



National Network for Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards

Annual Report
2018 - 2019



National Network for Chairs of Safeguarding Adult Boards

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the National Network for Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards (the National Network) Annual Report 2017-18. The National Network was established in 2009 to support the new roles of Independent Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs). In 2016 membership was extended to all Chairs of SABs. Since it was formed the membership has expanded considerably. There are currently over 100 members chairing 117 SABs. This report brings together the work of the National Network over the past year.

2. ABOUT THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR CHAIRS OF SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARDS

The National Network is a community of practice that aims to support and strengthen Chairs and Safeguarding Adults Board partnerships in order to improve their effectiveness in safeguarding adults and to influence and promote best practice for safeguarding adults nationally and locally through effective working. The purpose of the Network is to coordinate and provide support to the Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards in order to:

- Share best practice and good examples with regards to the implementation of the Care Act 2014
- Support the implementation of SABs becoming statutory bodies under the Care Act 2014 in a coherent and consistent way;
- Share and disseminate knowledge and learning between Boards;
- To work with partners in respect of information sharing agreements, budgets and performance
- Improve consistency of approaches to safeguarding and contribute to the raising of overall standards of adult safeguarding;
- Continue to develop a national voice and resource for consultations and advice on safeguarding matters; and
- Provide peer support and networking opportunities.

Attendance at National Network meetings is often in excess of 30 Chairs with all regions represented; a member produces minutes and these contain links to documents tabled and referenced during the meeting. Feedback is arranged through regional networks and their meetings where they occur.

Network Coordinator: The Network was coordinated and Chaired by Robert Templeton who is Chair of Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire SABs. In March 2019 Robert stepped-down handing over to Fran Pearson independent Chair of Newham and Luton SABs. The responsibilities of the coordinator are as follows:

- Chairing National Network meetings;
- Establishing and maintaining the national database of SAB Chairs;
- Keeping the network up to date in policy and practice;
- Supporting the collation of views of members in response to national consultations;
- Attending and providing regular updates to the Local Government Association (LGA)/Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Adult Safeguarding Policy Network;
- Attending and providing regular updates to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Safeguarding Adults Leadership group;
- Attending and providing regular updates to Making Safeguarding Personal Advisory Group; and
- Drafting the National Network Annual Report.

Executive Group: The work of the Network Coordinator is supported by an executive group who provide their time on a voluntary basis, members are:

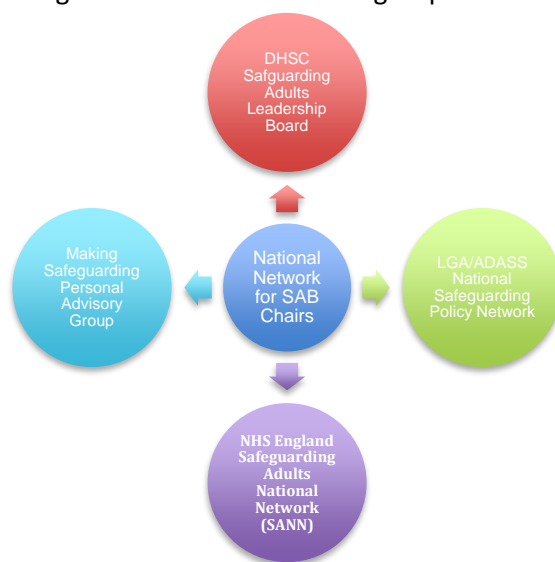
- Michael Preston -Shoot- Independent Chair of Brent SAB
- Mark Godferry - Independent Chair of The Royal Borough of Greenwich SAB
- Simon Turpitt - Independent Chair of Surrey SAB
- Sian Walker - Independent Chair of Devon, Kingston and Lambeth SABs
- Paul Kingston - Independent Chair of Wigan SAB
- Robert Templeton - Independent Chair of Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth SABs

The Network would like to express gratitude to the following outgoing members of the Executive Group: Deborah Klee, Julia Stephens-Row and Mike Taylor whose wise counsel and patient advice has been essential in supporting both the Network and the Chair of the Network.

