



Brent Safeguarding Adults Board



**2024 - 2026
STRATEGIC PLAN**



INDEPENDENT CHAIR INTRODUCTION

I am the new Independent Chair for the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board. I commenced my role at the start of January 2024. The previous strategic plan commenced in 2022-2023 and was continued through 2023-2024 to enable the recruitment of a new Independent Chair.

I would like to acknowledge the immense work of the previous Chair, Fran Pearson, in leading the SAB towards these priorities. Following Fran's death, I am committed to taking these priorities forward, as her legacy, and for the population of the London Borough of Brent.

Within the strategic plan, I have set out the core SAB responsibilities and progress with the previously agreed priorities.

Nicola Brownjohn

Independent Chair for Brent Safeguarding Adults Board

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

- **Assure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and working well across all relevant agencies**
- **Prevent abuse and neglect where possible**
- **Provide timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect is likely or has occurred**

STATUTORY DUTIES OF THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

- **To publish a Strategic Plan that sets out what the board has achieved and what it aims to achieve for the next year**
- **To publish an Annual Report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and include learning from any Safeguarding Adult Reviews**
- **Carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews**

SAB MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Who are the SAB?

The SAB work is overseen by the Independent Chair, co-ordinated by the Strategic Partnership Lead, and carried out by the members. The SAB members come from the key partner agencies in Brent, that is, Local Authority, Integrated Care Board and Police, as well as a wide range of relevant agencies from health, care, voluntary sector and public sector.

What do SAB members do?

SAB members ensure that their agencies contribute effectively to the delivery of the strategic plan with an aim to continually improve the safeguarding outcomes for the Brent community.

PRIORITIES SET IN 2022

Self-neglect

Partners agreed that the data supported this being a priority for Brent Safeguarding Adults Board. Practitioners reported that this category of abuse was complex and required a multi-agency approach to support people to change their behavior over time.

Housing need and substance misuse

This was a priority due to an increase in cases being brought to the attention of the SAB. The theme of these cases highlighted that professionals had struggled to support people who developed care and support needs as a result of substance misuse which also led to accommodation difficulties.

PROGRESS WITH PRIORITIES DURING 2023

Self-neglect

The Board agreed an ambition to undertake a full review of its self-neglect policies and procedures and to launch, disseminate, embed and test the effectiveness of the new procedures.

The policy and procedure have been ratified by the SAB Executive and are due to be presented to the SAB in February 2024. Following this there will be a programme of dissemination and embedding into practice.

Housing need and substance misuse

To support this priority, the SAB have cases for specific learning reviews. In 2024, the reviews will be completed, and learning disseminated. There was a plan to work with other strategic boards to develop more effective systems in tackling cuckooing which was an area of concern to partners. This will be taken forward during 2024-2025.

PRIORITY 1: SELF-NEGLECT

Why is self neglect an important focus?

Self-neglect was included in the Care Act 2014, statutory guidance - the focus was on how individuals who self-neglect, might need to be safeguarded.

Not all individuals, who are perceived as neglecting themselves, will need to be safeguarded. However, it needs to be considered when an individual has care and support needs which is limiting their ability to keep themselves safe from harm.

What good will look like in 2026?	How will we reach good?
<p>Self-neglect protocol will be fully embedded across the multi-agency system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of self-neglect protocol.• Dissemination of learning across the system.• Scrutiny of safeguarding data regarding self-neglect.• Multi-agency audits.• Feedback from those with lived experience of self-neglect.• Liaison with voluntary groups and agencies providing support for those who self-neglect

PRIORITY 2: HOUSING NEEDS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

What will good look like in 2026?	How will we reach good?
<p>The SAB will have assurance that there are clear pathways in place to provide appropriate housing for those who misuse substances.</p> <p>Practitioners across agencies will have confidence in escalating concerns regarding the safeguarding of those who misuse substances.</p> <p>Feedback from those with lived experience of substance misuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete learning reviews.• Disseminate learning across partner agencies.• Undertake multi-agency audits to assess impact of learning.• Monitor data regarding individuals with care and support needs who misuse substances and have housing needs.• Develop links with the Panels for Deaths through drugs and Alcohol• Work with other strategic boards to develop more effective systems in tackling cuckooing

PRIORITY 3: STRENGTHEN THE LEARNING FROM SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

The Care Act 2014, defines the requirement for SABs to commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) when an adult with care and support needs has died as a result of abuse or neglect, known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively together to protect the individual. The SAB should also commission a SAR if an adult has not died but that there is suspected serious abuse or neglect, which would have led to their death had an intervention not been made.

It is crucial that SARs are taken forward through a culture of learning, not blame, to make optimal changes to practice, local policy and influence national strategies, if these will make a positive difference to the safeguarding of adults.

What good will look like in 2026?	How will we reach good?
SARs are agreed and completed within 12 months of the referral to the SAB. SAR recommendations and actions to improve are taken forward throughout the SAR process. There is SAB assurance of changed systems within 6 months of the SAR completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of the SCIE quality markers to support management of the process• Clarity of roles and responsibilities for decision making.• Feedback from families.• Sign off of report, publication process is clear.• Impact of learning can be shown throughout the Board partners and agencies.• Produce thematic action plans, linking SARs locally and nationally.