



Warwickshire
Safeguarding
Adults Board

Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report
2025-2026



www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk

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Purpose of the Annual Report

The publication of the annual report is a statutory requirement in accordance with the Care Act 2014, for all safeguarding adults boards across the country.

Its purpose is to set out the work of the safeguarding adults boards across the year, giving attention to key areas of practice, emerging issues and priorities for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and / or neglect.

The report will summarise the work being undertaken within the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board's annual report covers the period 1st April 2025 to the 31st March 2026 and provides an overview of the work undertaken during the year to safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. At the heart of this report is a commitment to transparency, accountability and above all, the protection of the most vulnerable adults and families in our county. The safeguarding system across Warwickshire is robust and the report highlights the excellent work undertaken every day by dedicated staff.



Foreword from the Independent Chair and Scrutineer

I'm delighted to welcome you to Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board's (WSAB) Annual Report reflecting on the work of the partnership throughout 2025-2026.

The formal separation of the combined children and adults safeguarding partnership in Warwickshire in 2024 created an opportunity for WSAB to re-focus on reviewing specific issues impacting adults with care and support needs. The newly published WSAB Strategic Plan details our strategic priorities for 2025-2028 framed by our vision to "Work with partners and communities to safeguarding people's right to live free from abuse and neglect, ensuring their views and wishes inform their safeguarding outcomes".

Whilst we remain committed to adhering to our statutory responsibilities as a Safeguarding Adults Board to adults with care and support needs, we have demonstrated our commitment to addressing a broad range of issues that impact on the overall safety and well-being of the wider adult population, including work on homelessness, self-neglect, and initiatives such as the relaunch of the Think Family Protocol, reflecting our focus on holistic, person-centred safeguarding across the county.

Our membership is diverse and includes statutory partners and a whole range of key professionals who work with vulnerable adults who are at risk of abuse or neglect. This brings a much-welcomed breadth and depth of information sharing to our meetings, with partners contributing regular updates, sharing learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and providing insight from across social care, policing, health, housing and the voluntary sector. We are now in a strong position to move forward, developing our work around safeguarding our adult population.

Our first year of board meetings have been vibrant and engaging, and I am thankful to our partners for their active participation. We have established our subgroups, agreed our TORs and reported back on our work to the main board.

I am very excited for the future of our board. Our membership is representative, and our discussions are both challenging and supportive. I remain very grateful to our partners for their continued support in ensuring they both praise and challenge practice and share learning within their respective areas of expertise.

This year's annual report highlights several important developments, resources and awareness initiatives that support our shared commitment to safeguarding adults across Warwickshire.

The relaunch of the Think Family Protocol, a joint commitment between the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to reinforce the importance of working holistically with individuals and families, recognising that safeguarding risks rarely sit neatly with either adults or children alone.

In the coming year we look forward to engaging with the findings of the Casey Review into Adult Social Care and the National Adult Safeguarding Board. This new oversight body was established in England in June 2026 to improve the safety and protection of adults at risk of abuse and neglect. The board is updating the Care Act 2014 statutory guidance to improve practice in areas like homelessness, substance use, and transitional safeguarding.

Recommendations include strengthening safeguarding systems for vulnerable adults in order to address concerns identified repeatedly in reviews. Such concerns are frequently treated as isolated local problems, without national scrutiny, action or consequences. Baroness Casey's recommendations to address this are very welcome.

I am hopeful you will find this annual report informative and useful in supporting your work in keeping adults safe from abuse or neglect.

Elaine Coleridge-Smith

Independent Chair and Scrutineer, Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board

1. Introduction to Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Our Role

The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities, health services, police and other agencies to develop and review effective safeguarding arrangements for adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Under this legislation, the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) is responsible for coordinating and monitoring safeguarding activity across partner agencies to ensure adults in Warwickshire are protected.

As set out in the Care Act 2014, WSAB focuses on adults who:

- have needs for care and support;
- are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs, are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding means helping adults to live safely and protecting their right to be free from abuse and neglect.

WSAB is responsible for ensuring that the six safeguarding principles underpin all safeguarding activity and are consistently applied by professionals working with adults. These principles promote empowerment, prevention, proportionate responses, protection, partnership working and accountability, helping to safeguard adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

In addition, as per the requirements of the Care Act 2014, WSAB has a statutory responsibility to:

- Develop a strategic plan
- Publish an annual report
- Conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

Our Governance

WSAB partnership consists of both statutory and non-statutory organisations. Members are senior leaders from organisations responsible for effective multi-agency practice, policy, and procedures to safeguard adults from abuse. The safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults with care and support needs in Warwickshire.

WSAB has an independent chair and scrutineer to enhance scrutiny and challenge and to hold to account the safeguarding partners.

In law, the statutory members of a SAB are defined as:

- The local authority
- The local police force
- The Integrated Care Board (ICB)

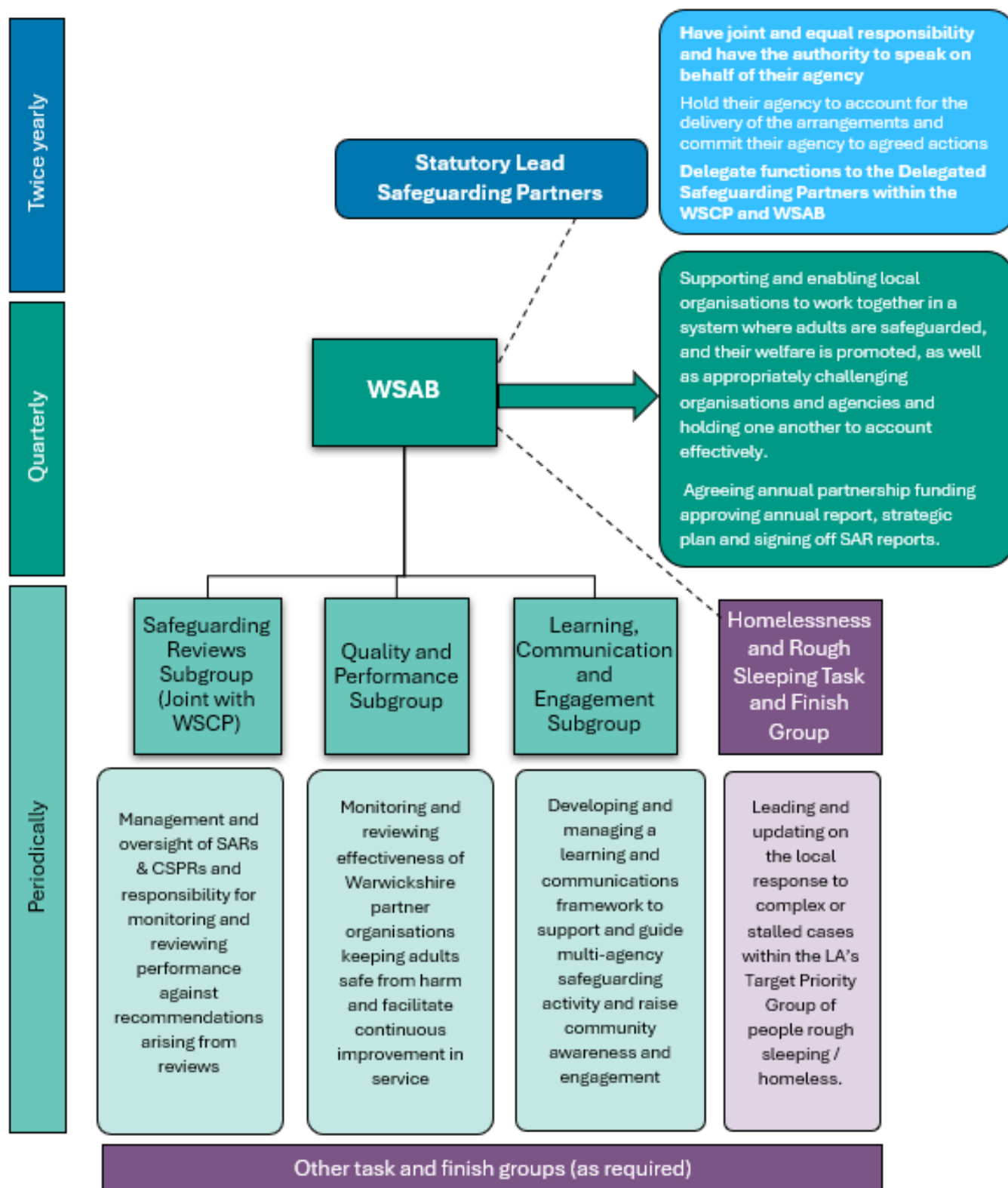
In Warwickshire, we recognise the strength of local partnership working rests on safeguarding partners working collaboratively, to ensure a system-wide approach to safeguarding across Warwickshire providing strategic and operational insight.

