

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) June 2025 Meeting Summary

Date	12 th June 2025
Time	9.30am until 12.00pm
Venue	Walkden Gateway
Chair	Francine Thorpe
Minute Taker	Hilary Byles (Copilot AI used)
Agenda planned by	Jane Bowmer/Francine Thorpe

Item 1 – Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair (FT) welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. No declarations of interest were made.

Item 2 – Minutes/Action Log

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record. The action log was reviewed and updated.

Item 3 – Business Manager’s Update

JB provided a comprehensive update covering key developments, reports, and planning items.

- Interim Chief Executive Appointment:
 - Stephen Young has been appointed as Interim Chief Executive of Salford City Council, joining from Halton.
- SSAB Terms of Reference:
 - The updated Terms of Reference were circulated and formally approved with no changes to content.
- Exception Reports from Statutory Partners:
 - A standard template will be distributed 6 weeks before board papers are due, with responses expected 1 week prior. Submissions should be concise and bullet-pointed. All reports must go through NCA governance before reaching the Board. This process will begin from the next Board cycle.

Item 4 – Draft SSAB Annual Report 2024/2025

The draft annual report was reviewed in preparation for sign-off and publication. The report will follow last year's format, including a statutory SARs section. ASC's contribution is pending and will be added shortly. Submission to CQC is due by 27th June. NCA's annual report, due 19th June, will inform SSAB content. The group agreed to publish the SSAB report with NCA content added later.

- Action: Insert selected quotes from the existing VOTA report.

Item 5 – Voice of the Adult (VOTA)

KDR presented an overview of the VOTA process, which captures the lived experiences of adults recently safeguarded. It combines quantitative and qualitative data and is reported quarterly to SEG and the Board. This year, all qualitative feedback is included in the annual report. Participation is selective; expanding the sample size is a goal.

- Actions:
 - CL and MS to encourage greater ASC team participation.
 - MS and CL to reinforce proactive communication within ASC teams.
 - Issue of contacting families posthumously to be discussed outside the meeting.

Item 6 – Verbal Update from Adult Social Care

BW provided an update on the upcoming CQC inspection. The first stage involves compiling an evidence library by 27th June. A site visit is expected around October or November. Inspectors will review selected cases and conduct focus groups with frontline staff. ASC is considering how to incorporate partner feedback. Board members may be interviewed.

Item 7 – Salford City Council Housing Strategy

JC presented the approved Five-Year Housing Strategy, developed through a multi-agency approach. It reframes housing policy into a 'Good Homes' vision, focusing on safety, inclusion, and health equity. Strategic priorities include increasing affordable housing, ensuring the right housing mix, improving standards, promoting sustainability, and supporting residents and communities.

- Actions:
 - Further discussion on the Renters Reform Bill to be scheduled.
 - JL to circulate additional information on the Bill.

Item 8 – Overview of GMMH Forensic Units (Edenfield)

AY provided an update on improvements at Edenfield. Male secure pathways are open; the female pathway is delayed but now fully staffed. Patients are being repatriated locally.

Organisational culture has improved, with stronger governance and external oversight. Positive feedback has been received from CQC and the Chief Nurse of England.

- Action: Ongoing reporting of early warning metrics to the Board.

Item 9 – ICB Reforms

MW updated the Board on ICB reforms, including a 50% cost reduction mandate and the potential removal of safeguarding functions. Concerns were raised about the loss of local expertise and statutory responsibilities. The Board emphasized the need for safeguarding representation and ongoing monitoring.

- Actions:
 - JB to update the risk register.
 - ICB reforms to remain a standing agenda item.

Item 10 – Information to Share with Other Boards/Partnerships

SEG items will be discussed as noted. ICB reform concerns will be raised at the Safeguarding Chairs and Business Managers Network.

Item 11 – SSAB Risk Register

JB raised whether PiPoT should be added to the risk register. The Board agreed the process is still developing but not yet embedded. It was suggested that identifying it as a risk could support the CQC inspection.

- Action: JB to draft risk entry wording and liaise with MS.

Item 12 – Any Other Business (AOB)

- RCRP Case: ND referenced a death in Durham linked to RCRP. Learning will be shared across areas.

- Actions:
 - ND to share the report with JB.
 - JS to incorporate learning into GM Suicide Prevention workstream.
 - Retirements: JL and SP are stepping down. FT expressed thanks for their contributions.
 - New Appointments: Andy Williams will join the Board in September.
 - National Update: FT reported a renewed national focus on homelessness from the National Chairs Meeting.