Funding: Members conduct the majority of the work of the National Network on a voluntary basis. Network meetings are hosted free of charge by the City of London and Birmingham City Council. The Network Co-ordinator is funded for a specified number of days a year by the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) of the LGA/ADASS as part of the sector led improvement work on safeguarding adults. The expenditure of the Network in 2018/19 is outlined below:

Item	Cost £
Coordinator Time	£ 3,000.00
Expenses	£ 94.00
Total	£ 3,094.00

Representation: The diagram below illustrates the groups that the SAB Network is represented on:



Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Safeguarding Adults Leadership Group: This group provides DHSC national leadership and an opportunity for the department to listen to key stakeholders contributing to the national agenda and related topics to support safeguarding adults.

LGA/ ADASS National Safeguarding Adults Policy Network: Maintains close links with relevant bodies, policymakers and provides strategic direction for the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services/Local Government Association policy development on Safeguarding Adults and supports policy developments as required.

Making Safeguarding Personal Advisory Group: The aim of this group is to ensure that person-centred adult safeguarding practice is embedded and delivers The Care Act 2014 guidance, through developing and implementing the Making Safeguarding Personal programmes.

NHS England Safeguarding Adults National Network: The Safeguarding Adults National Network (SANN) is chaired by Paul Kingston and aims to provide a national voice to adult safeguarding leads representing Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across England and acts as a clinical reference group to the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG). The NSSG leads the assurance of the NHS safeguarding system and offers strategic leadership for safeguarding and quality improvement across NHS England and the health economy.

3. ABOUT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARDS (SABs)

Safeguarding Adult Boards: SABs are statutory, multi-organisational partnerships coordinated by the local authority, which oversee and lead adult safeguarding across a local authority area(s). The main objective of the SAB is to gain assurance of safeguarding arrangements locally, assurance that its partner organisations work effectively individually and together to support and safeguard adults in its area who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

SABs also have an interest in a range of matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect. This includes the safety of patients in its local health services, quality of local care and support services, effectiveness of prisons and approved premises in safeguarding offenders and awareness and responsiveness of further education services. The SAB does this by:

- Assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place, as defined by The Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance;
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centered and outcome-focused;
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible;
- Ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred; and assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving the quality of life of adults in its area.

Chairing arrangements: Most, but not all, Boards employ an Independent Chair who is responsible for ensuring that all organisations contribute effectively to the work of the Board. The Chair provides accountability for the work undertaken by the Board by way of reports to relevant strategic committees and Boards.

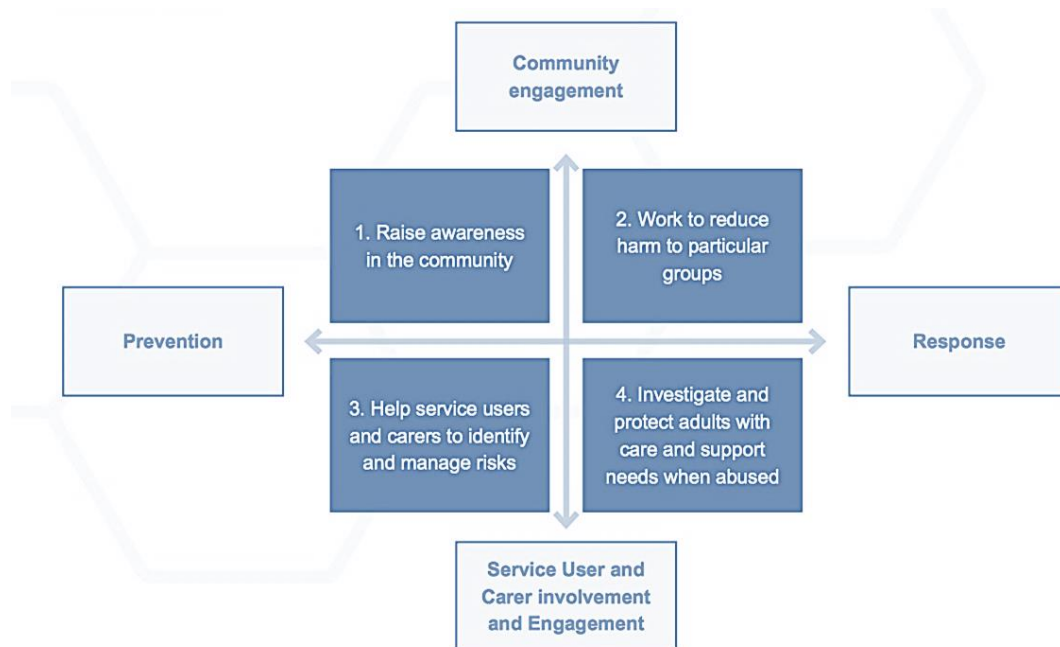
Membership: The SABs are made up of a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations which includes representatives from Local Authority, Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS providers, emergency services, district and borough councils, independent care providers, housing, advocacy, service users and carers etc.

