



"To work in partnership, preventing abuse and ensuring excellent practice and timely responses to the safety and protection of individuals or groups within our communities"

Terms of Reference

THURROCK SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (TSAB)	
Frequency Of Meetings:	A minimum of four times a year.
Committee Chair:	TSAB Chair
Membership:	Membership is in line with the rules set out in the Constitution. See appendix 1 for a comprehensive list.
Observers and Further Representation:	The TSAB Chair may invite observers to attend on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis, according to the rule set out in the Constitution. The TSAB Chair may invite further representatives from member organisations to attend.
Secretary:	TSAB Administrator and Manager
Quorum:	The quorum for a meeting is a minimum of six members, including two of the three statutory member agencies in addition to four members from separate agencies.

Approval:	TSAB
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Purpose

To work in partnership to ensure that robust safeguarding arrangements are established and maintained in Thurrock, as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance, to protect adults at risk from abuse and neglect.

Objectives

- To provide strategic oversight, coordination and leadership across all aspects of safeguarding adults within Thurrock and to establish cross boundary arrangements to prevent abuse and neglect.
- To seek assurance that services delivered to safeguard vulnerable adults are fit for purpose and are of a high quality, by monitoring and scrutinising service delivery and performance data.
- To seek assurance that safeguarding practice is person centred and outcome focused, in line with the values and principles contained within 'Making Safeguarding Personal'.
- To seek assurance that safeguarding practice is continually improving, in line with best practice and learning from experience such as the outcome of case reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
- To make recommendations to improve safeguarding practice, service provision and delivery.
- To develop preventative strategies that will reduce risk and prevent harm from occurring to adults in vulnerable situations, as well as reacting effectively when it happens.
- To develop a Strategic Plan supported by a multi-agency action plan, and publish an Annual Report.
- To ensure robust governance arrangements are in place to discharge the Board's duties and manage its budget accordingly.
- To initiate Safeguarding Adult Reviews as appropriate.
- To ensure that the response from core member agencies and partners, when abuse or neglect does occur, is timely and proportionate.
- To raise the profile of the safeguarding adults agenda and of the need for adults to safeguard and protect themselves.

Accountability

The TSAB will demonstrate transparency and be held to account by publishing an Annual Report, which will be shared with its constituent member organisations, Healthwatch, and the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Board members who have statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 are responsible for reporting through their organisation's governance arrangements. Board members will be held to account for their organisation's commitments within the Strategic Plan and for their responsibilities as a Board members by the TSAB.

Appendix 1 Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board Membership

Role	Organisation
TSAB Independent Chair	Independent
TSAB Manager	Independent
TSAB Administrator	Independent
Chief Nurse	Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group
Assistant Director Adult Social Care and Community Development	Thurrock Council
Detective Superintendent	Essex Police
Principal Social Worker & Strategic Lead	Thurrock Council
Safeguarding Adults Team Manager	Thurrock Council
Strategic Lead: Commissioning	Thurrock Council
Assistant Director Housing Management	Thurrock Council
Public Health Registrar	Thurrock Council
Legal Advisor	On behalf of Thurrock Council
Portfolio Holder	Thurrock Council
Head of Children's Services	Thurrock Council
Thurrock District Commander	Essex Police
Deputy Director of Nursing	NHS England
Assistant Director	Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
GP -CCG Board Member	Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group
Safeguarding Lead	East of England Ambulance NHS Trust
Assistant Chief Fire Officer	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Assistant Director	Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
Integrated Care Director	North East London NHS Foundation Trust
Group Associate Director of Safeguarding	Mid and South Essex University Hospitals Group
Director	Community Rehabilitation Company
Head of South Essex LDU Cluster	National Probation Service
Manager	Sweet Tree Homecare
Manager	Estuary Housing
Principal	Thurrock Adult Community College
Business Development Manager (with responsibility for CSP)	Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
Chief Operating Officer	Healthwatch
Chief Executive	Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions
Chief Executive	Thurrock Coalition
Manager	Peabody