In addition to the nominated representatives of the safeguarding partners, WSAB's membership also comprises a representative of each the agencies/services identified below:

• Warwickshire County Council	• Warwickshire Police
• NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board	• South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (Provider)
• Office of the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)	• University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (Provider)
• Warwickshire District & Borough Councils	• George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust (Provider)
• Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust (Provider)	• Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA)
• West Midlands Ambulance Service (Provider)	• Warwickshire Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EqUIP)
• Healthwatch	• The Care Quality Commission
• Age UK, Warwickshire	• Probation Services
• Citizen's Advice	• Warwick District Faith Forum
• Myton Hospice	• Change Grow Live
• VoiceAbility	• Compass Drug and Alcohol Service

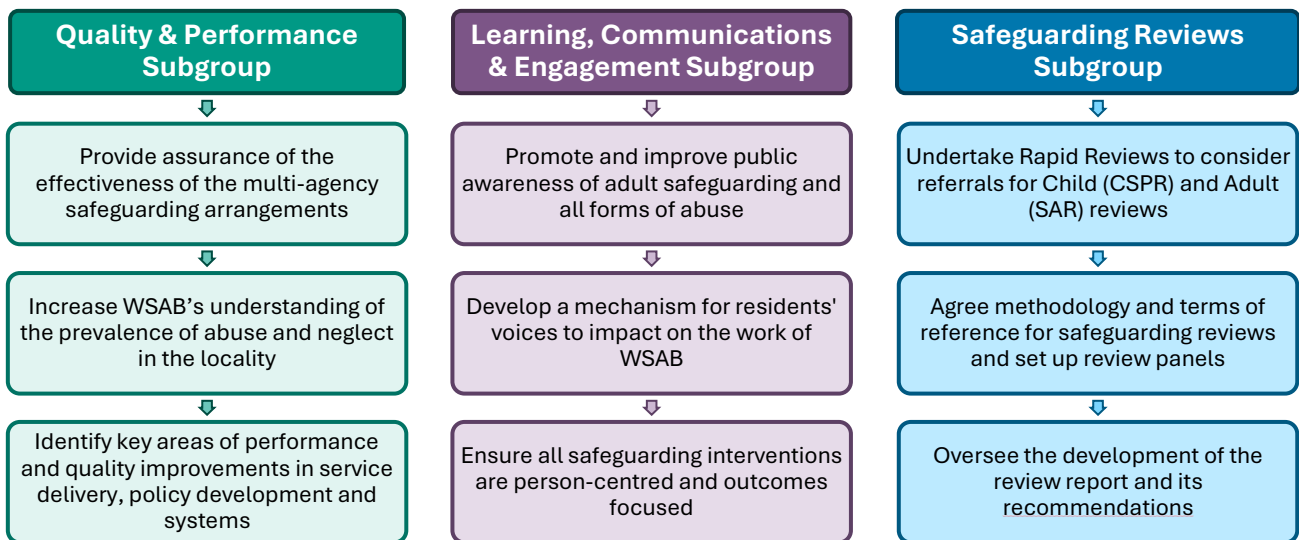


Our Structure



Our Subgroups

WSAB has established the following subgroups. Each of these subgroups is accountable to WSAB and responsible for progressing the delivery of WSAB's strategic priorities.



Each subgroup draws on the wider WSAB membership and ensures effective working relationships with key stakeholders, partners agencies, service users and professionals.

The Role of the Independent Chair

The WSAB has an Independent Chair and Scrutineer to hold the Safeguarding Partners to account. The Independent Chair and Scrutineer is accountable to the Chief Executive of the Council and the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who has a role in reviewing and scrutinising the provision of public services including policies and services for safeguarding adults in Warwickshire.

The role of the Independent Chair and Scrutineer is to:

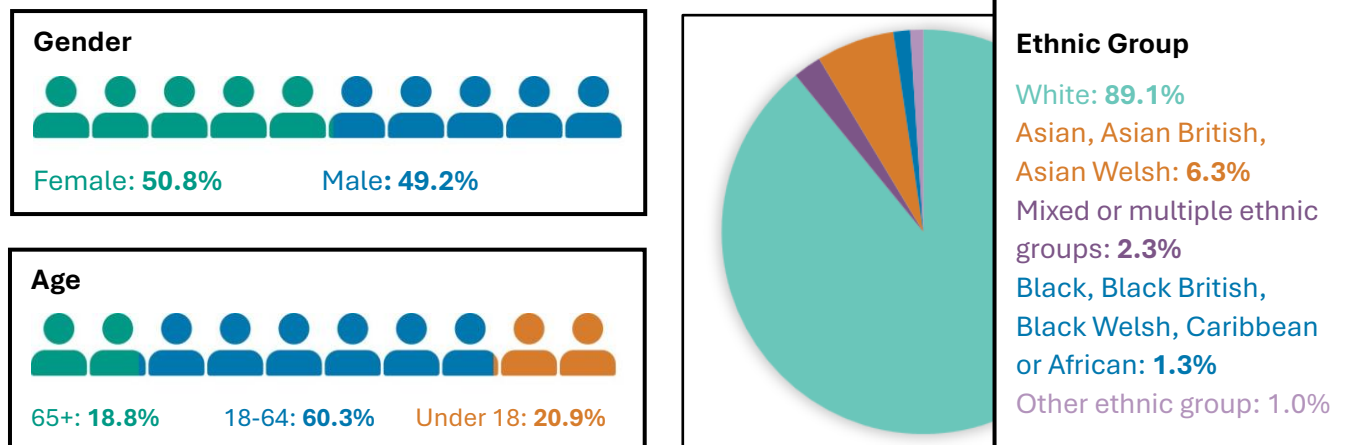
- lead collaboratively;
 - provide a level of independent scrutiny to the Board;
 - offer constructive challenge and hold the safeguarding partners to account;
 - ensure that interfaces with other strategic functions are effective; and
 - act as spokesperson for the WSAB. This will involve working closely with all the safeguarding partners.



