

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD TRAINING OFFICER REPORT 2025 - 2026

STOP ADULT ABUSE
everyone's business

Overview

The Safeguarding Adults Board training continues to focus delivery to those providing care and support for adults at risk in Cheshire East. As in previous years, challenges continue to face the industry that include recruitment and retention of staff, in which the delivery of external training is proving to be supportive of the provisions.

The training is continuing at a pace, and more staff are being supported to understand the safeguarding requirements of their role, increase their understanding of their role and responsibilities in their roles and to look at the wider element of safeguarding affecting everybody today. The message is strong about **'Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.'**

Our training is Part-funded by the **Lifelong Learning Fund**; this part of our programme provides Basic Awareness Training for non-statutory partners and voluntary sector organisations supporting adults at risk. The **SAB** additionally funds targeted training for statutory partners.

The training continues to be a well-established part of the services provided by the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and continues to develop with need. We continue to **work together** with people and organisations to **prevent and stop** both the risk and experience of abuse and neglect (Care Act 2014). Providers state how they value the opportunity of a face-to-face training. Online sessions are also available.

In previous years, the SAB has collaborated with **Cheshire East Licensing Team** to raise drivers' awareness of safeguarding matters, this has continued into the 25-26 training year; training is picking up on those drivers who have not had the training and continues to support the Licensing Team to ensure that new drivers gain safeguarding training, to **raise their awareness** of **recognising vulnerabilities** and their **responsibilities in reporting concerns.**

Deprivation of Liberty (DoLS) training has been delivered in collaboration with the DoLS team manager.

Safeguarding Adults at Risk: Enhancing Response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence training, continues in earnest; this multi-agency training has seen participants from health, the police, the prison sector, general practitioners, voluntary organisation, social care and faith organisations participating in a joint 3-hour workshop (statutory and non-statutory partners). The training is delivered together with a colleague from Macclesfield Hospital who is an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA).

Care Concern training continues online monthly. The Care Concern process is where providers can respond to incidents of poor-quality care without the need to initiate a safeguarding concern. The training supports the recognition and difference of those low-level concerns or the need to report to our safeguarding team.

In other areas, the SAB Training Officer role continues to be partially funded from the Lifelong Learning Fund (LLF). This funding has been secured at this time until July 2027, The LLF supports the equivalent of 21 hours of a Training Officer post per week. The Local Authority funds a further 16 hours per week on a permanent basis.

The Training Officer works collaboratively with colleagues across the safeguarding and health arena and continues to attend meeting to ensure a partnership approach is followed.

In November of 2025 – the training officer took part in the SAB **Safeguarding Adults Week** – supporting the DoLS manager to deliver training on **Sextortion and Mental Capacity;** this was a part of a wider programme of events across Cheshire East.

Breakdown of Training Figures

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**

Levels of training requests have risen since last year and this is reflected in the figures above.

Training continues to be focussed on offering and delivering training to those in the care sector (however increase uptake is coming from other agencies offering support to adults at risk). **The SAB continues to recognise that there are risks to some of our most vulnerable members of our community both in their own homes and in care settings**.

Raising awareness is key to ensuring that the SAB continues with its commitment and **statutory duty** to work together to keep adults, particularly those who are more at risk, safe from the possibility of abuse, harm, or exploitation. We also keep Making Safeguarding Personal at the heart of everything we do.

Quantitative Impact of learning identified by individual learners.

We continue as a training provider, to look at the relevance of the training; to offer bespoke training (for statutory and non-statutory partners). An important part of measuring this is to gather impact information from those individuals trained alongside longer-term impact observations from their employers (via an online survey annually).

Overall Pattern

In gathering feedback before and after training session delivery, responses demonstrate that the Level 1 Safeguarding Adults training is highly effective. Learners reported substantial increases in confidence and knowledge across all learning outcomes, particularly in:

- Adult safeguarding knowledge
- Recognising abuse
- Understanding safeguarding legislation
- Reporting concerns
- Applying Making Safeguarding Personal principles

Across all topics there is a significant shift from:

'No knowledge,' 'A little knowledge' and 'Good knowledge'

Towards 'Very Strong knowledge' after training

This suggests the training is having a substantial positive impact on learners' confidence and understanding.

You can see this reflected in the following tables.

1. Knowledge & Understanding of Adult Safeguarding

Rating	Before %	After %
No knowledge	2.5%	0.0%
A little knowledge	0.8%	0.0%
Good knowledge	27.0%	11.3%
Strong knowledge	48.3%	0.5%
Very Strong knowledge	21.5%	97.5%

Key Finding: Learners rating themselves as having Very Strong Knowledge increased from 21.5% to 97.5%

2. Knowledge & Awareness of Key Legislation and Making Safeguarding Personal

Rating	Before %	After %
No knowledge	8.9%	0.0%
A little knowledge	1.4%	0.0%
Good knowledge	29.9%	6.4%
Strong knowledge	48.1%	18.0%
Very Strong knowledge	11.6%	75.5%

Key finding: *Very Strong Knowledge* increased from **11.6% to 75.5%**, representing the largest overall knowledge gain area.

