Derby Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report: 2025-26 – Summary Report

Introduction:

The Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) is the statutory multi-agency partnership responsible for coordinating and assuring safeguarding arrangements for adults with care and support needs in Derby. The Board's role is to ensure that partner agencies work effectively together to protect adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse and neglect, in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

This report demonstrates clear evidence of partnership working, service improvement, learning from reviews, and a commitment to embedding the voice of individuals and families within safeguarding practice.

Derby SAB Vision:

"We will work together to enable people in Derby to make choices to stay safe and to live a life free from fear, harm, and abuse"

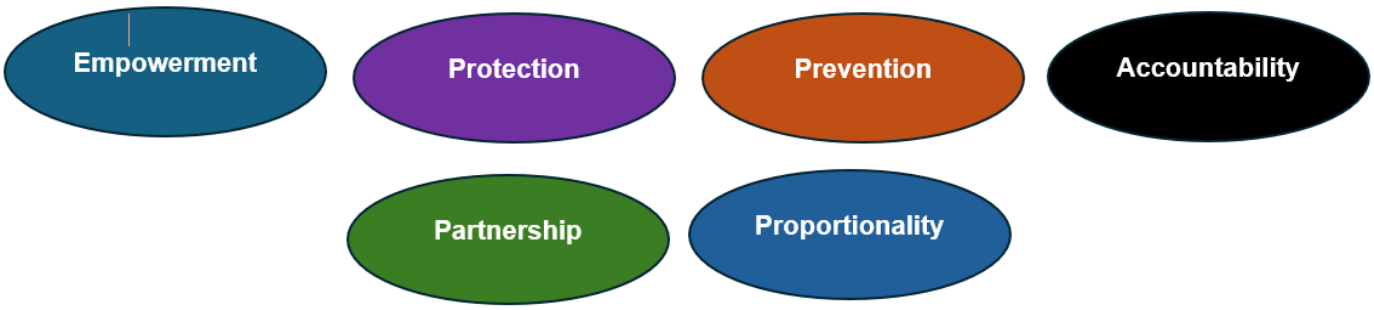
Governance and Statutory Responsibilities:

The Care Act 2014 requires Safeguarding Adults Boards to:

Publish a Strategic Plan	**Publish an Annual Report**	**Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews**

DSAB delivers these responsibilities through Board meetings, subgroup activity, performance monitoring, audits, partner assurance, training, policy development and Safeguarding Adults Reviews. The Board is independently chaired by Richard Proctor and supported by statutory and non-statutory partner agencies.

The work of the Board continues to be underpinned by the six safeguarding principles:



Delivery of DSAB Strategic Priorities:

During 2025-26, partners continued to work collaboratively despite organisational changes and increasing complexity within adult safeguarding. The Board maintained a strong focus on its strategic priorities of:

Prevention	Empowerment	Accountability and Quality

Prevention



Prevention remained a key strategic priority throughout 2025-26.

Key achievements included:

- Development of joint Derby and Derbyshire Prevention Principles.
- Launch of the Learning Themes Library to support learning from SARs and other review processes.
- Delivery of National Safeguarding Adults Week webinars.
- Publication of three DSAB newsletters.
- Ongoing awareness-raising and prevention initiatives focused on financial abuse, fraud, exploitation and domestic abuse.

Workforce Learning and Development

DSAB delivered a comprehensive multi-agency safeguarding adult training programme attended by 1,050 delegates.

Evaluation demonstrated:

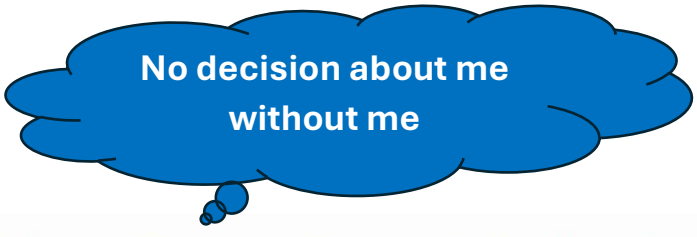
- 99% reported improved knowledge.
- 99% reported increased confidence.
- 95.5% anticipated improvements in practice.

This supports a more confident workforce and strengthens the early identification and prevention of abuse and neglect.

Evidence of Impact

Prevention activity has increased awareness, knowledge and confidence across the safeguarding partnership, helping practitioners to identify risks earlier and take action before concerns escalate. Together, these initiatives support a more preventative and proactive approach to safeguarding.

Empowerment



Empowerment and Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) remained central to the Board's work.