2. Safeguarding Landscape (Data)

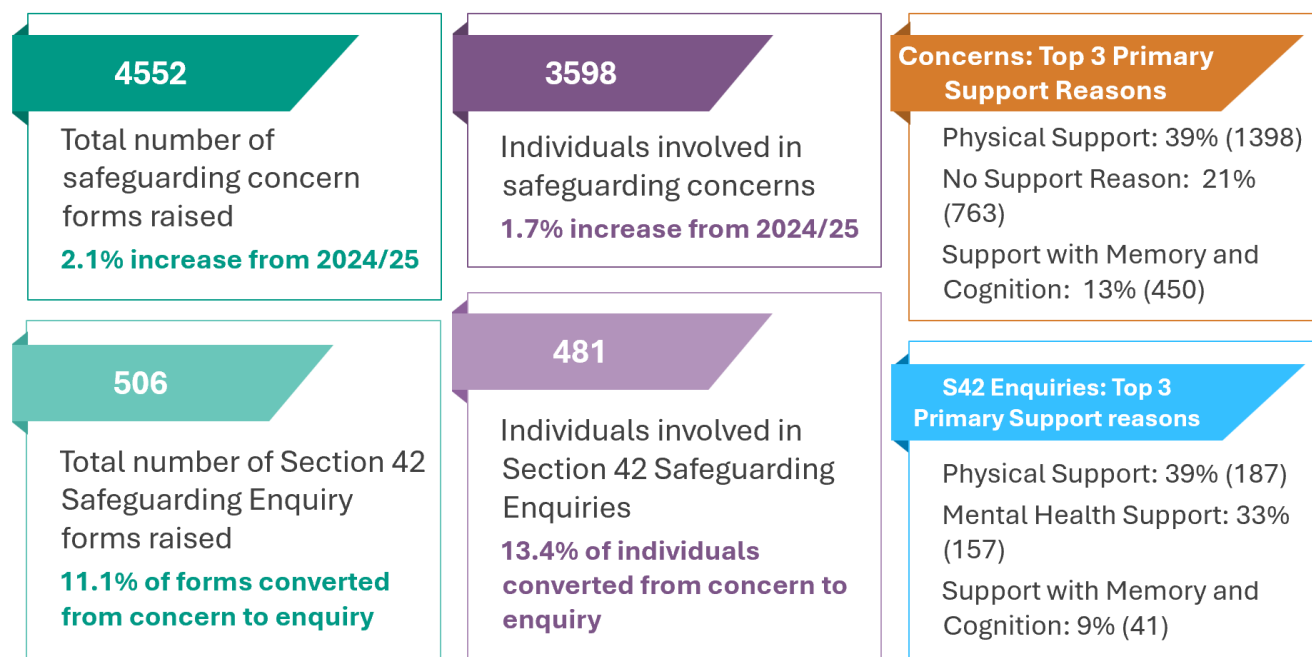
Local Demographics

The estimated population of Warwickshire is **632, 207** people.



Safeguarding Data

Safeguarding Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries: Headline Figures



Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Number of DoLS in Warwickshire in 2025/26: 4548 (2024/25: 3277, please note, the increase is due to DoLS switching over to record on Mosaic in 2025/26.)

Safeguarding Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries: Demographic Breakdowns

Gender

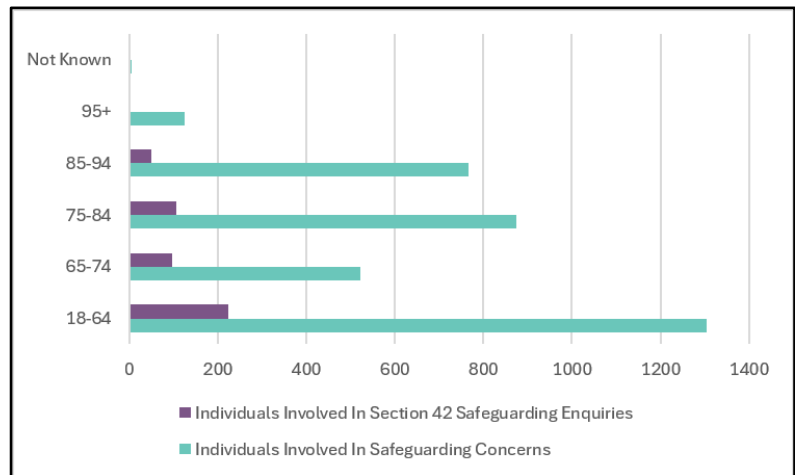
Safeguarding concerns



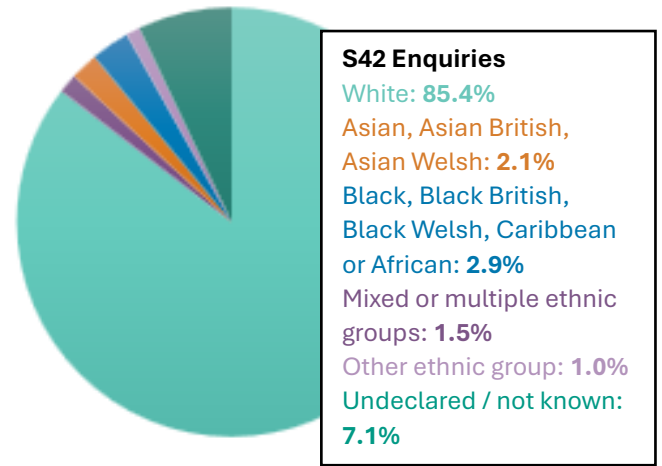
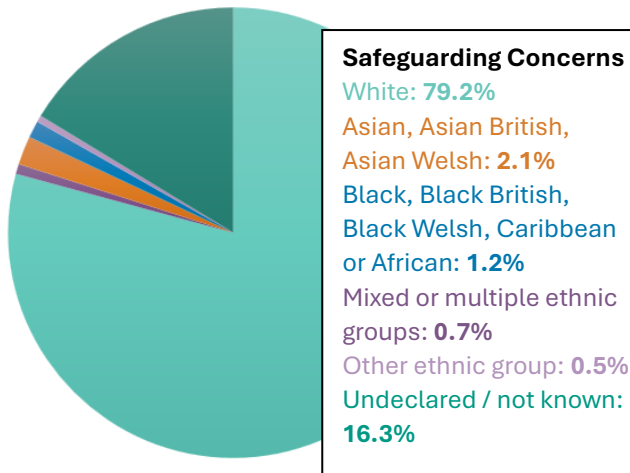
Section 42 Safeguarding enquires



