



Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy

2025-2028

For more information visit: safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk

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1. Foreword

I am pleased to present the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board 2025 - 2028 Strategy. Since starting as the Independent Chair in July 2024, taking over from the previous Chair Tim Madgwick, I have inherited a partnership that has a real appetite for change and is committed to the challenge of safeguarding adults with care and support needs. With an increased membership and improved governance arrangements the Board is prepared to tackle the priorities for the next three years as we respond to emerging themes both nationally and locally. To ensure that we respond, listen and engage with individuals, their families and communities to design and deliver multi-agency services which are fit for purpose, the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board has set out a strategy for the next three years.

As a board we are very aware of the heightened levels of risk of adults presenting with complex needs face, including exploitation, mental ill health and self-neglect being significant areas of need as well as pressure from adults who are vulnerably housed or facing homelessness. This strategy will help us to meet those challenges head on, building on what we have learnt and the work that has been completed during the previous two-year strategy period. We will continue to work as a partnership to meet the needs of these areas, to ensure best use of resources, improving the outcomes for those adults facing these risks, helping to prevent abuse and neglect.

I would like to thank colleagues working to ensure the Board not just fulfils its statutory duties but also play key roles in improving the quality of life for some of the most vulnerable in our communities.



Jane Timson

Independent Chair, City of York Safeguarding Adults Board (CYSAB)

2. How we developed this plan

We examined evidence arising from the Board's work over the last two years including outcomes from our partner challenge events, trends and themes emerging from our recommendations from safeguarding adults reviews (SARs). We looked at trends in data including types of abuse, victims, locations and source of referrals. We continued to reflect on legislation, guidance and best practice in adult safeguarding, including recent research and good practice developments taken from published material, regional and national networks. We listened to our partners who work alongside the public and professionals to understand their views about what our priorities should be.

Our Vision:

For individuals, communities and organisations to work together to ensure that the people of York can live fulfilling lives free from abuse and neglect and to ensure that safeguarding is everybody's business.



3. Who is the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board and what we do

Who we are:

The City of York Safeguarding Adults Board (CYSAB) is a statutory and multi-agency partnership that leads the strategic development of safeguarding adults work across York. As specified in the Care Act, the CYSAB includes three core statutory members, that is, the City of York Council, NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, and North Yorkshire Police Authority. Our membership is also made up of nominated lead representatives from a wide range of non-core partner agencies, who actively contribute to the work of the Board. A full list of members is available on the [CYSAB website](#).

What we do:

The work of Safeguarding Adults Board is directed by legislation – the Care Act 2014. The Act sets out the core purpose of the Board which is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements are effective and take account of the views of the local community. The Board also seeks assurance from its partners that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome focused. The purpose of the CYSAB is to help safeguard people who have care and support needs. Its main objective is to improve local safeguarding arrangements to ensure partners act to help and protect adults experiencing, or at risk of, neglect and abuse.

Our statutory duties:

The SAB has three core duties, in accordance with the Care Act 2014:

1. Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how we will meet our objectives and how our member and partner agencies will contribute
2. Publish an annual report detailing how effective our work has been
3. Commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the SAR criteria.



