

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026

Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board



Our Mission

The Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board (BFSB) will work with local organisations and members of our local community. Through effective **Prevention** policies, **Protection** procedures and **Partnership** working we seek to ensure our arrangements to tackle abuse, neglect and exploitation are effective. **People** are at the heart of our work and by listening to the cared for and to carers we aim to promote a culture of continuous improvement and collective learning that builds on local and national knowledge of emerging threats.

Who are we?

The BFSB was established in 2019 to ensure an 'all age' approach to the protection of children and adults. Oversight of the Board is provided through the three statutory partners (Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System (ICS), Bracknell Forest Council, Thames Valley Police). The work of the Board is facilitated by an Independent Chair and Scrutineer and supported by its Business Unit. The Business Unit also coordinates work across the region and links with national networks on behalf of the Board.

The Structure of the Safeguarding Board

The work of the Board is supported by the following local groups which are made up from representatives of organisations who operate in the borough:

- Safeguarding Partnership
- Quality Assurance Subgroup
- Case Review Subgroup
- Communication, Engagement and Prevention Subgroup

In addition, the Board collaboratively with established pan-Berkshire subgroups and Partnerships.

Our Strategic Statement

BFSB continues to develop multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding which enable an all-age approach to operate across the wider policy and partnership landscape. The model developed reflects our commitment to trauma-informed practice that is person centred and supports a contextual safeguarding approach. Our strategy seeks to avoid duplication, to further strengthen practice that leads to improved outcomes for children, young people and adults.

The Board's arrangements aim to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- There is early identification of emerging safeguarding issues
- Information is shared in a timely and effective manner
- Partners work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Learning is effectively identified, disseminated and embedded
- Safeguarding practice is continually improving
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- Our local communities feel confident that children and adults are protected from harm
- The individual is placed at the heart of our approach

As the statutory safeguarding partners, Thames Valley Police, Bracknell Forest Council and the Frimley Heath and Care ICS will provide the leadership for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Impartiality is provided by an Independent Chair and Scrutineer.

Strategic Direction

Working together, and as individual partners, we will quickly identify, understand, prioritise and respond to risks and issues arising throughout our local community, particularly those caused or intensified by the impact of Covid 19 and the increased cost of living, as captured in the Board's risk register.

How are we going to do this?

Our arrangements adopt a systems approach to ensure local statutory safeguarding responsibilities, and are underpinned by the following strands:



Partnership

- To further ensure partners work effectively together, develop mutual understandings of each other's roles and functions, and share information in a timely fashion.
- Ensure a robust system is in place to identify concerns regarding the quality of provider services and prevent significant safeguarding issues.
- Further strengthen our all-age approach.

Prevention

- Further promote and evaluate partners' work to prevent harm, offer early help and share information in a timely manner.
- To gain assurance that partners are continuing to adopt a 'contextual safeguarding' approach within their early identification of need and response to risks.
- To support and evaluate continuous improvement of systems and practice.

Protection

- Secure assurance that robust safeguarding measures are in place for people with additional vulnerabilities, including those with disabilities.
- To strengthen the strategic governance required to coordinate responses to all forms of exploitation.
- To ensure partners to demonstrate compliance with the Mental Capacity Act & the Liberty Protection Safeguards.

People

- We will continue to require assurance that local practice recognises the impact of inequalities and ensures responses reflect the unique needs of the individual.
- We will continue to promote a safeguarding culture that focuses on outcomes desired by children and adults with care and support needs who may have been abused.
- We will undertake further work with local partners to establish an understanding of the Bracknell Forest community as it relates to safeguarding.

How will we know if we have achieved our priorities?

We will measure our progress and achievements through our action plan which will be updated every six months and shared each quarter with the QA Subgroup and Board.

Theme	What we will do	How we will do it	Timescale	Who will be responsible?
Partnership We will seek assurance about the effectiveness of local partnerships and collaborations to safeguard people	To further ensure partners work effectively together and develop mutual understandings of each other's roles and functions.	Continue to ask Safeguarding Partners to provide updates on their roles, functions and any risks identified. Particular emphasis will be placed on organisational risks due to long-term effects of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis.	Year 2	Safeguarding Partnership
		Continue to receive local self-assessment and promotion of supportive learning visits.	Year 3	QA Subgroup
		Through the promotion of effective pan-Berks P&Ps for both children and adults	Year 3	Pan Berkshire Policy and Procedures subgroups
	Ensure a robust system is in place to identify concerns regarding the quality of provider services and prevent significant safeguarding issues.	Safeguarding Board alerted to concerns in provider services and provided with details of mitigation. Care Governance reports including data being reviewed by Quality Assurance Subgroup and the Board at 6 monthly intervals.	Year 2	Safeguarding Board QA Subgroup Case Review Subgroup
	Further strengthen our all-age approach.	Encourage closer working between children and adult services through challenge and promotion of all-age protocols to strengthen links between services.	Year 1	Safeguarding Partnership Safeguarding Board
		Continue mapping of pathways, review information obtained from Transitional Safeguarding T&F Group and implement actions including the development of transitional safeguarding guidance.	Year 1	Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish Group