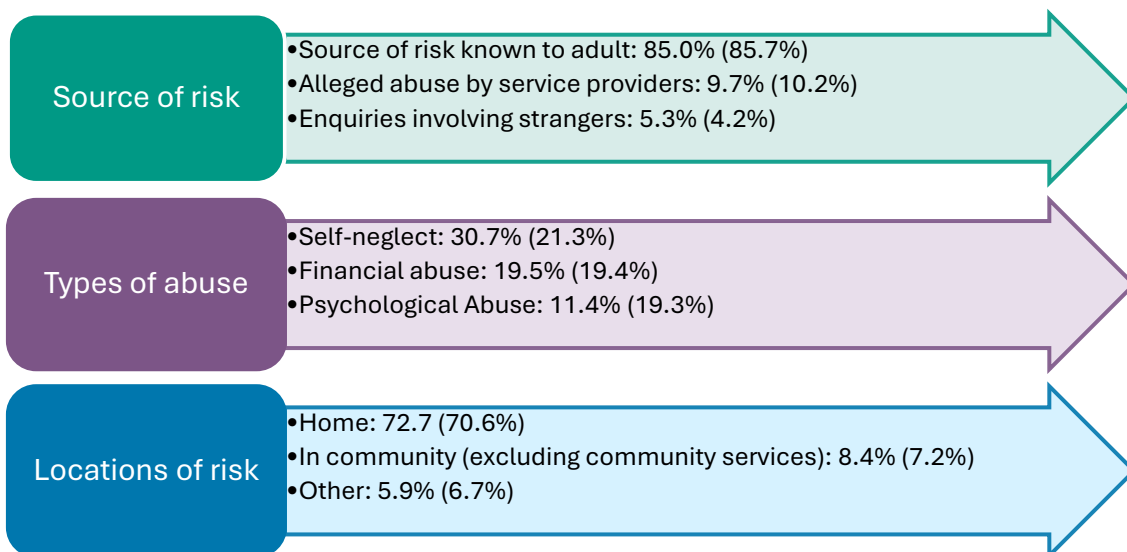
Age



Ethnic Group



Section 42 Enquiries: Type and Source of Risk: Top three... (2024/25 figures in brackets)



3. WSAB Strategic Plan Priorities 2025-2028

The Strategic Plan sets out the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board's (WSAB) vision and agreed strategic priorities for the next three years. It describes how partner agencies will work together to protect adults from abuse and neglect and promote their wellbeing.

WSAB aims to empower its communities by helping people to recognise abuse and neglect, understand how to report concerns, and access the right support. The Board will also support its workforce through clear policies, procedures and guidance to ensure safeguarding concerns are responded to effectively and consistently.

WSAB's core priorities are:

- **Strengthening community awareness and understanding** of local safeguarding systems, building confidence in the identification and reporting of abuse or neglect, and improving responses to concerns at the first point of contact.
- **Working together to promote effective safeguarding practice** that supports early intervention and prevention, helping adults to remain free from abuse and neglect, while creating a culture where partners can provide professional challenge and hold one another to account.
- **Embedding Making Safeguarding Personal** as an integral part of all professional contacts and interventions with individuals who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, ensuring their views, wishes and desired outcomes are identified and reflected in safeguarding responses.

In all its activities, WSAB will promote equality of opportunity, seek to meet the diverse needs and wishes of adults at risk across Warwickshire, and ensure that the voice of local citizens is represented and influences the work of the Board and its subgroups.

4. Progress to Date

WSAB's Strategic Plan provides the foundation for all of our work and sets out our shared ambition to ensure adults with care and support needs are safe, supported and empowered.

The Board's strategic priorities are centred on **strengthening community awareness and understanding of safeguarding, promoting effective safeguarding practice through prevention and early intervention**, and **embedding Making Safeguarding Personal in all safeguarding activity**. Through this approach, the Board aims to increase public and professional confidence in recognising and reporting abuse and neglect, support partners to work together to prevent harm before it escalates, and ensure that adults' views, wishes and desired outcomes remain at the heart of safeguarding responses.

Our collective achievements reflect the commitment of partners from across Warwickshire who continue to work collaboratively despite increasing pressures and competing demands. By fostering a culture of shared responsibility, professional challenge and continuous learning, partner agencies have worked together to strengthen safeguarding arrangements, improve practice and deliver better outcomes for adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

During 2025-2026, WSAB delivered the following activities against its strategic priorities:

Strategic Priority	What we did in 2025-2026
Improving awareness and understanding of local safeguarding practice and services	➤ <i>The Learning, Communication and Engagement Subgroup has refreshed a range of safeguarding posters and leaflets</i> to support WSAB's priority of improving awareness and understanding of local safeguarding practice and services. These resources help raise awareness of safeguarding, promote pathways for reporting concerns, and can be tailored for local use across agencies and communities. Types of Abuse Sexual Abuse This is a relationship or sexual activity where someone has not consented to, or where a person is unable to consent. Domestic Abuse Coercive, threatening or controlling behaviour, violence in a relationship. Neglect This is when people who are supposed to help a person don't look after them properly. This may mean they are without enough food, heating, personal care, money or other people to help. Organisational Abuse Neglect and poor care practice within a care setting or hospital. This can include strict routines, lack of privacy or dignity or no choice about food, dress or activities. Self-Neglect When an adult does not care for their personal hygiene, health or home. This includes a wide range of behaviours. Discriminatory Abuse Also known as hate crime. To make and stir up hatred, targeting physical or mental abuse at a person because of gender, disability, race, ethnic origin or sexuality. Psychological Abuse Threats of abandonment or of harming you or themselves, harassment, verbal abuse, bullying, teasing, gossiping, isolation, humiliation and control. Physical Abuse The use of force, pain or injury, hitting, scolding, shaking, dragging, inducing medication or single use of restraint. Financial Abuse Includes theft, fraud and scamming. In a relationship this is a way of controlling a person's ability to have, use and maintain their own money. Modern Slavery This includes domestic servitude, forced labour and human trafficking within the UK and abroad to be exploited. For more information Visit Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk If you are concerned about adult abuse call 01926 41 20 80 Safeguarding Lead and Contact Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility Adult abuse happens in Warwickshire and it comes in many different forms. If you've noticed something, tell someone about it. If you have a safeguarding concern about an adult who: • is unable to look after themselves, due to the level of their care and support needs, • and is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect Contact Social Care and Support on 01926 412080 In an emergency call police on 999

