

Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2026



Contents

Purpose of this Report	2
About Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board	2
Governance Structure	3
Developing Our Priorities for 2025-26	6
Board Priorities for 2025-26	8
Reviewing Progress in Achieving the Priorities	10
Board Annual Report and Strategic Plan Cycle	11
Contact Details	12

Purpose of this Report

The Care Act (2014) requires safeguarding adult boards to develop and publish a strategic plan to say how we plan to prevent abuse and neglect and help protect people with care and support needs at risk of abuse and neglect. This report sets out who we are, what we plan to do between April 2025 and March 2026, and how we will know we are making a difference.

About Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board

The Care Act 2014 makes a Safeguarding Adults Board a legal requirement. The Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) ensures effective safeguarding arrangements for adults with care and support needs.

The Board is led by an Independent Chair. The Board has three statutory members which are: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands Police and Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board.

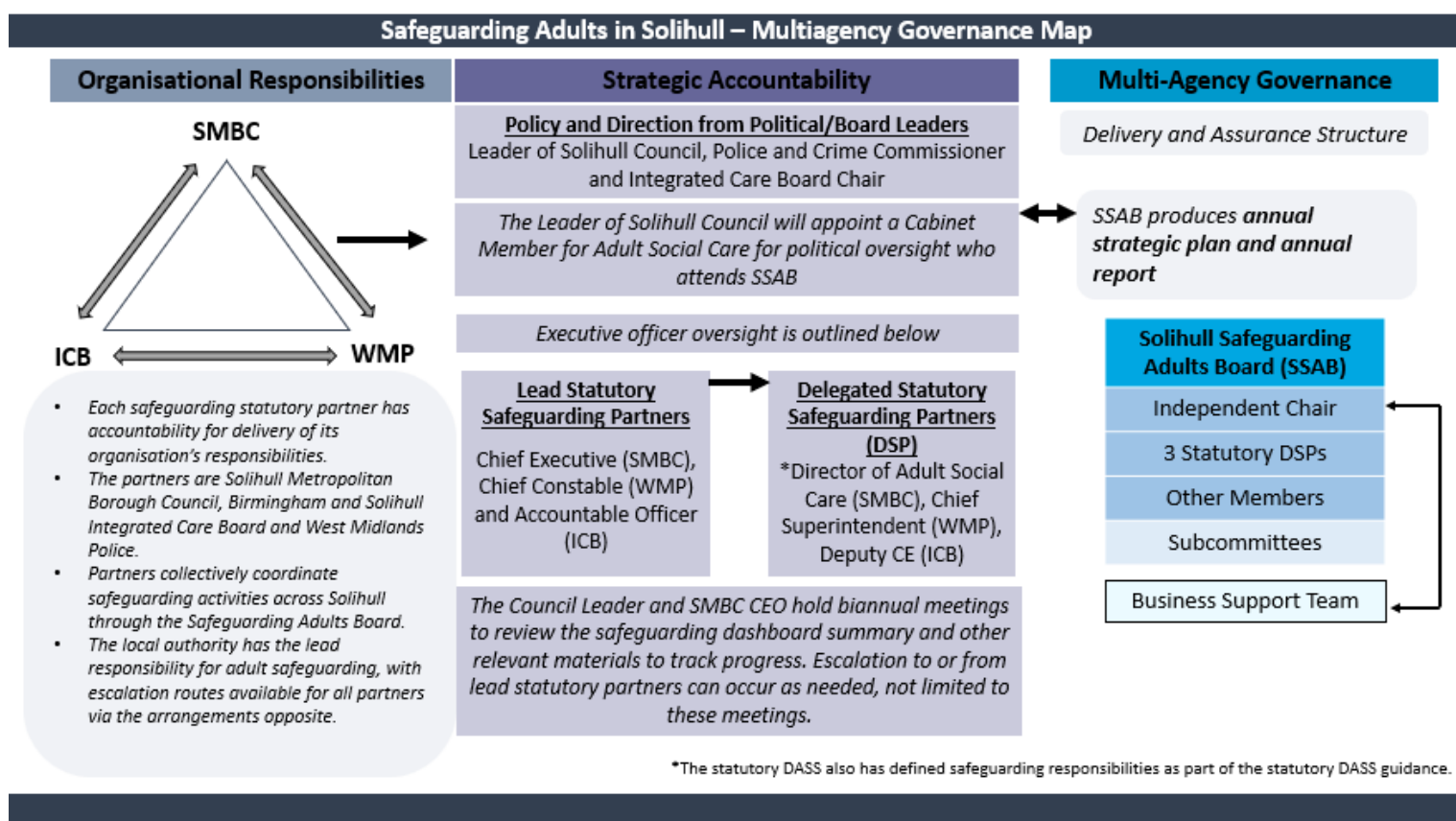
Solihull SAB also has the following partners represented on its board representing our inclusive approach and long history of partners wanting to work together:

- Age UK Solihull
- Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust
- Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust
- Care Quality Commission
- Healthwatch Solihull
- Private Care Sector
- Probation Service
- Solihull Action through Advocacy
- Solihull Carers Trust
- Solihull Community Housing
- University Hospitals Birmingham
- West Midlands Fire Service



Governance Structure

The diagram below sets out the agreed way of working and outlines the joint responsibility across the lead statutory safeguarding partners, including the governance and accountability lines. The lead agency with responsibility for coordinating adult safeguarding arrangements is the local authority, but all the members of the SAB have designated a lead officer. The lead statutory partners for safeguarding adults' oversight are the Chief Executive for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, the Chief Constable for West Midlands Police, and the Accountable Officer for Integrated Care Board. These functions can be delegated to Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board Members but lead statutory safeguarding partners remain ultimately accountable.



The Safeguarding Adults Board meets quarterly to review safeguarding practices and performance.

It has five subcommittees each leading on an area of safeguarding practice:

1. Performance, Quality and Audit
2. Learning and Development
3. Policies and Procedures
4. Safeguarding Adult Reviews
5. Engagement and Prevention

The subcommittees work together, using safeguarding data and feedback from the public and provide the Board with information to help us to decide what we should focus on each year to improve safeguarding practice.

An annual update to the Board on rough sleeping and homelessness is provided by Assistant Director for Housing, who will attend to present the progress update and respond to any questions. Updates outside of this arrangement can be requested as needed.