Appendix 2

Constitution of the Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board

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Author / Lead:	Graham Carey – Independent Chair Levi Sinden – TSAB Manager Paula Ward – TSAB Manager
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3.2	Paula Ward, TSAB Manager	Amendments to section 11.2.2 General formatting	15.12.20

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Introduction

- 1.1. This Constitution is the Constitution of Thurrocks statutory Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) known locally as Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board, herein referred to as TSAB and the Board.
- 1.2. It establishes the terms on which the TSAB shall discharge its statutory obligations as established in Sections 42–45, and Schedule II of the Care Act 2014, and chapter 14 of the accompanying Statutory Guidance.
- 1.3. Each member of our partnership, by signing this Constitution shall agree that it is a member of TSAB. It will thereby adhere to, and work in accordance with the terms set out in this Constitution and in accordance with any TSAB Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- 1.4. This Constitution provides a solid basis for the governance of the TSAB. By illustrating the high level framework by which the Board has organised its governance structure, and setting out the key governance systems that the Board will operate. TSAB fulfils its commitment to agreed good governance principles, and sets out the basis by which it will discharge its core duties and underlying responsibilities.

2. Background

- 2.1. Thurrock has had an adult safeguarding board in one form or another for over a decade. The Board was most recently known as the Thurrock Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board reflecting both the wide ranging membership, and the level of interest shown in adult safeguarding by providers, organisations and individuals across the Borough. This constitution is one of a range of measures that will improve the governance of the new Board as it evolves.
- 2.2. The Care Act 2014 made safeguarding adults boards a statutory requirement. The primary legislation and the accompanying statutory guidance provide the framework upon which, the Board will seek to develop and improve over the years ahead.

2.3. TSAB vision

- 2.3.1. *That people are able to live a life free from harm, where the community has a culture that does not tolerate abuse, works together to prevent abuse and knows what to do when abuse happens.*

2.4. TSAB Aim

2.4.1. *The aim of the TSAB is to ensure the effective co-ordination and delivery of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of at risk adults in accordance with the Care Act 2014 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance.*

2.5. To achieve this aim TSAB will need to work with partners and local communities to:

- Prevent abuse and neglect from happening
- Identify and report abuse and neglect
- Respond to any abuse and neglect that is occurring
- Support people who have suffered abuse or neglect to recover and to regain trust in those around them
- Raise awareness of safeguarding adults and the role everyone can play in responding to, and preventing, abuse and neglect.

2.6. The values of TSAB

In 2013 the Government published a Policy Statement for adult safeguarding in which it proposed the six guiding principles listed below. Thurrock's SAB will use the principles to measure existing adult safeguarding arrangements and future improvements.

- Empowerment - Presumption of person led decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention - It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality - Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. Focusing on outcomes for people and communities and being open about their delivery.

3. Locality

3.1. The geographical area covered by the TSAB is coterminous with Thurrock Borough Council.

4. Commencement and duration

4.1. The Constitution is made between the partner members of TSAB. The Constitution is published on the Thurrock Borough Council website and Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board website. Variation or termination of this Constitution is subject to prior agreement by the TSAB.

5. The Legislative Framework

5.1. The Care Act 2014 stipulates that each Local Authority must establish a Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) for its area. The objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults at risk in its area. Adults at risk are:

- adults 18+
- who have care and support needs (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- who, as a result of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

5.1.2. The way in the TSAB will seek to achieve its objectives is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does. The TSAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective.

5.2. Statutory duties of a Safeguarding Adults Board

5.2.1. To publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective, and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan must be developed with local community involvement; the SAB must consult the local Healthwatch organisation. The plan should be evidence based and make use of all available evidence and intelligence from partners to form and develop its plan.

5.2.2. To publish an Annual Report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adult Reviews and subsequent action.

