



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



Introduction

The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board's (SGSAB) Annual Report is designed to give an overview of multi-agency work across South Gloucestershire.

In line with best practice this annual report and will be shared with:

- The Director of People, South Gloucestershire Council
- The Director of Adult Social Services
- The Chief Executive of South Gloucestershire Council
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Children, Adults and Health Cabinet
- The Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership
- The South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

This report has been authored by Sarah Taylor, Business Manager.

The report was approved by the Safeguarding Adults Board on 3rd September 2026 and published on the SGSAB website on 3rd September 2026.

Should you require the report in any other format to support accessibility please contact [Sarah Taylor](#). Images in this document all have alternative text added for accessibility purposes.

Foreword from our independent chair

I am pleased to introduce the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2025–2026. This year has brought continued pressures across our local system, alongside increasingly complex safeguarding concerns. Throughout these challenges, partners have demonstrated unwavering commitment to protecting adults with care and support needs and to strengthening the quality and consistency of our multi-agency practice.



Over the past year, we have continued to build our preventative approaches, enhance information sharing, and embed learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews. Learning from SAR Aidan has informed the development and piloting of a Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework in 2026. This work represents an important step forward in supporting clearer, shared decision-making and more coordinated responses for individuals experiencing multiple and escalating risks.

Emerging risks—such as digital exploitation, financial abuse, and the increasing pressures on unpaid carers—require us to remain alert and adaptable. Our priorities for 2026–2027 reflect this evolving landscape, with a renewed emphasis on early intervention, a stronger understanding of how abuse and neglect affect the whole family unit, and more effective support for individuals facing multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities.

I would like to thank all Board members, practitioners, voluntary organisations, and the individuals who place their trust in our work. Safeguarding adults is a collective endeavour, and the progress outlined in this report reflects the dedication, professionalism, and shared values of everyone involved.

We are fortunate as a SAB to have an excellent Business Unit team, led with skill and creativity by Sarah Taylor, Board Manager. Sarah and the team have provided invaluable support throughout my first year as Independent Chair, and I look forward to continuing our work together—and with all partners—to progress our ambitions for adult safeguarding in the year ahead.

As Independent Chair, I remain committed to ensuring strong leadership, transparent accountability, and a clear strategic direction as we continue to strengthen adult safeguarding across South Gloucestershire.

About the board

Safeguarding Adults Board have three main duties

- Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been
- Commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

The board is chaired by Teresa Bell. The board structure consists of quarterly full board meetings, quarterly SGSAB Executive meetings, quarterly meeting of subgroup chairs and five permanent subgroups, for this reporting period, all of these meetings have taken place virtually. This has worked well, and attendance has remained good. The subgroups

are:

- Learning and Development (combined with South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership SGCP)
- Safeguarding Adults Review
- Quality Assurance
- Policy and Procedure
- Lived Experience (combined with SGCP)

Membership is wide and includes statutory organisations alongside non statutory and includes a diverse mix of organisations who work with adults in South Gloucestershire. The board includes reps from our care providers, prisons, the voluntary sector and housing/homelessness. Membership is reviewed to ensure it remains representative of our local area.

The Board is supported by a Business Unit shared with SGCP. There has been significant change in the last 12 months with a new Business Unit Team recruited and now consists of

- Business Manager
- Business Support
- Performance and Data Officer
- Business Support for multi agency safeguarding training

This additional resource has vastly improved the support for the board and has also enabled us to standardise processes and improve the quality of work. We are now able to start making data driven decisions as a partnership and have clear ownership of projects.

Area Profile 2025-26



South Gloucestershire is 80% rural and 20% urban and has a total population of 306,332.

14% ethnic minority population



236,240 are adults.



