desired outcomes. Val continued to feel safe, remained at home and re-established trusted relationships.

What worked well and learning

- Professional curiosity linked changes in presentation, attendance, and medication to possible abuse.
- Private conversations enabled Val to speak freely and remain central to decisions.
- Timely information-sharing created a fuller picture of risk and escalation.
- Police action was coordinated so it did not undermine safety planning.
- Financial abuse was recognised as part of a wider pattern of coercion.
- Safety planning was practical, proportionate and based on Val's desired outcomes.
- Capacity should be considered for the specific decision, including the impact of coercion or undue influence.
- Actions need named owners, timescales, escalation routes, and management oversight.
- Follow-up should be planned before closure and test whether outcomes are sustained.
- Closure should include the adult's voice, support network, and clear contingency arrangements.

Partnership learning: No single agency held the complete picture. Coordinated information-sharing and follow-up reduced risk while respecting Val's rights, choices, and independence.

Names and some identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality

Safeguarding Adults Case Study: Tim

A multi-agency response to homelessness, exploitation risk, and carer pressure

Key outcome: Tim moved into supported housing, was protected from exploitation, stabilised his mental health and rebuilt a more sustainable relationship with his parents.

Background

Tim is a young man in his early twenties with autism, anxiety and difficulties managing aspects of daily living. His parents had provided substantial unpaid support, but increasing need and family pressure were not fully recognised across services. After a serious argument, Tim left home, lost his phone, stopped taking medication and began sleeping in public places. Police found him distressed after people had offered accommodation in return for money and access to his benefits. Recognising the risks of exploitation, financial abuse and homelessness, officers made an adult safeguarding referral.

Immediate multi-agency response

Police completed an immediate welfare and risk assessment, moved Tim to safety and recorded intelligence about those who had approached him. Adult social care coordinated the enquiry, met Tim privately and arranged independent advocacy. Tim said he wanted stable accommodation, greater independence and continued contact with his parents, but did not feel able to return home. Housing secured emergency accommodation with reasonable adjustments. Health and mental health services reviewed the effects of anxiety, sleep deprivation and interrupted medication, supported him to restart treatment, and arranged accessible appointment and travel support.

Family carers and safeguarding plan

With Tim's agreement, his parents described exhaustion, fear, and an inability to continue the previous caring arrangement without help. They were offered a carers assessment, support through the carers hub and contingency planning. Separate discussions allowed Tim and his parents to speak openly. A multi-agency plan involving social care, housing, health, police, advocacy, and carers services set named leads, timescales, and escalation routes. It covered safe accommodation, care and support needs, medication, benefits, daily living skills, family contact, anxiety management, exploitation awareness, and a family contingency plan.

Outcomes and follow-up

Tim moved from emergency accommodation into supported housing and received help with cooking, budgeting, tenancy responsibilities, appointments, and medication. He regained access to benefits, secured his finances, and developed a personal safety plan. His parents completed a carers assessment and renewed family contact without resuming unsustainable responsibilities. Follow-up by social care, housing, health, and police confirmed that Tim remained safely accommodated, engaged with support, and had no further reported rough sleeping or suspected exploitation. The enquiry closed after Tim's views were sought and immediate risks had reduced, with ongoing support continuing outside safeguarding.

What worked well and learning

- Homelessness was recognised as a safeguarding issue because it increased exposure to exploitation and harm.
- Tim was offered privacy, advocacy, reasonable adjustments, and an active role in defining outcomes.
- Immediate protection was combined with longer-term housing, health, and independence planning.
- Carer pressure was recognised and Tim's parents received assessment, support, and contingency planning.
- Professionals avoided assuming that a return home was the only successful outcome.
- Plans identified responsible agencies, timescales, escalation routes, and arrangements for accommodation breakdown.

What worked well and learning

- New relationships and offers of accommodation were explored early for possible coercion or financial abuse.
- Need and safeguarding risk were considered separately so ongoing support continued after risk reduced.
- Follow-up tested placement suitability, medication, income, exploitation risk, and tenancy sustainment.
- Closure reflected Tim's voice and evidence of sustainable support, not simply the absence of further incidents.

Partnership learning: No single agency held the full picture. Linking homelessness, unmet support needs, carer pressure, and exploitation enabled partners to move beyond crisis management and achieve a safer, sustainable outcome.