5.2.3. To arrange safeguarding adults review in accordance with Section 44 of the Act.

5.2.4. The SAB must send a copy of its Annual Report to:

- The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Local Authority which established the SAB
- The local policing body, the whole or part of whose area is in the Local Authority's area
- The local Healthwatch organisation for the Local Authority's area
- The chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for that area
- The Accountable Officer for the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

6. Role of the Board and its members

6.1. The statutory guidance accompanying the Care Act 2014 suggests the following.

6.2. The TSAB has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners. It oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the locality and will be interested in a range of matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect. These will include 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 TSAB will need intelligence on safeguarding in all providers of health and social care in its locality (not just those with whom its members commission or contract). It is important that the TSAB partners feel able to challenge each other and other organisations where it believes that their actions or inactions are increasing the risk of abuse or neglect. This will include commissioners, as well as providers of services.

6.3. The TSAB can be an important source of advice and assistance, for example in helping others improve their safeguarding mechanisms. It is important that the TSAB has effective links with other key partnerships in the locality and share relevant information and work plans. They should consciously cooperate to reduce any duplication and maximise any efficiency, particularly as objectives and membership is likely to overlap.

6.4. The TSAB should:

- Identify the role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults.
- Establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications that increase the SAB's understanding of prevalence of abuse and neglect locally, which builds up a picture over time.
- Establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of their arrangements.
- Determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit.
- Establish mechanisms for developing policies and strategies for protecting adults which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and consultation with all relevant agencies but also take account of the views of adults who have needs for care and support, their families, advocates and carer representatives.
- Develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect in its area.

- Formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances and professional and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults.
- Develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect.
- Balance the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that to protect adults, it may be necessary to share information on a 'need-to-know basis'.
- Identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training.
- Carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews and determine any publication arrangements.
- Produce a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report.
- Evidence how SAB members have challenged one another and held other boards to account.
- Promote multi-agency training and consider any specialist training that may be required. Consider any scope to jointly commission some training with other partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership

7. Board Membership

7.1. Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 states that the core members of a Safeguarding Adults Board are:

- The Local Authority that established it
- The CCG for the area
- The Chief Officer of Police for the area.

7.2. The membership of the TSAB may also include such other persons as the Local Authority which established it, having consulted with the members above, considers appropriate. The TSAB may also seek one-off specialist advice to help further delivery of its objectives.

7.3. Each partner organisation of the TSAB must appoint a person to represent it on the TSAB; and the representative must be a person who the partner considers to have the required skills and experience. The Local Authority must ensure that, between them, all members of the SAB have the requisite skills and experience necessary for the TSAB to act effectively and efficiently to safeguard adults in its area.

7.4. Membership of the TSAB is at the discretion of the Local Authority that established it and the core statutory partners.

7.5. Where more than one CCG or more than one Chief Officer of Police are required to be TSAB members, a person may represent more than one CCG or Chief Officer of Police.

7.6. Membership of TSAB will change over time and the Local Authority, after consultation with the other core partners listed above, will invite individuals, organisations or agencies to become members of the Board on the basis of their interest in, and ability and willingness to contribute to, the aims and objectives of the TSAB. The TSAB may wish to invite additional partners to some meetings depending on the specific focus or to participate in its work more generally.

7.7. Chairs of TSAB sub groups and time limited task and finish groups will become full members for the duration of that role.

7.8. The TSAB Board Manager will maintain the membership list for TSAB, membership will be reviewed annually.

7.9. Members of the TSAB are expected to consider what assistance they can provide in supporting the Board in its work. This might be through payment to the Local Authority or to a joint fund established by the Local Authority to provide, for example, secretariat functions for the Board. Members might also support the work of the TSAB by providing administrative help, premises for meetings or holding training sessions. It is in all core partners' interests to have an effective TSAB that is resourced adequately to carry out its functions.

7.10. Monitoring Board Attendance

7.10.1. It is expected that if a nominated representative of a Board member cannot attend, a nominated deputy may attend in their place, but may not do so for more than two consecutive meetings without review of the representative nominated by the member organisation.