4282 safeguarding concerns raised (+ 7% from 24-25)

1020 Section 42 enquiries (-5% from 24-25)



56 non statutory enquiries (-21% from 24-25)

56% of enquiries are about a person in their own home (-1% from 24-25)



26% of enquiries are about neglect and acts of omission (+10% from 24-25)



16% of enquiries are about financial abuse (-4% from 24-25)



14% of enquiries are about physical abuse (+1% from 24-25)



17% of enquiries are about domestic abuse (-3% from 24-25)



15% of safeguarding concerns are about people with a learning disability (+4.5% from 24-25)



5% of enquiries are about sexual abuse (+0.5% from 24-25)



96% of cases have a decision made within 7 days (+13% from 24-25)

The Work of the board

Much of the work of the board takes place in the sub groups which are well represented by multi-agency partners. The chairs of the groups meet together quarterly and all of them provide reports to the full board meetings each quarter.



Policy and Procedure Sub Group

This subgroup focuses on the revision and creation of policy, procedure and practice guidance to support professionals from all organisations working with adults in South Gloucestershire. This year the following have been published/updated. Click the icons to access the full documents.



Click the icon for the revised Professional Curiosity Guidance



Click the icon for the revised Exploitation Guidance



Click the icon for the revised Resolution of Professional Differences Policy



Click the icon for the revised Multi Agency Procedures



Click the icon for the revised Organisational Abuse Guidance

All of the multi agency Policies, procedures and guidance documents can be found [on this page of the website](#)

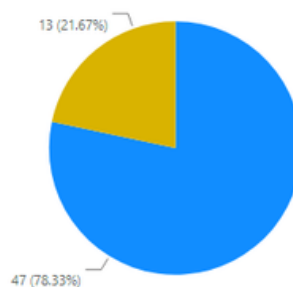
Lived Experience

This subgroup is a joint group with the Children's Partnership and is chaired by one of the practice development managers in the local authority. The focus of this group is to hear the voices of adults and use these to develop the work of the SAB and its partners .

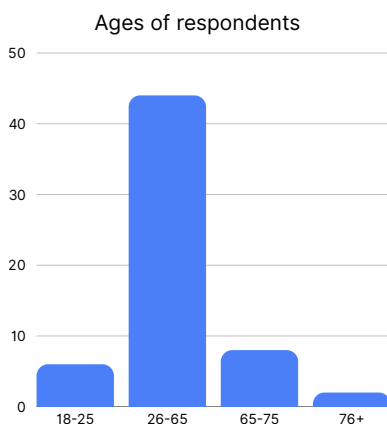


The group has representation from a number of key organisations working in South Gloucestershire and the representatives have access to different focus and participation groups. This year the group undertook a survey with adults living in South Gloucestershire about social media use. Sixty adults responded.

Which social media apps do you use?



78% of those who responded told us they had experienced discomfort or concern while using social media



Ages of respondents



People told us they use social media for entertainment



People told us they value how easy it is to keep in touch using social media



People told us social media makes it easier to find support from their community



Many responses told us they use social media for news and information



People told us they worried about mis-information and AI on social media



One of the biggest issues is about cyber bullying and hate speech

Social media helps me feel connected

You can get lost for hours scrolling

The SGSAB are starting a task and finish group to look at the feedback in more detail and consider actions and resources to support adults with social media use

Vulnerable people will be exponentially more vulnerable online

You find yourself comparing your life to people you see on social media

Quality Assurance

The QA sub group meets every quarter and undertakes a multi agency audit on a theme. Read the audits by clicking the icons below:



Click the icon to
read the
Substance misuse
Audit



Click the icon to
read the
repeat domestic
abuse referrals
Audit



Click the icon to
read the
Self Neglect
Audit



Click the icon to
read the
Domestic Abuse
and Carer Stress
Audit

South Gloucestershire has a mature multi agency audit process and there is excellent engagement from key organisations who come together and review adults based on a theme. These are mostly held in person and learning is always shared afterwards at the full board meetings and also via the single page learning briefs that are produced. Themes identified this year from our multi agency audits:



Across all the themes, adults often experience several overlapping factors rather than a single presenting issue



The audits demonstrate the need to understand cumulative risk rather than addressing risks in isolation



a consistent challenge of supporting adults who decline support or only accept help in a crisis