Theme	What we will do	How we will do it	Timescale	Who will be responsible	
Prevention We will ensure partners work together to prevent all forms of harm recognising the long-term consequences	Further promote and evaluate partners' work to prevent harm, offer early help and share information in a timely manner.	Regular feedback from partners at the Safeguarding Partnership of their work to prevent harm including the long-term effects of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis	Year 2	Safeguarding Partnership CRSG and QA Subgroups	
		Continue to develop and promote understanding of safeguarding risks and corresponding referral routes	Year 1	CEP Subgroup	
		Audit of partners prevention and early help work.	Year 1	QA Subgroup	
		Gain understanding of, and promote, trends of the types of abuse occurring and their location.	Year 1	Safeguarding Partnership CRSG and QA Subgroups	
		Develop guidance for neglect, self-neglect and update the thresholds for safeguarding.	Year 1	Safeguarding Board / ICS	
	To gain assurance that partners are continuing to adopt a 'contextual safeguarding' approach within their early identification of need and response to risks	Strengthen strategic links and gain regular feedback from Exploitation and Serious Violence Group, Adult Exploitation Group and Community Safety Partnership subgroups.	Year 2	Safeguarding Board / ICS	
		Promote contextual safeguarding principles amongst partnership and gain regular feedback on application by partners.	Year 2	Safeguarding Partnership	
		Monitor and analyse available safeguarding information including that obtained from Transitional Safeguarding T&F group	Year 1	TS T&F Group QA Subgroup	
	To support and evaluate continuous improvement of systems and practice	Strengthen evaluation of learning from case reviews.	Year 2	Case Review subgroup QA Subgroup	
		Evaluate impact of training.	Year 2	Learning and Development Forum	
		Introduce safeguarding e-learning system.	Year 1	Safeguarding Board	

Theme	What we will do	How we will do it	Timescale	Who will be responsible?
Protection We will ensure a robust outcome-focussed approach to protecting people at risk of / experiencing abuse and neglect.	Secure assurance that robust safeguarding measures are in place for people with additional vulnerabilities, including those with disabilities.	Capture and understand safeguarding experiences of children and vulnerable adults.	Year 3	Case Review Subgroup QA Subgroup CEP Subgroup Safeguarding Partnership
		Thematic discussions at Safeguarding Partnership informs understanding of adequacy of local arrangements.	Year 1	Safeguarding Partnership
	To strengthen the strategic governance required to coordinate responses to all forms of exploitation.	Formalise the process for gathering information from local multi-agency partnerships.	Year 1	Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership
	To ensure partners demonstrate compliance with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS).	Continue to review adults' self-assessment returns for assurance of compliance with MCA.	Year 2	QA Subgroup
		To support partners in promoting MCA and LPS within their training.	Year 1	BF Learning and Development Forum
		Facilitate presentations and discussion at Safeguarding Partnership and Board.	Year 1	Safeguarding Partnership

Theme	What we will do	How we will do it	Timescale	Who will be responsible?
People We will seek assurance that people who use services are involved in safeguarding processes and the work of the Board	We will continue to require assurance that local practice recognises the impact of inequalities and ensures responses reflect the unique needs of the individual.	Continue to liaise with under-represented groups and influencers to promote safeguarding, and recognition and reporting of issues. Identify issues of inequality and challenges.	Year 3	CEP Subgroup
		Develop safeguarding communications through the co-production of information with adults and children at risk.	Year 3	CEP Subgroup
		Continue to share information with other BF Boards/Partnerships to ensure issues are addressed appropriately.	Year 3	BU Safeguarding Board MOU group

		Promote cultural competence of staff and support work to promote national guidance to ensure discriminatory abuse is robustly addressed.	Year 2	CEP Subgroup Safeguarding Partnership Case Review Subgroup QA Subgroup
	We will continue to promote a safeguarding culture that focuses on outcomes desired by children and adults with care and support needs who may have been abused.	Ensure partners and practitioners embrace a child centred and Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach in all safeguarding situations and gain assurance through self-assessment and multi-agency audits.	Year 2	QA Subgroup Safeguarding Partnership Case Review Subgroup
		Through the work of the CEP Subgroup gather information of user involvement already captured by partners	Year 3	CEP Subgroup
		Continue to develop effective communication through for example social media development, safeguarding forum and road shows.	Year 3	CEP Subgroup
		Collect the voice / lived experience of adult/children and raise awareness of safeguarding matters	Year 3	CEP Subgroup Safeguarding Partnership
		Develop and improve the current Safeguarding Board website	Year 1	CEP Subgroup Safeguarding Board
	We will undertake further work with local partners to establish an understanding of the Bracknell Forest community as it relates to safeguarding.	Collaborate with the Community Cohesion and Engagement Partnership and Public Health to understand issues in BF communities and how to engage with them.	Year 1	CEP Subgroup MOU group