7.10.2. Lack of attendance at Board meetings is seen as damaging to the strategic development of inter-organisation arrangements for safeguarding adults. Where neither the nominated representative nor their deputy attends for two or more meetings, this fact will be drawn to the attention of the executive body of the relevant organisation, by the Chair of the Board.

A register of attendance will be kept and noted in the minutes and annual report of the Board.

8. Chief Officers and Chief Executives

8.1. As Chief Officer for the leading adult safeguarding agency, the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) has a particularly important leadership and challenge role to play in adult safeguarding. Responsibility for promoting prevention, early intervention and partnership working is a key part of a DASS's role and also critical in the development of effective safeguarding. Taking a personalised approach to adult safeguarding requires a DASS promoting a culture that is person-centred, supports choice and control and aims to tackle inequalities.

8.2. However, all officers, including the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, Accountable Officer of the CCG and Police Chief Officers and executives should lead and promote the development of initiatives to improve the prevention, identification and response to abuse and neglect. They need to be aware of and able to respond to national developments and ask searching questions within their own organisations to assure themselves that their systems and practices are effective in recognising and preventing abuse and neglect. The Chief Officers must sign off their organisation's contributions to the Strategic Plan.

9. Board Chair and Vice-Chair

9.1. Although not a legal requirement, the local authority will appoint an Independent Chair to the TSAB who is not an employee or a member of an organisation that is a member of the TSAB. The Independent Chair will be appointed by the Local Authority, in consultation with the core TSAB members, and will be accountable to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority.

9.2. The Chair has a critical role to lead collaboratively, give advice, support and encouragement but also to offer constructive challenge and hold main partner agencies to account, and ensure that interfaces with other strategic functions are effective whilst also acting as a spokesperson for the TSAB.

9.3. There is a clear expectation that chairs will keep up to date with, and promote, good practice, developments in case law and research and any other relevant material.

9.4. The Chair's tenure will be two years, at which point the role will be re-advertised.

9.5. A vice-chair will be appointed from the membership of the TSAB.

9.6. The terms of employment and job description for an Independent Chair will be set by the Local Authority in consultation with the local CCG and the Chief Officer of Police for the area.

10. Board Manager

10.1. TSAB will employ staff to further the work of the Board. This will include a Board Manager and necessary administrative support. The Board Manager will work closely with the chair and core partners to take forward the work of the Board. The Board Manager should attend all TSAB meetings.

11. Board Structure

11.1. In order to ensure separation of its strategic and assurance functions, the TSAB will create the following structure.

11.2. TSAB

11.2.1. The SAB provides a forum for strategic discussion and ensuring that there is system wide assurance of the services delivered and commissioned by partners with responsibility to safeguard adults at risk. The TSAB will provide a forum for discussion and agreement on:

- Areas for improvement
- Policy issues
- Guidance for practitioners, commissioners and service providers
- Preventing abuse and neglect
- The respective roles of the Board, other boards and partners.

11.2.2. To ensure robust oversight and partnership working the TSAB will ensure partnership working with the following Boards:

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
- Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Southend and Essex Safeguarding Adults Boards.

11.2.3. The Board will work to the financial year for the purposes of planning and the production of its Annual Report and Strategic Plan. The Board will schedule four meetings in a year. Extra meetings may be held if the Leadership Executive Group deems them necessary. The Board manager will maintain a written record of member attendance. All meetings will be recorded as minutes.

11.2.4. No meeting of the SAB or one of its sub groups shall be held without a designated Chair.

11.3. Leadership Executive Group

11.3.1. The TSAB will establish a Leadership Executive Group which will provide the strategic direction for the Board. The core members of the Board will form the membership, which will be:

- The Independent Chair
- The Local Authority DASS or nominated senior manager
- The CCG Chief Nurse or nominated senior manager
- The Chief Officer of Police for the area or nominated senior manager
- The TSAB Board Manager.