The audits highlight the importance of relationship based practice and persistence



all of the audits point to situations where key agencies were not involved early enough or information was not effectively shared



The audits reinforce the importance of co-ordinated safeguarding responses

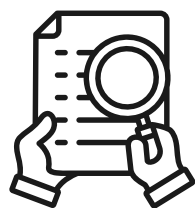
The audits collectively demonstrate that adults most at risk are those experiencing multiple disadvantage, cumulative trauma and repeated disengagement from services. Effective safeguarding relies on persistent relationship-based practice, trauma-informed approaches, strong multi-agency collaboration, professional curiosity and a willingness to remain involved over time, even when individuals are reluctant to engage

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)



During the year 2025-26 the SAR sub group received two referrals for potential SARs. Both adults were from the same family, it was agreed that these met the criteria for a discretionary SAR. You can find the details in the link below. Two SARs were published during this year alongside a second discretionary SAR all of which had been started in the previous year.

The SAR sub group has continued to monitor action plans for previously published SARs to ensure all recommendations are implemented.

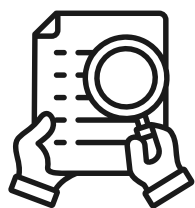


SAR Aidan

Published August 2025

Click the icon above to read.

[Click here for the learning brief](#)

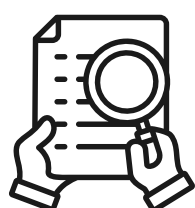


SAR Rita

Published September 2025

Click the icon above to read.

[Click here for the learning brief](#)



Mr J

Published April 2025

Discretionary SAR
[Click here for the learning brief](#)



Mr & Mrs L

Published October 2025

Discretionary SAR
[Click here for the learning brief](#)

MARAC Data

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) data is included in the performance data report each quarter.



25 MARACs held



802 referrals



274 new cases



37 repeat cases



12% repeat victimisation rate



299 victims heard at MARAC



9 victims aged 16-17

Bitesize multi agency MARAC sessions run four times a year. Each session is 45 minutes and can be booked [here](#). 71 practitioners attended a session in 2025-26.



Learning and development

The SAB offers a comprehensive multi agency safeguarding training offer, and this year we have made huge strides forward in our data and understanding of the multi agency offer and its reach and impact.



The local authority moved to a new learning management system in the summer of 2025, and this allowed us to recommence data reporting which had stopped working on the old system. Our new Business Support for all multi agency training started in post in August 2025 and has worked hard alongside our new data and performance officer to capture accurate data about attendance, costs and evaluation of training.

To enquire about anything related to the training we offer there is a dedicated inbox multiagencytraining@southglos.gov.uk

Alongside the new data set a brand new monthly newsletter has been launched with details of training, monthly tips and pulls together all the information into one place for those working with both adults and children.



Our trained trainers
have delivered
safeguarding awareness
training to 758 people

I feel more
informed
after this
training

I will be more
mindful of
incident
reporting

Stop Adult Abuse Week took place in November 2025 and a series of 5 workshops were hosted across the Avon & Somerset region.



818 people booked
onto the workshops

Excellent thought
provoking session

4.32

Average Rating



82% of delegates
gave a rating of 4 or
5 following the
workshops

SAB Training

August 25- April 26

SAB Training Courses:

- Bitesize - Information Sharing
- Bitesize - MARAC
- Domestic Abuse
- Effective Multi-Agency Working in Adult Safeguarding
- Exploitation of Adults
- Hoarding and Self-Neglect
- Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Mental Capacity Act and DoLS
- Mental Capacity Act Essentials
- Organisational Abuse
- Professional Curiosity
- Raising Safeguarding Concerns - Adults
- Train the Trainer



364
People Took a
Safeguarding
E-Learning Module



**Delivered over
31 Sessions**



**20 Held
In Person**



**9 Held
Online**

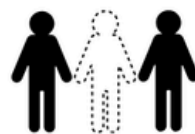


**2 Held as
Hybrids**

**Across these courses 361
spaces were booked**



**80.9%
Attended**



**11.4% did
not attend**



**7.8%
Cancelled**

Feedback

83%
of attendees rated their
satisfaction with their training
an 8/10 or higher



75%
of attendees rated their likelihood
to recommend the training an 7/10
or higher

How will training impact ways of working for our attendees...