Duties under the Care Act (2014): The Care Act gives SABs three specific duties- they must:

- I. Publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet its main objective and how each member is to implement that strategy. In developing the plan it must consult the Local Healthwatch organisation and involve the community.
- II. Publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its objective and what it and each member has done to implement its strategy as well as reporting the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) including any ongoing reviews.

- III. Decide when a SAR is necessary, arrange for its conduct and if it so decides, to implement the findings. Where the SAB decides not to implement an action from the findings it must state the reason for that decision in the Annual Report.

The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance sets out a range of areas of interest for Safeguarding Adults Boards which is illustrated below:



Source: Braye, S., Orr, D; Preston-Shoot, M,(2011) in ADASS / LGA Making Safeguarding Personal Support for safeguarding adults boards:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/25.25%20-%20Chip_MSP%20safeguarding_WEB.PDF

4. NATIONAL SURVEY OF SAB CHAIRS

One of the major pieces of work the Network undertook in October 2018 was a survey which was sent to all Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards in England. This work builds upon the network's first survey of undertaken in 2017 (National Network for Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards, 2017) that reviewed the impact of the implementation of The Care Act 2014. (see <https://www.adass.org.uk/media/6015/the-national-network-of-safeguarding-adult-board-chairs-annual-report-final.pdf>).

The aim of the survey was to report upon the progress made by Safeguarding Adults Boards, the key challenges faced by Boards and Chairs, and to support the further development of Safeguarding Adults Boards. This report will inform discussions about policy and practice within and between Safeguarding Adults Boards, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), NHS England and other stakeholders. Both surveys inform the Network priorities outlined in section 5 and 6 of this report.

A total of 85 Independent Chairs responded to the survey in 2018. There are 132 Safeguarding Adults Boards in England. As some respondents have responsibility for more than one Board, the responses represented 89 SABs, and over two thirds of local authority areas.

The survey found the main strengths reported by Safeguarding Adults Boards Chairs were:

- There is strong partnership working across organisations and 94% of SABs hold development/mutual challenge days.
- 78% reported that their Safeguarding Adults Board measures its effectiveness of impact.
- Generally good representation of senior leaders on Safeguarding Adults Boards with 96% Directors of Adult Services, 81% Superintendent or Chief Superintendent, although Clinical Commissioning Group representation is more variable with 58% Director of Nursing.
- 90% reported that their local Healthwatch is represented on the SAB.
- 53% reported Safeguarding Adult Reviews as accounting for the highest proportion of Board business.
- 94% of SABs have a Board Manager, with 26% of these shared with Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and 93% have access to admin staff.
- 65% of SABs are leading on taking action on local provider concerns.
- Nine out of 10 SAB Chairs are meeting regularly with the Council's Chief Executive and 64% meet every six-months or more frequently.