Key achievements included:

- Development of a new customer feedback survey to be implemented in April 2026.
- Updated "What to Expect" safeguarding leaflet.
- Production of Easy Read and multilingual versions.
- Promotion of dignity, inclusion and person-centred approaches.
- Increased representation from the voluntary and community sector within the MSP Subgroup.

The Board continued to focus on ensuring adults are listened to, involved in decision-making and supported to achieve outcomes that matter to them.

Evidence of Impact

Work to improve accessible information, gather feedback and promote dignity has strengthened people's ability to understand safeguarding, have their voices heard and be involved in decisions that affect them. This supports a more person-centred safeguarding approach.

DSAB included lived experience examples and family feedback demonstrating:

"My story had been read; my voice had been heard."

This feedback supports the Board's commitment to ensuring safeguarding is undertaken with people rather than to people.

Accountability and Quality Assurance



The Board continued to strengthen its assurance arrangements.

Highlights included:

- Three multi-agency case file audits completed.
- Ongoing scrutiny of safeguarding thresholds and referral quality.
- Review and update of the Information Sharing Agreement.
- Development of a draft Prevention Strategy.
- Strengthened assurance regarding implementation of SAR learning.
- Continued challenge and scrutiny of performance across partner agencies.

The audit programme focused on:

- Mental Capacity Act practice.
- Referrals not progressing to safeguarding.
- Repeat safeguarding referrals.

Learning was shared through Learning on One Page (LOOP) products and monitored through Board governance arrangements.

Evidence of Impact

Quality assurance activity has strengthened oversight, consistency and learning across partner organisations. This helps ensure safeguarding practice is continually reviewed, improved and focused on achieving better outcomes for adults.

Safeguarding Activity and Assurance:

During 2025-26:



The data showed

- Older adults remain the largest group affected.
- Neglect and acts of omission remain the most common abuse type.
- People's own homes continue to be the most common location where abuse occurs.
- Financial abuse, domestic abuse, self-neglect and exploitation remain ongoing areas of focus.

DSAB Key Performance Indicators

Measure	Improvement
Adult/representative consulted	50.62% to 57.34%
Consent obtained	43.31% to 51.84%
Mental Capacity Act considered	40.26% to 54.82%
Criteria	75.11% to 74.29%.

These improvements provide assurance that safeguarding practice is becoming increasingly person-centred and aligned to Care Act principles.

Safeguarding Ault's Reviews (SARs):

Safeguarding Adults Reviews are a statutory duty under Section 44 of the Care Act.

During 2025-26:

- 3 new SAR referrals were received.
- 1 referral met the statutory criteria for a SAR.
- 1 referral did not meet criteria.
- 1 referral awaited consideration at year-end.
- 2 SARs remained ongoing at 31 March 2026.

Derby SAR03 (Pink)

SAR03 was published during the year and identified learning relating to:

- Communication needs.
- Learning disabilities.
- Mental Capacity Act practice.
- Carer support.

- Risk assessment and escalation.
- Multi-agency working.

Learning is being monitored through the SAR Operational Group to ensure recommendations are embedded and lead to sustainable improvements.

Family Voice:

DSAB obtained feedback from Pink's family member about the process of the SAR. they said:

"I was listened to and I could get my views over at different points."

Partner Contributions:

Board partners made significant contributions throughout the year.

Examples included:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) activity.
- Community awareness campaigns.
- Improved safeguarding training.
- Enhanced referral quality.
- Quality assurance audits.
- Domestic abuse and exploitation prevention work.
- Housing, health, police and community interventions.
- Learning and development activity arising from safeguarding reviews.

Partner statements demonstrate collective ownership of safeguarding responsibilities and active contribution to delivering the Board's Strategic Plan.

Looking Forward: 2026-27

The Board has identified the following priorities for 2026-27:

Prevention	Empowerment	Accountability and Quality Assurance
• Implement the DSAB Prevention Strategy. • Strengthen use of data and intelligence. • Better evidence the impact of prevention activity.	• Launch customer feedback arrangements. • Increase use of lived experience. • Improve accessibility of safeguarding information.	• Monitor implementation of audit recommendations. • Strengthen referral quality. • Seek assurance regarding SAR learning. • Implement the DSAB Assurance Framework. • Improve evidence of impact and outcomes.

Contact Details and Further Resources:

- Full Dery Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report: 2025-26
- Derby Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan: 2025-28
- Website: www.derbysab.org.uk
- Email: DSAB@derby.gov.uk