

What does the Luton Safeguarding Adults Board do?

The Luton Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) is a multi-agency statutory partnership established under the Care Act 2014. Our role is not to deliver services directly but to provide strategic leadership, co-ordination and assurance for safeguarding vulnerable adults in Luton.

The Board brings together key partners like the council, NHS, police and voluntary and community sector to agree how we will work together and meet our core responsibilities. We must:

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Publish a Strategic Plan

This sets out the Board's priorities and how partners will work together to safeguard adults



Publish an Annual Report

This sets out what the Board has done, the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Luton and anything we have learned



Undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

When an adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect (including death), the Board will undertake a SAR to identify learning and improve practice

Our vision

Our vision is for safeguarding adults in Luton to be a shared responsibility, where we work together to ensure all adults with care and support needs can live free from abuse and neglect.

How we will work together

➤ Work in partnership

The Board will bring together statutory and voluntary partners to coordinate and oversee safeguarding activity across the local system in a joined up and consistent way, focusing on achieving the best outcomes for adults

➤ Be person centred

The Board commits to and champions Making Safeguarding Personal, ensuring that adults with lived experience are involved in shaping and delivering our priorities

➤ Provide challenge and assurance

The Board will hold partners to account, offering constructive challenge and assurance about the

quality and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements

➤ Learn together and improve

The Board will use Safeguarding Adult Reviews, audits, data and lived experience to drive continuous and sustained improvement across the safeguarding system in Luton

➤ Act early to prevent harm

Partners will work together to identify and reduce risks, taking proactive action to prevent abuse and neglect, including timely and effective information sharing

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Our principles

Our Strategic Plan 2026-2029 embraces the six key principles of Making Safeguarding Personal, outlined in the Care Act 2014.



Our priorities

Our priorities are strategically set to focus the Board's work on the areas of greatest risk and needs in Luton. They are developed through a combination of data, learning and input from partners. We review our priorities annually to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to continue to meet the evolving needs of adults with care and support needs.

Priority 1: Transitional Safeguarding

Transitional safeguarding is an approach to protecting young people (usually 16-25 years old) as they move into adulthood. It aims to bridge the gap between children's and adult services, ensuring that vital support is not lost when legislative requirements and services supporting them change. It is a joint priority with the Luton Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Our objectives:

- ensure that learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews where transitions learning is identified as a theme is integrated into practice
 - to audit and review multi-agency arrangements to identify strengths, address gaps and drive continuous improvement
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- develop a shared understanding and clear pathway to prevent young adults from losing necessary professional support

Priority 2: Co-occurring needs

It is common for people to experience problems with their mental health and alcohol / drug use (co-occurring needs) at the same time. Adults experiencing co-occurring needs are often at higher risk of exploitation, self-neglect, homelessness and abuse. Due to complex and overlapping needs, people are often supported by multiple services, making coordinated safeguarding more challenging.

Our objectives:

- strengthen joint working and reduce fragmentation to ensure adults with co-occurring needs receive a consistent and coordinated safeguarding approach
- improve how partners respond to adults who may not engage, recognising this as a potential indicator of risk rather than choice alone
- promote preventative interventions to reduce escalation, crisis and safeguarding concerns

Priority 3: Mental Capacity

Mental capacity is the legal and functional ability to understand, retain, use information and communicate decisions. Local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews demonstrate learning from the application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, including consideration as to whether adults could act on decisions and choices that they have made (this is known as executive functioning).

Our objectives:

- support practitioners to understand and apply the relationship between mental capacity and executive functioning
- promote good practice across Luton through guidance, training and audit review, including learning from SARs and links to board priorities
- respond to consultations and developments relating to Liberty Protection Safeguards and the Mental Capacity Act

Priority 4: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading or violent behaviour between people who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. Anyone can be affected by domestic abuse regardless of gender, age, ethnicity or sexuality. Within a safeguarding context there can be issues of dependency and caring.