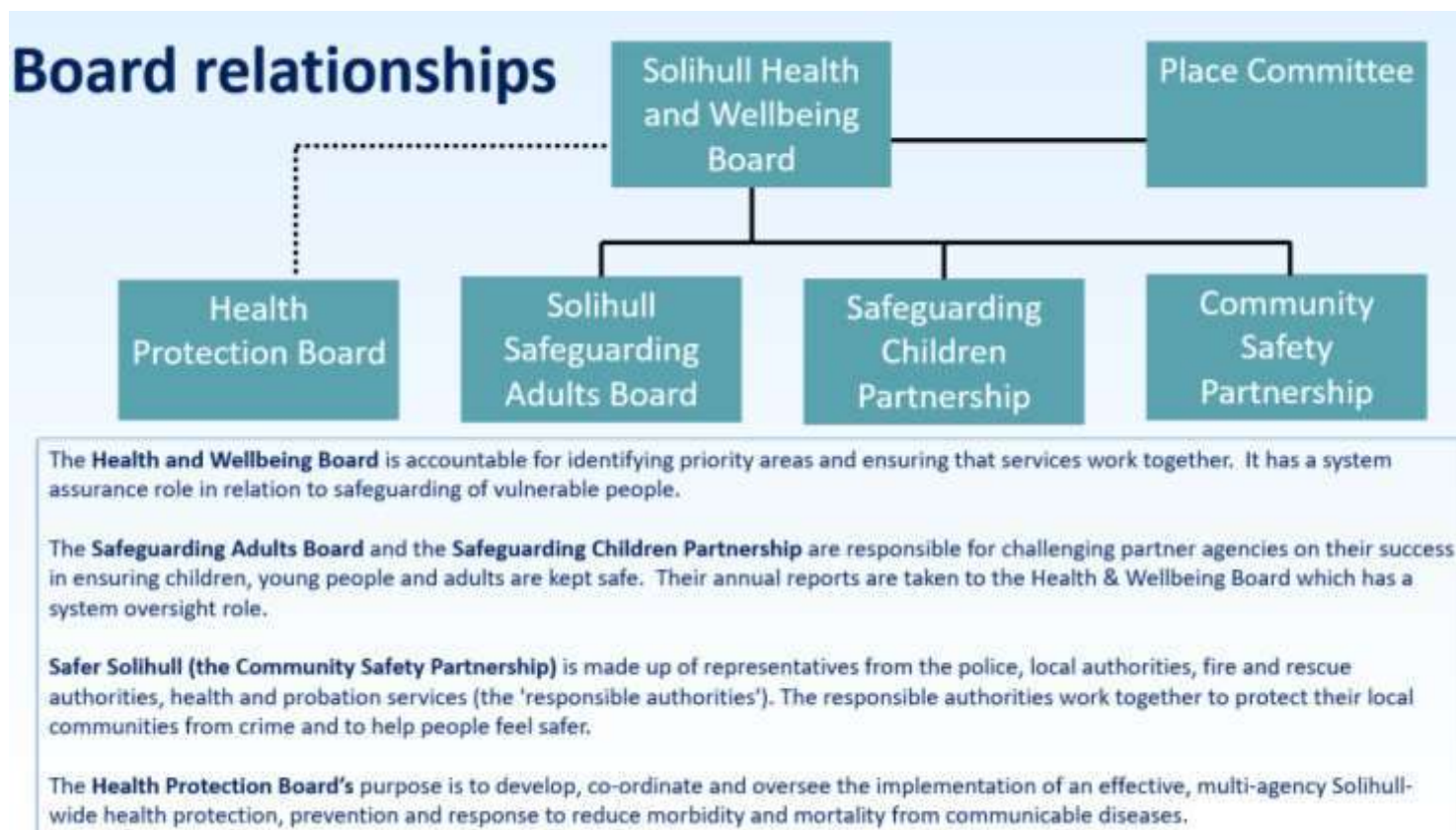
The Board's Independent Chair provides a report to Health and Wellbeing Board each January, setting out the Board's progress in achieving its priorities, which are set annually. In June of each year, the Independent Chair presents to Health and Wellbeing Board, the Board's Annual Report looking back at the achievements of the previous year, and the Strategic Plan setting out the Board's intentions for the current year. A further meeting is then held with the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive of the Council to present the Annual Report and Strategic Plan.



Multi board work

It's important that we understand what the other Boards and Partnerships in Solihull are doing to keep people safe, to make sure there is no duplication, but also that there are no gaps in our work to safeguard the community. Solihull Safeguarding

Adults Board works with the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership and Community Safety Partnership, as well as Health and Wellbeing Board, via quarterly meetings between the four support officers. There are also twice-yearly meetings of the six support officers and Chairs/Scrutineers of the four boards mentioned as well as Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and ICB Solihull Place Committee. These meetings enable oversight of progress made to improve coordination across the boards, and to identify further opportunities to work together. Members of the boards and partnerships came together in January 2025 to review progress made in improving coordination across the boards and to identify areas for focus during 2025-26 which have formed the basis of an action plan being overseen by the chairs and support officers of the boards and partnerships.



What We Want to Achieve for People in Solihull:

These 6 safeguarding principles are identified in the Care Act Statutory Guidance and underpin all safeguarding work:

Empowerment - “I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.”

Prevention - “I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.”

Proportionality - “I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed.”

Protection - “I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.”

Partnership - “I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”

Accountability - “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”

Developing Our Priorities for 2025-26

In developing our priorities for 2025/26 we have taken lots of things into account:

The experiences and voices of survivors of abuse and neglect

When a social worker informs us that a survivor of abuse is comfortable sharing their experience, we engage with them carefully to avoid causing further distress. Survivors have provided positive feedback on safeguarding, appreciating professionals who listen and explain processes clearly. Tailored support has had a significant positive impact. This aligns with our expectations for professionals in Solihull and is reassuring to hear. For 2025-26, we aim to gather feedback from diverse voices to enhance our safeguarding approach. We also want engagement to help us understand and improve our safeguarding effectiveness.

