



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

Safeguarding Strategy 2023- 2026

Safeguarding Adults and Children within Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust



*Excellent care at the
heart of the community*

Reader Box	
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• Introduction

Our safeguarding strategy is underpinned by our commitment to provide excellent care at the heart of the community. The voice of the child and adult is central to everything we do. We are guided by our values, alongside the relevant safeguarding legislation.

The following Trust core values and strategic goals underpin this safeguarding strategy.

Trust Core Values

- Compassionate care
- Achieving ambitions
- Working together
- Delivering excellence

Trust Strategic Goals

- A great place to work
- Reducing service inequalities
- Continually improving
- Digital leader
- Sustainability

We believe that all children and adults should be able to live a life free from fear, harm, abuse, and exploitation. As a community NHS Trust we are in a unique position as our teams support individuals, families, and communities within their own homes, in clinics and in community hospitals. Our staff therefore make a significant contribution to safeguarding in partnership with other services.

This strategy has been developed in partnership with the following:

- NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Healthwatch
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Safeguarding Adult Boards (West Sussex, Brighton and Hove and East Sussex)
- Safeguarding Children Partnerships (West Sussex, Brighton and Hove and East Sussex)
- Clinical Operations Group (SCFT)
- Safeguarding Named Nurses and Specialist Nurses (SCFT)
- Safeguarding Committee Members
- Executive Leadership Team (SCFT)
- Patient Safety including Patient Safety Partners (SCFT)

This sets out how we will deliver our commitment to safeguarding and our strategic priorities for the next three years.

The aim of the strategy is to ensure that everything we do, wherever it takes place, ensures the safety, security and wellbeing of children and adults who are involved with our services. This will be achieved through the following goals which reflect the priorities of the Trust Strategy.

Our People - We will provide effective safeguarding advice and guidance to our staff, volunteers, and carers, to enable them to support people with any safeguarding concerns.

Inclusive - We will recognise and respect diversity so that we are meeting the safeguarding needs of marginalised and seldom heard groups, reducing inequalities and deprivation within our communities.

Learning - We will continue to promote a culture of continuous safeguarding improvement and learning in the face of economic uncertainty.

Partnerships - We will build on internal and external partnerships to strengthen our safeguarding practice.

- **Background to Safeguarding in Sussex Community Foundation Trust**

Safeguarding starts at the very beginning with a safe recruitment process and established procedures to ensure appropriately qualified and suitable staff are selected and employed within our services, to deliver excellent care within the community.

All our staff and volunteers are required to undertake mandatory safeguarding and statutory training as described within the following Intercollegiate documents.

- Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competencies for Healthcare Staff, Jan 2019
- Adult Safeguarding Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff, August 2018
- Looked after Children: roles and competencies of Health Care staff December 2020

Our safeguarding team provides specialist advice for children and adults across all services and supports staff to recognise and report signs of abuse, such as neglect, extra familial harm, exploitation, and modern slavery. We work effectively with all safeguarding partnerships to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach.

Our safeguarding service comprises Specialist Nurses, Named Nurses, Named Doctors, administration support and a Head of Safeguarding. The service works closely with new service developments to ensure we provide high quality and effective health services. The team is part of a Quality and Safety Department, which enables close working both with specialist safety teams and clinical staff. This ensures that we focus on learning for improvement and strengthens our personalised approach to safeguarding. We work closely with the NHS Sussex Designated Nurses and Doctors for Safeguarding Children and Adults who provide clinical supervision and support.

We work strategically with the Children Safeguarding Partnerships and the Safeguarding Adult Boards to proactively represent the safeguarding needs of our patients.

We recognise that we have an important role as an organisation to help keep people safe and this can only be successfully delivered through effective collaborative working.

We are committed to meeting the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Regulation 13. The intention of this regulation is to safeguard people who use services from suffering any form of abuse or improper treatment while receiving care and treatment.

- **Life Stage Service Frameworks and Safeguarding**

Our safeguarding strategy works alongside the Trust's 'Our Life Stage Service Frameworks' which links the Trust strategy with delivery.

We see our services as one joined-up network of support for patients. Effective safeguarding practice is essential for achieving this. The Life Stage Service Frameworks describes how we plan to support our patients and their families at each stage of their life.