The main challenges for Safeguarding Adults Boards Chairs are: receiving information from Quality Surveillance Groups; local performance information; and assurance about managing the market/market failure. Other challenges were:

- Safeguarding Adults Boards face membership challenges regarding continuity, seniority and participation;
- Low levels of service user engagement. Only 9% report that service users are represented on the Board, and less than a third (28%) say they are represented on sub-groups. Less than half (42%) say they are measuring the impact of service user involvement and responding to the learning found;
- Further assurance and focus is needed regarding local provider concerns;
- Partner agency workloads, capacity and diminishing resources are having an impact on sub-group engagement and delivery; and
- Legal liability issues for Safeguarding Adults Boards need clarification and potential action.

The main safeguarding practice concerns for Boards were:

- All organisations adopting the Making Safeguarding Personal approach (see LGA/ADASS, 2017 <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/resources>)
- Prevention responses;
- Frontline staff undertaking mental capacity assessments;
- Data on Making Safeguarding Personal reported to the Safeguarding Adults Board;
- Thresholds for Section 42 Enquiries.

Other Issues identified were:

- The impact of the changes to children's safeguarding partnership arrangements;
- Developing better mechanisms for assurance following Safeguarding Adults Reviews;
- Board Member succession planning;
- Working effectively with diminishing resources and uncertainty regarding Safeguarding Adults Boards' budget year on year;
- Managing the backlog and responding to delivering the new requirements regarding Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards;
- Improving carer engagement;

- Working with contemporary safeguarding challenges e.g. domestic abuse, online threats, homelessness, suicide and social isolation;
- Improving transitions from children’s services to adult services;
- Addressing prevention and early help;
- Improving safeguarding awareness and support for third sector organisations; and
- Adults at risk who do not meet the thresholds for statutory services.

The survey highlighted that although good progress has been made in many areas there is more work to do. In response the Chairs Network has worked with the ADASS, LGA and Skills for Care to produce resources to support development in the areas where there is a need for improvement, These resources are referenced throughout this report and bibliography. This includes the forthcoming briefing on core ingredients and principles for SABs in making decisions about whether a Section 42 enquiry (Care Act, 2014) is needed. This will be available in summer 2019: see <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal>

The network would like to thank Mark Godfrey, Adi Cooper OBE, Jane Lawson, Robert Templeton and Professor Michael Preston-Shoot for the development of the survey and Philippa Lynch and Rose Pycock at the Local Government Association for completing the analysis.

5. PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Progress on Priorities 2016-2019: The table below outlines the Networks progress on its priorities described in the Annual Report 2017/18 and the work still to do.

Priority	Progress	Work still to do
1. Improving Performance and Data: Network will work with NHS Digital, LGA and others to ensure adult safeguarding performance data is developed to enable SABs to evaluate and benchmark performance.	The Network has worked with NHS Digital in the following areas -Influencing National Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC); How Boards use the NHS Digital Safeguarding Adults collection data and reports; Identifying gaps in the current collection. The information from the Network fed into NHS Digital’s review of the data collection.	Address issues raised by Action on Elder Abuse ‘A Patchwork of Practice’ paper, already begun with the Local Government Association on decision-making regarding Section 42 enquiries
2. SAB Broadened Remit: The Network will continue to work both nationally and regionally to ensure SABs work with other partnerships and contribute to cross cutting areas such as Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking; PREVENT; CSE; Harmful Cultural Practices; Domestic Abuse; Suicides and Self Harm; Cyber Crime – Desk Top and Door Step Crime; Self-Neglect and Hoarding; Homelessness;	The Network has worked with the following agencies: DHSC in all areas - Home Office - Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking and PREVENT - Office of the Public Guardian - Self-Neglect and Hoarding - National Trading Standards - Cyber Crime – Desk Top and Door Step Crime; - NHS England - All areas - Norah Fry Centre for Disability Studies - LD Mortality Reviews	Clarify SAB roles, remit, and engagement in these areas; gain assurance in these areas etc. Gather evidence of SABs and SAB Chairs’ Network of impact in these areas

