

2020-2021



South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report



2020-2021

Introduction

The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board's (SGSAB) Annual Report is designed to give an overview of the multi-agency work across South Gloucestershire in pursuit of the Government's aims to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- 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 and support in accessible ways 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 line with statutory requirements and best practice this annual report and will be shared with:

- The Director of Children, Adults and Health
- The Director of Adult Social Services
- The Chief Executive
- 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, Safeguarding Boards Business Manager.

The report was approved by the Safeguarding Adults Board on 2nd September 2021 and published on the SGSAB website on 13th September 2021

Should you require the report in any other format to support accessibility please contact [Sarah Taylor](#)

Message from the Independent Chair

Welcome to the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board – SG SAB, annual report for the period 2020 /21.

The role of the Board and the partner organisations who sit on it, is to support and develop safeguarding of vulnerable adults who have care and support needs across South Gloucestershire.

At the time of writing our 2019/20 report, Covid-19 was in its infancy, little did I know, or even contemplate, that 17 months on, the impact of this horrible virus would continue to be making worldwide news headlines.

I have had the luxury, if that what it is, to have been working from home. All our SAB and SAB subgroup meeting have been held virtually but I acknowledge that a very large number of our colleagues in the Care sector, the NHS, Police - indeed all our front-line partners who are represented on our Board and our SAB sub-groups, have continued to “go into the office” and to provide as normal a service as possible in, sometimes impossible circumstances.

Thank you.

This year’s report will mirror the format of our last report as it will lead the interested reader to specific web links where further reading will be available. You will note that some of our priorities detailed in our business plan for 20/21, were not achieved. This is as a direct consequence of the extraordinary pressures presented by the Covid virus. These priorities will form part of our 2021/22 business plan.

Attendance at our virtual Board meetings has been good but I long for a return to face-to-face meetings where so much business is conducted in the coffee break!

We have recruited new members onto the Board including key representatives from the voluntary sector and from the Department of Work and Pensions. Their contributions to Safeguarding in South Gloucestershire are already measurable.

Despite the virus and the additional workloads, I believe that the SG SAB and its subgroups have continued to effectively monitor and assisted in the development of safeguarding practices across our area. That commitment to Safeguarding is evidenced within the body of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Oliver', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Tony Oliver

About the Board

Safeguarding Adults Board have three main duties

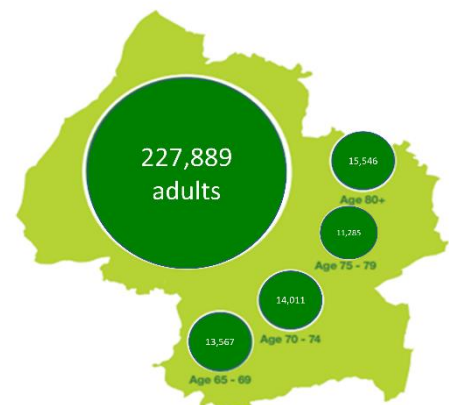
- Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been
- Commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria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

The board has an independent chair, Tony Oliver. The board structure consists of quarterly full board meetings, quarterly meeting of a performance monitoring and subgroup chairs group and five permanent subgroups, for this reporting period, all of these meetings have taken place virtually due to the Covid19 Pandemic. This has worked well, and attendance has remained good. The subgroups are:

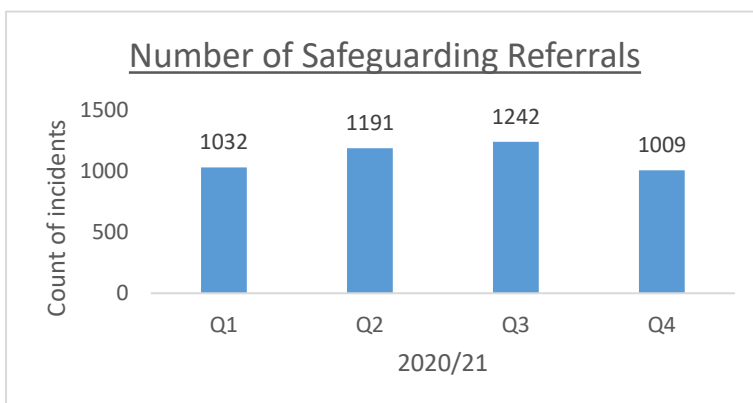
- Learning and Development
- Safeguarding Adults Review
- Quality Assurance
- Policy and Procedure
- Communication & Engagement

South Gloucestershire has an aging population. 24% of the adult population are over 65. Year on year this percentage has been increasing, and is higher than the national average.