3. Knowledge of Different Types of Abuse and How to Recognise Signs and Indicators

Rating	Before %	After %
No knowledge	2.5%	0.0%
A little knowledge	0.5%	0.0%
Good knowledge	20.1%	18.0%
Strong knowledge	48.1%	2.2%
Very Strong knowledge	28.8%	97.5%

Key finding: The proportion reporting *Very Strong Knowledge* rose from **28.8% to 97**

4. Understanding What to Do If You Suspect an Adult Is Being Abused or Neglected

Rating	Before %	After %
No knowledge	2.5%	0.0%
A little knowledge	0.5%	0.0%
Good knowledge	19.9%	23.0%
Strong knowledge	46.2%	3.4%
Very Strong knowledge	30.9%	73.5%

Key finding: *Very Strong Knowledge* increased from **30.9% to 73.5%**.

5. Understanding How to Report a Concern, Disclosure or Allegation of Adult Abuse and Neglect

Rating	Before %	After %
No knowledge	2.8%	0.0%
A little knowledge	0.3%	0.0%
Good knowledge	20.4%	21.3%
Strong knowledge	45.3%	3.4%
Very Strong knowledge	31.5%	75.2%

Key finding: *Very Strong Knowledge* increased from **31.5% to 75.2%** following the training.

Headline Results

Learning Outcome	Very Strong Knowledge Before	Very Strong Knowledge After	Increase
Adult Safeguarding	21.5%	97.5%	+76.0 percentage points
Legislation & MSP	11.6%	75.5%	+63.9 percentage points
Types of Abuse & Indicators	28.8%	97.5%	+68.7 percentage points
What To Do If Abuse Suspected	30.9%	73.5%	+42.6 percentage points
Reporting Concerns	31.5%	75.2%	+43.7 percentage points

Overall conclusion: The training produced substantial increases in self-reported confidence and knowledge across all learning outcomes, with the most notable improvements seen in **Adult Safeguarding knowledge**, **recognising abuse and indicators**, and **understanding key legislation and Making Safeguarding Personal**.

Qualitative Impact of learning identified by individual learners

After the training session, learners are also asked 'What have you learnt today that you will take away from this session and use in your role?'

The free text responses reveal several recurring themes

Most Frequently Reported Learning

1. Understanding Types of Abuse

This was the most common theme.

Learners repeatedly mentioned:

- Learning about the ten forms of abuse
- Recognising signs and indicators
- Awareness of less obvious abuse such as self-neglect, organisational abuse, and modern slavery

Typical comments included:

"I didn't realise there were 10 forms of abuse."

"I learnt about different types of abuse and how to recognise them."

"There are many more forms of abuse than I thought."

2. Reporting and Escalating Concerns

A major learning outcome was increased confidence in reporting.

Common messages included:

- If in doubt, report it
- Record and document concerns
- Trust your instincts
- Know where and how to report concerns

Several learners specifically referred to:

- Online reporting processes
- Cheshire East reporting routes
- Whistleblowing procedures

3. The Six Safeguarding Principles

Many attendees specifically referenced:

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

The principles appear to have been well retained and understood.

4. Making Safeguarding Personal

Learners frequently referred to:

- Person-centred safeguarding
- Self-determination

- "No decision about me without me"

This suggests MSP messaging was successfully embedded within the training.

5. Care Act 2014 and Legislation

A substantial number of attendees highlighted:

- Better understanding of the Care Act
- Adult safeguarding legal framework
- Definitions of abuse
- Referral thresholds

This aligns with the improvements seen in the quantitative data.

Feedback on the quality of the training

Feedback regarding the training and delivery was overwhelmingly positive.

Common descriptions included:

- "Very informative"
- "Excellent training"
- "Well delivered"
- "Engaging"
- "Interactive"
- "Easy to understand"

Many learners specifically praised:

- Face-to-face delivery
- Group discussions
- Real-life examples and case studies
- Opportunity to ask questions

Several comments stated that face-to-face learning was more valuable than online training.

Headline Results

Participants particularly valued the interactive face-to-face format and reported leaving the course feeling more confident, vigilant, and prepared to identify, respond to and report safeguarding concerns. The overwhelmingly positive comments suggest both the content and delivery are meeting learner needs and achieving the intended learning outcomes.

Areas for Development

Only a small number of suggestions for improvement appeared:

Presentation Materials

Some learners commented that:

- Certain text on slides was too small.
- Sessions could be longer for deeper exploration.
- Learners would welcome more regular refresher training.