The voices of Solihull's communities

The Performance and Development Lead engaged with community groups to raise awareness of abuse and neglect. Feedback indicated a preference for speaking trusted individuals e.g. family, friends, faith leaders, and clear, accessible information. The board must ensure key safeguarding messages cover prevention, early intervention, and how to seek support if abuse is suspected.

Audit and assurance findings

Audits identified good practice in adult safeguarding, including clear documentation, respectful language, and effective multi-agency collaboration. Practitioners captured adults' views, applied Mental Capacity Act principles, and involved trusted individuals and advocates. Timely actions reduced risks, and safeguarding meetings facilitated reflection and improved service delivery.

Agencies need to use escalation processes promptly, understand each other's roles, and maintain respectful communication. Early engagement and involvement of advocates are crucial. The Board will include these improvement areas in its multi-agency training offer, communicate early intervention and prevention messages to the public, and continue auditing cases to demonstrate improvement.

Outcomes from multi-board development session January 25

This was the third annual multi board/partnership event with representatives from the boards and partnerships previously referenced. It was held to promote collaborative working, joint planning and the co-ordination of strategic planning and prioritisation across the boards. It was also an opportunity to reflect on progress to date and to identify cross board priorities for the coming year 2025/26.

Priorities agreed for 2025-26:

- To address the need to review and streamline multiagency staff training, to decide which training is most important in 25-26 and to ensure improved attendance and evaluation.
- To address the recommendation from Children's Partnership that trauma-informed practice should be a core skill of staff across all-age services, not just children's.
- To improve the longstanding issue of challenges with data sharing and the interplay with data security across organisations.
- To address the need to improve the co-ordination of coproduction and involvement plans across the boards, resolving both duplications and gaps.
- We must learn from both local and national situations where things went wrong by looking at adult, children and domestic abuse death reviews in the round, not service specific, to improve our services.
- To continue to demonstrate evidence-based progress/improvement across all the multi-agency boards.



Board Priorities for 2025-26:

Priority 1: Effectively engage with Solihull communities and use feedback to drive continuous improvement in safeguarding practices, leading to better outcomes for adults at risk.

It was proposed that this priority be set for the next two years. The 2025-26 strategic plan outlines what can be achieved in the first year (25-26). This includes an action about using learning from 24-25 and 25-26 progress to confirm the longer-term actions for 26-27+, which will be developed through 25-26 and finalised at the 2026 priority setting session for the second year.

What we aim to achieve:

- Changes in referral patterns and SSAB website analytics indicating improved community awareness of safeguarding.
- Assurance from partners on raising public awareness of safeguarding via organisational activity and feeding back public responses to SSAB.
- Clear understanding among SSAB partners of engagement activities and their impact.
- Sustained or increased levels of community feedback and involvement over time.
- Increased feedback from the community being used to make tangible improvements in the work of the board, including the setting of the board's priorities for 2026-27.
- Community groups that are engaged with represent a wide range of demographics, including different ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- A demonstrably co-ordinated approach with other Solihull multi-agency boards, so that engagement, co-production and communication activities deliver maximum positive impact for communities and local people.
- Ensure that support pathways—beyond housing—for adults who are rough sleeping or homeless are effective, clearly communicated, and well understood by professionals, with robust and accessible escalation routes in place.

How we will achieve this:

- Develop a communications and engagement plan, distinguishing between awareness-raising and co-production activities and setting clear impact measures. This should be a component of the relevant actions in the Multi-Agency Board development plan.
- As part of the above action, seek feedback from communities on what is important to them in terms of safeguarding adults, which will inform priority setting for 2026-27.

