

# Warwickshire Safeguarding

Strategic Plan  
2019-2021



Warwickshire  
Safeguarding

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Warwickshire Safeguarding has introduced a new model for safeguarding which allows it to develop a family focused approach to working across the wider policy and partnership landscape. The model develops new ways of working and identifies opportunities that reduce duplication and improve practice and outcomes for children, young people and adults across the safeguarding pathway.

Warwickshire Safeguarding new arrangements have been built on the strengths of the previous arrangements under Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) and Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

**Excellent practice is the norm**

**Partners work collaboratively to achieve the same end goals**

**Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively**

**There is early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues**

**Learning is promoted and embedded**

**Information is shared effectively**

**The public can feel confident that children and adults are protected from harm**

The production of a Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement. The Strategic Plan sets out our shared vision and actions that will help keep children, young people and adults at risk safe and protected from abuse and neglect.

The Strategic Plan provides an overview of local safeguarding arrangements under the overarching umbrella of Warwickshire Safeguarding and sets out its strategic priority areas of focus for 2019-2021.

## 2. WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING

Warwickshire Safeguarding is responsible for ensuring practice is compliant with the legislation governing the safeguarding of children, young people and adults.

The statutory duties associated with the safeguarding of children and young people is defined below:

	Legislation	Context
<b>Safeguarding Children &amp; Young People</b>	<p><b>The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, places new duties on key agencies in a local area to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.</b></p> <p><b>“Everyone</b> who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ protecting children from maltreatment</li> <li>○ protecting children from maltreatment</li> <li>○ preventing impairment of children's health or development ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care</li> <li>○ taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes”</li> </ul>	<p>Individuals, organisations and agencies must ensure effective safeguarding is achieved by putting children at the centre of the system and by every individual and agency playing their full part. A child-centred approach to safeguarding is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ keeping the child in focus when making decisions about their lives and working in partnership with them and their families.</li> <li>○ Following the principles of the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 - that state that the welfare of children is paramount and that they are best looked after within their families, with their parents playing a full part in their lives, unless compulsory intervention in family life is necessary.</li> <li>○ Recognising that children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their day-to-day lives. Practitioners should put the needs of children first when determining what action to take</li> </ul>

The safeguarding of adults is governed by the Care Act 2014 which is defined below:

	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Context</b>
<b>Safeguarding Adults</b>	<p><b>The Care Act Statutory Guidance published in October 2014 under Section 14.7 describes adult safeguarding as:</b></p> <p>“protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time, making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances”</p>	<p>The Care Act 2014 identifies the aims of adult safeguarding as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ stop abuse or neglect wherever possible;</li><li>○ promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned;</li><li>○ prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect</li><li>○ to adults with care and support needs;</li><li>○ raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect;</li><li>○ safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live;</li><li>○ 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</li><li>○ safety or well-being of an adult;</li><li>○ address what has caused the abuse or neglect.</li></ul>

### 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Warwickshire Safeguarding have identified the following strategic priorities which will be the focus of its work throughout 2019-2021. Warwickshire Safeguarding will seek to gain assurances that safeguarding arrangements across the partnership are effective in helping to keep children, young people and adults with care and support needs safe from abuse and neglect and achieving positive outcomes:



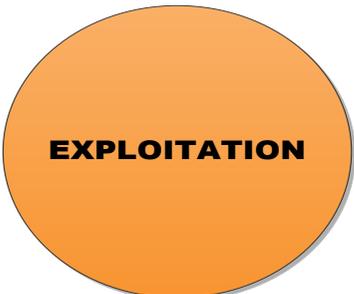
#### EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING

- **Core safeguarding practice** is effective in keeping children, young people and adults safe
- Professionals have a clear understanding of their **roles and responsibilities** in keeping children, young people and adults safe and have attended safeguarding training
- **Safeguarding referral pathways** are understood and used appropriately
- **Safeguarding policies, procedures** are understood and adhered to in practice
- **Safeguarding assessments** are clear, timely and proportionate to the risks posed to children, young people and adults
- **Information sharing** across partner agencies is timely, effective and helps to inform safeguarding actions
- **Children, young people, adults, families/carers** inform safeguarding outcomes



#### PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

- Early help support is **timely and effective** and referral pathways are clear and accessible
- Prevention work is **person-centred** and empowers individuals to make appropriate choices and supports them to manage risks
- Professionals actively encourage **co-production** to allow children, young people and adults to participate in developing solutions to challenges they face
- **Risk management** within prevention and early intervention work is robust
- **Signposting** to independent support, advice and advocacy is clear and timely and helps to build future resilience
- **Partnership data** is shared and helps inform prevention and early intervention work. This must include mapping of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers



#### EXPLOITATION

- Safeguarding children, young people and adults from all forms of exploitation is **effective and achieves good outcomes** for individuals
- **Professionals are confident** in identifying and managing cases of all forms of exploitation and assessing the impact of abuse on the child, young person or adult
- **Core safeguarding training** includes impact of abuse and exploitation on children, young people and adults and provides professionals with tools and resources to assess risks
- **Referral pathways** are widely understood and used appropriately
- **Contextual safeguarding** is used to identify vulnerability factors and potential risks as part of the needs assessment and addressing these as part of the support planning process
- Children, young people and adults are enabled to **voice** their own concerns and problems, and their own ideas on how exploitation might be prevented
- **Information sharing** between partner agencies is timely and appropriate and used to inform decision making



## 4. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Warwickshire Safeguarding governance structure is illustrated below:



**Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board** is the strategic decision-making body overseeing the coordination of local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together. It is chaired by an independent Chair and is responsible for:

- Agreeing and communicating Warwickshire Safeguarding’s priorities and commissioning intentions for safeguarding children and adults through the publication of its strategic plan
- Receiving and considering reports from the following:
  - Safeguarding Children’s and Adults’ Partnership Groups and the work of the Quality Learning and Improvement Hubs, including audit findings
  - Subgroups; and
  - Task and Finish Groups
- Ensuring level of effective independent oversight and challenge within safeguarding reviews
- Agreeing the annual report for publication

**Warwickshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Group and Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Group** draws on the wider membership of the former Warwickshire Safeguarding Children’s Board and Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board. These groups will be instrumental in contributing to the work of the Quality Learning and Improvement Hubs, which have been designed to quality assure safeguarding practice across the partnership. Ensuring lessons learned from safeguarding reviews and any thematic strategic reviews and audits are cascaded widely across partner organisations and recommendations for improvements in policy, procedure and practice identified.

**Subgroups** are accountable to Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board and responsible for progressing the delivery of Warwickshire Safeguarding’s strategic priorities which cover both children and adult related issues. The subgroups draw on membership which cuts across the work of adult and children safeguarding and ensures effective working relationships with key stakeholders, partners agencies, service users and professionals.

**Quality Learning and Improvement Hubs** provide independent scrutiny and challenge on the appropriateness and robustness of safeguarding policies, procedures and practice across the partnership. These hubs are accountable to Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board and responsible for working with frontline operational leads and managers from across Warwickshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Group and Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Group to provide assurance on the effectiveness of safeguarding practice, service user engagement and compliance with safeguarding policy and procedures.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

Warwickshire Safeguarding recognises the strength of local partnership working rests on safeguarding partners working collaboratively, to ensure a systems wide approach to safeguarding across Warwickshire providing strategic and operational insight. Its membership comprises of the following partner agencies

Local Authority	Youth Justice Service
Police	Trading Standards
Health (Clinical Commissioning Groups)	Healthwatch
Health (Providers for Hospitals, Community and Mental Health)	Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA)
Care Quality Commission (CQC)	Warwickshire Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP)
National Health Service England (NHSE)	Barnados
West Midlands Ambulance Service	Age UK
Fire Service	Citizen's Advice Bureaux
Public Health	Voiceability
District & Borough Councils (Housing & Licencing)	Faith Groups
Probation	Care Homes Forum
Education (Providers – schools, early years, colleges and FE)	Carer's Forum
CAFCASS	Lay Members

Warwickshire Safeguarding also maintains the option to request representatives from other agencies/organisations to assist with particular areas of partnership work.

The membership also includes the Lead Member, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health and Lead Member, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

## **6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND OVERVIEW**

Each subgroup will develop work plans to correspond with the strategic priority areas of work; defining specific activities, timelines, ownership and success measures. They are responsible for monitoring and reviewing performance of their work plans and identifying and reviewing risks.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board will be responsible for reviewing performance against the Strategic Plan and ensuring that performance is evidence based; outcomes focused and places children, young people and adults at risk of abuse and neglect at the centre of everything we do as a safeguarding partnership. Each subgroup will provide regular performance updates, which will inform the development of Warwickshire Safeguarding's Annual Report.

## **7. VOICE OF THE CHILD, YOUNG PERSON AND ADULT**

Warwickshire Safeguarding will proactively engage children and adults within the work of the safeguarding partnerships through existing forums and groups, such as The Youth Council, Care Leavers Forum, Age UK, Healthwatch and others.

The work of the Quality Learning and Improvement Hubs includes provision for collecting feedback from children and adults through existing mechanisms and bespoke feedback events.

Partners and relevant agencies are expected to capture the voices of children and adults in their work. This will be shared through the work of the Quality Learning and Improvement Hubs and will be subject to challenge and scrutiny to ensure shared learning.

**For further information about Warwickshire Safeguarding please visit**

**[www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)**

