



Essex Safeguarding
Adults Board

ESAB Safeguarding Adults Strategy
2024 – 2027

1. Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB) Safeguarding Strategy and Business Plan 2024-2027

1.1 The Care Act, Essex Safeguarding Adults Board and our statutory responsibilities

- 1.1.1 The [Care Act 2014](#) requires local authorities to set up a statutory Safeguarding Adults Board in their area. Membership must include the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Boards and Police, as the three core member agencies. Alongside the core membership ESAB also invites key agencies across Essex, who have a safeguarding remit, as they are vital members and have a key part to play within adult safeguarding and our partnership. A full list of our members can be found in [Appendix 1](#)
- 1.1.2 Statutory Adult Safeguarding Boards must also develop a shared safeguarding strategy, needed to safeguard adults at risk of abuse and neglect and we must report annually, to relevant bodies, on what has been achieved to progress our shared strategic priorities. Necessary actions to support the delivery of the strategy are set out in our 2024-27 Business Plan.
- 1.1.3 ESAB fully embraces the [Six Principles of Safeguarding](#) (Care Act, 2014, Safeguarding Chapter 14, section 14.13) which should guide and inform our approach to the delivery of safeguarding responsibilities by all of our partner agencies across Essex.
- 1.1.4 ESAB leads and holds partners to account for safeguarding adults across Essex which excludes Southend and Thurrock, as they are unitary authorities and have their own Safeguarding Adult Boards. However, the three boards work closely together, sharing various aspects of delivery – such as learning and development. We also share policy and procedural development and safeguarding adult guidance for partners, to ensure consistency and quality in what we can all achieve together.
(The Southend, Essex and Thurrock working arrangement herein is referred to as SET).
- 1.1.5 Whilst the Board's partners hold ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within their own, individual organisations, it is ESAB that generates the independent challenge, shares its influence and seeks assurance and accountability from the individual organisations, to maximise the effectiveness of their safeguarding activity. ESAB's own strategic vision for adult safeguarding, is embedded within our Strategy and the plans of all of our partners. ESAB works to dovetail its strategic direction, complimenting the strategies of other Boards such as Health and Wellbeing, Domestic Abuse, Suicide Prevention and Children's Arrangements. ESAB's Structure and lines of Accountability can be found at [Appendix 2](#).
- 1.1.6 The Adult Safeguarding Strategy and Business Plan therefore sets out our safeguarding partnership's vision, guiding our strategic priorities and delivery objectives for 2024-27. It identifies how ESAB will ensure its statutory responsibilities are met in accordance with [Care Act 2014](#) requirements, enabling our partners to direct and dovetail individual organisational safeguarding adult planning to become embedded into practice and continuous improvement.

- 1.1.7 The Plan details the key actions that ESAB will undertake over three years via the work of the Executive group and Sub-Committees. This is reviewed annually as part of ESAB's governance and quality assurance processes, ensuring that it stays up to date and relevant, taking into account local and national safeguarding adults developments; legislative impact; relevant research outcomes and collaboration outcomes from working with other Statutory Boards.
- 1.1.8 The Plan will be supported by information gathered from various points, such as the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Dashboard, Essex Police data and lessons learnt from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. In time we also hope to be able to access health data from the three Integrated Care Boards, who form part of our safeguarding partnership to develop a more holistic picture across Essex as a whole.
- 1.1.9 Our Safeguarding Business Plan will show which Sub-Committees will lead on specific actions and each Committee will set out a Delivery Plan for ESAB approval. Sub-Committees play a key role in assuring ESAB that organisations are achieving a robust and consistent approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect across Essex and are monitored, with updates provided to the Executive Group and ESAB, on a regular basis (quarterly), ensuring that they are on track with ESAB's expectations.
- 1.1.10 The Plan is also underpinned by the ESAB Constitution which constructs the statutory remit of ESAB, along with our governance arrangements, our Terms of Reference and the reporting structures of both our Executive Group and the Sub-Committees. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of our Board members. A copy of this is available by request, or on our website:
www.essexsafeguardingadultsboard

2. Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

- 2.1 ESAB is committed to embedding the [six key principles](#) of MSP across its partner agencies, ensuring that person-led safeguarding is delivered, enhancing the involvement, choice and control of the individual with care and support needs, as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. This approach underpins and informs ESAB's Strategic Business Plan, and corresponding governance documents. Alongside MSP, ESAB is committed to ensure that all engagement and development of training, policies and guidance covers all areas of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- 2.2 ESAB partners are required to actively be able to influence and direct their agency or organisation in ensuring adults feel safe and are supported to challenge and change abusive situations. There is an expectation that partners will also lead as well as support the development and implementation of safeguarding practices and procedures within their own agency or organisation. While taking forward agreed action plans which prevent and minimise abuse and neglect, and deliver a person-centred, outcomes-focused approach.

3. Our Safeguarding Adult Strategy 2024-27

3.1 Our Vision

Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB) will work in partnership and collaborate to ensure that adults at risk of abuse and neglect are able to live safely, with the rights and freedoms of citizenship.

3.2 Our Mission

ESAB will work together to seek and gain assurance, through effective and transparent processes, to ensure that adults at risk of abuse or neglect are supported to live safe lives through delivering against our priorities of prevention, learning, awareness and quality, and we will hold each other to account

3.3 Our Priorities

Priority 1 – Prevention & Awareness

We will improve the awareness of adults at risk within and across our communities and partner agencies, and we will work to prevent abuse and neglect.

Priority 2 – Learning

We will be open and transparent, sharing lessons learned from safeguarding practice and promote the development of an up to date, competent, skilled and shared workforce.

Priority 3 – Quality

We will assure our own work, learn from experience, and set up processes to give insight into our ongoing commitment to continuously improve safeguarding practices.

3.4 Our Strategic Objectives

Our priorities were developed with our ESAB partners and identify areas of focus for all system partners, whilst all organisations must remain aware of their collective and individual responsibilities with regard to safeguarding an adult at risk.

3.4.1 Objectives - Priority 1: Prevention and Awareness

Objective 1

To educate people and communities by raising awareness of the abuse and neglect of adults at risk (to include our local population, our youth and our influencers) using social media, campaigns and accessible learning.

Objective 2

To enable our communities and residents to access help, support and information about abuse and neglect, building confidence via personal strengths, and focusing on learning for all abilities and levels of understanding.

Objective 3

To engage with, learn and understand, the challenges that our communities face in the prevention of abuse and neglect, supported by our communications and messaging.

3.4.2 To achieve these objectives we will:

Coordinate partnership activities using an evidence-based approach, deploying accessible language and documents that:

- safeguarding awareness amongst the people of Essex is raised with regard to our population, including under-reached groups, who may be at risk of harm and abuse
- engagement is promoted via ESAB, its resources and its subgroups
- good quality and effective training is promoted across the partnership which includes, wherever possible, the voice of lived experience
- Making Safeguarding Personal is embedded in our partner's safeguarding activity

3.4.3 We will measure this by:

- Developing ways to gather and collate feedback from those providing and using services, to measure confidence in those services and to understand their experience of safeguarding
- The use of partnership data to monitor and review the numbers of safeguarding concerns and enquiries in relation to volume, abuse types, key themes and consistency.
- Having made better links with under reached groups to widely promote safeguarding adults at risk
- Developing greater use and understanding of co-production across the ESAB partnership to enable people in Essex to be part of safeguarding development

3.5 Objectives - Priority 2: Learning

Objective 1

To share early learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARS) and continuously review and monitor our processes.

Objective 2

To ensure that we use the outcomes from people's lived experience to develop our own learning, and to inform and influence our own processes and policies.