- Seek assurance from organisations as to how they are raising awareness of adult safeguarding with the public and how they are ensuring responses from the public are fed back into the SSAB, working together to address any gaps.
- Collaborate with CAVA (Community and Voluntary Action) to support and sustain engagement efforts.
- As part of the first action above, align engagement events with national campaigns and record key activities on the SSAB dashboard.
- As part of the first action above, ensure that communities are informed about how their feedback has been used.
- Use evidence of impact to continuously improve the communications and engagement plans and ensure they remains relevant and effective.
- As part of planning for Year 2 activity for the sustainability of communications and engagement work, deliver an event focused on bringing together voluntary sector, business, community and faith leaders to share key information on safeguarding initiatives and plans to raise awareness and also gather feedback and suggestions to incorporate into the 26/27 plans.
- Key professionals will meet to review and confirm support pathways for adults who are rough sleeping or homeless/threatened with homelessness, and identify designated escalation leads so organisational response delays are minimised for each pathway. The key professionals will then meet as required to review ongoing effectiveness of the updated arrangements.

Priority 2: Further improve the impact of staff learning and development activities to deliver improved safeguarding practices and outcomes for adults at risk.

What we aim to achieve:

- Excellent attendance rates for cross-board training sessions, due to the offer being a valued and essential resource for improving practice and outcomes.
- Changes in referral patterns and SSAB website analytics indicating both improved multi agency staff understanding of safeguarding and increased use of website to access resources via this page: [safeguarding resources](#)
- Improvement in staff knowledge and skills, measured through pre- and post-training assessments.
- Evidence of training impact from statutory partners, such as improved staff performance or positive outcomes in safeguarding cases.
- Development and distribution of high quality, relevant SSAB and cross-board resources (case studies, fact sheets, briefings) for the full range of stakeholders, which attracts positive feedback.
- Addressing training gaps, including through coordinated multi-agency offers.
- Positive feedback from staff on the relevance and usefulness of training materials.
- Improved safeguarding practices and outcomes, as evidenced by audits.

- Qualitative feedback and case examples from follow-up surveys, demonstrating the practical application of training.
- Evaluation and follow-up data on the SAB performance dashboard showing trends and areas for improvement.

How we will achieve this:

- Coordinate with the cross-board action to develop a proportionate all-age learning and development offer for 2025-26, ensuring all staff are aware of available opportunities. Set a target for multi-agency training attendance and work together to achieve the necessary improvements.
- Seek assurance from statutory partners on training implementation and impact, working together to address any gaps.
- Focus the multi-agency offer on learning from SARs, CSPRs and DARDs (formerly DHRs) and use a variety of resources e.g. case studies, fact sheets, 7-minute briefings, bite size training focused on headline messages.
- Review the safeguarding resources, information and advice available on the SSAB website and statutory partners websites to identify further improvements to impact, accessibility and usage, particularly focusing on preventative information and advice as a key component of helping people keep themselves safe.
- Set a target for evaluation form completion and record this on the SAB dashboard. Follow up with a sample of participants to assess the long-term impact of training.
- Conduct case file audits linked to training topics to establish evidence of learning in practice.
- Use staff feedback and evidence from audits to continuously improve the training offer and address any emerging issues or gaps.