11.3.2. Sub group chairs may be invited to meetings of this group.

11.3.3. The role of the Leadership Executive Group is:

- To provide strategic leadership to the SAB
- To secure appropriate funding for the SAB
- To select and appoint an Independent Chair
- To select and appoint a Board Manager
- To be consulted on agenda setting
- To commission work to deliver the strategic objectives of the Board.

11.3.4. The Leadership Executive Group shall meet approximately four weeks before and four weeks after each scheduled meeting of the TSAB.

11.3.5. Meetings of the Leadership Executive Group will be recorded as minutes.

11.4. Sub Groups

11.4.1. The TSAB may create sub groups to deliver specific work streams as deemed necessary by the needs of the TSAB's Strategic Plan or as issues arise.

11.4.2. The Chair of a TSAB sub group should be of sufficient seniority to make strategic decisions and commit resources on behalf of their organisation. The Chair will automatically become a member of the Board, for the duration of their role.

11.4.3. Each sub group will report to the TSAB.

11.4.4. Sub Group minutes will be noted by the TSAB.

11.5. Task and Finish groups

11.5.1. Task and finish groups will be formed as and when required to deliver the objectives of the TSAB strategic plan, the Board may set up task and finish groups.

12. Terms of Reference

12.1. The TSAB and each of its sub groups shall maintain a terms of reference. Each terms of reference will include the following information:

- Purpose
- Objectives
- Membership – including Chair, Vice-Chair and nominating deputies
- Accountability
- Administrative support
- Quorum
- Frequency of meetings
- Terms of Reference review date.

13. Quorum

13.1. To be quorate, the Board must have a minimum of six members present, including two of the three core member agencies in addition to four members from separate agencies.

14. Decision Making

14.1. The Board will always seek to operate on a consensus basis. If it is not possible to reach a consensus, members will be required to undertake a formal vote on a simple majority basis of members who are present and are entitled to vote. Each member in attendance will have a single vote. In the event of a tied vote the chair will have the casting vote.

15. Chair's ruling

- 15.1. The Chair will have the final ruling, during meetings, should it be necessary to interpret, or otherwise determine, the order, relevancy, regularity, or meaning of the Constitution, or other of TSABs governing documents, policies, or procedures, or other documents.

16. Safeguarding Adult Review Policy

- 16.1. The Board will have an agreed policy for decision making on Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR).

17. Conduct of Meeting

17.1. Observers

- 17.1.1. The Chair may, at their absolute discretion, invite such persons as they think should attend the whole or any part of a Board meeting, or any of its sub group meetings. Observers shall not be permitted to vote.

17.2. Closed Sessions

- 17.2.1. The Chair may determine items that need to be discussed in closed session. Minutes of matters discussed in closed session will be maintained confidentially as 'Part II' minutes, and will not be a matter of public record. Such minutes may be subject to audit or review by other parties deemed to be appropriate by the Chair.

17.3. Agenda and Minute papers

- 17.3.1. The TSAB Manager, in consultation with the Chair, is responsible for preparing and circulating agenda papers in good time.

- 17.3.2. The TSAB Manager is responsible for recording and drafting all meeting minutes. Draft minutes will be sent to the meeting Chair for approval.

- 17.3.3. Finalised minutes shall be circulated in good time to TSAB members and, at the discretion of the TSAB Manager, to other interested parties.

- 17.3.4. Minutes will be approved, and recorded as such, at subsequent meetings.

- 17.3.5. Minutes of meetings held in closed session will not be a matter of public record.

- 17.3.6. Minutes of sub groups should be presented to the TSAB meeting for formal noting.

17.3.7. Minutes should be retained for a period of seven years. There is no requirement to retain agenda papers.

17.4. Authority to Act

17.4.1. TSAB is accountable for its core duties. In discharging its core duties, or otherwise working to fulfil its objectives, it may grant authority to act on its behalf to:

- Any of its member organisations
- A named partner member
- One of its sub groups
- An external Provider.