The Safeguarding Adults Board oversees analysed performance data for safeguarding in South Gloucestershire via a newly formed Performance meeting every quarter, and at the full Board.



Safeguarding Activity in South Gloucestershire



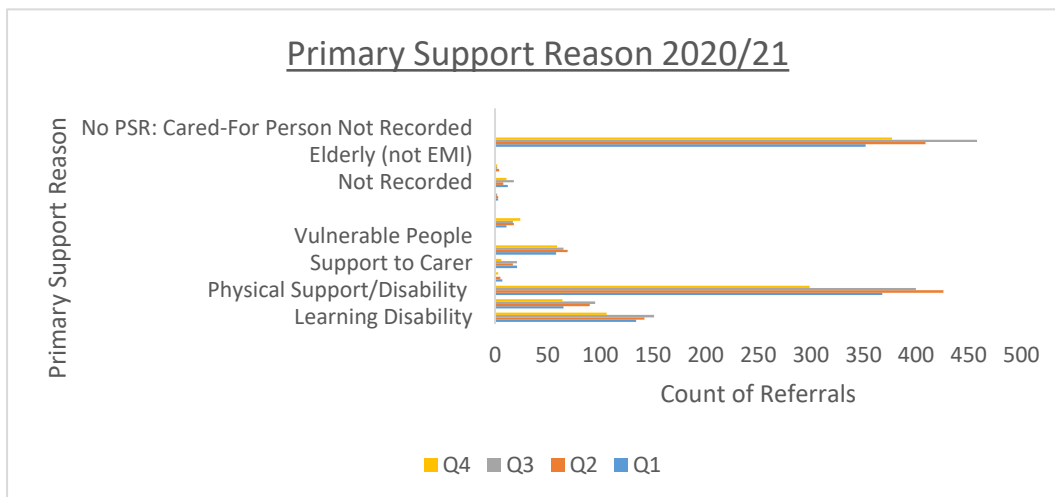
There has been a very large increase in the number of referrals through the 12 months of this report. The Safeguarding Board has been monitoring this change through the covid period in quarterly data and performance meetings. By quarter 4 the numbers have begun to fall, but are still higher than the pre-covid period.



Categories of Abuse: We have seen a rise in almost all areas due to the much higher number of referrals over the twelve month period. Most notably through the pandemic the categories with the highest changes are Domestic abuse (up 435%) and self neglect (586%)

In the table below the primary reason for support is shown. The majority of people are supported because of their physical support needs, and this is unchanged.

	Safeguarding Cases (Type of Abuse)			
	2020/21			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Physical Abuse	102	84	87	94
Sexual Abuse	10	16	19	15
Psychological Abuse	59	71	72	54
Financial/Material Abuse	51	66	68	61
Discriminatory Abuse	4	6	4	2
Neglects & Acts of Omission	404	449	436	328
Domestic Abuse	166	188	137	124
Sexual Exploitation	4	5	1	2
Modern Slavery	1	1	1	3
Self Neglect	225	301	408	268
Organisational Abuse	6	3	7	3



Organisational Safeguarding

In 2020-21 seven enquiries were carried out during the year. These were all occasions where situations progressed beyond initial visits and information gathering to at least one formal multi-agency meeting.

CQC care providers ratings in South Gloucestershire are as follows:

Outstanding 16%

Good 74%

Requires Improvement 5%

Inadequate 0%

Not yet inspected/rated 5%

For much of this period care homes have been closed to all but essential visitors. The Organisational Safeguarding Team continued to work with services during this time by telephone and online contact.

The Work of the Board

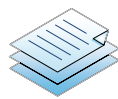


Sub
Groups

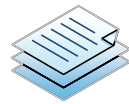
Much of the work of the board takes place in the sub groups which are well represented by multi-agency partners. The chairs of the groups meet together quarterly and all of them provide reports to the full board meetings each quarter.

Policy and Procedure Subgroup

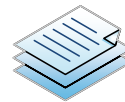
This subgroup focusses on the revision and creation of policy, procedure and practice guidance to support professionals from all organisations working with adults in South Gloucestershire. This year the following have been published/updated. Click to access the full document.



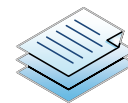
[Professional
Curiosity](#)



[Exploitation](#)



[Domestic
Abuse](#)



[People in a
Position of
Trust](#)

There has also been a new flowchart created to help professionals considering raising a safeguarding concern to the local authority. This is available [here](#).