Our safeguarding strategy and Life Stage Service Frameworks are delivered in parallel. This helps shape our future service decision making and ensures our commitment to delivering effective safeguarding practice to the people we support.

Starting well

Our safeguarding strategy supports laying the foundations for a healthy life from infancy, early years, childhood to adolescent years, by supporting services such as Health Visiting and School Nursing, Immunisation services, Looked after Children Team and Child Development Centres.

Living Well

Our safeguarding strategy will support people to have the opportunity to live a healthy life through services such as Talking Therapies, Musculoskeletal services, Long Term Condition services and Urgent Treatment Centres.

Ageing Well

Embedding an effective safeguarding culture across our services is essential to support people to age healthily throughout their lives, with a focus on services aimed at managing functional decline and frailty, such as Community Nursing, Urgent Community Response, Intermediate Care Units and End of Life Care services.

- **Our commitment to Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults.**

We expect all our staff to put the needs of children and adults first, when determining what action to take, whilst promoting the voice of the child and the principles of making safeguarding personal.

- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse, such as neglect, extra familial harm, exploitation, and modern slavery and take appropriate action.

- Be aware that lived experience of health needs (both mental health and physical health) can be an indicator that children and adults have suffered, or at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Experiencing abuse and neglect in childhood has an impact on a person's health, and life expectancy.
- We expect staff to have an awareness of how trauma can negatively impact on individuals, and their ability to feel safe within healthcare, and will apply a Trauma Informed approach.
- Be alert to the risks which individual abusers may pose to children, adults and any staff involved.
- Realise that trauma can affect individuals, groups, and communities. Trauma-informed practice is an approach to health and care interventions which is grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological, and social development.

We are committed to supporting our staff to raise appropriate safeguarding concerns within the principle of no delay and to support safeguarding enquiries.

We ensure all our staff are aware of their responsibilities and can identify and access support, guidance, and advice through training to effectively implement the Safeguarding Children and Adults policies, procedures and standards.

The safeguarding service promotes staff awareness of joint and collaborative working. They ensure staff understand their specific roles within Safeguarding, as well as how to access support from managers and specialist practitioners.

• Our Safeguarding Vision

Through a multi-agency approach, we are dedicated to supporting all children and adults to live a life free from fear, harm, abuse, and exploitation and support the strategic priorities of the Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards and the Safeguarding Adult Boards.

We are committed to meeting the Care Quality Commission standards by working with people, and our partners, to understand what being safe means and the best way to achieve this. We concentrate on improving people's lives while protecting their right to live in safety, free from bullying, harassment, abuse, discrimination, avoidable harm, and neglect. We make sure we share concerns quickly and appropriately.

• Goals and criteria for success

To help deliver effective safeguarding practice, the Sussex Community Foundation Trust strategy comprises the following goals and criteria for success.

The goals and criteria for success will form a detailed workplan with outcomes for measurement. This workplan will be developed with the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Group and appropriate measures which reflect the outcomes.

Our People

We will provide effective safeguarding advice and guidance to our staff, volunteers, and carers, to enable them to support people with any safeguarding concerns.

We will promote a supportive culture that enables safeguarding issues to be raised and addressed, resulting in actions and outcomes properly recorded. The voice of the child and applying the principles of making safeguarding personal will be central to our decision making.

We recognise and will support any staff, volunteer or carer who find themselves experiencing abuse first hand, or know of a close family member, colleague, or friend who is a victim of abuse and will provide appropriate, proactive support.

We will continually demonstrate how our growing digital capabilities enables and enhances the care our staff provide to our patients.

Our criteria for success

We will have improved safeguarding digital reporting systems so that we can monitor safeguarding advice and guidance more effectively and ensure our people are appropriately supported to undertake their roles effectively. A new safeguarding data dashboard will help us monitor safeguarding trends, benchmark, and shape our safeguarding priorities to achieve our goal.

Inclusive

We will recognise and respect diversity so that we are meeting the safeguarding needs of marginalised and seldom heard groups, reducing inequalities and deprivation within our communities.

We will work with partners to change the way our safeguarding services are designed and delivered to ensure more equitable access which will support improved safeguarding outcomes and experiences.