- Through a **joint consultation event with WSCP, WSAB engaged with representatives from local faith communities** to support the development of safeguarding guidance and toolkits for faith-based organisations. This provided an invaluable opportunity to strengthen engagement with diverse communities and supporting accessible, culturally informed safeguarding practice.
- WSAB participated in the **local safeguarding and wellbeing conference** to raise awareness of safeguarding, engage with professionals and communities, and strengthen partnership working. This contributes to the Board's priority of improving awareness and understanding of local safeguarding practice and services through communication, engagement and the promotion of key safeguarding messages.
- The WSAB Business Team attended both the **South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust Safeguarding Conference and the Warwick District Faith Forum Wellbeing Conference**, to engage with professionals, community representatives and faith groups to promote safeguarding awareness and strengthen partnership working. These events provided opportunities to share safeguarding messages, increase understanding of key topics including mental capacity, victim blaming, mental health and community wellbeing, and encourage collaborative approaches to keeping adults and children safe.
- **Safeguarding Adults Week held 17 – 21 November 2025 delivered a multichannel campaign to raise awareness** of what safeguarding is and where adults can find support if they are experiencing abuse or neglect:

- Produced a **news release** which was published on the WCC website and distributed to countywide media and NHS partners.
- Created a **digital screen graphic** which was displayed in WCC buildings and NHS buildings across Warwickshire.
- Published **organic social media posts** on WCC's Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor channels, which achieved a total of **1.2k** engagements, **1,113.5k** impressions, and **938.5k** reach.
- Produced a **graphic signposting** to support for adults on **25,000** pharmacy bags available at **25** Pharmacy locations for a duration of four weeks. Expected to have achieved approx. **131,000** impacts.
- Delivered a **Let's Talk Warwickshire podcast episode** and accompanying **news release** about safeguarding adults from abuse and neglect. The podcast episode received **51** downloads within its first week.
- Thirteen **bus rear panels were produced** to be visible on key public routes across the county, signposting to the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board website.



- WSAB held its **annual safeguarding adults week** training programme, placing a focus on hidden abuses that adults aged 60 and over may be experiencing. Topics covered included the following themes delivered by partners from Trading Standards, Police, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator; over 100 delegates from different sectors signed up to the sessions:

- Making Safeguarding Personal
- Financial Abuse
- Self-Neglect
- Sexual Abuse Awareness Raising
- Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) meetings

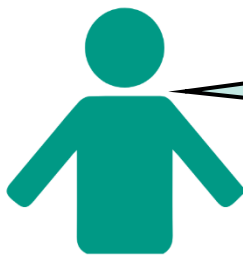
'Very well presented and easy to understand. Will enable me to be more vigilant and informed when working with clients.'



'Excellent training.'

Ensuring safeguarding practice supports effective early intervention and prevention work	➤ WSAB launched a refreshed Quality Assurance Framework, developed in collaboration with partner agencies. The framework provides a comprehensive approach to assessing the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and driving continuous improvement across the partnership. Through a programme of assurance activity, including strategic audits, multi-agency case file reviews, frontline practice audits and the introduction of a new performance dashboard, the framework supports a culture of continuous learning, identifies areas of good practice, and strengthens safeguarding outcomes for adults with care and support needs. ➤ To support the continued implementation of the Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) Framework, WSAB launched a new 7-Minute training Video. The resource provides practitioners with a clear overview of the VARM process, including when and how it should be applied to support adults experiencing high levels of unmanaged risk that may result in serious harm, injury or death. The video forms part of WSAB's ongoing commitment to promoting effective safeguarding practice and improving practitioner confidence in using the framework. ➤ The Warwickshire Think Family Protocol was refreshed through the joint commitment of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The updated protocol reinforces the importance of a 'Think Family' approach, ensuring practitioners and services work together to safeguard children, young people, adults, carers and families. It promotes early intervention, values diversity, supports effective information sharing, and emphasises the importance of listening to the views and wishes of those being supported.
Making Safeguarding Person Centred and Outcome Focused	➤ In November 2025, the Safe and Found Online digital safeguarding platform was launched. This is designed to support the safe and timely location of vulnerable people who go missing, including those living with dementia. The system enables families, carers and individuals to create and securely store important information, such as physical descriptions, medical needs, places frequently visited and recent photographs. It is designed to help emergency services with rapid access to this information during a missing person investigation. The platform supports more effective risk assessment, informs search and rescue activity, and helps improve outcomes for vulnerable adults. ➤ WSAB developed a new 7-Minute Briefing on Executive Functioning and Homelessness to support practitioners across housing, social care, health, policing and other frontline services. The briefing raises awareness of how difficulties with executive functioning, which may be linked to trauma, brain injury, long-term stress or neurodivergence, can affect people experiencing homelessness. It provides practical guidance to help professionals better understand behaviour, improve communication, reduce barriers to engagement, and deliver more effective person-centred support.

Providers told us safeguarding processes worked well overall, supported by strong relationships, clear discussions, and improved oversight. They highlighted better escalation routes, stronger record-keeping, and effective feedback loops, particularly in sharing learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.



'The WSAB provided robust governance, with a clear strategic plan, active subgroups, and an independent chair to ensure scrutiny and accountability.'

