



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



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 2025 and published on the SGSAB website on 4th September 2025.

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.

Message from our independent chair



Welcome to the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (SGSAB) annual report for 2024/25. I was privileged to be appointed to this role in April 2025, so I would like to begin by thanking Tony Oliver, who served as Independent Chair from 2018-2025, for leading the SAB's work to achieve the activity and outcomes described here in this document.

It is evident from my involvement with SGSAB over the past 6 months that we have a highly committed and skilled group of partners from across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, who bring a valuable range of perspectives and experience to the Board. There is a determination across the partnership for our work to be informed by people's lived experience, whether as carers or people with health and care needs. We want to be confident that we understand who is most at risk of abuse and neglect and how the work we do as a partnership can and will make a positive difference to people's lives. As this report demonstrates, we are committed to continuous learning and improvement and we will work to the following principles:

- No one agency can create an effective safeguarding system by itself
- Only a joined-up approach at a strategic level can deliver a better response
- To test the effectiveness of strategic arrangements, we must always ask: 'How is our partnership making a positive difference to the lives and experiences of local people?'
- At their very best, local arrangements show that ambitious, joined-up strategic partnership have a clear line of sight on practice, on the experiences of individuals and on the impact of that direct work.
- We will be informed by the lived experience of local people across South Gloucestershire.

I would like to thank the Sarah Taylor, Board Manager, for her support in efficiently and effectively managing the business of the Board. Thanks are also due to everyone involved in the Board's subgroups, who work so hard to deliver the work described in this report. I am grateful to all partners for their contribution to the Board, and their ongoing support.

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 appointed a new independent chair, Teresa Bell. 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. This has worked well, and attendance has remained good. The subgroups are:

- Learning and Development
- Safeguarding Adults Review
- Quality Assurance
- Policy and Procedure
- Lived Experience

Area Profile 2024-25



South Gloucestershire is 80% rural and 20% urban and has a total population of 299,439.

8.8% ethnic minority population



229,347 are adults.



4580 safeguarding concerns raised (+ 3% from 23-24)

1089 Section 42 enquiries (-11% from 23-24)



71 non statutory enquiries (+31% from 23-24)

57% of enquiries are about a person in their own home (+ 7% from 23-24)



27% of enquiries are about neglect and acts of omission (-10% from 23-24)



20% of enquiries are about financial abuse (-10% from 23-24)



13% of enquiries are about physical abuse (-1.6% from 23-24)



20% of enquiries are about domestic abuse (+4% from 23-24)



10.5% of safeguarding concerns are about people with a learning disability (-1.5% from 23-24)



4.5% of enquiries are about sexual abuse (no change from 23-24)



83% of cases have a decision made within 7 days (-12% from 23-24)

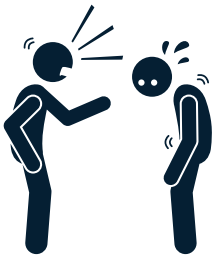
The Work of the board

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 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 the icons to access the full documents.



Click the icon
for the
revised
Domestic
Abuse
Practice
Guidance



Click the icon
for the
revised
Mental Health
& Suicide
Prevention
Guidance



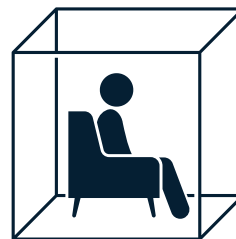
Click the icon
for the
revised
Homelessness
Guidance



Click the icon
for the
revised
Exploitation
Guidance



Click the icon
for the
revised
Working with
Risk Guidance



Click the icon
for the
revised
Self Neglect
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. The first piece of work completed was about domestic abuse and violence against women and girls and this was reported into the Dec 2024 SAB.

One of the young ambassadors pulled together the responses into a slide deck to share with board members. A second theme about transitions from child to adults services has also been completed and again the responses reported to the SAB. It has been more difficult to seek adult views than for children, and the sub group has identified this as a challenge and has brought this to the SAB.



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
Financial Abuse
Audit



Click the icon to
read the
Sexual Abuse
Audit



Click the icon to
read the
Transitions
Audit



Click the icon to
read the
Homelessness
Audit

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARS)



During the year 2024-25 the SAR sub group received six referrals for potential SARs. This is the most ever received in a one year period. Two of these met the criteria for a SAR. Another met the criteria for a discretionary SAR. No SARs were published during this year. Although the three above were all in progress.

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

MARAC Data

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) data has been added to the performance data report each quarter this year. The lack of permanent funding for the independent chair has featured on the SAB risk register but this has now been resolved and the funding is agreed .



26 MARACs held



834 referrals



253 new cases



42 repeat cases



17% repeat victimisation rate



276 victims heard at MARAC



17 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 2024-25.



Learning and development

The SAB offers a comprehensive multi agency safeguarding training offer, and this year has seen a move back much more to face to face training.



It has been difficult to get data about attendance this year due to the learning management system being unable to produce reports and there have been delays in the new system launching. This has now been resolved and the new system launched in the summer of 2025, future board meetings will receive quarterly reports in a new format and there will a greater reliance on accurate training data going forwards.

A new Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking course has been commissioned in 24-25. This is a face to face course and is shared between the child and adult workforce.



Stop Adult Abuse Week took place in November 2024 and a series of 5 workshops were hosted across the Avon & Somerset region.

The recordings of these sessions are available [here](#).



987 people booked onto the workshops

4.35

Average Rating



88% of delegates gave a rating of 4 or 5 following the workshops

People in Positions of Trust (PIPOT)

There were 10 allegations received about Adults in a Position of Trust in 2024-25. 4 of these were substantiated, 2 inconclusive and 1 unsubstantiated. Three allegations were for people who were employed in other areas and the referrers were advised to inform the relevant local authority.

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 2024-25	
Income	
Avon & Somerset Police	£6417.56
South Gloucestershire Council	£63,400
Total Income	£69,817.56
Expenditure	
Business Manager (50%)	£40,185.92
MARAC Chair (50%)	£3,750
Independent Chair	£16,500
SAR Budget	£12,000
Total Expenditure	£72,435.92



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](#)



**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](#)