

Bitesize Briefing: Safeguarding Adults Boards



Scan to
visit the
GSAB
website.



1 What is a Safeguarding Adults Board?

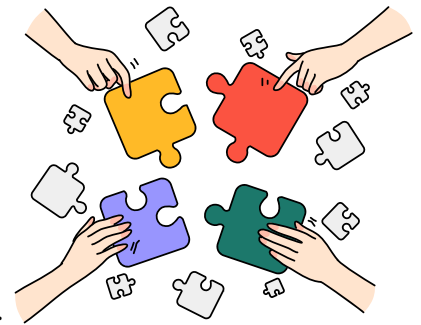
A Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a statutory partnership set up under the Care Act (2014). SABs exist because no single organisation can safeguard adults at risk alone. Adults often receive support from:

- ✓ Adult Social Care
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Voluntary & Community Organisations
- ✓ Health Services
- ✓ Police

You don't have to work directly with service users to make a difference to safeguarding.

Safeguarding Adults Boards exist to:

- ✓ Bring those organisations together.
- ✓ Established shared expectations for safeguarding.
- ✓ Improve how organisations work together to protect adults.
- ✓ Identify learning when the system does not work as well as it should.



2 Functions of the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

GSAB provides strategic leadership and oversight for safeguarding adults in Gateshead. Its key functions are to:

Agree how safeguarding should work across all partners.



Promote consistent, lawful and ethical practice.



Review serious cases through Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs).



Identify learning themes, risks and gaps in systems.



Provide challenge when safeguarding arrangements are not effective.



GSAB looks at patterns, systems, and learning rather than individual case performance.

3 Mythbusting the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

There are some responsibilities that remain organisational. The GSAB does not:

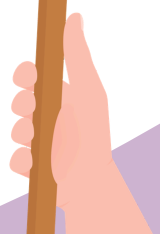
Manage individual safeguarding cases.

Carry out disciplinary action.

Decide whether a referral meets criteria for a Section 42 enquiry.

Line manage staff.

MYTHS



Bitesize Briefing: Safeguarding Adults Boards



The Chair's independence is key to the GSAB's credibility and fairness.

4 Roles within the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

The Independent Chair

Our independent chair – Nicola Bailey (pictured) – provides independent leadership, ensures challenge and accountability across partners, maintains focus on learning rather than blame, and makes final decisions on whether a SAR takes place/the acceptance of SAR findings.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not just the Safeguarding Team's.

Partner Agencies

Partner agencies include Adult Social Care, Health, Police, Housing etc. Their membership of the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board requires them to share responsibility for safeguarding adults, bring intelligence, learning and challenge, implement board-agreed actions into their organisations, and ensure that safeguarding is embedded in their day to day work.

The Safeguarding Business Unit

The Safeguarding Business Unit coordinates and supports the GSAB's work; it ensures that statutory duties are met, and it oversees: Safeguarding Adults Reviews, learning and improvement activity, and policies and procedures. The Safeguarding Business Unit also acts as a link between frontline practice and strategic decision-making, turning learning into actionable system change.

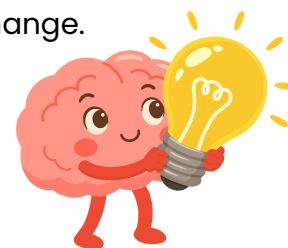


SafeguardingBoardsBusinessUnit@gateshead.gov.uk

5 What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

SARs **are not** about...

SARs **are** about...



Blaming individuals.

Hindsight judgement.

Focusing only on 'what went wrong'.

Preventing similar harm from occurring in the future.

Understanding why decisions were made at the time.

Improving policies, pathways and joint working.

Identifying missed opportunities or gaps in systems.

Learning from SARs often comes from...

6 Your Role in Safeguarding

Safeguarding is only as strong as the systems behind frontline practice. It relies on...

- **Accurate information and clear recording;**
- **Timely communication;**
- **Good organisational support;**
- **Effective processes.**



Lack of Joined-Up Information



Capacity & Consent



Assumptions Between Agencies



Thresholds & Escalation

The SAB ensures that organisations work together to keep adults safe; **every role** contributes to that system.



Admin, business support, commissioning, finance, quality and governance staff contribute to how quickly concerns are shared, how decisions are recorded, how learning is acted upon, and how systems are maintained.