CQC Report, February 2026

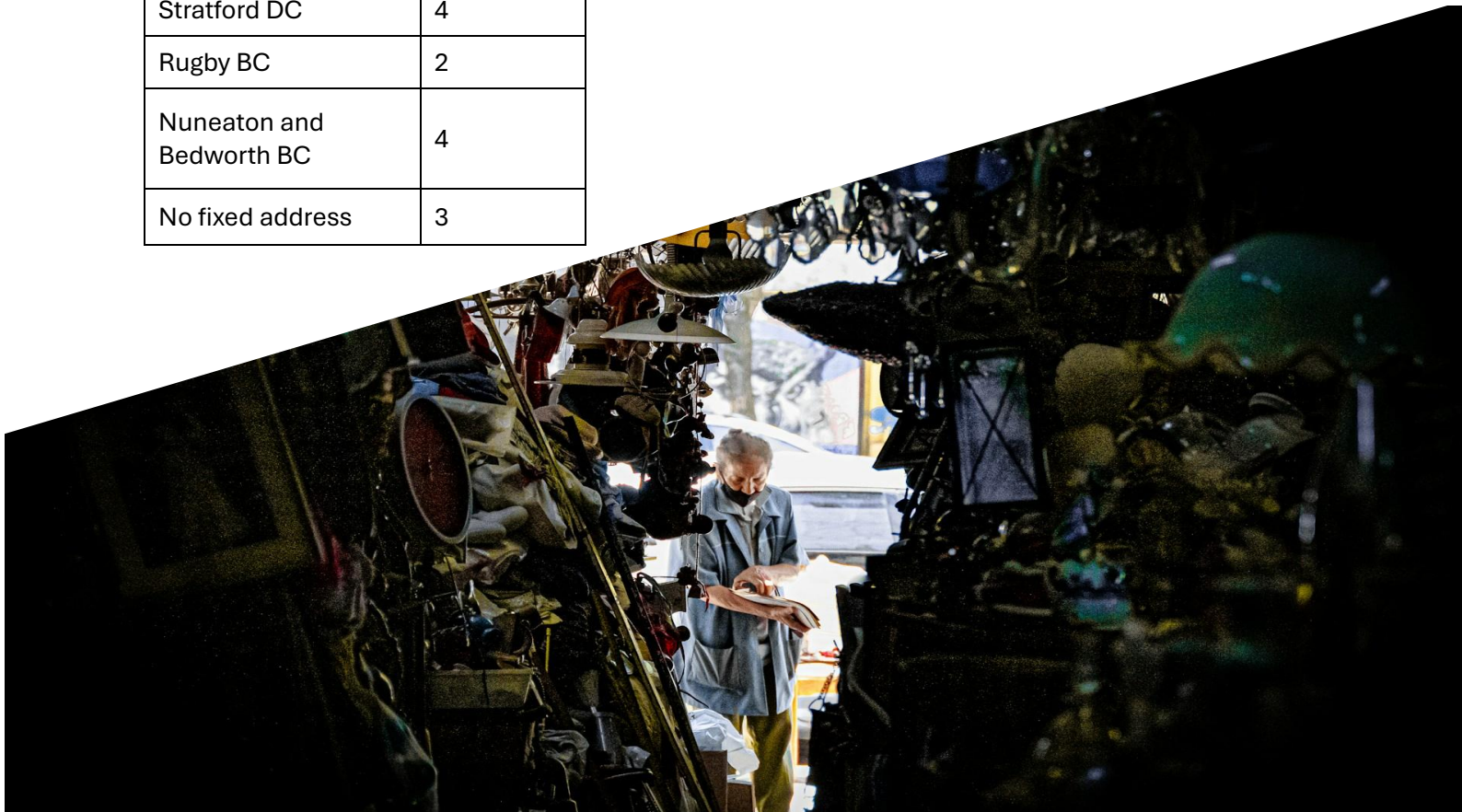
Vulnerable Adult Risk Management: VARM

Since its launch in February 2024, the Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) Framework has supported the early identification and management of adults with mental capacity who are experiencing significant levels of unmanaged risk that could result in serious harm, injury or death.

The framework provides a structured multi-agency approach to assessing risk, engaging with adults and their advocates, and coordinating actions across partner organisations. By promoting information sharing, shared responsibility and collaborative risk management, VARM aims to improve outcomes and wellbeing for adults facing complex risks such as self-neglect, repeated missing episodes, non-engagement with services, and substance misuse.

WSAB has seen a steady increase in the number of VARM referrals being raised indicating a growing confidence in the use of the framework. Between April 2025 and March 2026, the Board received **15** new VARM referrals from across the county (an increase of 5 based on last reporting year):

District or Borough	Number
Warwick DC	2
Stratford DC	4
Rugby BC	2
Nuneaton and Bedworth BC	4
No fixed address	3



Primary concerns triggering the VARM process centred around some of the following themes:

Identified theme	
Self-neglect	Poor hygiene / unsanitary living conditions
Declining services	Food or weight concerns (underweight / overweight)
Hoarding	Homeless
Fire risk	Housing issues
Alcohol dependence / substance use	Fall risk
Mental health issues	Exploitation concerns
Declining health – physical	Other

Other concerns centred around the following areas:

- Poor relationship with family
- Risk to others
- Living in accommodation where others are at risk
- Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) diagnosis and emotional dysregulation
- Isolated
- Literacy difficulties
- Cannot be kept safe as chooses to continue relationship with rapist; fully aware of the risks.

WSAB Partners continue to work with the individual adults and their advocates through this process to achieve better/improved outcomes and minimise risks.

<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/2025/08/27/vulnerable-adult-risk-management-varm/>

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

During the year, WSAB established a dedicated Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Task and Finish Group as part of its refreshed governance structure. Bringing together representatives from district and borough councils, adult social care, support services, Warwickshire Police, Change Grow Live (CGL) and health, the group was created to oversee the delivery of key recommendations and strengthen partnership working in this area.

The group has since provided quarterly updates to the Board, improving understanding of the rough sleeping and homelessness landscape across Warwickshire and highlighting partnership activity to support individuals with complex needs who may be at risk of harm. Key achievements include:

- the development of a shared statement of intent to provide improved levels of support for those with most complex of needs through
 - Social Care input into MDT discussions
 - Seamless service to support most complex of cases with clear pathways of support
 - Increased engagement of support services
- reviewing best practice from other areas and considering how these arrangements can be implemented locally
- creating a local performance dashboard to support oversight of the homelessness and rough sleeping landscape in terms of the most complex cases of need where safeguarding is a specific concern, identifying emerging trends and informing future priorities
- developing learning tools and case studies to support improved understanding of the challenges faced by people who are homeless and rough sleeping
- publishing a 7-Minute Briefing to help support professionals gain a better understanding of 'Executive Functioning' in the context of people who present as homeless or rough sleeping

Moving forward into 2026/2027 the WSAB Task and Finish Group will be looking to build on this year's progress and host a series of training sessions, inviting speakers from other local areas where their approach to working with the homeless and rough sleeping is more advanced.

Statutory Partner Statements

Warwickshire Police

Progress to date

- An increase in multi-agency engagement and meetings including police chairs has led to key initiatives being explored by the service to support the development of a Forensic Medical Examinations protocol for adults where there are concerns, they may have suffered non-accidental injuries.
- Quality assurance activity has supported better understanding of barriers to practice and the identification of improvement activities i.e. victim awareness of referrals and consent.
- Sharing the learning from local SARs across the partnership to support improvements in practice.

Areas for development

- Coordinated and cross-agency training and learning opportunities – supporting each other with learning opportunities to both strengthen joined up working and to share demand and resources for delivery.

Impact of multi-agency working

Ongoing safeguarding has been strengthened by more actions and solutions from all agencies through the organic menu of tactics menu and solutions being less Chair led. This will provide longer term and more effective safeguarding and opportunities for victims to be supported in breaking free of abuse and the environment that leaves them at risk of it.

Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care

Progress to Date

- We have continued to support multi-agency working from the individual level through to VARMs and formal arrangements such as MARAC and MAPPA.
- Our bespoke safeguarding case file audits are now embedded and evidence good practice and Making Safeguarding Personal.
- The assessment by the Care Quality Commission rated Safeguarding as Good describing “strong, well-embedded processes with timely responses, clear accountability, and effective multi-agency collaboration”.
- The rating for Learning Improvement an Innovation was “outstanding” and the evidence for this included learning safeguarding practice, the use of reviews, research and business intelligence.
- We have continued to play an active role in the review of cases, board subgroups and multi-agency initiatives.
- The WSAB Front Door Visit highlighted how effective our work is with good sound systems, skilled and sensitive staff and sound decision making.

Areas for Development

- We will continue to work on homelessness and similar areas of practice relating to hidden disabilities. The focus will be on ensuring wider knowledge of these areas across adult social care and building the skills to work with people who have impaired executive function.
- We will continue to focus on audit and quality assurance with increasing focus on the arrangements delivered on our behalf by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust.
- We will be following the developments of the National Safeguarding Board and looking for opportunities to influence their work as well as responding to their requirements of us.

Top priorities to support WSAB's strategic priorities in 2026-2027

- We will continue to look for ways to strengthen the voice and influence of people who have experienced safeguarding in our work and the work of the board.
- We will ensure our staff are suitably trained in the core essentials as well as building on this with additional learning and development drawing on local and national themes and best practice.

Impact of multi-agency working

- The board has brought a stronger focus on multiple exclusion homelessness and this is widening to other areas of practice with people who have hidden disabilities.
- Lessons learnt from the partnership continue to provide learning which we would not always have identified as a single agency.
- The ongoing links with the Children's safeguarding partnership have promoted learning across children and adult work.

Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (CWICB)

Progress to Date

- CWICB continued to work closely with Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) partners to strengthen safeguarding practice and promote continuous improvement across the health system.
- In line with WSAB priorities, the CWICB supported workforce development through safeguarding training, supervision, and the dissemination of learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), Domestic Homicide Reviews, audits, and local case reviews. This helped improve awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and promote consistent practice across provider organisations.
- The CWICB contributed to multi-agency quality assurance activity, safeguarding networks, and WSAB subgroups, supporting early identification of risk, effective information sharing, and collaborative responses to safeguarding concerns, including self-neglect, domestic abuse, and exploitation.
- Through provider assurance processes and safeguarding governance arrangements, the CWICB continued to promote Making Safeguarding Personal, ensuring that safeguarding practice remained person-centred, outcome-focused, and aligned with the priorities of the WSAB.
- The CWICB delivered a series of PLT sessions to all GPs across Warwickshire to ensure learning from reviews is disseminated.

Areas for Development

During 2026/27, a key area of development will be maintaining effective safeguarding oversight and partnership engagement within a reduced safeguarding team capacity. The CWICB will focus on prioritising statutory responsibilities, strengthening collaborative working with providers and partners,

and identifying opportunities to streamline processes to ensure continued delivery of high-quality safeguarding support and assurance. The CWICB will also continue to support the implementation of the Adolescent Strategy through partnership working, promoting a contextual safeguarding approach, and contributing to improved outcomes for vulnerable adolescents.

Top priorities to support WSAB's strategic priorities in 2026-2027

- The CWICB will continue to promote the work of the Safeguarding Board through the various mechanisms it has in place i.e. PLT sessions held for all GPs across Coventry and Warwickshire.
- We will continue to support the WSAB with raising awareness and making safeguarding personal in the forthcoming year.

Impact of multi-agency working

Working with the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board has strengthened multi-agency collaboration and the sharing of learning, supporting improved safeguarding practice and better outcomes for adults at risk.

5. Safeguarding Adults Reviews

The Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) where an adult with care and support needs has died, or experienced serious abuse or neglect, and there is concern that agencies could have worked more effectively to safeguard them.

During the year, WSAB considered a number of referrals relating to adults who had experienced significant harm or whose deaths were associated with abuse or neglect. Through the review process, the Board seeks to identify learning, promote good practice, and strengthen multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to improve outcomes for adults at risk.

The Board's review activity is overseen by the Safeguarding Reviews Subgroup, a joint subgroup of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The subgroup provides governance and scrutiny of all reviews, ensuring that findings and recommendations are translated into measurable improvements in policy, practice and partnership working. It also monitors the implementation of multi-agency and single-agency action plans, providing assurance to the Board that learning is embedded and that opportunities to enhance safeguarding practice are actioned.

'Lessons learned from SARs were actively shared with frontline teams through training, briefings, and updated guidance, helping to strengthen safeguarding practice across partner agencies.'

'A senior leader told us learning from reviews led to clearer processes for developing and sharing learning plans, with the Principal Social Worker playing a key role in embedding these...'



Feedback from CQC report, February 2026

'A partner shared that, following key learning from SARs, professionals were advised to strengthen their understanding of safeguarding ... by reading briefings on adult self-neglect, ... Mental Capacity Act, and home invasion.'

During the course of 2025-2026 WSAB received 5 SAR referrals from across the county:

- North Warwickshire Borough Council: 1
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council: 1
- Warwick District Council: 1
- Stratford District Council: 2

Whilst none of these referrals met the Care Act 2014 s.44 criteria for a SAR, the following themes were identified and supported the development of learning resources i.e. 7-Minute Briefings to promote wider understanding and application of these topics and use within safeguarding practice:

Identified theme
Experienced homelessness
Care Leaver
Self-neglect
MCA Assessments
Suicide / ideation / self-harm
Mental health issues
Single point of contact/roles and Responsibilities / coordinating care
Substance misuse / alcohol dependency
Neurodivergent adults, EUPD and schizophrenia
Reaching hard to engage adults
Exploitation concerns
Voice of the adult
Consideration of bereavement support

7-minute briefings can be found on the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board website:

<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/7-minute-briefings>

Warwickshire County Council Care Quality Commission assessment, February 2026

‘The move to a dedicated Safeguarding Adults Board in 2024 reflected a commitment to adult safeguarding as a distinct priority. The Board’s Strategic Plan 2025–2028 focused on awareness, prevention, and person-centred practice, with progress monitored through subgroups and regular meetings. Lessons from Safeguarding Adults Reviews were shared through briefings and training, and advocacy referrals were actively supported.’

‘Learning from good practice and when things went wrong was systematic. Case audits, complaints, and compliments were routinely reviewed and used to improve practice. Thematic reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews informed training and policy, with clear evidence of learning being embedded.’

6. Advocacy

Local authorities have a duty to arrange for an independent advocate to be available to represent and support adults who may struggle to understand or participate in social care processes.

Advocacy is a process of supporting and enabling people to:

- Express their views and concerns
- Access information and services
- Defend and promote their rights and responsibilities; and
- Explore choices and options

During 2025-2026, Warwickshire continued to support the following number of individuals through advocacy services. Section 67 advocacy applies where a local authority is required to provide an independent advocate to facilitate a person's involvement in standard social care processes such as care needs or carer's assessments and preparing or reviewing care and support plans. Section 68 advocacy applies to safeguarding processes including Section 42 enquiries and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

Adult Advocacy Subtype	Number of Cases Apr 25 – Jun 25 (Q1)	Number of Cases Jul 25 – Sept 25 (Q2)	Number of Cases Oct 25 – Dec 25 (Q3)	Number of Cases Jan 26 – Mar 26 (Q4)	Total
Warwickshire Care Act: Section 67 (S67)	28	41	50	54	173
Warwickshire Care Act: Section 68 (S68)	11	15	14	12	52
Total	39	56	64	66	225

Feedback from people who have used advocacy services this year includes:

A client who copied the advocate into an email to her MP to say, "I no longer need you, my advocate has helped me understand everything to do with my social care."

"You did well in the meeting, you were very calm and brought up my points clearly. Thank you for your support."

"I can tell that you're different, I really needed to see someone from outside of this place and you came. Thank God you're here."

"Thank you very much for the references to the Care Act guidance. It's been very helpful."



7. Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) remains central to safeguarding practice across Warwickshire. MSP promotes a person-centred approach, ensuring that adults at risk, and where appropriate their advocates, are actively involved in safeguarding processes and that their views, wishes and desired outcomes shape decision-making. By embedding MSP principles across the partnership, agencies are better able to support adults to achieve outcomes that are meaningful to them while promoting wellbeing, choice and control.

