



LSAB Prevention Strategy 2018 -21

Date approved by LSCB & LSAB	June 2017 Reviewed Dec 2018
Author	Policies and Procedures Sub-Group
Date for review	Due December 2021
Detail of review amendments	General update including links

1. Background

In Bath & North East Somerset, all agencies involved in providing care and support for adults work together to respond in a coordinated way to cases of suspected harm or abuse of adults. We aim to ensure that people's rights are respected in the process of them being offered help and protection. B&NES Local Adult Safeguarding Board policies can be found at <https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/adults>

This LSAB multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Prevention Strategy 2018 - 2021 represents a commitment across the different agencies involved with adults to promote safety, prevent abuse, and protect adults at risk from abuse. By delivering this strategy, we hope that more people living in B&NES will be able to live a life free from harm, whilst living their own lives and making their own decisions.

2. Purpose of the Prevention Strategy

The multi-agency safeguarding role in preventing abuse and neglect is clearly defined within the Care Act 2014, the provision of which is intended to promote and secure well-being (Chapter 1, para 1.5).

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Agencies have a fundamental role in preventing abuse and neglect wherever possible. Observant professionals and other staff making early, positive interventions with individuals, families and carers can make a huge difference to their lives, preventing the deterioration of a situation or breakdown of a support network. It is often when people become increasingly isolated and cut off from their families and friends that they can become extremely vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Agencies should implement robust risk management processes in order to prevent concerns escalating to a crisis point and requiring intervention under safeguarding adult procedures.

The care and support statutory guidance (14.11) outlines the aims of adult safeguarding and the preventative role as follows, which is to:

- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- Safeguarding adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect
- Provide information in an accessible way to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect.

In order to achieve these aims it is necessary to ensure that everyone (both individuals and organisations) are clear about their roles and responsibilities by creating multi-agency partnerships that provide timely and effective prevention of and responses to abuse or neglect.

Effective prevention in safeguarding is not about paternalistic or risk adverse practice. Preventing abuse should occur in the context of person-centred support and personalisation, empowering individuals to make choices and supporting them to manage risks. This should lead to services that people want to use, with the potential to prevent crises from developing.

3. Scope of the LSAB Prevention Strategy

The Prevention Strategy relates to all adults at risk. Chapter 14 of the Care Act defines the safeguarding duties relating to adults at risk as someone who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

The LSAB is aware of the cross-cutting issues around domestic and gender-based violence, mental ill health and substance misuse. This strategy therefore will link in with the work undertaken as part of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which sets out the priorities for action based on the health and wellbeing needs identified in the process to ensure that shared issues are addressed collaboratively.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/working-partnership/health-and-wellbeing-board>

Prevention of abuse is integral to the work of B&NES Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and is an essential part of the LSAB's Safeguarding Business Plan. The LSAB has recognised the need to empower and offer choice to people and at the same time equip them with information and tools to protect themselves.

The LSAB has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners. It oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the locality and will be interested in a range of matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect. The multi-agency safeguarding role in preventing abuse and neglect is clearly defined in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance:

14.66 Agencies should stress the need for preventing abuse and neglect wherever possible. Observant professionals and other staff making early, positive interventions with individuals and families can make a huge difference to their lives, preventing the deterioration of a situation or breakdown of a support network. It is often when people become increasingly isolated and cut off from families and friends that they become extremely vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Agencies should implement robust risk management processes

in order to prevent concerns escalating to a crisis point and requiring intervention under safeguarding adult procedures.

4. Priorities

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Report 41: Prevention in Adult Safeguarding (2011) sets out guidance for prevention work in adult safeguarding. The report notes that the general approach to prevention previously focused on staff training but identifies that part of the focus needs to be on the support and education of all vulnerable groups. SCIE reiterated that agencies should not take a risk-averse perspective, but should focus instead on empowerment to self-protect.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report41/>

The following 9 prevention priorities have been adopted by B&NES LSAB and form the basis of the Delivery Plan.

These are our Priorities [examples and actions proposed for each priority are written into the Prevention Delivery Plan]

Priority 1: Identifying People at Risk of Abuse

Priority 2: Public Awareness

Priority 3: Information, Advice and Advocacy

Priority 4: Training and Education

Priority 5: Policies and Procedures

Priority 6: Community Links

Priority 7: Regulation and Legislation

Priority 8: Inter-agency Collaboration

Priority 9: Empowerment and Choice

5. Conclusion

The LSAB Prevention Strategy Delivery Plan

The Delivery Plan has been developed in line with this Strategy and will be monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Sub-group (QAPM) to ensure it meets the objectives and outcomes of this strategy for adults in B&NES. The QAPM group will report quarterly to the LSAB. The LSAB is committed to ensuring that a focus is maintained on prevention.