social isolation, elder abuse; and LD Mortality Reviews.	The Association of Independent LSCB Chairs - CSE; Harmful Cultural Practices	
3. Safeguarding Adult Reviews: The Network will promote a consistent approach to SAR's; supporting the new National SAR Library, and explore how SARs can impact on practice and promote culture change	The Network has played a key role in supporting a national project to establish a SAR Library and quality standards.	Continue to Promote SAR quality standards Continue to Continue to Promote National SAR Library SAR impact assessment mechanisms - seek good practice examples via SAB Chairs survey
4. Making Safeguarding Personal: Ensure that SABs play a key role in implementing Making Safeguarding Personal across partnerships; and improve engagement of service users with the SABs.	The Network has helped in the development of the LGA/ADASS MSP programme, including promoting and disseminating a suite of resources to support SABs and partners.	Continue to Promote LGA/ADASS resources for engaging with service users Continue to Promote MSP adoption across partners (using the LGA/ADASS resources) Use SAB Chairs survey to assess progress on implementing MSP and service user engagement
5. Develop SAB work on quality including prevention of provider failure and stronger relationships with Quality Surveillance Groups: The Network will support SAB Chairs to seek assurance of local arrangements for working with poor providers; will work with NHS England to explore opportunities to achieve ways of strengthening relationships between SABs and QSGs; including disseminating learning from SARs regarding poor quality service provision.	The Network fed into the development of the 3rd edition of the National Guidance to Quality Surveillance Groups published in July 2017.	Collate and promote examples of local and regional best practice in quality assurance panels, linked to 'Quality Matters' priorities Collate and promote local and regional best practice regarding links between SABs and QSGs
6. Greater Collaborations on a National Level: The Network will work with the ADASS / LGA Safeguarding Adults Policy Network and the DH Adult Safeguarding Leadership Group to develop	The Network continues to be represented and works closely with ADASS Safeguarding Adults National Policy Group and DH Adult Safeguarding Leadership Group. The Network has made strong links with Rebecca Brown	Develop links with Home Office and NPCC

greater collaboration at a national level between statutory partners.	(DHSC) with responsibility for Adult Safeguarding. The Network has also made strong links with Ian Pilling Deputy Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police NPCC Lead for Vulnerable Adults.	
7. Supporting Integration: The Network will work with regional groups and partners to link the role of the SAB to health and social care integration work and share good practice.	A number of regional groups have fed back regularly to the Network on this area.	Identify areas where links have been made between SABs and STP governance systems Share models of good practice
8. SAB Peer Review: Look for options to apply national SAB peer review methodology (LGA) and investigate how local outputs can evidence improving Board effectiveness and good practice.	Members of the Network have participated in the LGA Peer Review Pilot and 2 SAB peer reviews were undertaken. The methodology was finalised and published.	Promote the use of Peer Reviews among the Network
9. Review Care Act 2014 implementation: Highlighting areas of strength and weakness in implementation, including service user engagement, impact of SARs and culture change. Develop a national picture of key SAB priorities. Include seeking evidence of impact of the SABs	During 2018-9 The network conducted a survey of SAB chairs to assess the impact of the implementation of The Care Act 2014 on SABs and to capture the effects of making SABs statutory partnerships.	Complete
10. Implement SAB Chairs workforce plan: work with Skills for Care to develop and implement a workforce plan for SAB Chairs	The Network has worked with <i>Skills for Care</i> to develop a Safeguarding Adults Chair Workforce Framework focusing on the role of the Safeguarding Adults Board Chair. It supports adult social care employers and other agencies represented on Safeguarding Adults Boards with developing the chair's role, job description, continuing professional development and learning requirements.	To be tested out
11. Develop and strengthen regional SAB Chair Networks	The network has worked closely with regional Chairs Networks. There are currently active networks in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North West • North East 	Continue to maintain robust links with Chairs the of regional networks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yorkshire and Humber • West Midlands • East Midlands • East Anglia • South West • South East • London 	
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Progress on Priorities 2019-2021:

The table above highlights that although the Network has made progress in many areas there is more work to do. Based on the survey of SAB Chairs the Network has revised its priorities, which are listed in the table below, together with proposed actions.

Priority	Proposed Action
1. Membership challenges: continuity, seniority and participation and Board member succession planning	The SAB Chairs Network to emphasise the importance of continuity, seniority and participation of partners by working with national bodies representing police and health partners and highlighting the impact of SABs locally.
2. Low levels of service user engagement.	The SAB Chairs Network to work to ensure Boards are using and embedding the MSP resource of the MSP supporting increased involvement of service users: https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/25%2026%20-%20Chip_MSP%20Safeguarding%20Adults%20Boards_WEB.PDF The network to work with service user and carer groups to identify good examples of service user engagement with SABs and to make links with those cited in the resource as having made good progress on this.
3. Assurance on local provider concerns	The SAB Chairs Network to work with the LGA/ADASS Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) and ADASS policy network to explore examples of good practice. The SAB Chairs Network will also work with NHS England's Safeguarding Adults National Network to identify opportunities to achieve ways of strengthening relationships between SABs and QSGs.
4. Partner agency workloads, capacity, diminishing resources and impact on sub-group engagement and delivery	The SAB Chairs Network to highlight these pressures to the DHSC through the DHSC leadership group.
5. Legal liability issues for Safeguarding Adults Boards and Chairs	The SAB Chairs Network to seek support and advice from the DHSC, NHS England and the LGA.
6. All organisations adopting the Making Safeguarding Personal approach.	The SAB Chairs Network to work to support Boards using and embedding MSP resources and encourage sharing of good practice.
7. Data and other information and insights on Making Safeguarding Personal reported to the SABs	The SAB Chairs Network to work with SABs locally and NHS Digital to see how to improve collection of MSP data, encouraging use of the MSP Outcomes Framework https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/msp-
8. Prevention responses including addressing prevention and early help	The SAB Chairs Network to put out a call for good practice in this area.
9. Frontline staff undertaking mental capacity assessments;	The SAB Chairs Network to put out a call for good practice in the area.

10. Thresholds for Section 42 Enquiries.	The SAB Chairs Network to explore ways of enabling greater consistency with the ADASS policy group/LGA/ ADASS CHIP.
11. The impact of the changes to children's safeguarding arrangements	The SAB Chairs Network to work with the Association of LSCB Chairs to monitor the impact of the changes to children's safeguarding arrangements.
12. Developing better mechanisms for assurance following Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) action plans and evidencing that changes to practice/systems are embedded	The SAB Chairs Network to work with the LGA/ADASS CHIP to explore ways of developing better mechanisms for assurance following a SAR.
13. Working effectively with diminishing resources and uncertainty regarding Safeguarding Adult Boards budget year on year	The SAB Chairs Network to highlight the impact of this issue to ADASS, LGA, NHS England and the DHSC
14. Managing the backlog and responding to delivering the new requirements regarding Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	The SAB Chairs Network to highlight this issue to the LGA, ADASS and DHSC.
15. Improving carer engagement with Carers	The SAB Chairs Network to work with carer's organisations such as 'Carers UK' and to identify and disseminate good practice in this area.
16. Working with contemporary safeguarding challenges e.g. domestic abuse, online threats, homelessness, suicide and social isolation;	The SAB Chairs Network to work with organisations such as Women's Aid, St Mungos, Crisis, Shelter, Carers UK and others to identify and disseminate good practice in these areas.
17. Improving safeguarding of adolescents and young adults transitions from children's services to adulthood	The SAB Chairs Network to work with the Association of LSCB Chairs ADASS and Association of Directors of Children's Services to establish our respective roles in supporting work on "Transitional Safeguarding"
18. Improving safeguarding awareness and support for third sector organisations	The Network to recognise and encourage SABs to underline the important role of this sector in safeguarding adults.
19. Adults at risk who do not meet thresholds for statutory services	The SAB Chairs Network to work with ADASS policy network and LGA CHIP to develop a shared understanding of the particular risks for this group

Robert Templeton

April 2019