Communication and Engagement Sub Group



This subgroup is a joint group with the Children's Partnership. Key work covered in the period for this report were:

Stop Adult Abuse Week concentrated on 'Looking after your community' as we worked together to

support our neighbours during the national pandemic and its aftermath. The focus was very much on supporting our communities to know what to do when there is a concern, and how to recognise abuse. Social media was the main thrust of the campaign as the country was still in lockdown at the time of the week.

Themes were:

- What is Safeguarding
- Domestic Abuse
- SCAMs
- Cuckooing
- Self Neglect



Learning and Development Sub Group



414 people
trained

The board has continued to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding adults training programmes, via the Board's Learning & Development sub-group. During a difficult year attendance levels have dipped however are slowly returning to their pre-COVID levels. Following a complete suspension of training during the first quarter of 2020-21 numbers have slowly picked up in Q2 and Q3 with Q4 figures back to where

they were. With all sessions now run online there has been an 83% attendance rate across the offer with over 90% of delegates letting us know that they have an increased level of confidence as a result of attending one of the sessions. Sessions have been delivered online with the flexibility this has provided welcomed by those attending the sessions. Having said that, we also recognise the importance of face to face delivery for certain topics and to enable multi-agency networking between partners.



147 people
Attended Mental
Capacity Training

*I have much more
confidence to
address concerns*

*Everything I have
learned has
strengthened my
professional practice*

*I will be rewriting internal
processes on the back of
this training*

*I have a much better knowledge
to make specific decisions and
the specific time*

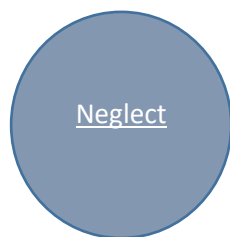
Joint Boards Conference: Working with Families

Rather than our usual face to face conference in June, the pandemic meant that we postponed and hosted virtual safeguarding conference week in November 2020. The conference was co-hosted by Bristol and South Gloucestershire Boards. Keynote addresses were given by the Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens and Professor Michael Preston Shoot. Themes in the online workshops included Domestic Abuse, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Working with Older Adults and Dementia and Making Safeguarding Personal. All of the virtual workshops were recorded and are available to view [here](#).



456 delegates
throughout the
week

Quality Assurance Sub Group



Three multi-agency audits have taken place in this year by the Quality Assurance sub group. The audit scheduled to take place in May 2020 did not take place due to the impact of the covid pandemic.



Click on the circles on the left to read the findings of each audit.

Learning is disseminated to practitioners from a wide variety of organisations every quarter.

SAR Sub Group

The SAR sub group has had a busy year, with several reviews and action plans underway. Two reviews were completed in the timescale of this report, Adult A, which was completed almost entirely with remote working due to Covid19. The second review, Family S was a Learning Review combined with a Domestic Homicide Review and the board worked with the Safer Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership to undertake one combined review. The boards made the decision not to publish the full report for Family S, a learning brief was created and published to disseminate learning identified.

Family S

Mr S* was in his early 60s when he died in 2019 and Miss S* from the same family died later in the same year in her late 30s. A joint review took place to learn from what had happened for both adults. The element of the review about Miss S was a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Both Mr S and Miss S spent time in two different parts of the country together and so both regions took part in this review. The review was complex and the chronology contained over 1500 entries from agencies across both local authorities.

You can read the learning brief, published in November 2020 by clicking below.



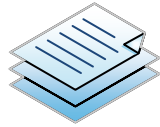
[Family S](#)

Adult A

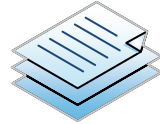
Adult A was a single male who was living alone. According to his family Adult A had started drinking alcohol from the age of about 12 and agency records show that he had become alcohol dependant from the age of 16. He was a regular user of health services. Adult A was deemed by those

professionals that worked with him to have capacity (although he was never formally assessed) and able to make his own decisions. Adult A would often attempt to self-detox, despite being advised not to do so by health professionals. In January 2019 Adult A was found deceased by his family, he was 31. A post mortem identified that the cause of death was related to alcohol dependency and Hyponatremia (low sodium levels). Adult A's aspiration was to live past 40.

You can read the full SAR and Learning Brief published in July 2020 by clicking the links below.



[Adult A SAR](#)



[Adult A
Learning
Brief](#)

The Safeguarding Adults Board held a practitioner event in December 2020 for 85 practitioners from a variety of organisations to share the learning from these reviews.

What to Do if you are Worried about an Adult

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

Visit the Safeguarding Adults Board [Website](#) for more information