In partnership with agencies, we will apply a population health management (PHM) approach, to improve population health through data-driven planning and proactive care to optimise health outcomes for the people we support.

Our criteria for success

The time from identifying inequalities in our safeguarding service to addressing them will be shorter, as we effectively use data and intelligence alongside feedback from our patients, or staff and partners.

Our safeguarding service will be adapted to ensure more equitable access and the safeguarding advice provided will recognise and support the diversity of the population we serve.

All our patients will have access to safeguarding support in ways which actively account for underlying inequalities, thereby targeting resources where they are needed most.

Learning

We will continue to promote a culture of continuous safeguarding improvement and learning in the face of economic uncertainty.

Emerging safeguarding themes such as online abuse, female genital mutilation, grooming, exploitation and radicalisation will be promoted across the service.

Lessons learned from all safeguarding practice reviews undertaken by the Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Pan-Sussex Adult Safeguarding Boards will be effectively disseminated. Any practice area where our Trust has been highlighted within a safeguarding review recommendation will shape the training, support, and guidance we provide our staff. We will ensure the voice of the child and the desired safeguarding outcomes of the adult involved are central to everything we do.

Our Criteria for success

All our staff, volunteers and carers will have the relevant and timely safeguarding information and support on new and emerging safeguarding themes to ensure our safeguarding practice remains up to date. Learning from safeguarding reviews will be fully embedded and help shape and improve our safeguarding practice.

Patients and their families, including children and young people, will be more involved in how we design and plan improvements to our safeguarding service, as well as the outcomes about their own care within safeguarding investigations and enquiries.

Partnerships

We will build on internal and external partnerships to strengthen our safeguarding practice.

We will collaborate closely with colleagues in the Looked After Children and Children in Care teams, to strengthen our safeguarding practice.

As a core member of the Children Safeguarding Partnerships and Safeguarding Adult Boards, we will complete all summary of involvements requested and contribute to any safeguarding learning review where appropriate.

Together our safeguarding service will continue to support the Prevent agenda so that we can support our patients who might be at risk of radicalisation.

Our Criteria for success

We will have developed new partnerships with agencies who will support us to deliver the strategic priorities outlined in this strategy. This, for example, will include partners who represent seldom heard groups and asylum seekers. We will build on our relationship with Healthwatch and other patient representative agencies, to ensure we develop and design our safeguarding support in line with people who use our services.

• Governance of the Safeguarding Strategy

To help drive and measure the success of this strategy, a safeguarding workplan has been developed to capture our goals and the criteria for success. This will be monitored by the Head of Safeguarding Children and Adults and progress updates will be presented to the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Group on a quarterly basis.

The Quality Improvement Committee will then be provided assurance that the Trust continues to provide effective and responsive safeguarding support whilst capturing the voice of the child and making safeguarding personal.

• Key Legal Frameworks of Safeguarding

Safeguarding Adults	Safeguarding Children
The Care Act 2014	Working Together 2018
Mental Capacity Act 2005	Children Act 2004
Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards 2007	Children and Families Act 2014 Children and Social Work Act 2017
Human Rights Act 1998	Human Rights Act 1998

Key documents that support this strategy.

- [adult-safeguarding-policy.pdf](#)
- [deprivation-of-liberty-safeguards-2007-policy.pdf](#)
- [domestic-abuse-and-patient-care-support-adults -children-policy.pdf](#)
- [equality-and-diversity-policy.pdf](#)
- [managing-allegations-against-people-who-work-with-children-young-people-and-adults.pdf](#)
- [mental-capacity-act-2005-policy-for-people-aged-16-and-over.pdf](#)
- [restrictive-physical-interventions-policy.pdf](#)
- [recruitment-dbs-and-professional-registrations-policy.pdf](#)
- [safeguarding-children-policy.pdf](#)
- [safeguarding-children-supervision-procedure.pdf](#)
- [volunteer-safeguarding-assurance-for-young-volunteers-16-to-17-yrs-procedure.pdf](#)
- [Sussex Safeguarding Adult Review Protocol \(westsussexsab.org.uk\)](#)
- [working together 2018](#)
- [Sussex Health and Care Integrated Care System - our strategy](#)

- Safeguarding Strategy Plan on a Page