“Be curious, observant and ask questions”

“Be more observant and aware of the conversations I have with individuals to identify risks and assess raising concerns”

“Be more aware of peoples best interests”

“Maintain awareness that clients wants and needs are important in determining safeguarding needs”

“Feel more confident and able to complete forms. Feel more able to support families if there was domestic abuse”

““Having a better understanding of support that can be provided to those who have experienced exploitation”

“Trying to embed a culture of safeguarding and open conversation”

People in Positions of Trust (PIPOT)

There were 28 allegations received about Adults in a Position of Trust in 2025-26. 11 of these were substantiated, 9 were inconclusive and 4 were unsubstantiated. Two allegations were for people who were employed in other areas and the referrers were advised to inform the relevant local authority. One allegation occurred while the person was at work and this was referred for a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry.

These included domestic abuse, sexual misconduct and child protection concerns. The individuals were from a range of job roles across agencies.

Budget Information

SAB Budget 2025-26	
Income	
Avon & Somerset Police	£6,000
South Gloucestershire Council	£65,000
BNSSG ICB*	£18,000
Total Income	£89,000
Expenditure	
Business Manager (50%)	£41,000
Business Support Officer (40%)	£14,000
Performance Data Officer (40%) - part year	£13,000
Independent Chair	£11,000
MARAC Chair (50%)	£5,000
Total Expenditure	£84,000
Note: SARs are now funded separately, in addition to this budget. The business support officer for multi agency training is also funded separately. *The ICB made an annual contribution of £77,000 in 2025-26 to support both safeguarding children and safeguarding adult statutory arrangements.	

Impact of the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board



The full board meetings are very well attended and engagement is good. This means that decisions made are truly multi-agency and have sign up at the highest level



The SAB takes a regional approach to some key pieces of work with other SABs which supports wider learning



Learning from SAR Aidan has led directly to multi-agency risk management meetings (MARM) being planned. with a soft launch in Autumn 2026



Evaluation data from our training tells us that training is having an impact on practice

I will make signposting to advocacy part of my day to day practice

I will ask more curious questions and look for signs and symptoms of harm

I feel equipped to be able to safeguard adults from a professional and wellbeing perspective



Our mature multi-agency audit process means that we identify good practice and things we need to improve quickly through the year



We have developed a group of trained trainers who deliver SAB safeguarding awareness training within their own organisation. This has grown to 45 people from a range of settings



We seek assurance from organisations about how they have implemented the learning from SARs - this is a direct quote from this piece of assurance work demonstrating the impact of the learning

Since the publication of SAR Aidan (August 2025), our organisation has actively shared and embedded the learning through leadership oversight, staff engagement, and changes to practice. The SAR was reviewed by senior management, with key learning incorporated into our safeguarding action plan. A summary of the learning was shared with staff via team meetings, handovers, and written communications, with a strong focus on professional curiosity, early identification of concerns, escalation, and effective multi-agency working. We continue to reinforce this learning through ongoing monitoring and reflective practice, promoting a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and escalation is encouraged and supported



if you are worried about an adult contact
our safeguarding team:

Monday – Friday 9am-5pm 01454 868007

Out of hours and at weekends 01454 615165

If you are deaf or hard of hearing text 'EDT' followed by
your name and message to 60066



If you are looking for safeguarding
training:

The information about the multi agency training
offer is [here](#)



Contact us about multi agency safeguarding
adults training [here](#)



**If you would like to read our Safeguarding
Adults Board Newsletters:**

You can sign up [here](#)



Scan the QR
code to visit
the SAB
Website here



Contact the
Safeguarding Adults
Board
by emailing
sgsab@southglos.gov.uk