Annual Survey of Managers of those trained, to measure impact and improvement

As well as looking at immediate impact during sessions, we also need to be looking at the long-term impact of training; to do this, we continue to send out an online survey to the managers of the provisions that we have delivered training in. The following information is taken from their feedback.

You can see that the following results indicate an extremely high level of satisfaction with the safeguarding training programme. The training achieved:

- **100% satisfaction for meeting expectations**
- **100% satisfaction for meeting learner needs**
- **100% agreement that knowledge and skills increased**
- **94% reporting a positive impact on practice**
- **92% rating the training as very engaging**

The strongest messages from respondents were that the training was **engaging, professionally delivered, practical, and effective in increasing staff confidence and safeguarding awareness**. There is also strong evidence that **organisations value face-to-face safeguarding training** and wish to see this approach continue alongside regular refresher opportunities.

The tables below illustrate the overall responses and the responses to each question posed to the provisions.

Key Performance Indicators

Measure	Positive Response	Neutral/Unsure	Negative Response
Training met expectations	**100%**	0%	0%
Training met needs	**100%**	0%	0%
Training increased knowledge and skills	**100%**	0%	0%
Positive impact since training	**94.3%**	5.7%	0%
Training was engaging (Very/Fairly)	**100%**	0%	0%

Did the Training Meet Expectations?

Response	Percentage
Yes	**100%**
No	0%
Not Sure/Don't Know	0%

Did the Training Meet Needs?

Response	Percentage
Yes	**100%**
No	0%
Not Sure/Don't Know	0%

How Engaging Was the Training?

Response	Percentage
Very Engaging	**91.7%**
Fairly Engaging	**8.3%**
Somewhat Engaging	0%
Not Very Engaging	0%
Not At All Engaging	0%
Not Sure/Don't Know	0%

Did the Training Increase Knowledge and Skill Levels?

Response	Percentage
Yes	**100%**
No	0%
Not Sure/Don't Know	0%

Has the Training Had a Positive Impact Since Delivery?

Response	Percentage
Yes	**94.3%**
No	0%
Not Sure/Don't Know	**5.7%**

Overall Satisfaction Score

Taking the four headline outcome measures together (expectations met, needs met, knowledge increased, positive impact), the programme achieved **an average positive rating of approximately 98.6%**.

This provides very strong evidence that the safeguarding training is highly valued, effective, and having a measurable positive impact across participating organisations

Impact on Practice

The survey suggests meaningful practice improvements following training.

Reported outcomes included:

Increased Awareness

Staff were more aware of safeguarding indicators and risks.

Improved Reporting

Several organisations reported greater confidence in raising concerns and following reporting pathways.

Better Decision-Making

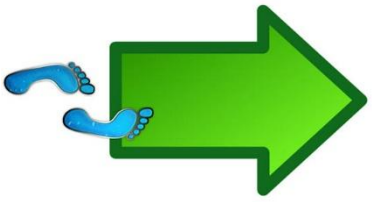
Participants described increased understanding of when concerns should be escalated and how to respond appropriately.

Organisational Improvements

Some organisations reported:

- Updating internal safeguarding training
- Cascading learning to colleagues
- Reviewing procedures
- Greater team discussion around safeguarding responsibilities

Other News and moving forwards



Another busy year for the Safeguarding Adults Board

- November 2025, the SAB ran their annual **Adult Safeguarding Week** with colleagues and partners from across Cheshire East taking part in sessions which covered topics including Fraud Awareness, Modern Day Slavery, Makaton, Sexual Exploitation and Mental Capacity, Terminally Ill Adults (end of life) Bill. There was also a very well attended awards ceremony that celebrated those who have shown positive impacts of their safeguarding practices. This will continue as a biennial event.

- In March 2026 the SAB met for a Development Session. Again, the importance of continuing training was discussed.

- In February, the SAB joined in with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership in Cheshire East at their tabletop event during their learning week. This was a great chance to catch up with other agencies and to discuss the work that the SAB are doing to offer support.

- The Training Officer has been asked to support the SAB and Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) to raise Prevent awareness across the borough. This will be delivered to the Community Sector to support their awareness of the Prevent and Channel Panel processes in Cheshire East and should be ready to be delivered in the latter half of the following year.

- 'Business as usual' trainings, to carry on into the coming year include:

    - Level 1 Safeguarding Training to those who work with or volunteer with adults at risk in Cheshire East. This includes statutory and non-statutory partners.
    - Care concern training
    - Licensed Driver training (for the remaining drivers yet to complete the training)
    - Prevent Awareness Training for Community Groups in the future.

We continue to ensure that our commitment to ensuring that Safeguarding Knowledge is embedded in all areas.



STOP ADULT ABUSE
everyone's business