Reviewing Progress in Achieving the Priorities

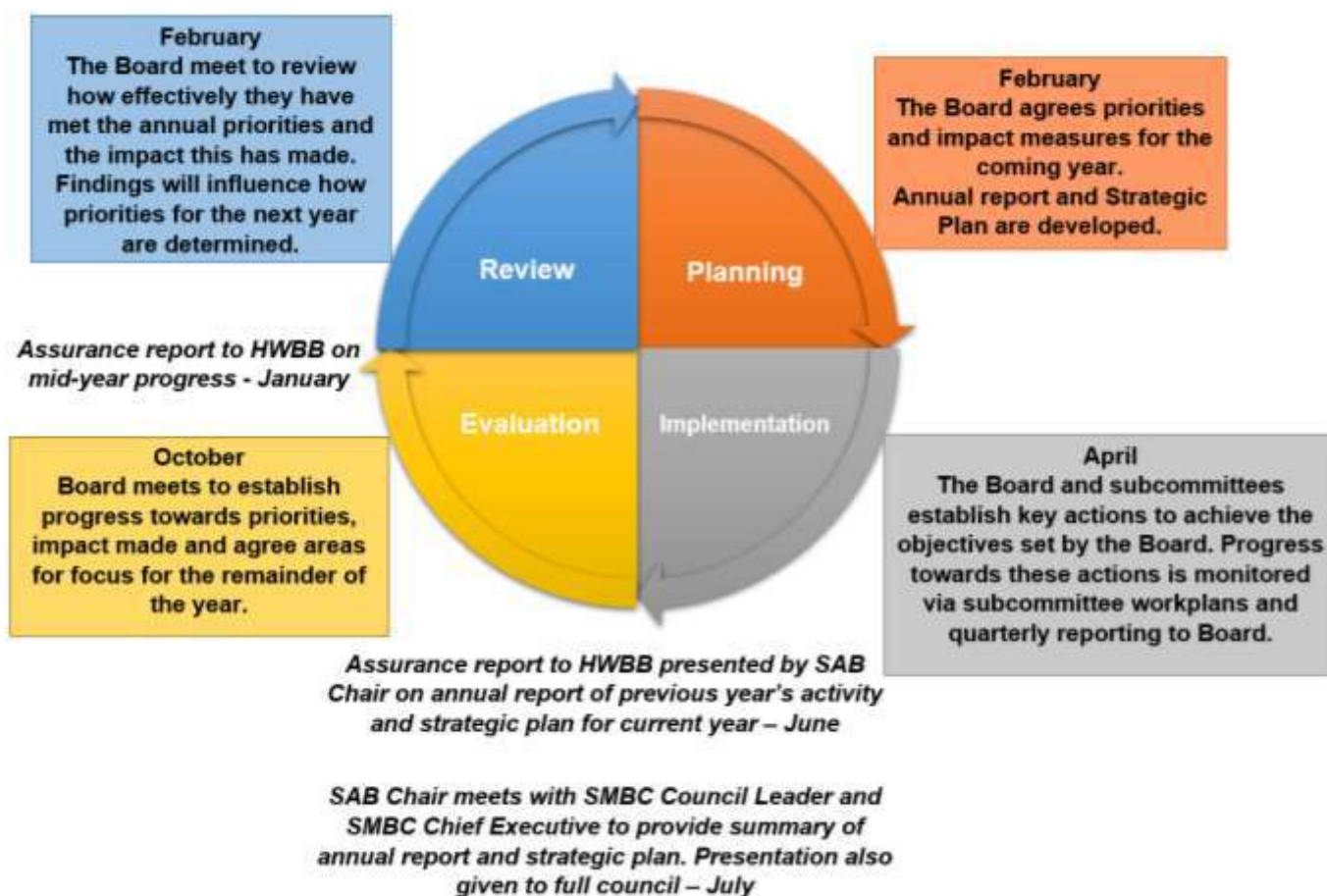
The Board reviews progress quarterly, with updates from subcommittees. Each subcommittee has its own workplan that will contribute to the Board's priorities. As the year progresses and we receive evidence of the successes and areas for improvement, the work of the subcommittees may change and develop. An annual development session is held each October, for Board members to assess progress and set actions for the remainder of the year.

The Board identifies, monitors, and mitigates risks through a systematic approach. Risks are identified at Board and subcommittee meetings, considering internal and external factors, and recorded in a risk register. Each risk is assessed for likelihood and impact. Regular monitoring and reporting ensure that risks are managed effectively, with significant risks reviewed quarterly by the Board and subcommittees. This proactive risk management supports informed decision-making and continuous improvement in safeguarding practices.

Board Annual Report and Strategic Plan Cycle

The annual cycle includes setting priorities, reviewing progress, and sharing updates with the Health and Wellbeing Board. Learning from the year informs the next year's strategic plan.

Annual cycle – SSAB annual report & Strategic plan





Safeguarding Adults Board Business Team
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Council House
Manor Square
Solihull
B91 3QB



0121 788 4392



ssab@solihull.gov.uk



www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk