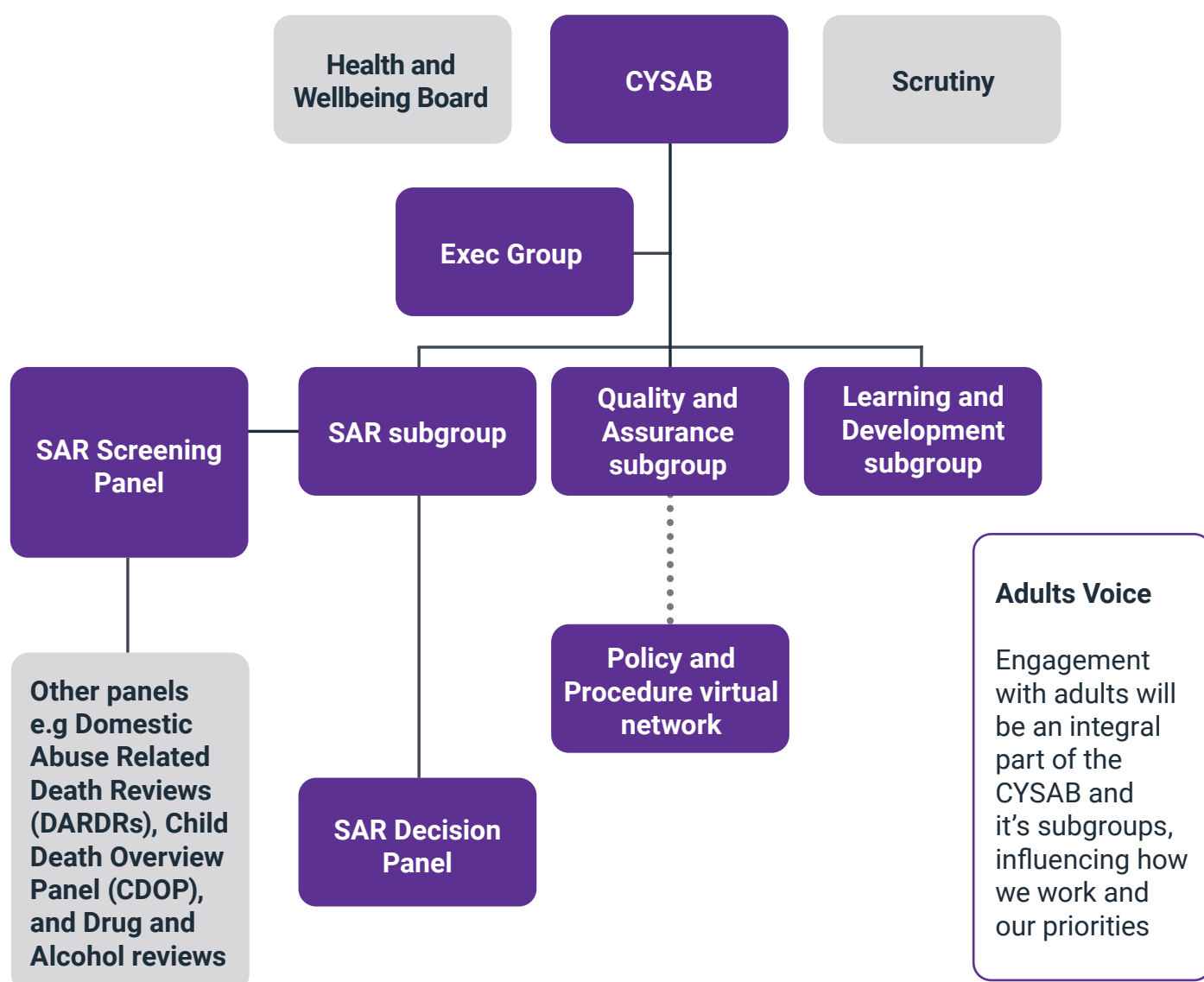
How we function:

Throughout 2024 the board made considerable changes to its governance and the structure below (figure 1) is an emerging one with the process for safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) changing to include a new SAR decision panel, allowing the SAR subgroup to focus on embedding recommendations from SARs.

In addition, the learning and development group and the policy and procedure network are still in there infancy.

As a Board we meet four times a year and have several sub-groups. These are the Executive group, Quality and Assurance group, Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) group and Learning and Development group. We also have a Pre-SAR Screening group and a SAR Decision panel as and when required. The use of task and finish groups also helps to consider short term projects when needed. Engagement with adults and their voice is considered throughout all our work and is no longer a stand-alone subgroup.

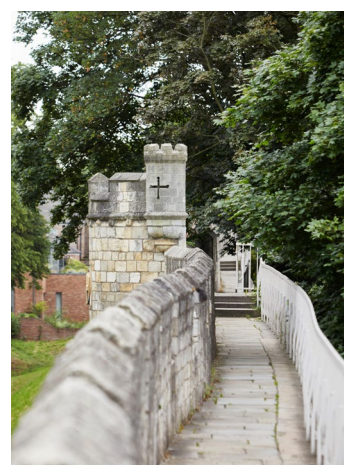
Figure 1:



4. Our Plan 2025-2028

In order to meet the needs of adults in the City of York we have developed three areas of focus for our strategic plan which will guide the way we work together as a Board over the next three years to safeguard our communities and the safeguarding areas we want to strengthen:

1. Prevention, awareness and engagement
2. Learning, reflection and practice improvement
3. Strengthening multi-agency safeguarding responses to:
 - adults at risk of exploitation
 - rough sleeping, homelessness
 - self-neglect and hoarding