Objective 3

To develop an evidence base for partner organisational safeguarding training, increasing organisational proximity; accountability; openness and responsibility.

3.5.1 To achieve these objectives we will:

- Develop a way to ensure that the findings from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and other key areas of practice improvement, are implemented and the impact measured
- Produce and share guidance across the multi-agency partnership
- Collaborate with other safeguarding boards across Greater Essex and the eastern region, to identify any recurring themes, to develop and share approaches, where learning can be applied more widely
- Ensure that any actions taken are influenced and advised by the experience of people who have been, or may be at risk of harm, as well as those communities whose voice is not always heard, including carers and people with lived experience

- Continue to build our knowledge of the diversity of our population across Essex, ensuring that our engagement covers all areas of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Use the information we gather to improve practice and promote co-delivery and co-production with partners

3.5.2 We will measure this by:

- By asking partners to demonstrate how they have implemented actions/learning from SARs and the bi-annual self-assessment
- Developing a way to evidence the impact of learning from SARs (including recognising the impact of change)

3.6 Objectives - Priority 3: Quality

Objective 1

To create a safe environment where system wide assurance is sought and the contribution of ideas; learning from mistakes and challenge, is welcomed in relation to what safeguarding adults at risk means.

Objective 2

To seek feedback in relation to our performance and accountability, through effective Partnership, and capturing lived experiences.

3.6.1 To achieve these objectives we will:

- Support organisations to improve the quality and impact of their safeguarding adults practice, promoting a skilled workforce, who are confident in their safeguarding responsibilities
- Exercise our power to challenge when safeguarding needs are identified and not met; ensure safeguarding outcome measures effectively capture the adult's views and wishes, as well as clearly demonstrating the impact of safeguarding interventions.
- Use the information we gather improve practice and promote co-delivery/co-production with partners

3.6.2 We will measure this by:

- Develop a Self-Assessment Partnership Audit process which identifies both qualitative and quantitative data, to monitor the reporting of safeguarding concerns, Making Safeguarding Personal and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)
- Use qualitative data to understand the lived experience of those supported by the safeguarding process

4. Local Areas of Risk

As development for this Adult Safeguarding Strategy and associated Business Plan, ESAB has identified emerging areas of concern, informed by its Sub-Committees and partner organisations, the performance framework and learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Actions to address such concerns will be set out and taken forward by the Sub-Committees and the Executive Group, these being:

- Self-Neglect
- Local Mental Health Partnership Enquiry
- People at Risk/Complex Cases where statutory thresholds are not met
- Modern Slavery in migrant labour markets

ESAB also holds and maintains its own Risk Register, for areas appertaining directly to the Board's Business, where risk may be identified, mitigated and managed, where it is possible to make an impact.

Appendix 1

ESAB membership list (As of January 2024)

Essex County Council (covering Councillor representation, Adult Social Care, Schools, Children and Family, Public Health, Housing & Homelessness service areas)
Essex Police
Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner
Mid & South Essex ICB
Suffolk and North East Essex ICB
Herts & West Essex ICB
Mid & South Essex Foundation Trust (covering Broomfield, Basildon & Brentwood and Southend Hospitals)
East Suffolk & North East Essex Foundation Trust (covering Colchester Hospital)
Princess Alexandra Hospital
Essex Partnership University Foundation Trust (Mental Health)
Essex Fire & Rescue
National Probation
HMP Chelmsford
Healthwatch Essex
Essex Chief Executives Group
Essex Care Association
Housing Association (covering 15 different associations for Essex)
Essex Cities, Districts & Borough Councils (covering 12 different Local Authorities in Essex)
Essex Council of Voluntary Services (covering 11 different Voluntary Services)
Rethink (Advocacy)

Appendix 2

ESAB Governance and accountability structure:

*These meetings take place jointly with Southend and Thurrock

** this indicates direct governance route between the two boards

*** this is a forum of NHS representatives only covering SET and Children and Adults

