

Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB)

Prevention Strategy

derby safeguarding adults board

Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB)
Prevention Strategy

1. Introduction

Prevention is a core principle of safeguarding under the Care Act 2014 and is woven throughout the Act and accompanying statutory guidance. The Care Act places a strong emphasis on early intervention and taking proactive action to prevent, reduce and delay the risk of abuse and neglect, rather than solely responding when harm has occurred. Safeguarding Adults Boards and partner agencies play an important role in supporting effective local safeguarding arrangements and working collaboratively to protect adults and strengthen preventative approaches.

This strategy sets out how the Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB), and its partners will work collectively to:

- Prevent abuse and neglect before it occurs
- Utilise data and intelligence to identify the early signs of potential risk.
- Reduce repeat harm and escalation
- Promote wellbeing, independence, and resilience

This strategy aligns with the Derby and Derbyshire SABs Prevention Principles, emphasising early intervention, partnership working, intelligence-led practice, and community-focused approaches.

2. Prevention Vision

"Working together to take timely, intelligence-led action to prevent, reduce and stop abuse and neglect, enabling adults in Derby to live safe, independent and dignified lives."



3. Strategic Principles

This strategy is underpinned by:

- The six Safeguarding Principles (Care Act): Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership, Accountability
- Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), ensuring prevention approaches remain person-centred, strengths-based and focused on understanding what matters to individuals, promoting choice, control and outcomes identified by the person.
- A whole-system, partnership approach to prevention, recognising that preventing abuse and neglect is a shared responsibility requiring coordinated action across statutory agencies, health, social care, voluntary organisations, communities and wider partners to identify risks early and take timely preventative action.



4. Strategic Objectives

4.1 Working Collectively Across the System

Prevention is a shared responsibility. DSAB will:

- Strengthen multi-agency collaboration across statutory, voluntary and community sectors. This could be done through Co-Production Groups, etc.
- Align prevention activity with key partnerships (e.g. Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing, Public Health)
- Develop a shared understanding of risk through effective information sharing
- Map and align partner prevention statements and strategies to create a unified prevention framework

Outcome: A coordinated, consistent, and system-wide approach to prevention.

4.2 Intelligence-Led Prevention (Data, Categories, Trends)

DSAB will adopt a data-driven approach to prevention by:

- Using safeguarding data, intelligence and categories of abuse to identify:
  - Emerging risks through patterns of referrals
  - High-risk groups
  - Service gaps
- Analysing occurrences and patterns across:
  - Types of abuse
  - Locations (neighbourhoods)

    - Demographics
- Developing a shared intelligence function across partners
- Using data to answer key questions:
    - *What did we know before the issue occurred?*
    - *Were there missed opportunities for early intervention?*
    - *What action could agencies have taken?*
    - *Which agency or professional was best placed to take responsibility and respond?*
    - *What learning can be identified to support improved practice and inform future approaches?*

Outcome: Earlier identification of risk and targeted preventative action.



4.3 Developing understanding patterns of harm and applying learning from cases

DSAB will:

- Identify patterns and frequency of different types of abuse, including recurring incidents
- Analyse Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and case audits to understand:
    - What happened
    - What was known
    - What could have prevented harm
- Apply learning to:
    - Identify gaps within systems
    - Inform and strengthen improvement plans
    - Inform workforce development

Outcome: A learning system that supports the prevention of the recurrence of harm.

4.4 Early Intervention and Prevention Activity

Prevention will operate across a spectrum:

Primary Prevention (Universal)

- Public awareness campaigns
- Community safety initiatives and neighbourhood safety approaches
- Tackling social isolation and inequality
- Strengthening community resilience

Secondary Prevention (Targeted)

- Early identification of risk through frontline services
- Multi-agency early help responses
- Targeted interventions for vulnerable groups

Tertiary Prevention (Safeguarding Response)

- Reducing repeat harm
- Strengthening risk management plans
- Supporting recovery and resilience

DSAB will ensure early intervention is embedded in all partner agencies.

Prevention includes having strengths-based conversations with people about what matters to them, what risks they face, and what support or preventative measures may help them stay safe. This includes providing accessible information, advice and awareness to support individuals to recognise risks and take action to protect themselves.

Outcome: Reduced escalation into crisis and safeguarding interventions.

4.5 Public Health Approach to Prevention

DSAB will work closely with Public Health to:

- Address wider factors that contribute to abuse and neglect, including:
    - Poverty
    - Housing
    - Substance misuse
    - Mental health
    - Social isolation
    - Unemployment
- Use population-level data to identify:
    - At-risk communities
    - Health inequalities
- Develop place-based prevention initiatives

Outcome: A whole-population approach to reducing risk factors.



4.6 Neighbourhood and Place-Based Focus

Prevention activity will be locally targeted by:

- Identifying neighbourhood hotspots using intelligence and data
- Coordinating multi-agency responses in high-risk areas
- Working with:
    - Community groups and agencies
    - Voluntary sector
    - People
- Delivering targeted, place-based interventions aligned with local needs

Outcome: More effective, locally relevant prevention.

4.7 Statutory Responsibilities and Accountability

All partners will:

- Meet their statutory safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014
- Ensuring prevention is embedded within organisational policies, procedures and everyday practice, with each partner agency maintaining clear safeguarding arrangements and a strong focus on early intervention, prevention and reducing the risk of abuse and neglect.
- Maintain clear accountability for prevention activity
- Ensure staff are trained in:
    - Early identification
    - Risk assessment
    - Information sharing
    - Strengths-based approaches and Making Safeguarding Personal principles

DSAB will seek assurance that:

- Prevention is prioritised across all agencies
- Partners can evidence their contribution to prevention

Outcome: Clear accountability and consistent standards across the system.





4.8 Partner Contributions and Prevention Statements

DSAB will:

- Collate and review partner prevention statements
- Identify existing prevention activity across organisations
- Align and strengthen collective efforts
- Develop a shared prevention framework

Partners will be expected to demonstrate DSAB Assurance and Annual Reports:

- Their contribution to prevention
- How they use data and intelligence
- How they deliver early intervention

Outcome: A unified and transparent multi-agency prevention approach.





5. Implementation Framework

DSAB will deliver this strategy through:

- A **multi-agency prevention action plan**
- Clear governance via DSAB subgroups
- Integration with:
  - SAR learning
  - Training and workforce development
  - Quality assurance processes

6. Measuring Impact

Success will be measured through:

- Reduction in safeguarding concerns and repeat cases
- Evidence of early intervention
- Improved outcomes for individuals
  - Positive perception of Safety in Derby.
  - Positive trends in Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) data.
- Increased multi-agency data sharing and intelligence use
- Identification and response to themes and trends

- Feedback from:
    - Adults with care and support needs, ensuring their voices, experiences and feedback are captured through interventions and support provided, so that learning informs future practice and improves prevention outcomes
    - Carers and communities

DSAB will:

- Monitor trends in abuse categories
- Target prevention activity where reductions are needed most
- Use audits and reviews to evaluate effectiveness
- Regularly review and update the strategy

Outcome: Tangible reduction in abuse and neglect across Derby.

7. Governance and Review

- DSAB holds strategic oversight of prevention
- Progress will be reported through:
    - DSAB subgroups
    - Annual Report
- The strategy will be reviewed every 3 years or in response to emerging risks





8. Conclusion

Through this strategy, DSAB commits to a proactive, data-driven, and community-focused approach to preventing abuse and neglect across Derby.

Artwork created using Microsoft Copilot generative AI for Derby Safeguarding Adults Board. Official DSAB logo supplied separately and incorporated into the design.