17.4.2. TSAB shall have the authority to establish and delegate activities to sub groups or task and finish groups as deemed appropriate.

17.4.3. The Chair, after consultation with the Leadership Executive Group, has the authority to decide whether a new sub group or task and finish group is required, and approve its existence. Any such sub group or task and finish group must have approved terms of reference, formed to good governance standards.

18. Annual Reviews

18.1. The first TSAB meeting of each financial year will review the Constitution, the terms of reference for the TSAB, and any existing sub groups.

19. Transparency

19.1. The TSAB is committed to transparency and will, at the discretion of the Chair, having exercised due caution regarding data protection, obligations, and other similar legal considerations, publish Board minutes, reports and key performance data.

20. Legal advice

20.1. If there is a requirement for the Board to receive legal advice in the pursuance of the statutory duties of the TSAB, that advice will be provided by the Adult Social Care Solicitor appointed by Thurrock Borough Council.

21. Freedom of information

21.1. Safeguarding Adult Boards are not defined as Public Authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and are not subject to rights of access to information.

22. Disputes

22.1. The Board is intended to be a collaborative, co-operative body and needs to ensure that no particular sector or member is unduly favoured. Problems and issues should normally be debated and resolved at Board meetings.

22.2. If there is a dispute between Board members, the Independent Chair and Director of Adult Social Services will convene a joint meeting with the parties. This should take place within 28 days of the determining that the dispute exists. In most cases the Independent Chair of the TSAB will chair these meetings. The agenda will be agreed jointly by the parties in dispute.

22.3. If no agreement can be reached, either party to the dispute may suggest to the Chair that an independent mediator be appointed in a further attempt to resolve the dispute. If parties are not in agreement with this and no resolution has been identified within 28 days, then the Chair may refer the dispute to a member of the Chartered Institute for Arbitrators to be resolved.

22.4. If there is a dispute between the Independent Chair and a TSAB partner or any other Board, a similar process will be followed. The Director of Adult Social Services will convene a joint meeting of the parties as above. If no agreement can be reached, either party to the dispute may suggest that an independent mediator be appointed in a further attempt to resolve the dispute. If parties are not in agreement with this and no resolution has been identified within 28 days then the Director of Adult Services may refer the dispute to a member of the Chartered Institute for Arbitrators to be resolved.

22.5. Non-compliance of activities

22.5.1. The work of the TSAB will be set out in the Strategic Plan. In endorsing the Strategic Plan, all member agencies will be agreeing their commitment to fulfil their obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults. This will include a commitment to fulfilling their role within the TSAB.

22.5.2. Issues of non-compliance will in the first instance be referred to the Chair of the TSAB who will investigate and attempt to reach satisfactory resolution through discussion with the representative of the agency concerned. In the event of satisfactory resolution not

being reached, the matter will be referred back to the Chief Officer or Chief Executive within the agency concerned and the Chair will have the right to advise the relevant inspectorate, and, if necessary, the relevant government department. Any decision to take this latter course of action will be discussed with the Local Authority Chief Executive before being actioned by the Chair.

23. Conflict of Interest

- 23.1. A conflict of interest arises where the commitments and obligations of a Board member to TSAB are likely to be comprised or may appear to be comprised by that member's personal gain, or gain to their organisation (whether financial or otherwise). This conflict could arise owing to the commitments and obligations that the member owes to another person or body.
- 23.2. Board members are required to declare any interest or potential conflict of interest that arises or may be perceived to arise in the course of conducting Board business. They should declare this at the start of Board meetings, including the nature of the conflict of that interest.
- 23.3. The Chair will ensure that the Board member concerned has no decision making or subsequent involvement that would be deemed prejudicial or favourable in relation to the specified interest.
- 23.4. The conflict of interest will be recorded in the TSAB Attendance Record and recorded within the minutes for that meeting. (see appendix A), which will be managed by the TSAB Manager.