The recent Warwickshire CC CQC assessment reported that *‘Staff described a strong culture of strength-based practice. Conversations began openly, and wherever possible, staff spoke directly to the person and involved advocates when needed’*.

During the course of 2025-26, **328** Section 42¹ safeguarding enquiries were concluded:

- **272** individuals/their representatives expressed their desired outcomes
- **17** individuals/their representatives were asked but did not express their desired outcomes

Of those who expressed desired outcomes:

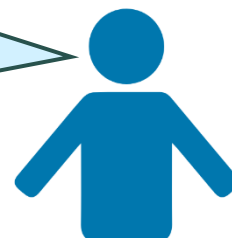
- **142** of the concluded s42 enquires recorded that the individual’s outcomes had been fully achieved
- **84** of the concluded s42 enquiries recorded that the individual’s outcomes had been partially achieved
- **46** of the concluded s42 enquiries recorded that the individual’s outcomes had not been achieved.

Provided below are examples of feedback received from individuals/families/carers sharing their experiences of how support given to their family members was personalised to their goals and wishes/needs:



‘I would especially like to recognise the level of commitment during what has been a very complex and emotional situation for us and my father. The professionalism, patience, and willingness to listen to our concerns without judgement have made an enormous difference to both myself and my family. This has been a challenging journey, and although I was often encouraged by others to “trust in the system,” I am truly grateful that I placed my trust in [the social worker] and the wider team.’

‘Your detailed explanation has been invaluable in helping us understand the position and what steps to take next. More importantly, we truly appreciate the care and empathy you’ve shown throughout. It has meant a great deal to all of us to feel that someone genuinely cared enough to take the time to explain things properly and offer support. Thank you again for your professionalism, kindness, and for going that extra mile for our family.’



¹ A formal adult safeguarding Enquiry (Care Act s42) is the range of actions undertaken or instigated by the Local Authority in response to an abuse or neglect concern in relation to an adult with care and support needs who is unable to protect themselves from the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. The Care Act requires the Local Authority to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made, in cases where the Local Authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

8. Partnership Funding

WSAB is a jointly funded statutory partnership, established in accordance with the Care Act 2014 and supported through contributions from partner agencies. This shared investment reflects the collective responsibility of safeguarding partners to ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across Warwickshire.

In addition to financial contributions, partners provide leadership and expertise through their involvement in Board activity, Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and the chairing and participation of Board subgroups. This collaborative approach enables the Board to deliver its statutory functions and drive continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and outcomes.

WSAB have agreed an operating budget for 2025-2026 of **£228,341** which includes contributions from the following partner organisations:

- ✓ Warwickshire County Council
- ✓ Warwickshire Police
- ✓ Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- ✓ Five District and Borough Councils: North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick
- ✓ Probation Services

The Board's budget is reviewed and agreed annually by partner agencies, ensuring that resources are aligned to statutory responsibilities and strategic priorities. The budget supports the delivery of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), the operation of the WSAB Business Team, and the implementation of the WSAB Business Plan 2025–2028, enabling the Board to fulfil its statutory functions and drive continuous improvement in safeguarding practice across Warwickshire.



9. Looking Forward

This year has seen an extraordinary level of commitment by partners.

During the period of this report WSAB has navigated an unprecedented period of change and I am thankful to our partners for their active participation. It is clear that the coming year will present us with similar challenges.

The political climate is likely to offer opportunities for further growth and development. It will also present us with real risks to the way we manage the safeguarding of vulnerable adults across Warwickshire.

The restructuring of health services and the ICB may impact on the current high level of strategic oversight enjoyed in Warwickshire. The loss of organisational memory along with the risk of transferring work previously undertaken by ICB colleagues to partners needs to be scrutinised and challenged when appropriate.

The uncertain political climate involving discussions around Local Government Reorganisation and devolution will need close scrutiny. It is important that the WSAB does not lose focus of its key statutory objectives during this period of organisational change.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Children Partnership will soon be launching their new website. While the web address will remain the same: www.safeguarding-warwickshire.co.uk there will be changes to many links you may use or have bookmarked. We hope the new website will be easier to use and thank you for your patience while we ensure that all documents are brought up to date.

The Casey Review into Adult Social Care

The Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, chaired by Baroness Louise Casey, established a new oversight body in England in June 2026, to improve the safety and protection of adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

In the coming year, the work of the WSAB will be strongly influenced by this review and its intention to:

- update the Care Act 2014 statutory guidance to improve practice in areas like homelessness, substance use, and transitional safeguarding;
- oversee an urgent review of the legal powers and duties surrounding adult safeguarding;
- build better escalation routes and share lessons learned across local safeguarding systems.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the work of the WSAB – our partnership is strong, vibrant and open to learning and self-improvement. To this end, WSAB looks forward to the challenge of working within a new framework and further developing the strength of our local partnership.



Elaine Coleridge-Smith

Independent Chair and Scrutineer, Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board

GLOSSARY

Safeguarding

Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect, while promoting their wellbeing and respecting their choices.

Abuse

A violation of an individual's human and civil rights. Under the Care Act 2014, abuse can take many forms including physical, emotional, sexual, financial, discriminatory, organisational abuse, domestic abuse, modern slavery, neglect, and self-neglect.

Self-Neglect

A person's inability or unwillingness to care for their personal wellbeing, health, hygiene or surroundings, placing them at risk of harm.

Adult at Risk

An adult who has care and support needs and is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves as a result of those needs.

Care Act 2014

The principal legislation governing adult social care and safeguarding in England. It established Safeguarding Adults Boards and sets out the duties of local authorities and partner agencies to protect adults from abuse and neglect.

Care and Support Needs

Needs arising from illness, disability, age or other circumstances that require support to maintain wellbeing and independence.

Prevention

Taking action to stop abuse, neglect or the need for care and support from developing or worsening.

Advocacy

Independent support that helps people understand information, express their views and wishes, and participate in decisions that affect them.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

An approach to safeguarding that places the person's views, wishes and desired outcomes at the centre of decision-making and safeguarding interventions.

Transitional Safeguarding

An approach that recognises and responds to safeguarding risks experienced by young people as they move from adolescence into adulthood.

Organisational Abuse

Poor care practices, neglect or mistreatment occurring within a service, organisation or institutional setting.

Domestic Abuse

Any incident or pattern of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people aged 16 or over who are personally connected.

Homelessness

A situation where a person has no safe or secure accommodation. Homelessness can increase vulnerability to abuse, neglect, exploitation and poor health outcomes.

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

A statutory partnership established under the Care Act 2014 to coordinate and assure the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. In Warwickshire this function is undertaken by the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB).

Multi-Agency Working

Different organisations working together to safeguard adults, share information appropriately, assess risk and improve outcomes.

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)

A statutory review conducted when an adult with care and support needs has died or experienced serious harm as a result of abuse or neglect, and there is concern about how agencies worked together. The purpose is to identify learning and improve practice.

Section 42 Enquiry

An enquiry undertaken by a local authority when it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult with care and support needs is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.