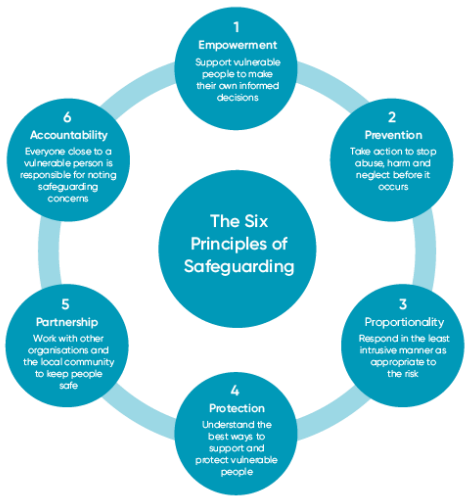
Names and some identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Single Agency Self-Assessments 2025/26 –

CESAB conducted a self-assessment process with its partners in order to reflect on their agency's safeguarding adults' activity during 2025/26. This process allowed partners to consider areas such as Making Safeguarding Personal and how their agency has incorporated the recommendations made within the recent Safeguarding Adult Review. Below are the main findings from this assessment:

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP):

Key to Making Safeguarding Personal are the six key principles of adult safeguarding:



The six principles of adult safeguarding underpin Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). Self-assessment evidence provided assurance that all SAB partners understand and apply these principles in practice. Examples included the Local Authority's case management system recording MSP outcomes and quarterly audits monitoring achievement and identifying good practice and areas for improvement. Housing providers demonstrated how residents' views,

wishes and choices are captured within case records and evidenced through regular safeguarding audits. Health partners and Police reported similar quality assurance processes, providing confidence that MSP and the six safeguarding principles are embedded across partner organisations.

Person in a Position of Trust (PIPOT):

PIPOT is a framework for managing cases where allegations have been made against a person in a position of trust. The Board received assurance that all partner organisations have established PIPOT procedures and robust HR policies for managing allegations against people in positions of trust. Evidence from partner self-assessments demonstrated that clear processes are in place to ensure allegations are managed appropriately, regardless of whether concerns arise within a professional role, private life, or another capacity.

Safeguarding Adults Review: Bella SAR

Partners reflected on the importance of professional curiosity, reflective practice and constructive challenge, with all organisations providing evidence of established safeguarding supervision and support arrangements that promote these approaches. All CESAB partners were able to give examples of mandatory learning that their organisations offer that promotes awareness of autism and neurodiversity. Cheshire Police provided assurance that specialist advice is sought in complex cases involving adults who are neurodiverse or have a learning disability, helping to inform decision-making, including matters considered by the Crown Prosecution Service. The Local Authority and Integrated Care Board also evidenced the use of regular safeguarding and multi-disciplinary meetings, which provide opportunities for professional challenge, collaborative risk assessment, information sharing and assumption checking to support effective safeguarding practice.

Complex Risk and adult safeguarding:

The Board received assurance that partner agencies work collaboratively to identify, assess and manage complex safeguarding risks through established multi-agency arrangements. All partners highlighted the use of the Complex Safeguarding Forum, jointly chaired by Cheshire Police and the Local Authority, as a key mechanism for coordinated decision-making, risk management and professional challenge. Through this forum and other multi-agency safeguarding meetings, partners share information, undertake collaborative risk assessments, challenge assumptions and agree coordinated responses for individuals with complex needs. Evidence from partners demonstrated a strong commitment to joint working across organisational and geographical boundaries, ensuring that safeguarding risks are understood and managed collectively, with access to specialist advice and expertise where required.

Trauma Informed Practice:

The Board received assurance that trauma-informed practice continues to be embedded across the multi-agency safeguarding partnership through a range of shared learning, training and development opportunities. Partners reported access to trauma-informed resources, guidance and professional development programmes that support practitioners to understand the impact of trauma and adapt their approach accordingly. Across agencies, this learning promotes person-centred practice, strengthens engagement with individuals,

and supports safeguarding interventions that are responsive to people's experiences, needs and strengths. Evidence provided through self-assessments demonstrated a collective commitment to embedding trauma-informed approaches within everyday safeguarding practice.

FUTURE PLANS

Our priorities 2026-27

The Board recognises more can be achieved by working together in partnership and has committed to the following areas for the year ahead, based on feedback, learning and analysis of current strengths.

Three-Year Strategy: The Board's three-year strategy will be renewed in 2026/27. This strategy will be developed by all the Safeguarding Adults Board Partners in consultation with members of the Board's subgroups and safeguarding frontline practitioners. In particular, the strategy will capture the feedback from CQC, our service users and the residents of Cheshire East. Service user feedback will be embedded in all the priorities for future work of the Board.

The Board's focus for 2026/27 will be centred around three areas –

Homelessness
Unpaid Carer's Stress
Exploitation.

Evidence from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, thematic audits and performance data has identified homelessness, carer stress and exploitation as priority areas for the Board during the forthcoming year. In response, the Board will develop targeted multi-agency learning and awareness activity, strengthen pathways for identifying and supporting adults experiencing homelessness, promote earlier recognition and support for carers experiencing stress and crisis, and enhance partnership responses to all forms of exploitation. Progress will be monitored through audit activity, performance reporting and review of safeguarding outcomes to ensure that learning is translated into improved practice and reduced risk of harm.

This report will be published on our website www.stopadultabuse.org.uk for all partners and members of the public to access. As required by the Care Act, this report will also be shared with the Chief Executive Officer and Lead Member at Cheshire East Council as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner, Healthwatch Cheshire East plus the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board.