24. Complaints

- 24.1. The SAB is an administrative function of the Local Authority, as such complaints about the actions or decisions of the SAB should be made through the Local Authority's complaints procedure.
- 24.2. If a complainant remains unsatisfied having exhausted the Local Authority's complaint procedure, they have recourse to take their complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman, who has jurisdiction to investigate complaints made about SABs. This includes considering the actions of board members who are not employed by the Local Authority.

25. Finance

- 25.1. The core members of the TSAB will contribute the financial resource to enable the Board to fulfil its main duties.
- 25.2. It is also acceptable for any member organisation of the TSAB to make payments towards expenditure incurred by the TSAB in its activities to deliver its aim and Strategic Plan. They may provide staff, goods, services, accommodation or other resources for purposes connected with the TSAB.
- 25.3. It is the responsibility of the Leadership Executive Group to secure adequate funding for the TSAB to carry out its functions.
- 25.4. The TSAB shall have the authority to engage, employ or appoint any consultant, or private contractor, required in order to facilitate the performance of its duties. Any financial expenditure incurred will be incurred in accordance with agreed financial policies.
- 25.5. The financial policies followed by the TSAB, including the procurement of services, shall be those of Thurrock Borough Council.
- 25.6. The TSAB Manager will manage and be accountable for the budget of the TSAB and will provide a report to each Board meeting.
- 25.7. Board members will agree the spend of the TSAB budget in line with the action plan that accompanies the Strategic Plan, and in line with Thurrock Borough Council finance procedures.
- 25.8. Any deviation from the agreed spend, or projected underspend/carryforward will be brought to the Board's attention for their approval and ring-fenced for the sole benefit of the TSAB.

26. Accountability

- 26.1. TSAB will be held to account by publication of its Annual Report and Strategic Plan. The Annual Report will be shared with:
- Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Healthwatch
 - Thurrock Borough Council Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

26.2. In addition to this the TSAB will demonstrate its accountability to Thurrock residents and to its members in a number of ways, including by:

- Publishing its constitution
- Upholding and promoting its values
- Consult on and publishing a Strategic Plan
- Compiling an annual account of financial expenditure, which is itself underpinned by appropriately detailed financial records
- Complying with reasonable requests for information from partner agencies
- Publishing, wherever appropriate, its key policies
- Responding to all reasonable information requests in a timely manner
- Ensuring that other good governance practices, such as the handling of conflicts of interest, are employed
- Consulting Healthwatch, the User Led Organisation, users of safeguarding services, their families and carers
- In taking such steps, TSAB will also facilitate stakeholder understanding and awareness of its priorities.

26.3. The TSAB and its members will co-operate with any reasonable request by the Local Authority in respect of its Overview and Scrutiny functions under Section 21 Local Government Act 2000.

27. Equality and Inclusion

27.1. The Board values the benefits of diversity and works to ensure fair treatment and equality of opportunity and access to services. Information on safeguarding will information on protected characteristics, subject to availability, as appropriate. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken in the formulation of policies and procedures and the impact of safeguarding work on equalities will be monitored.

27.2. The Board values the views of citizens who have experienced or witnessed abuse and promotes the inclusion of adults at risk of abuse or neglect in the formulation of their own safeguarding arrangements, with support where required.

27.3. Where the TSAB engages with the community, it will attempt to provide appropriate formats and services to engage all communities.

28. Sharing Information

28.1. Failure to share information, particularly among and within statutory agencies, is most often cited as a significant contributory factor in retrospective reviews of deaths and other serious incidents involving adults at risk. TSAB fully supports the appropriate and legal sharing of information where the purpose in doing so is to prevent harm or abuse occurring.



Appendix A – TSAB Attendance record

Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board meeting

Date:

Venue:

NAME	ORGANISATION	ROLE	SIGNATURE	CONFLICT OF INTEREST? If yes, please state agenda item.