Our objectives:

- to support the implementation and successful delivery of Luton's Domestic Abuse Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031
- ensure a clear, accessible and consistent pathway is in place for identifying, reporting and responding to domestic abuse affecting adults
- to implement learning from domestic abuse audits, ensuring improvements in safeguarding practice and outcomes for adults at risk

Rough Sleeping & Homelessness

The importance of rough sleeping and homelessness was reinforced by a ministerial letter issued to Safeguarding Adult Boards in May 2024, which highlighted this area as a continuing national safeguarding priority. Adults who are sleeping rough or experiencing homelessness often face multiple and interconnected disadvantages, which can create barriers to accessing health, care, housing and support services. This is reflected in Priority 2: Co-occurring needs.

The Board has strengthened strategic oversight of safeguarding risks in this area, ensuring partners work collaboratively, share information and respond effectively. It seeks assurance in this area through its performance scorecard and learning from safeguarding adult reviews and multi-agency audits.

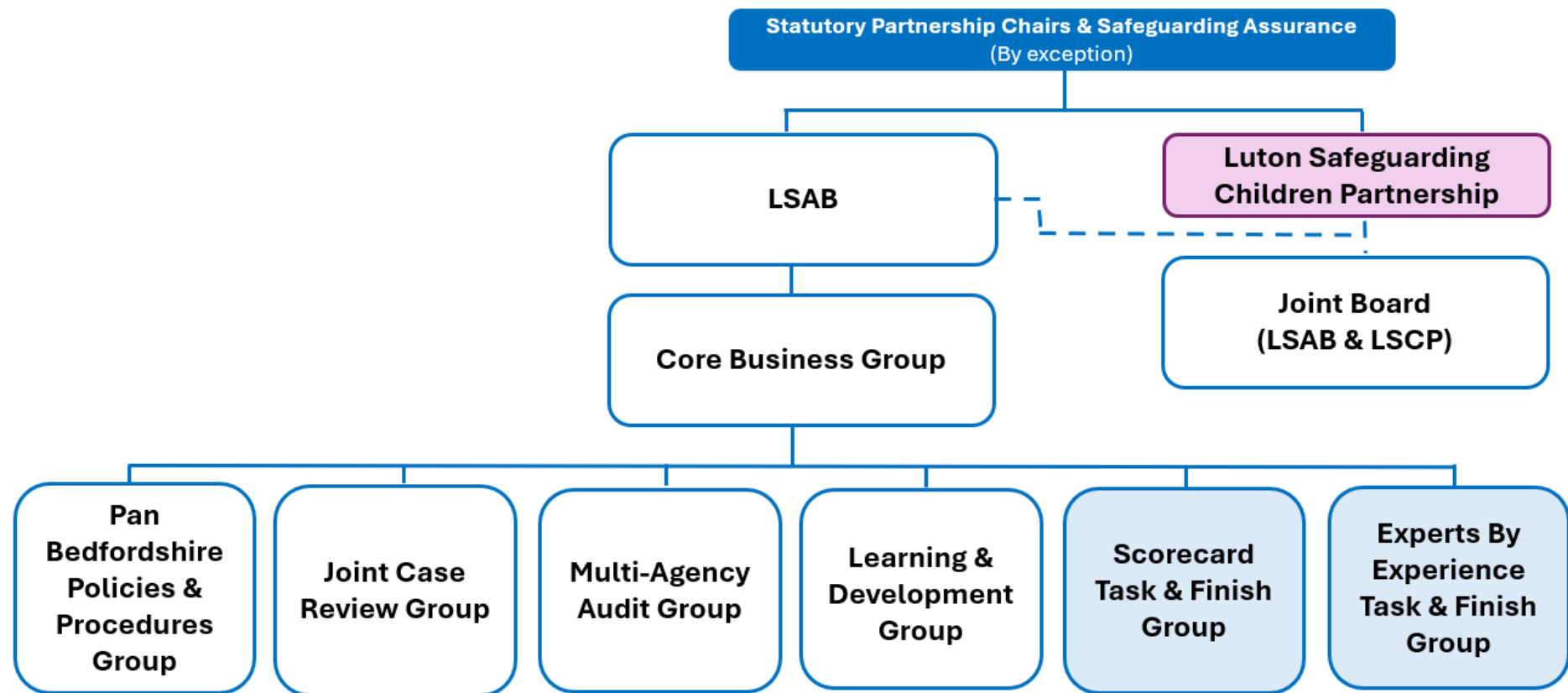
The council's Rough Sleeping Manager is also a member of the Board to provide strategic leadership and ensure multi-agency oversight.