1. Prevention, awareness and engagement

What we will do:

- Collaborate with community groups and other organisations to promote awareness of safeguarding issues and develop tailored approaches to prevention.
- Develop and deliver public messages and promote safeguarding awareness campaigns aimed at the general public, using a variety of media channels, including social media, leaflets and events.
- Maximise national and regional safeguarding adults week engagement, promotion with multi agency contributions.
- Encourage the reporting of concerns by the public and provide clear guidance and support for those who report concerns.
- Develop and implement targeted engagement activity with vulnerable groups, including awareness-raising sessions and training to promote knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues.
- Continue to raise awareness among people, communities, charities and volunteers of how to identify situations of abuse and neglect, including self-neglect.
- Continue to develop the CYSAB website.

Why we are doing this:

- To enable safer communities who can recognise abuse and neglect, take action to protect themselves as well as giving confidence to others to respond in a way that prevents, reduces or removes the risk of harm.
- To share knowledge, and expertise, around prevention and awareness-raising.

How we will assess what impact we are making:

- ☑ By Seeking assurance that staff across the CYSAB partnership are trained in identifying signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and in reporting any concerns promptly and appropriately.
- ☑ By using compliments and complaints feedback from Healthwatch York and other sources, to understand what residents are saying about safeguarding.
- ☑ By using partnership data to monitor and review the numbers of safeguarding concerns and enquiries in relation to volume, types, key themes and consistency.

2. Learning, reflection and practice improvement

What we will do:

- Create a CYSAB Learning and Development subgroup.
- Consider the development of a multi-agency training offer, developed and delivered by partners with named individuals from the partnership supporting delivery of a multi-agency learning and development programme.
- Promote multi-disciplinary working, establish networks and collaboration across the CYSAB partnership to encourage the sharing of knowledge and expertise.
- Regularly review and update policies and procedures on the CYSAB website and Tri-x including local practice guidance to ensure that they reflect best practice and current knowledge.
- Disseminate good practice SAR learning and 7-minute briefings with partners and find ways to review the impact on practice.
- Find ways to capture lived experience of safeguarding and engage with families and front-line staff so they can inform practice improvements, e.g. SAR practitioner and learning events.
- Find ways to embed professional curiosity across the partnership.
- Seek assurance across the partnership of the effective application of the Mental Capacity Act.

Why we are doing this:

- To encourage a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the safeguarding partnership.
- To inform and improve practice, including the effectiveness and outcomes from safeguarding interventions.

How we will assess what impact we are making:

- ☑ By understanding what training has worked well and what lessons have been learnt through safeguarding data and reoccurrence of types of abuse.
- ☑ By seeking assurance from partners on what the impact of any new guidance in response to learning has been within partner organisations.
- ☑ By developing ways to capture how learning from SARs is being implemented, for example, audits and challenge events.

3. Strengthening multi-agency safeguarding responses

What we will do:

We will develop a clear work plan to improve and strengthen our partnership working to ensure there are robust multi agency safeguarding responses to the following three areas of need within the City of York

1. Improve responses to adults with care and support needs who are at risk of exploitation.
2. Ensure all partners are working together to prevent or minimise barriers faced by adults with care and support needs who are at risk of experiencing rough sleeping and homelessness.
3. Improve response to adults with care and support needs who are at risk of or experiencing self-neglect.

We will do this by:

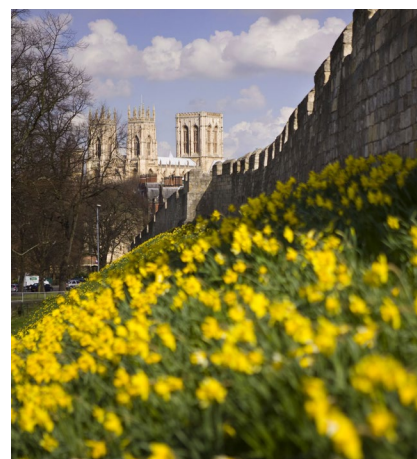
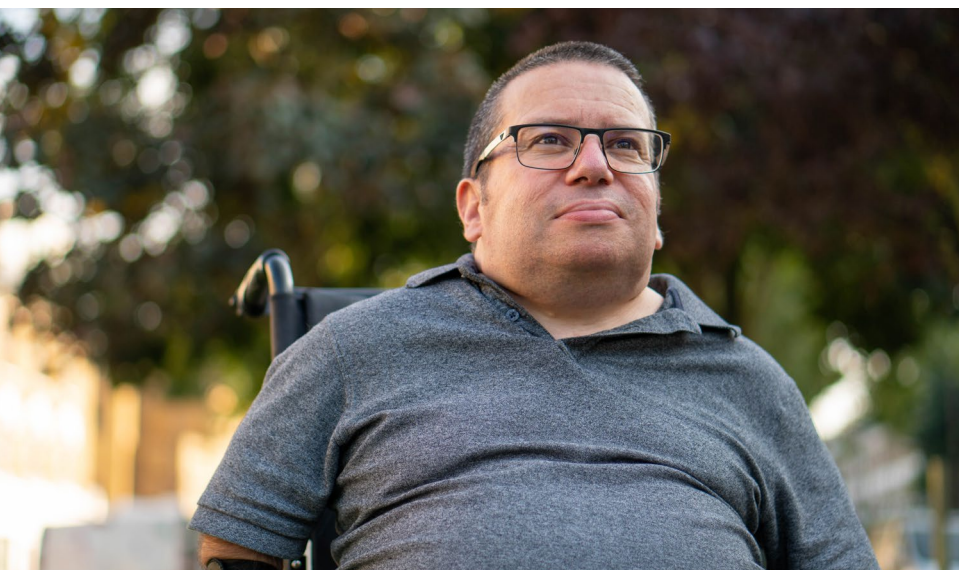
- Using local and regional expertise, shared knowledge and data to understand current trends and areas of need.
- Linking into existing good practice and adapt/enhance where necessary, seeking assurance on an effective joined-up approach.
- Identifying pathways, guidance and protocols needed for the multi-agency partnership to identify and respond to adults with care and support needs who are experiencing exploitation, homelessness (with an emphasis on those that are rough sleeping) or self-neglect.
- Developing and implementing pathways, guidance and protocols identified by the three task and finish groups.
- Develop and implement a multi- agency risk management protocol to support individuals who experience multiple disadvantage.
- Ensuring the Person in a Position of Trust (PIPOT) procedure is embedded in practice.
- Receiving assurance about the quality of services both public and private, that provide care and support services to adults at risk of abuse, including regular audits, inspections, and feedback from adults and their families.
- Seeking assurance on safe working and recruitment expectations from partner agencies for all staff and volunteers working with adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Why we are doing this:

- To strengthen support for partners to deliver effective and preventative services across the City of York, to reduce risk of abuse and harm for the most at risk in our communities.
- To promote a culture of openness and transparency where concerns can be raised without fear of reprisal.
- To support people in the community experiencing abuse and neglect who may not be known to services or may choose not to engage with or have limited engagement with agencies.

How will assess what impact we are making:

- ☑ Multi-agency assurance checks, annual self-assessment and challenge panel.
- ☑ Development of a multi-agency dashboard to help SAB identify themes and trends across the partnership.



5. Delivering our plan

This strategy is a commitment to creating a caring and safe environment for adults at risk of harm and abuse. Through focusing on the needs of the individual, being proactive, and collaborative, we aim to uphold the dignity and well-being of adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

We will work with our partners on our three areas of focus to hear the adult's voice; seek assurance; develop our workforce and learn lessons to safeguard those who may be at risk of harm or abuse.

We will measure our progress and achievements through a business plan which will identify how we will achieve our eight objectives including key goals and timescales. Progress will be updated and reported to the CYSAB quarterly and through our annual report.



Contacts

If you are worried about an adult in York, please report any concerns via the City of York Safeguarding Adults board website safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk

If you would prefer to speak to someone or report information anonymously you can:

Contact the City of York Adult Social Care:

- **telephone:** 01904 555111, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm
- **text telephone:** 07534 437804 if you're hearing impaired.
- **telephone:** 0300 131 2131 for out of hours help.

This document can be made available in other languages or formats if required.

To request another format, please contact us via our email: sab@york.gov.uk



safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk



CITY OF YORK

Safeguarding Adults Board

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:



(01904) 551550



@ ycc@york.gov.uk

It is available in the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

**Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim
własnym języku. (Polish)**

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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For further information: West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

For more information visit: safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk