

# Healthwatch Salford working together with Salford Safeguarding Adults Board

## 1. Context

The Care Act 2014 brought in a statutory responsibility for each Local Authority to have a multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Board to oversee local safeguarding arrangements and to ensure that partner agencies are protecting adults at risk in its area.

An adult at risk is defined as a person who

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect

## 2. The aims of adult safeguarding are to:

- prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- safeguard 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

## 3. The statutory guidance enshrines the six principles of safeguarding:

1. **empowerment** - presumption of person led decisions and informed consent
2. **prevention** - it is better to take action before harm occurs
3. **proportionality** - proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
4. **protection** - support and representation for those in greatest need
5. **partnerships** - local solutions through services working together with their communities
6. **accountability** - accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

#### 4. Salford Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has 3 core duties:

- **Annual strategic plan** - with short- and longer-term objectives and actions which **MUST** be developed with local community involvement and consult with Health Watch. The plan could cover 3-5 years.
- **Annual report** - produce yearly report to include how main objectives were achieved, what each member has done to implement the strategy and summary of any SARS
- **Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)** - SSAB is required to conduct SARs in certain circumstances & to have process in place to receive and review SAR referrals

#### 5. Healthwatch Salford (HWS)

Safeguarding has two main dimensions:

- proactive safeguarding, for instance ensuring that services are of sufficient quality to protect people's dignity and rights, that people know how to keep themselves safe and how to get help if they need it; and
- responsive safeguarding, for instance that people know how to alert safeguarding specialists if there are concerns about harm and abuse to individuals or groups.

HWS has potentially a significant role to play in empowering people to speak out on their own behalf and wherever they see signs that others' right to safety and protection are being breached.

HWS will continue to implement its own protocol for staff and volunteers to raise issues of urgent concern in relation to safety. This includes guidance on:

- When to raise issues of concern with safeguarding leads/relevant service to secure someone's immediate safety.
- When to raise issues with the local authority and the police.
- What to do if someone raises a concern but does not wish information to be passed on.

#### 6. Salford Safeguarding Adults Board working in partnership with Healthwatch Salford

It is important that SSAB has effective links with other key partnerships in the locality to share information and work plans.

Healthwatch is specifically referred to in the Care Act Statutory guidance as a partner who the SSAB must consult with in relation to the strategic plan and the annual report to ensure that the views of the community raising concerns via Healthwatch are heard and reflected in the SSAB's priorities.

## Principles of Cooperation

Healthwatch Salford and Salford Safeguarding Adults Board agree that their working relationship will be guided by the following principles:

- Respect for each organisation's independence
- Openness and transparency
- Working together to resolve issues and challenges as soon as possible in a supportive way

## Partnership working

It is key that Salford Safeguarding Adults Board and Healthwatch Salford understand each other's roles to ensure effective partnership working. Identified areas for partnership working include:

- HWS Informing Salford Adults Safeguarding Board if there are any concerns about services and asking it to consider issues in more detail if needed.
- HWS sharing local intelligence and data to support SSAB with awareness raising and to consider specific areas of concern, such as reports, case studies, surveys of patients and service users and other members of the public.
- HWS reports could be effective in supporting the work of the SSAB to challenge each other as partners on the Safeguarding Board.
- HWS when appropriate will use evidence and information from Salford Safeguarding Adults Board to influence its work.
- HWS will report any specific safeguarding concerns relating to an individual to the Adult Social Care Contact Centre in the first instance (as per the local policy and procedure).
- HWS will report any specific concerns relating to a provider service to CQC in the first instance and follow the correct procedure in the safeguarding policy if there are specific safeguarding concerns relating to individuals

## Protocol for partnership working

- HWS are a member of the SSAB and will attend SSAB meetings as far as practicable.
- Healthwatch Salford will contribute to task and finish groups/subgroups as appropriate. In the absence of a rep attending meetings, papers can be sent to the Chief Officer who will ensure actions/responses are dealt with as appropriate.
- It is recognised that other less formal ways of communicating will also be invaluable, and as such HWS will contact the SSAB Business manager and arrange meetings if they have any concerns where they are seeing themes/trends or issues that need raising to the SSAB.

HWS will also contribute to the annual report (if requested) and be consulted on the strategy and action plan outlining the safeguarding priorities of the SSAB for the coming period. Reviewed 11/10/2022 by JB, SSAB and SC, HWS