Our structure

Key documentation that the Board produces will be available on our Luton Safeguarding Adults Board website:

<https://www.safeguardingbedfordshire.org.uk/about-us/luton-safeguarding-adults-board>

Delivery will be supported by our wider structure, including subgroups and task and finish groups.



Prevention

The Care Act 2014 places prevention at the heart of safeguarding adults. As a Board, we recognise that achieving the Act's vision requires more than responding when abuse or neglect has occurred. Our collective responsibility is to work proactively across agencies and communities to promote wellbeing and reduce the risk of harm before it occurs and reduce the likelihood of repeat harm when abuse has taken place.

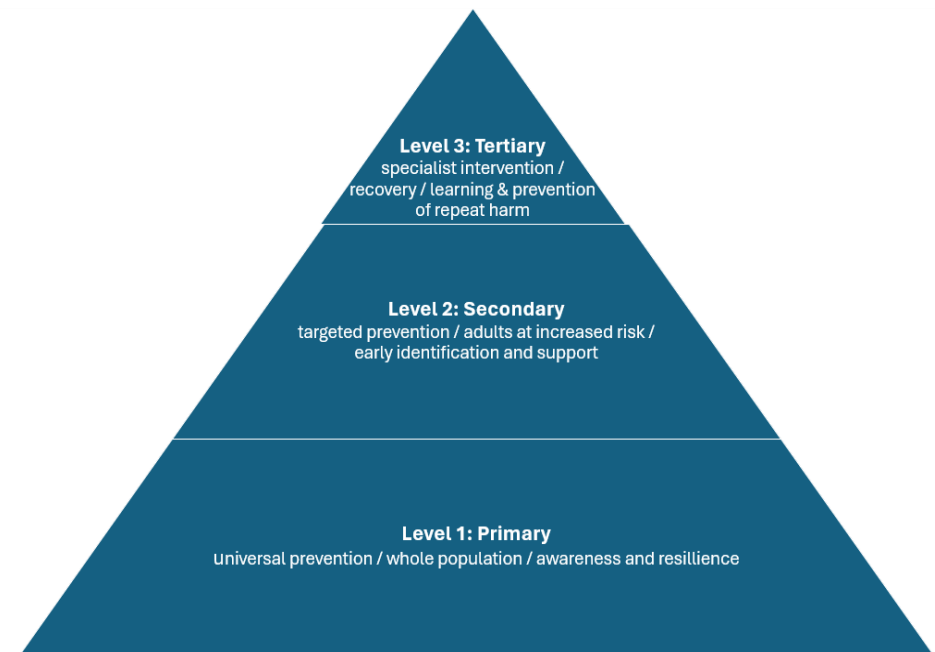
To meet current and future challenges, partners will continue to commit to multi-agency learning and development and work together to embed a whole system approach to:

- empower adults to make informed decisions about their safety and wellbeing
- identify risks early and provide timely support to prevent escalation
- delay or prevent the need for more intensive safeguarding and health or care interventions

- reduce the likelihood of abuse or neglect occurring

Our Model

There are three levels of prevention - primary, secondary and tertiary.



Level 1: Activities focus on individual and collective wellbeing

Level 2: Activities targeted at particular groups of people and or communities where there are high levels of risk prevalent

Level 3: Activities will help people who have already been referred to Adult Safeguarding or are at risk of being referred if preventative action is not taken.

Measures of Success

- ✓ Increased public awareness / community engagement
- ✓ Increased voice of adult / use of advocacy
- ✓ Reduction in repeat safeguarding concerns
- ✓ Intelligence leading to targeted work
- ✓ Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews embedded and sustained
- ✓ Robust quality assurance processes

Professional Curiosity

In addition to the enablers outlined below, effective prevention is dependent on partners being professionally curious and recognising that abuse or neglect are not always immediately visible. It involves looking beyond presenting circumstances, asking questions, seeking evidence and understanding what life is really like for the adult.

Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews continues to highlight the importance of professional curiosity in identifying risk early and preventing harm. The Board will therefore ensure this is embedded across all partner agencies alongside Making Safeguarding Personal. By listening to adults, understanding what matters to them and working together to achieve the outcomes they want we can strengthen prevention, support early intervention and reduce the risk of future harm.

